

THREE MOON CREEK IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF MEETING – 14 APRIL 2008

Meeting opened at 1.10pm at the Monto Shire Hall Function Room

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Representation
Paul Francis	Irrigator Advisory Committee Chairperson
Jock McLuran	Irrigator Advisory Committee Member
Arthur Maynard	Irrigator Advisory Committee Member
Russ Salisbury	Irrigator Advisory Committee Member
Max Ison	Irrigator Advisory Committee Member
Nev Wogandt	SunWater
John Barber	SunWater

APOLOGIES

Ben Jarvis
Les Hotz

MINUTE TAKER

Nev Wogandt

INTRODUCTIONS

Paul Francis welcomed all to the meeting.

AGENDA

- Cania Dam Storage position
- Observation Bore Levels
- Release Strategy for 2008 / 2009
- General Business

MEETING REPORT

Nev Wogandt presented a status report for:

1. Cania Dam Position 1/07/2007 to 14/04/2008
2. Three Moon Creek usage amounts 2007/2008
3. Groundwater Level plots for Section one Upper
4. Groundwater Level plots for Section three
5. Groundwater Level plots for Section four
6. Groundwater Level plots for Section five
7. Groundwater Level plots for Section six
8. Groundwater Level plots for Section one Lower

The current year's groundwater announced allocation is 60%. The surface water allocation is 50% for irrigators not on storages and 100% for irrigators on permanent holes and weirs.

Main Issues for Discussion / Options

- Determine the most appropriate release strategy for the coming season
- The system is "primed" has some supplies in water holes and storages perhaps make a release now
- Release in July / August however the system would have dried up and the release may not be as effective.
- No release and keep the water in storage and wait for inflows until perhaps next summer.
- Look at the most equitable way of utilising the 6,00ML available for release for the benefit of the whole system.



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Discussion centred on the current position of the creek system and the volume of water available for release. It was recognised that the current in stream conditions for the Three Moon Creek system was good with the recent rain and the lower end of the system still had relatively good volumes in the waterholes. Consideration was given to possibly making an early release from Cania Dam to take advantage of the good in stream conditions, this release would be able to be released at a far slower rate than has been the case in previous years, thus giving a greater contact time in the upper reaches of the system allowing for better recharge of the ground water aquifer, and also maintaining supplies for the surface water irrigators and for the lower end of the scheme.

Moved by Arthur: *that an emergency release of 8,000ML is made as soon as practical to take advantage of the creek conditions.* No Seconder, Motion lapses

Moved by Jock: *that a release of 6,000ML be made as soon as practical to take advantage of the in-stream conditions.* Seconded by Max. Carried 4 votes to 1

Note

Neville to follow up on the process of having the release brought forward as the iROL indicates a winter release in the 2008 / 2009 year. The water year commences in July 2008.

General Business

Arthur asked if the volume of evaporation could be assessed on the 1,200mL that was not released last year. Neville to follow up storage volumes and losses.

Arthur requested that an access rule be looked at in relation to irrigators who take allocation water during release periods especially during times of drought. A possible scenario would be to reduce take based on allocation. For further consideration by all.

Jock asked about the background to the leak in Mulgildie weir release gate and if it could be looked at *John advised that the leak was very small however it would be investigated.*

Jock advised that there was a 2inch pump operating 24hrs per day and pumping into a farm dam could this be investigated. *John to follow up when next in Monto.*

Neville referred to a letter to SunWater from NR&W regarding the proposed iROL change in relation to amending S2.3 to facilitate the change in Announced Allocation during times of low storage at Cania Dam. The issue arose due to the QRAA rebate scheme and the current surface water announced allocations being 100% and 50% with little scope of accessing water

The proposal is to amend S2.3 of the current Three Moon Creek Water Supply Scheme iROL under section 185 of the Water Act 2000 to include an announced allocation of 0% at times when Cania Dam contains insufficient storage to supply the 6,000 megalitres winter releases.

Following discussion the proposal was fully supported and subsequently endorsed by the Irrigator Advisory Committee.

ACTION LIST

- Neville to follow up release strategy and action
- John to follow up on pumping from Mulgildie weir

CLOSE – 2:55pm

Nev Wogandt
Regional Manager, Biloela

Paul Francis
Chairman, Three Moon Creek Irrigator Advisory Committee