

MINUTES OF MEETING – 11 MAY 2016

Meeting opened at 9:40am, 11 May 2016.

Held: Emerald IS Depot, 87 Esmond Street Emerald.

Present:

Attendees	Representation
Robert Ingram (RI) – Chairperson	Section 1
Neville Brownlie (NBr)	Section 1
Nigel Burnett (NBu)	Section 2
Neek Morawitz (NM)	Section 2
Matthew Barnes (MB)	Section 4
Les Fluerty (LF)	Section 4
Colin Bendall (CB)	SunWater
Neil Farrell (NF)	SunWater
Milton Pukallus (MP)	SunWater
Andrew Maughan (AM)	SunWater
Donna Lewis (DL) – Secretary	SunWater

1. Apologies

Paul Wortley

2. Previous Minutes and Action List

Minutes of meeting 24th November 2015 have been confirmed and uploaded to internet.

3. Correspondence

Nil

4. Business Arising From Minutes

4.1. Poly lining de-silt trial

The story and photographs are on website & link was emailed to members of IAC 30th November 2015.

4.2. TCC System

RI didn't receive any information from Geoff Kavanagh. It is noted that the information pertained to the original set-up.

Action

RI will seek further information.

4.3. St Helen's Siphon – water levels

NF has taken some levels at a flow of 630 megalitres per day, however to get meaningful data to allow an assessment of the capacity it will require levels to be taken at a much higher flow rate which may not occur until 100% allocation and larger area of cropping.

4.4. Chemical/Mechanical Weed Control

Tractor & both mowers have been commissioned and are in use. Some changes to be made to work flail mower. The boom spray rig is being manufactured.

4.5. Replacement meters – Galea's

Dave Ferry Mobile Welding and Fabrication have been employed to fit the meters. Meters are imperial so fittings had to be special manufacture. The parts required have been received so the meters will be fitted as soon as possible.

AM reported Bulk Water division are also replacing some meters on the river.

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4.6. Peak Flow on River

MP reported that it is his intent to formalise procedures currently being used and will have a proposal draft before end of water year. The proposal would need to be checked to ensure consistency with any customer contracts. CB noted that this procedure should be an attachment to Scheme Rules & Targets. Figures etc. to be sent out before next meeting. RI suggested this would need to be agreed upon before being adopted.

Action

MP to generate a draft procedure for Peak Flow on River – to be attached to Scheme Rules & Targets.

4.7. 30 Year Asset Plan and Revised Strategy

The changes to the 30 year Asset Plan have been uploaded and the changes are reflected in NSP.

4.8. CEO - new CEO appointed

Nicole Hollows joined SunWater 26th April 2016. CB reported that Nicole has a strong customer focus. Nicole is planning to travel to regions to gain a deeper understanding of operations and meet with customers and staff.

4.9. 2015 NSP's

Last meeting 2015 NSP Annual Performance Reports were presented. Responses to queries raised have been published on web.

Action

DL to email relevant link to IAC members.

4.10. Bedford Weir

CB attended the coroner's inquest. The following recommendations were made:-

- SunWater remove, and not reinstate, the rubber fabric dams manufactured by Queensland Rubber/Trelleborg. *Note that they are not in use but need to be removed and disposed of. Funds for these works are allocated in 2016/17 budget.*
- SunWater investigate, and implement if appropriate, steel gates of an appropriate design for use on the Bedford weir. *A proposal/costing, will be presented to the IAC at a future date for consideration.*
- That SunWater engage with the Crown, and if appropriate the Local Government Association of Queensland, to establish an Agreement³⁸ to allow the placement of warning signs in appropriate areas downstream of the weirs and dams that they operate; and
- SunWater install and maintain, appropriate signage to warn people of the risks that exist in conducting any activities in areas below the walls of dams and weirs that they operate. Placement of signage will depend on the topography and configuration at each location, but signage should be placed where they are readily seen by members of the public. No doubt the signs shall also include pictograms warning of these dangers.

4.11. Salinity – Farm 137

NF reported he is implementing the digging of test holes to determine the depth of the basalt layer. Once this is completed then a further plan regarding drainage or lining channel will be implemented.

RI noted that there are some observation bores that exist on his farm that are not checked anymore. These were previously checked by DNR.

Action

NF to organise test holes to look at depth of basalt adjacent to Farm 137.

