

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

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.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 9-21 - Public			
Date: 28 October 2021			
Start Times:	8.30am		
Location:	2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge	Room:	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting Room
Present	Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Sandy Iosefellis, Jason Size Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Helane Norman (Executive Officer), Amy Lee (Team Leader, Planning and MERI)		
Apologies	Jim Godden (on telephone for Finance report only), Caroline Phillips		

Item	Item Title
PUBLIC MEETING – 9.30am	
1.	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 9.30am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	Declaration of Interest Additional possible conflicts declared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg Cock is now contracted by Livestock SA to deliver a Future Drought fund project Jason Size works with Growsmart program. ACTION: Conflict of Interest form to members that have updated their declaration.
3.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting 8-21 held 23 September 2021 Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 8-21 held 23 September 2021.
4.	General Manager's Report The General Manager provided the board with an overview of his activities and the highlights and achievements of staff for the last month. The report included the risk register, quarterly WHS report and the September referral report. Discussion on First Nations engagement and incorporating this into a visit to Calperum next year. Jem Tesoriero be invited to attend. Animal and Plant control is occurring to keep pests to a manageable level, eradication is not likely to occur for many species.


Item	Item Title
	<i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report (incorporating the Risk Register, Quarterly WHS report and Referrals report).</i>
Items for decision	
5.	<p><u>Grassroots Grants Round 2 Review</u></p> <p>The General Manager presented a paper, provided by the Team Leader Partnerships and Engagement and the Team leader Information and Investment, on the review of the Grassroots Grants program for 2021-22, especially the application process for, and strategic and technical evaluation and assessment of, this funding.</p> <p>Board members who were members of the 20/21 GG panel provided feedback on the process, indicating that they felt they did not know the whole picture, and would prefer to be engaged in the discussion, but not be looked to any final decision.</p> <p>Recommendations for improving these processes have been made to the board, who were in favour of implementing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction from the Board as to the guidelines provided to the potential applicants, that they should provide specific guidance reflecting any specific priority of the Board; • Work with the Sustainable Agriculture team to review whether or not to align timing of Grassroots Grants and Ag Knowledge Grants; • Work with Communications team to investigate new options for promoting the program's launch; • Continue to use the SmartyGrants online grants program; • Increase the level of detail in the application questions relating to on-ground works to ensure that the proposed methods, materials etc are better understood by assessors; • Number of minor text improvements within guidelines, forms and communications; • Improve presentation / format of project summaries for the assessment panel to make key information easier to locate prior to and during the workshop; • Develop terms of reference for the assessment panel to clarify roles, establish a chair, and identify processes to resolve disagreement, etc.; • Board to consider increasing the level of grant funding during the Business Plan budget review process; and • Seek advice from DEW legal regarding the potential for applicants to sell equipment / materials purchased with grant funding. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications to community needs to focus on the other work that is undertaken by the board, not just Grassroots grants. Communication needs to be relative to the amount of money. • Pleasing that we could fund nearly every applicant. • A larger number of smaller grants is good, for better coverage • Andrew Biele is available to be on the Grassroots Grants Assessment Panel if needed. <p>ACTION: Follow the above recommendations when organising next year's grants program</p> <p>ACTION: Amy/Jem to organise a Teams Discussion between Greg Cock and Jason Size and the Investment and Information Team and NRM Communities team.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the recommendations from the review of the 2021-22 Grassroots Grants Program and instructs staff to implement these as part of preparations for the 2022-23 Grassroots Grants Program.</p>
6.	<p>Annual evaluation of the 2020-21 business plan</p> <p>The Team Leader, Planning and MERI, provided an extensive evaluation report and a two-page annual highlights report to board members.</p> <p>The board provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no need to share the whole evaluation report to the public, but rather a few case studies highlighted in depth • A large print of the infographic should be placed in reception areas of offices • A lot of detail is lost when converting to 2 page highlights – need to be 4 pages • Interactive online format is preferred for most information • Agree to an Annual Highlights Report – 4 pages - for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board being produced in October of each year followed by project story maps that provide a richer more interactive experience, being published by December <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and what the board should do in this space, including having evidence of what currently occurs • Percentages of community connections made puts the total number of connections into perspective. • The evaluation report undersells all the work the staff do in partnership with others, and needs to give itself more credit for what staff do/instigate <p>ACTION: Amy to organise the 4 page annual highlights report and send to board for comments out of session.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the findings of the 2020-21 annual evaluation report; Advised that several case studies in depth from the annual evaluation report can be shared externally with our partners and community; Agreed that the format used to deliver the information to our partners and community will be primarily digital; and Agreed that a four page Annual Highlights Report for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is produced annually in October followed by project story maps that provide a richer more interactive experience, being published by December.
7.	<p>Draft 2020-21 Annual Report</p> <p>The Manager Business Services provided to the board a draft MRLB Annual Report for 2020-21, which needs to be presented to the Minister on November 30, 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that two contracts over \$10,000 for Mid Murray Landcare and Enturo have been listed twice, which need to be deleted. Financial statements will only be added when received, and the board were happy to approve with the discussed changes.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Annual Report 2020-21; and

