



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 20 November 2009

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Meeting opened at 11.54am

### Present:

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Charlie Martens	Regional Manager SunWater
Eva Arena	Barron River/Tinaroo Falls Dam Area
Evan McGrath	Tableland Regional Council
Dennis Howe	Channels/Pipelines – Central Area
Shaun Fassio	NQ Co-Op (left 1.15pm)
Jeff Kent	Channels/Pipelines – Eastern Area (East of Granite Ck) (left 1.30pm)
Maryann Salvetti	Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd (left 1.50pm)
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary & proxy for Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Eddie Toffanello, Cid Rantucci, Makse Srhoj

### 2. Previous Minutes and Action List

Minutes of the 21 August 2009 Meeting were **Moved:** Eva Arena, **Seconded:** Shaun Fassio as a true and correct record. **Carried.**

**Action Lists:** Tabled.

21 August 2009 6.3 - SunWater to put media release in papers regarding Public and Vehicles on SunWater land has been held over pending advice from legal department.

### 3. Correspondence

- Correspondence Log tabled. *The committee resolved to accept the Correspondence Log*
- Tabled Letter of reply from SunWater to Tableland CANEGROWERS re Carryover Storage Rental Fee

### 4. Business Arising From Minutes

- **Barron ROP Review:** Tableland CANEGROWERS and MDFVGA met with Jason Douglas from DERM this morning. A Carryover Rule will be included in the Draft ROP Amendment. New parameters to be used to calculate Announced Allocation (AA) will mean steady incremental steps rather than large steps and the approach used will be predictive. Environmental flow releases – reviewing peaks and troughs / volumes but the timing of releases will remain. Draft expected to be released for consultation in February 10 with a minimum 30 day submission period as per the Act. Emerald Creek supp stream users (from national park boundary) will be able to trade water under the review. Clarified Cairns City Water 4000ML – environmental flows are clarified at Lake Placid Overflow in the Water Resource Plan
- Carryover – Cancellation on 7 days notice clause: This is an old, unnecessary clause which SunWater is happy to delete at the committee's request.



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*The committee requested Charlie to have the 'cancellation on 7 days notice' clause deleted from the carryover rules*

### **Action: Charlie to have cancellation on 7 days notice clause deleted from Carryover rules**

- Announced Allocation: 100% on 1 October. AA increased even though there was hardly any inflow into the system as increased irrigation water usage in Sept which made the dam lower which in turn meant less water available for hydro under the calculation.
- User pays for Customer Requests: Tabled Fee Sheets. The committee want it made clear that they are disappointed that the increases were not discussed with the MDIAC first. Charlie had taken that feedback back to SunWater after the last meetings discussions.
- The committee request that SunWater justify the increases and that the re-connections have costing guidelines / schedule included in fee sheet

### **Action: Charlie to provide justification of User pays fee increases and provide re-connections costing's for the next meeting**

- Boyle Creek Siphon on InterSafe list: 1<sup>st</sup> stage gates have been completed, 2<sup>nd</sup> stage every structure is being assessed to be done from the top end of the system down. Southedge, end of South Walsh and Atherton Creek not yet fully assessed. Charlie has flagged that the Boyle Creek Siphon needs to be done on SunWater's notional list.

### **Action: Bronwyn to keep Boyle Creek Siphon on action list so that the committee are informed once it has been completed**

- InterSafe and Fencing Sites and Fencing Policy: Lists for InterSafe tabled: 1<sup>st</sup> list shows sites of gate supply and installation contract. 2<sup>nd</sup> list is no gated sites. These are 2 separate contracts. 3<sup>rd</sup> list shows sites that are still being identified / assessed. The InterSafe program will costs \$4.5 million over 2 years which is ultimately paid for by irrigators.
- Fencing: In the last 8 years 16 people have died on SunWater land Queensland wide which has spurred on fencing policy. Currently MDWSS has half a dozen or so housing sites on list for fencing plus bus turn around area on channel road will also be fenced off. \$100,000 spent this year on fencing.

