



The Murray and Mallee
Local Government Association

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MURRAY AND MALLEE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REGIONAL COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT SCHEME (STEDS) COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Committee was convened in the Karoonda East Murray Council Chamber, Railway Terrace, Karoonda on Thursday 14th September, 2006.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Coorong District Council (CDC): Cr. Ted Freak and Bill Henderson, Manager Technical Services.

District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM): Cr. Trevor Kerley and CEO, Peter Smithson.

District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW): Peter Ackland, CEO.

Mid Murray Council (MMC): Kelvin Goldstone, Environmental Services Manager and Caroline Thomas, EHO.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB): Cr. Bob England and Martin Waddington, Manager Infrastructure and Technical Services.

District Council of Renmark Paringa (RPC): Robert Wood, Director Corporate and Community Services.

Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC): Deputy Mayor Gordon Hancock and Peter Broughill, Works Manager.

M&MLGA: CEO, Peter Campbell (Chair).

LGA SA: Richard Crabb, Program Manager, CWMS Reform.

Open and Welcome:

As the President Mayor Allan Arbon was an apology, the Meeting was chaired by CEO, Peter Campbell who welcomed all those in attendance and declared the Meeting open at 10.00am.

Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council

Apologies:

President, Mayor Allan Arbon, Cr. Kevin Dunstone, BBC, Cr. Mark Ward, DCLW Mike Stephenson, Senior EHO, BBC and Cr. Heather Knipe, MMC.

Confirmation of Minutes: The Meeting Notes for the Association's Regional Community Water Management Scheme Committee held on Thursday, 13th April, 2006 were previously electronically distributed and uploaded to the Association's website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au

Motion resolved: That the Notes of the Meeting held on the Thursday, 13th April, 2006 be accepted as a true and correct record.
Moved: Peter Smithson Seconded: Cr. Kerley Carried.

Richard Crabb provided a Presentation to the Committee and answered questions from the floor.

As part of the presentation, Richard Crabb provided an overview of the CWMS Reform Program, including consideration of an aggregation approach to Management Options for CWM Schemes.

He advised that the LGA's CWMS Advisory Committee is to provide a recommendation the SAROC Committee that the LGA's priority should be to establish a Management Services Authority with the long term vision of establishing a legal Statewide CWMS Entity.

Committee Members were reminded by the Chair that part of the role of this Committee was to consider the future Management Options for the M&MLGA Regional Community Water Management Schemes and to formulate a position for consideration by the Association.

Discussion ensued and a Paper on the position of the Berri Barmera Council was distributed, which is attached to these Minutes.

Motion resolved: That the M&MLGA Regional CWMS Committee agree to the establishment of an LGA CWMS Management Services Authority that should be implemented to offer technical assistance to Councils on a subscription basis together with specialised management services on a fee for service basis and that the LGA further investigate the option of creating a Statewide CWMS Entity and consult with Councils on the outcomes of those investigations.

Moved: Cr. Hancock Seconded: Martin Waddington Carried.

Note: *It was noted that Coorong District Council was not in a position to agree with the resolution as it was felt that the resolution tied Council into a direction that had not yet been debated.*

It was generally agreed that this resolution be presented to the M&MLGA General Meeting to be held on the 6th October, 2006 for endorsement.

Motion resolved: That due to tight timeframes, the Association's Delegates to the SAROC Committee convey this CWMS Committee's resolution to the SAROC Committee meeting to be held on the 20th September, 2006.

Moved: Peter Ackland Seconded: Peter Broughill Carried.

Other Business:

Discussion, questions and answers ensued regarding potential timelines for the potential services to be offered by the proposed LGA CWMS Management Services Authority.

Next Meeting:

To be advised.

Closure:

The Chair thanked all those who attended the Meeting and declared it closed at 12.00pm.

Email received from Berri Barmera Council re CWMS Management Options – 7th September, 2006.

Peter, please register apology from Berri Barmera representatives. The meeting date coincides with the Riverland Field Days and we have a stand at the stall which commits all the relevant staff. Also, our elected member representative is on the Field Days Committee and will not be able to attend.

Please provide the following view to the Committee. This Council has committed to a path of a public private partnership and will shortly be entering a 25 year agreement with United Utilities Australia to Build, Own and Operate (and Transfer at the end of the period) a waste water treatment and reuse facility. In addition, it is highly likely that Council will extend its current contractual arrangements for UUA to manage the day to day operation of its entire CWMS collection network for a 25 yr period.

Given this, Council will not be in a position to join any LGA sponsored or managed scheme, whether regional or statewide, for at least the next 25 years.

Having said that, if Berri Barmera Council were not so far advanced in this current direction, we would support the establishment of some form of regional or state management authority. CWMS administration, financing and management are getting beyond the expertise and financial scope of small to medium councils and a critical mass is needed to generate sufficient funds to adequately resource this sector. From a regional perspective we have seen Loxton Waikerie in discussions with UUA and would encourage others to do likewise. It seems to me that, at least for the 3 larger Riverland Councils, some efficiencies and cost benefits may flow to those councils if they had the same private operator managing all their facilities? It may be worth including a review of that option alongside the LGA proposal?

[Mike Stephenson]

Regards

Michael Stephenson

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