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5. General Business

5.1. 2016/17 Draft Annual Network Service Plans

5.1.1. Emerald Distribution NSP

CB presented the 2016/17 Draft Annual Network Service Plan for Emerald Distribution

Notes/Queries

- Electricity forecast budget for 2017 is almost double the 2016 forecast this will be reviewed and adjusted prior to final version.
- Electricity – SunWater annually employs an external consultant to review charges and investigate cost savings across all pump stations. Report available. LF asked if SunWater had looked at the costing on using generator power for Selma Pumps. CB reported that IP has employed a reliability engineer who may be able to investigate viability of this option.
- Some overspend on Preventative Maintenance is related to acrolein usage. Discussion regarding the Acrolein increase in price & usage. Alternative product supplier has been investigated however there is a problem with packaging not meeting Australian standards. CB reported the current Acrolein price is locked in for 2 years. Current supplier also travels to SunWater depots carrying out training. A trial of new chemical, Warrant 250, to kill channel weeds has been conducted on S5 channel and NBr reported this has worked well. The drawback to using this chemical is that, due to residual, water cannot be put back in the channel for 6 weeks.
- Table 5, Page 12 – 2016 R&E overspend largely due to works on Selma Switchyard.
- Table 6, Page 13 – R & E projects for 2017
 - Pump 3 is scheduled for refurbishment – these works planned for action in July shutdown. Pump 1 may also need to be pulled as it is making a knocking noise.
 - During shutdown the Armco gates will be assessed and decision made as to which ones need replacement due to corrosion.
 - Other works include –
 - Reprofile Weemah channel banks and batters
 - Reprofile Selma drain sections
 - Reprofile Weemah drain sections
 - Replace meter technology
 - Refurbish Electric Motor Unit 3 – Selma Pump Station

Actions

- *Table 4, Page 5 – CB to review forecast budget for electricity for 2017*
- *CB to investigate the possibility of a preliminary feasibility assessment with regard to powering Selma Pumps by generator.*

5.1.2. Nogoia Bulk Water NSP

MP presented the 2016/17 Draft Annual Network Service Plan for Nogoia Bulk Water.

Notes/Queries

- 2017 budget is compiled taking into account the QCA water use assumption
- Table 2, Page 5, Item 5 SunWater – 32,093ML – what is included in this amount?

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- NBu asked if mines with high priority water allocations are able to trade/sell their water allocations to rural customers. Gregory & Crinum Mines would not be using their allocations. Also how much water has been converted from irrigation to industrial?
- Discussion on the cost of monitoring dams due to public expectations e.g. Fairbairn Dam recreation area, signage on land that isn't SunWater land. It was noted that the next price path negotiations would be the best time to raise these issues.
- Insurance – did Bedford Weir incident cause an increase in insurance? CB advised that the civil suit is not yet finalised and also insurance is costed on a state-wide basis so cannot see the impact of an individual claim.
- Table 6, Page 14 – R & E projects for 2017
 - Two major projects for Fairbairn Dam Improvement – see also minute 5.4
 - Sewage & water treatment plant works – option study currently underway which may identify a more cost effective option.
 - 20 year Dam Safety Review to be undertaken.
 - Works on slope below lookout. LF queried the cost of this work, suggested it was excessive.
 - Other works include decommissioning of fabridam at Bedford Weir. LF suggested the cost of this project was excessive.
- Table 7, Page 16 – What is the long term plan for addressing an increasing negative annuity balance.
- Table 8, Page 19, Routine Spend, Operations, Contractors, 2016 forecast – RI questioned the large increase from 2015 to 2016.

Actions

- *MP to provide breakdown of 32,093ML used in Table 2, Page 5, Item 5.*
- *MP to check if it is possible for mines with high priority water allocations to trade/sell their allocations under their current contract.*
- *CB to investigate how much water has been converted from irrigation to industrial.*
- *Table 8, Page 19, Routine Spend, Operations, Contractors, 2016 forecast – MP to investigate the abnormal amount for contractors in 2016.*

5.2. Representative for Section 1 Selma (13Mile to 21Mile)

Meeting concurred that the previous representative, for Section 1 (13Mile to 21Mile) Selma, not be replaced as the representation for this section is being covered by two other Selma Channel representatives.

5.3. Presentation – Fairbairn Dam Spillway Project by Andre Retief (Project Manager)

- Andre gave a presentation to IAC regarding the works being undertaken on the Fairbairn Dam spillway. A brochure outlining the works will be circulated to Emerald district residents in the near future.
- Emerald IS will be desilting top of Weemah Channel and putting pad to enable acrolein injections without having to enter the Spillway Works area.
- SRG Group is the principal contractor carrying out the works.
- IAC Committee to take a tour in a month.

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Action

- *MP to organise a tour for IAC members to visit Fairbairn Dam spillway works.*

6. New Business

6.1. LMA Update

CB reported that the chairpersons for LMA boards have been chosen however their appointment has to be authorised by the Premier. At the moment we are operating the scheme as usual. The current price path has been extended by 2yrs.

6.2. Projected Water Allocations

Discussion held regarding projected water allocation for 2016/17.

Action

CB to work out and advise RI what the percentage water allocations for 2016/17 would be using 38% dam capacity and projected carry over water.

7. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Early August – date TBA

Meeting Closed: 12:35pm