



MINUTES OF MEETING – 25 February 2009

SunWater staff entered meeting at 9.10am

Present

Attendees	Representation
Dean Sgroi (DS)	Chairperson
Mario Barbagallo (MB)	Committee Member
Greg Barbagallo (GB)	Committee Member
Mauro Garbuio (MG)	Committee Member
Terry Williams (TW)	Committee Member
Russell Jordan (RJ)	Committee Member
Wayne Smith (WS)	BRIA Secretary - Canegrowers
Peter Piotto (PP)	Service Delivery Manager – SunWater, Ayr
Sonia Duncan (SD)	Business Centre Officer – SunWater, Ayr

1. Apologies

Nil

Standing Acronyms:

- BFD – Burdekin Falls Dam
- BHWSS - Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme
- BOM – Bureau of Meteorology
- BRIA Committee - the above listed committee
- IROL – Interim Resource Operating Licence
- DERM – Department of Environment and Resource Management
- QFF – Queensland Farmers Federation
- ROL – Resource Operating Licence
- ROP – Resource Operating Plan
- SMT – Senior Management Team
- SW – SunWater

2. SunWater Manager's Report

Provided to the committee for review and stored at SunWater on file.

3. Business Arising From Manager's Report

Water Availability and Storage Position Reports

- General discussion took place re: the reports. MG stated the different column headings in the Water Availability & Storage Position Reports; BFD (Flow – ML/day) and Clare Weir (Capacity – ML) created confusion. PP explained that BFD (flow) and Clare Weir (capacity) readings were instantaneous.
- ➔ PP to investigate changing this report (headings).



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Summary of Transfers – Water Year to Date Table

- o General discussion ensued re: the figures reported. DS and WS stated customers weren't utilising Canegrowers services for Temporary Transfers and highlighted possible additional costs customers could incur by utilising alternate means. SD advised that these figures could be misleading as they included automatic Temporary Transfers and also direct Customer-to-Customer Temporary Transfers.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

- o RJ enquired whether all meter outlet covers should be in place. RJ is missing one and water is covering his actual meter. RJ confirmed that Brad Torkington had barricaded around (Felesina's) Ch. H10 meter outlet until SW constructs a pit lid.
- o FC enquired if WS was on the DERM Water Harvesting notification email list. DS is; WS is not.
→ PP to follow-up.
- o PP reiterated the Fencing Policy Implementation Project for DS's benefit, as he was unable to attend the January meeting. General discussion took place. DS proposed the use of 'bump gates'. PP said he'd pass on this suggestion. Further discussions highlighted foreseen issues especially Cane Harvesters and Haul-outs access and turnaround areas. The BRIA Committee formally decided to propose the following:
 - Landholders having the option to be able to fence around their homes;
 - If so, landholders formally discharging SunWater's obligation;
 - If so, SunWater subsidising the cost of said fencing.
- PP to request Gary Everson (GE) to lodge this option at the next SMT Meeting.
- Post Meeting Note: Peter Marshall will lodge these options (as Acting Regional Manager, Ayr) when he attends the SMT meeting in May. This will coincide with Gary Everson's tenure as Acting General Manager, Water Services.
- o RJ reported that the meter outlet pipeline on Lot 10 (Ch. H10) is leaking onto same property and onto RJ's headland. RJ mentioned that he'd spoken with Brad Torkington, who advised that an accurate assessment of the leak cannot be undertaken until the ground dries.
- o TW enquired about weed control along Ch. E1 (adj. to Ham Kelly Drive). TW mentioned he'd spoken to Brad Torkington, who advised that this channel had been sprayed prior to Christmas and was due for slashing and spraying again in March (weather permitting).



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5. General Business

- PP informed the committee that Peter Faust Dam had not split since being built in the late 1980s/early 1990s and mentioned that Julius Dam is continuing to spill.
- PP provided a brief overview of the SW Cloncurry Pipeline Project; mentioning that the pipeline will branch off from the existing North West Queensland Water Pipeline (adj. to EHM) to the township of Cloncurry.
- PP advised that due to health reasons, Steve Brodie (SB) had sold his Weed Control business to a Gold Coast partnership. PP reported that at least one partner had relocated to Mackay. The new owners will retain the existing staff, with SB staying on for a year to assist handover. The committee confirmed they were pleased with SB services to date and hoped that this good service would continue.
- Further to RJ's previous issue, general discussion took place re: observed water level in "The Gumholes" adj. to Ch. H10. Discussion resulted from RJ driving through water when accessing The Gumholes crossing to his home. PP advised that Jason Williams (JW) would investigate this matter including the possible presence of significant weed growth; unauthorised weir structures and/or excessive Ch. H10 drainage waters exacerbating the situation.
- MB mentioned that another SW drain adjacent to the Gumholes area was causing drainage water to back-up due to 'high spots' and required attention. PP acknowledged this drain (and its issues) but added that SunWater had fulfilled its obligations to the best of its abilities. PP added DERM input would be essential especially if earthworks were required, as this drain runs through a conversation area.
- DS requested the attendance of JW at the next BRIA meeting to discuss hymenachne, as well as the follow-up of JW's submissions to the APVMA for the use of glyphosate when aerial spraying.
 - PP to arrange.
- PP advised the committee that due to JW currently being in Cloncurry, Gary Everson would be attending the Groundwater Science Plan 2 Workshop being held on Thursday 26 February 2009.
- WS mentioned Aguirresarobe (Ayasondrio Pty Ltd) and their continuing concern re: erosion encroaching on their property (Lot 2 RP736433) adjacent to Val Bird Weir. PP acknowledged SW oversight i.e. staff inadvertently spraying weed adjacent to the weir's left abutment. WS mentioned the River Trust had conducted an inspection but he'd heard nothing to date and wanted clarification from PP as to the responsible entity. PP stated he believed SunWater wasn't ultimately responsible in this instance and that the River Trust or DERM could be responsible for remedial/stabilisation works required to the river bank adjacent to Aguirresarobe's property. PP stated that JW would endeavour to establish the responsible entity and what works are possible.
 - PP to engage JW to follow-up and report.



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- o MG mentioned weed control of the concrete-lined channels. PP advised that SunWater's Weed Control Contractor slashes and sprays both channels and drains. However, only beds (low flows) in drains are sprayed as inner batter spraying typically results in erosion and slumping.
- o PP advised there's been minimal flood damage (in irrigation area) reported from the January and February rainfall; with widespread river bank erosion and silt deposits being the major concerns.
- o PP asked MG if he'd recently spoken to [redacted]; to which MG replied 'no'. PP mentioned he'd received an amicable phone call from [redacted] earlier requesting his issue be sorted at a local level rather than via Brisbane Office.
- o MG requested PP to provide a progressive total of water spilt over BFD to date. PP advised he would attempt to provide this information.
→ PP to attempt to provide information.

6. Correspondence

Nil to report.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in March.

SunWater left meeting at 10.15am

Chairperson

Date

SunWater Manager

Date