

## MINUTES of WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting No.1, Tuesday 1 September 2020  
Jack Seekamp Room, Berri office |3:30 pm**

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country

### Present:

**Members:** Sheridan Alm\*, Rosalie Auricht, Anne Jensen\*, Greg McCarron, Joanne Pfeiffer\*,  
David Zadow,

**Board:** Di Davidson, Greg Cock \*, Barb Cowey, Andrew Biele, Jason Size

**Staff:** Amy Goodman and Rosalie Chapple (minutes)

**Visitor:** Dan Jordan \*, Director Policy and Planning DEW

\*Denotes attendance on Teams

**Apologies:** Clem Mason and Board members Jim Godden and Lisa Rowntree

### Welcome

Di Davidson opened the meeting at 3.40pm and welcomed everyone. She thanked the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) members for accepting to join this advisory committee to the Board and for offering their time and expertise to the new committee. She made the following points:

- The Minister had requested the Board to review how advice on water issues is sought from the community and provided to the government, using a fresh approach.
- The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (The Board) has tasked this new Committee with bringing matters of interest or concern from the community to the Board.
- The WAC will report directly to the board which will communicate directly with the Minister
- The Board will be looking to the Committee for assistance in the development and review of water allocation plans for all the prescribed water resources in the region, both surface and underground.
- Another priority will be providing advice and expertise in the development of a water literacy program for the region

### Appointment of Chair

Di thanked Greg McCarron for accepting to chair the Committee for 12 months stating that his experience in the water industry was highly valued.

## **Introductions**

The Committee members introduced themselves.

- Greg McCarron – currently Water Manager at Central Irrigation Trust with 25 years' experience in water resource management across the Riverland and Mallee
- David Zadow – private irrigator from Blanchetown producing wine grapes ; experienced in water trade, water security in SA and other states ,involved in NRM projects.
- Rosalie Auricht – General manager Renmark Irrigation Trust, an irrigator and grape grower, long experience in corporate finance.
- Sheridan Alm – Wine grape, almond and citrus grower at New Residence, involved in many industry groups and is passionate about water literacy, farming and the environment
- Joanne Pfeiffer – beef and sheep farmer in the lower Murray swamps, involved in many water committees, and is passionate about water and simplifying water issues
- Anne Jensen - is an environmental consultant with extensive experience in natural resources management particularly relating to water issues and the environment works
- Clem Mason (an apology - resident, irrigator and farmer on Lower Lakes

Di stated that the members had been selected for their diversity of interests and experience and encouraged them to embrace change and to be bold in bringing ideas to the Board.

## **Filling Vacancies on the Committee**

- There are 3 vacancies on the Committee remaining to be filled
- The Board is keen to identify a committee member to represent the Mallee groundwater area, and members were encouraged to consider possibilities from their networks
- A Ngarrindjeri representative is also being sought.

## **Suggestions for future Meetings**

- Short efficient meetings could be held at various venues around the region or centrally in Karoonda
- Teams or Zoom can be utilized during COVID restrictions and to reduce travel
- Clarity is sought from the Minister regarding reimbursement for sitting fees and travel expenses
- Tony Randall, Team Leader Sustainable Agriculture with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board would be an excellent guest speaker at a future meeting.

## **Discussion about the 2020 Water Allocation Announcement Process and Feedback**

Dan Jordan, Director, Water Policy, Department for Environment and Water, joined the meeting.

- Dan highlighted the close working relationship between the Board and DEW in the development of Water Allocation Plans
- Effort has been directed at providing more certainty and transparency around allocations announcements. Dan is keen to continue to work with the Committee to continually improve the allocation announcement process
- The State will be continuing to work on policy issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) for the River Murray and the relationship between the SDLs

and the current entitlement volumes. DEW will work with the Board and the Committee throughout this process.

- Anne Jensen was asked to share a list of environmental watering sites across the Region with the WAC and Board.

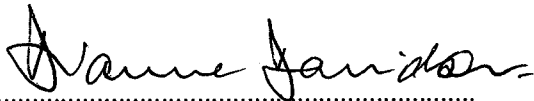
Dan thanked the Committee for their time and looks forward to working together in the future.

### **General Discussion**

The Committee will focus on their abilities to find solutions to water issues across the region.

The Committee agreed that there was an opportunity to increase the voice of the community and industry in water management matters and that this will be the core role for the Committee.

Di thanked everybody for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 5.06p.m.



---

**Dianne Davidson AM**  
**Presiding Member**  
**Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board**

