

Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

MINUTES OF MEETING – 5 October 2016

Meeting opened at 10.11am

Present:

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary
Evan McGrath	
Eva Arena	Barron River/Tinaroo Falls Dam Area
Gerard Kath	Channels/Pipelines – Central Area
Charlie Martens	Sunwater Service Manager, Mareeba
Shaun Fassio	NQ Co-op
Remo Terranova	Mitchell Catchment Supplemented Streams (arrived: 10.17am)
Maryann Salvetti	Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd
Travis Richards	Service Manager, Burdekin
Peter Howe	Channels/Pipelines – Eastern Area (arrived: 10.20am)
Peter Cocuzza	Operations Supervisor, Mareeba

Joe Moro welcomed Gerard Kath to the Committee as the Channel/Pipelines- Central Area Rep

1. Apologies: Kylie Collins, Karen Muccignat

2. Previous Minutes & Action List:

- Minutes of the 20th June 16 Meeting were *Moved: Eva Arena, Seconded: Evan McGrath as a true and correct record. Carried*

- Action List: Tabled

22 April 16 5.1: Legal Advice on Meter Tampering Charge – Customer Contract with SunWater doesn't say you can't charge and the contract states that the customer is responsible for the condition of the meter. If it is a first time offender generally SunWater will warn them. SunWater is about to contact by phone and send a bill to a third time offender.

3. Correspondence:

- Correspondence Log Tabled

4. SunWater:

- Announced Allocation / Carryover – AA for Oct still 70%

- Water Use Figures for 15/16 Water Year – 83% irrigation usage, nearly 9,000ML carryover used, TT – 45,413ML. Urban 61%, Industrial 67%. Combined average 79%. TT for 14/15 water year was 34,089ML

- Kath's Direction not to take – Direction not to take posted from Brisbane the same day as meters were locked out, so irrigators weren't given the weeks' notice to rectify. SunWater has changed procedures so that lock out will not happen for 7 days after direction not to take letter has been posted from Brisbane. E-mail from Brisbane to Mareeba Office once letter has been posted. Gerard also didn't receive a phone call.

- Only 24 customers totalling about 400ML were over their allocation at the end of the water year

- Text message are sent to irrigators when they go over 80% usage of their allocation. Customers can also keep track of their usage through SunWater Online.

- TT is point in time – so if the AA is 70% then the transferee only gets 70% of the transferred amount. If the AA increases they don't get the extra water unless they do an extra TT form

- East Barron TT – SunWater Customer Service keeping a spreadsheet of water that is TT out of East Barron. The amount transferred out can then be TT back in on a first in first served basis.

- When the AA is below 100% on 1 April TT can come in to make up the difference between the AA and 100%

Action: SunWater to send out notification to East Barron Irrigators about TT options

Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

MINUTES OF MEETING – 5 October 2016

- Emerald Creek Water Ordering – Still having a lot of issues with water running out on Emerald Creek and water ordering. Guys at end missing out and they are quite tolerant. The guys at the beginning are not ordering and running out and making all the noise. Organise a Shed Meeting for Supplemented Streams in the Emerald, Shanty, Levison and Cobra Creeks. Agenda to include: Water ordering, TT East Barron, Drought Dec and Water releases
Action: MDIACouncil to call the Meeting at the Dole shed on Remo's farm. SunWater to send the meeting notice out
- SunWater Online – new system means that you have to TT between accounts in same ownership names. Can amalgamate if same area but there are exit fees if you amalgamate across areas.
Action: Charlie to chase up rules on amalgamation of accounts with one ownership name
Action: Charlie to see if SunWater online can have an area for internal TT's from one water account to another
- SunWater restructure as of 31st Oct operations of bulk at Tinaroo back under Management of SunWater Mareeba
- If we don't get rain and the dam is below 187,000ML on 1 November, we will fall into the low zone 50ML/day flow target at Myola.
- Rafting at Kuranda sometime in Oct. Will there be additional releases for the event?
Action: Travis to find out and e-mail Bronwyn for her to forward to the Committee
- Held meeting with Barron River Irrigators. A lot of discussion around water ordering. 3 key irrigators missing so will go and see them one on one if necessary. Jim was asked to clarify if MSC is ordering water
Action: Charlie to check if MSC is ordering water
- Navua Sedge seen in Channel – major pest on upper Tablelands. Can an irrigator poison the sedge in the channel – Charlie: No you would need to be engaged as a contractor to do any work on our channel system. SunWater can have a look and see if we can do anything. SunWater doesn't have Sempra on list of chemicals that can be used on our land and it is the chemical that controls it.

