



## MINUTES OF MEETING –13 June 2008

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Meeting opened at 2.03pm

### Present

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Charlie Martens	Regional Manager SunWater
Eva Arena	Barron River/Tinaroo Falls Dam Area
Cid Rantucci	Mitchell Catchment – Supplementary Scheme
Jeffrey Kent	Channels/Pipelines – Eastern Area (East of Granite Ck)
Maryann Salvetti	Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd
Dennis Howe	Channels/Pipelines – Central Area
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Makse Srhoj and Eddie Toffanello

### 2. Previous Minutes and Action List

- Amendment to 23 April Meeting Minutes: Add into SunWater Managers Report Item 8
- Jeff Kent raised the question as to whether MDIAC recommendations will be taken seriously by SunWater. Charlie Martens reply was: Yes.
- **Minutes** of the 23 April 2008 Meeting subject to the above addition were *Moved: Maryann Salvetti, Seconded: Eva Arena as a true and correct record. Carried.*
- **Action List:** Tabled

### 3. Business Arising From Minutes

- **SunWater Regional Manager Committee Position:** This position on the MDIAC does not have voting rights. This is the case, even if the Regional Manager has to Chair the Meeting in the absence of the MDIAC Chairman.
- **Critical Water Sharing Rules:** Charlie tabled the Rules. The committee requested that Charlie find the PowerPoint presentation Brett Stevenson gave the Customer Council and present it to the MDIAC at the next meeting.

**Action:** Charlie to present Brett's PowerPoint presentation at next meeting.

**Action:** Bronwyn to put Critical Water Sharing Rules on agenda for next meeting.

- **Capacity Sharing:** Complicated issue which requires its own meeting. Briefing with Tom Vanderbyl (SunWater) and Eric Danzi (CANEGROWERS) for 15 August 2008 at 10am. The Committee requested that an irrigator who is using this system come up and explain how it works for them.

**Action:** Charlie to seek to organise an irrigator who is using capacity sharing to come to the August 2008 briefing.

- **Carryover:** Reason given to Charlie for no carry over was that this scheme has had 3 years of carry over and that we were told last year would be the final time. - MDFVGA has written a letter and will provide a copy of the reply when they receive it. Maryann Salvetti indicated that CANEGROWERS would also write to the NRW Minister on this matter.



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- **Solid Mud in Channel:** SunWater had a lot of problems with erosion and channel damage from heavy inflow from cross drains etc. during the bigger than normal wet season and they are currently going through and fixing them up. SunWater try to divert water away from the channels into the cross drains. They do not want people to diverting flood water into the channel.
- **Levison Creek:** Terrain NRW is working with landholders adjacent Levison Creek to assist them in improving water quality.
- **Emerald Creek/ East Barron Channel Pipeline Upgrade:** SunWater is working on an engineering solution to the air problems in the pipeline which will hopefully lead to the delivery of another 20ML per day.
- **Shutdowns for 2008/09:** Charlie tabled Gantt Chart in Manager's Report which specifies work to be done and anticipated dates and duration of shut downs. Charlie asked committee to look at timing of anticipated shut downs and make suggestions of any timing changes.
- The committee suggested that the concrete bay repairs scheduled for April 2009 be done in March and that the channel scraping be done in April.
- **Weed Control:** Can't use Acrolein in the channel for weed control without a 72 hour shutdown and there are also issues with having to get rid of the water.

**Action:** Charlie to find out more about issues associated with Acrolein use for weed control in the channel.

### 4. Correspondence

Correspondence Log tabled. *The committee resolved to accept the Correspondence Log.*

### 5. SunWater Manager's Report

Charlie tabled report for End May 2008.

- Announced Allocation Calculation is expected to be 100% on 1 July 2008.
- Maryann raised the issue of meters being read as close to the 30 June as possible so that irrigators can use all of their allocation before the beginning of the next water year. Charlie replied that meters are read as close to the 30 June as possible, but they can't all be read in one day. Growers can read their own meter and put their own meter reading in at SunWaterOnline at 30 June. Even if your meter was read on the 27 June you could put the up to date reading in on the 30 June and that would be accepted as your meter reading.

**Action:** SunWater to get a letter out to irrigators re being able to read their own meter and record it at SunWaterOnline on the 30 June.

### 6. Other Business

- **Barron ROP:** Discussion was held on release figures and calculations and how they effect announced allocation and environmental flow releases.

**Action:** Request a briefing with NRW on the Barron ROP and find out when the ROP review promised to the Customer Council will take place.

- **Exit Fees:** Charlie reported on how SunWater work out exit fee and how they are collected over 10 years and how it is proportioned in the price path in relation to where the water has moved from. Needs to be reviewed for next price path.



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**Action:** Charlie to advise if these collected fees are taken into account when next price determination done.

- **Stanwell & Env. Release Media Report:** Charlie Nastasi says he was not told until after the increase in flow that it was going to happen. There were other irrigators in that area which were definitely contacted before the event. It seems to have been a communication issue. SunWater will revise how the communication is given to the irrigators prior to an increase or decrease in flow.

**Action:** Charlie to revise communication to irrigators regarding flow releases

- **Modernising Planning:** Charlie explained that SunWater has received funding for modernisation planning and that he would like to hold a separate meeting for any interested MDIAC members to seek their input into the planning process

**Action:** Charlie to set date for meeting and get back to committee.

- Cid raised issue that he has had irrigators contact him to say that the South Walsh Section of the channel has been running out of water on the weekends.

**Action:** Charlie to investigate why this is occurring.

- **Agenda Items for next meeting:** Capacity Sharing, Agenda Items for following meeting and set date for following meeting.

## 7. Next Meeting

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The Next Meeting will be held on Friday 15 August 2008 at 10.00am at SunWater Mareeba Meeting Room

**Meeting closed at 4.15pm**

**Minutes reviewed and accepted by:**

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Joe Moro  
Chairperson

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Charlie Martens  
SunWater Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Minutes yet to be accepted by committee at next meeting.**

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