Item	Item Title
	b. Sought that officers check the contract list within the Annual Report to ensure there was no duplication and that the total was correct.
8.	<p>2022 Board meeting dates</p> <p>The General Manager presented a meeting paper to the Board with proposed Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board meeting dates for the 2022 year, along with Finance Committee meeting dates for the 2022 year.</p> <p>Agree to have one meeting at Loxton Waikerie Council with the remaining meeting venues being flexible, but mainly in the Berri and Murray Bridge offices.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the proposed Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board meeting dates and Finance committee meeting dates for 2022.</p>
Committees & Sub-Committees	
9.	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>Minutes from the finance committee held on 19 October 2021, along with papers on the financial position of the board, were provided to the board.</p> <p>The Finance Committee Chair joined us via phone and provided a summary of the financial position.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers and minutes of the October meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee – 23 September</p> <p>The Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee provided a report from their September meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCAC appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Board on 23 September and the Board's endorsement for their workplan • Lucy Kluge has now joined the MCAC as a member after Board approval in August. MCAC is continuing to look for additional members in accord with the Terms of Reference. • The rainfall across the region has been inconsistent and despite good rains in some areas, there are a number of Mallee farmers in drought • Planning is underway for the Sustainable Agriculture forum to be hosted by MCAC – 17 February 2022 has been set for an afternoon forum at Bowhill. • Local Government forum is planned in March. <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the report and minutes form the MCAC.</p>
11.	<p>Sensitive and Significant Issues</p> <p>Nil</p>
Items for Noting	
12.	Chair's report

Item	Item Title
	<p>The Chair provided a verbal report outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Ngarrindjeri Water Training on 22 September • Attended the Water Advisory Committee meeting on 14 October • Attended the Murraylands and Riverland LGA meeting on the 22 October • Attended the opening of the Berri MRLB office on 25 October. Delighted with both new offices, access to good services and wellbeing of staff is very important. • Chairs forum meeting in December • Reconciliation plan is underway <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's report.</i></p>
13.	<p>Grant Funding update</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes provided an indication of the Funding sources and projects where applications have been submitted across the region. Opportunities include from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Future Drought Fund: Drought resilience Innovation Grants, • the Landscape Priorities Fund • Healthy Rivers Program • Smart Farms Small Grants: Soil Extension Activities • Australian Research Council <p>Carbon farming proposal was not pursued due to no staff capacity. Proposals are all prepared by current staff, but specialist assistance may be looked at in the future.</p> <p>The staff were requested to attempt to quantify the success rate the board has with submitted grant and funding bids.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted funding bids that have been submitted during September / October 2021.</i></p>
14.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The correspondence list for October was presented to the board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
15.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The board noted actions on the action list.</p> <p>Interest was received from Sandy Iosefellis to be on the Water Planning Steering Committee, and from Caroline Phillips to be on the Finance committee.</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the appointment of Caroline Phillips to the Finance Committee, and Sandy Iosefellis to the Water Planning Steering Committee.</i></p>
16.	<p>Member's Contributions/Other Business</p> <p><i>Andrew Biele:</i> Board visit to Calperum would be a good time to engage with Riverland First Nations and their work.</p> <p>Promote opening of the Berri office and move to new premises.</p> <p>Kangaroo permits renewals have not been received by permit holders, which may have explained the low uptake of renewals - make DEW aware of this.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p><i>Greg Cock:</i> Concern that key staff have left the organisation, leaving some staff stretched and stressed. Backfilling and filling has commenced and confident that as we head into 2022 we are well positioned with staff.</p> <p><i>Sandy Iosefellis:</i> Interested in joining staff for a day to learn about the business. Andrew to reshare the staff experiences menu with board members and invite them to attend.</p> <p>MRLGA has been successful with their Water Position project, a letter of support was provided by the board for this project.</p>
17.	Next meeting details – 25 November 2021 at Berri office, Vaughan Tce. An end of year afternoon tea get together with staff will occur after the meeting.
	The meeting closed at 11.45am

<p>ENDORSED</p> 	<p>Dianne Davidson AM Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 25-11-21</p>
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