### **Fencing Policy: Tabled**

Style of fencing – it was discussed that the current style of fencing does not suit the purpose. There is a need to investigate the fencing style to look at something that is around 4 foot high so it provides a barrier for children but adults are still able to get over it in an emergency situation – more like pool type fencing.

### **Action: MDIAC will write letter to SunWater re investigating more suitable style of fencing**

- **Carryover Storage Rental Fee:** Both MDFVGA and Tableland CANEGROWERS wrote to SunWater requesting justification of proposed fee. SunWater has not yet replied to the MDFVGA letter. Reply from SunWater to Tableland CANEGROWERS was that they have decided not to bring in the carryover storage rental fee on 1 July 2010. They will instead review it as part of the next price path determination process in 2011.



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- **Lower Bound Negotiations:** The lower bound process is still being thought through. It is anticipated that there will be some clarification on the process early next year.

### 5. SunWater Manager's Report

#### No Written Report

- Dam 66% full – 72% full this time last year. 750ML day released for irrigation in October.
- 24,000ML delivered down channel with only 2/3 going through the meters.
- Last month we ran short of water on occasions and wasted water as our officers had to second guess water requirements due to irrigators not ordering water.
- After 1<sup>st</sup> quarter there are already some water users who have used their full allocation.
- Copper sulphate has been used at Arriga, Atherton Creek, Walsh Bluff and South Walsh for weed control. Chain pulling was also used in the channel by prison.

### 6. Other Business

- **Additional supply capacity or amending allocation rule to the East Barron Area:** SunWater received a phone call from John Falvo requesting that the East Barron Cap be increased so that they could have extra water. The cap is 19416ML in the East Barron and only 51% of that water is currently being used. This means that there is water available to be temporary transferred / purchased.
- *The Committee resolved not to increase the East Barron allocation cap and that SunWater let John Falvo know of the temporary transferring / purchasing options.*
- The following are options to increase capacity in the East Barron system: Increase the cap which may mean water rostering, install a duplicate pipeline which would cost \$2.5million for extra 30ML day, off peak system using a capacity % entitlement as per the Bundaberg system.
- The committee discussed these options and the idea of getting irrigators from the East Barron together to discuss the capacity issues.

#### **Action: Charlie and Joe to discuss how to progress the issue of increasing capacity in the East Barron**

- **Water Ordering:** presentation by Mike Bird and Errol Carlsen. Copy provided to committee. Water ordering is critical to the scheme and is in fact mandatory. This includes the Barron River – water is required to be ordered on the Creeks and Rivers as well – not just the channels. Water officers will go out and talk to irrigators who have not been ordering water one on one and re-educate them. They will also go through the ordering process / streamline training with them if necessary. Next water year SunWater will be enforcing water ordering and will issue Breach letters and DNT notices to repeat offenders.
- SunWater tabled a DRAFT letter that they are considering sending out to all water users re mandatory water ordering. *The Committee resolved that SunWater send out the tabled letter.*
- SunWater asked for this committee to endorse the enforcement of Mandatory Water Ordering. As the full committee wasn't present no decision was made and it was decided to put water ordering on the agenda for the next meeting



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**Action: Bronwyn to put Water Ordering on agenda for next meeting**

- **Land Access – including recreation management at Tinaroo:** Held over until next meeting

**Action: Bronwyn to put Land Access on the agenda for next meeting**

- **Shut downs next year:** 5 minor shutdowns (max. 3 days) plus 1 x 7 to 10 day shutdown out by the prison scheduled for March – May 2010.

### 7. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next MDIAC Meeting is scheduled for Friday 26 February 2010 at 10am subject to draft ROP release.

Meeting Closed: 2.20pm

**Minutes reviewed and accepted by:**

Joe Moro  
Chairperson

Charlie Martens  
SunWater Manager

27.11.09

Date

**Minutes to be accepted by MDIAC at next meeting.**