5. Local Management Update:

- Board selected. The State Government as been painfully slow and even though the Board Members were ratified over a month ago, letters notifying Board Members were only received last Friday. Joe and some of the Board Members travelling to Brisbane for a training session end of this week
- The Chairs have had a meeting in Brisbane regarding the establishment of the over-arching Company. Interim Chair is Maurie Maughan – one of the scheme Chairs
- Draft Legislation on LMA – submissions have been put in by LMA and QFF on this legislation. Legislation allows a third party to potentially take over the scheme
- There have been committees set up for Finance, Engineering and Legal all of which will have a rep from the Mareeba Dimbulah LMA Board
- Graham Kirkwood who is a retired accountant has replaced Brad Maisel on the Committee
- 2 reference groups to this process – the MDIACouncil and a group of Large Irrigators
- Option if we don't go is to stay with SunWater
- 4 schemes transitioning and 4 schemes reviewing business cases
- Modernising scheme is a bigger issue now than it was 2 years ago when we last looked at LMA as water usage is increasing
- Need to get communication out to irrigators once we have convened the first meeting on 24th October
- Teleconference coming up with previous consultants who made recommendation to treasury on our Stage 2 business case and having meeting with treasury on the 24th Oct

Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

MINUTES OF MEETING – 5 October 2016

- 6. Service Target Reviews:** 24 hour notice on releases for Power Station. No change greater than 100ML in one sentence and then will notify if over 100ML change in next sentence. Need to clarify as can't have both. Also clarify whether it should say no change greater than 250ML
Action: Charlie to clarify wording and ML in Service Targets for releases
- Water Wheel to PA conversion requests will be charged for if the customer is not showing history of ordering water and not able to take water continuously for 24 hour period. SunWater has spoken to local irrigation companies to make sure they design to what SunWater can deliver
- 7. Meeting with Minister Lynham on Environmental Flow Releases:** Maryann, Joe Moro, Mayor Joe Paronella and Bronwyn met with Minister Lynham re reducing releases to the Low zone 50ML/day during drought conditions. Could have saved in excess of 20,000ML had we gone to low zone in April.
- The Department Staff are reluctant to open up the ROP. Used excuse that environmental groups could come in we could end up in a worse position with releases
 - The Minister asked Nigel Kelly to model / look at historical data to see if 50ML release would negatively impact downstream users
 - We sent a thankyou letter to Minister and will need to follow up to make sure Nigel is carrying out the review as per Ministers request
- Action: Joe and Bronwyn to send letter to Minister for follow up on historical modelling**
- 8. Temporary Transfer of MSC Excess Water Allocation:** Cost of Medium Priority Water to MSC is around \$158/ML so they would be looking to recover the cost.
- recommendation to go before Councillor to tender 7 x 100ML lots of Medium Priority water.
 - MSC needs to ask SunWater what the charges will be for SunWater to deliver it
 - MSC water usage up this year so they have indicated they want to hold on to all High Priority Water
 - High priority water would be too expensive for Irrigators at this point in time before we know if we will have a wet season or not
- 9. Water Register Update** – In excess of 2,000ML on the register wanting to TT and permanent transfer. Currently have no sellers.
- Water TT at \$130/ML in the last couple of weeks
- 10. Other Business:**
- Mon 31 Oct new SunWater CEO Nicole Hollows coming to Mareeba and would like to have dinner with the MDIACouncil and LMA Board.
- Action: Charlie will e-mail details to Bronny and she will circulate to the Committee**
- 11. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items:** TBC at 10am

Meeting closed: 12.26pm

Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

MINUTES OF MEETING – 5 October 2016

ACTION LIST

Agenda No.	Action	Who	By When	Status
17Apr15 2.7	Put Termination Fees on agenda for next price Path	Bronwyn	Next price path	
5Oct16 4.4.1	Notify East Barron Customers about TT Options	Charlie	ASAP	
5Oct16 4.5.1	MDIACouncil to call Eastern Supp. Streams Meeting and SunWater to send out Meeting Notices	Joe/Bron/Charlie	4.11.16	
5Oct16 4.6.1	Chase up Rule on amalgamating water accounts with one ownership name	Charlie	4.11.16	
5Oct16 4.6.2	See if Sunwater online can have an area for internal TT from one water account to another within same ownership name	Charlie	4.11.16	
5Oct16 4.9.1	Find out if any additional releases will be made for rafting event at Kuranda in Oct & Bronwyn to email Committee	Travis / Bronwyn	14.10.16	
5Oct16 4.10.1	Check if MSC is ordering water	Charlie	14.10.16	
5Oct16 6.1	Clarify wording and ML on Service targets for releases	Charlie	4.11.16	
5Oct16 7.1	Write to Minister Lynham re results of dept. review into historical release modelling	Joe / Bronwyn	4.11.16	
5Oct16 10.1	Email SunWater CEO Dinner details for Bronwyn to e-mail Committee	Charlie	ASAP	