

Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

MINUTES OF MEETING – 10 September 2015

Meeting opened at 10.14am

Present:

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary
Shaun Fassio	NQ Co-op
Maryann Salvetti	Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd
Evan McGrath	
Charlie Martens	Sunwater Service Manager Mareeba
Remo Terranova	Mitchell Catchment Supplemented Streams
Karen Muccignat	Relift Area
Peter Howe	Channels/Pipelines – Eastern Area (arrived: 10.31am)
Petrina Douglas	SunWater Customer Accounts Manager

1. **Apologies:** Eva Arena, Makse Srhoj, Brad Maisel, Kylie Collins

2. Previous Minutes & Action List:

- Minutes of the 30th July 15 Meeting were *Moved: Shaun Fassio Seconded: Evan McGrath as a true and correct record. Carried*

- Action List: Tabled

30 July 15 - 2.2 Joe and Bronwyn to write to SunWater Board requesting maximum capacity trigger figures at which duplication would be required & irrigators should not pay as original had design fault – Still to be done.

3. Correspondence:

- Correspondence Log. *No log tabled*

4. SunWater Report:

- Customer Flow Rate Letters and Calculation Sheet:

- SunWater Brisbane contact number needs to be added to the letter and the Customer Support Officers need to be briefed to be able to explain the letter and the calculations.

- SunWater needs to make Mareeba and Atherton based solicitors and real estate agents aware of the flow rate entitlements on properties

- Amend paragraph to say “All customers **may be** required to adhere to Working Supply Flow Rates or roster to share the channel capacity **during high demand periods** to prevent periods where demand for water exceeds the system’s capacity to deliver.”

- Need to add a sentence to reinforce in the importance of ordering water.

- Letters will go out to customers area by area as SunWater completes the calculations. Prioritising the areas where there are issues / potential issues first.

- Offer shed meetings for the growers area by area as the letters go out

Action: Charlie to amend letter and e-mail to Bronwyn to distribute to the Committee

- There is an opportunity to amend existing customer supply contracts when a customer permanently transfers water. Committee will discuss merits of this further at next meeting

Action: Bronwyn to put amendment of existing supply contracts on agenda for next meeting

- Changeover of Water Ordering System: SunWater is suggesting Mareeba irrigators change over from Streamline to SunWater Online for water ordering. SunWater Online is linked to customers water balance and you can submit meter readings. SunWater Online can order water for less than a 24 hour period (which can't be done on streamline). Only issue may be if we go to local management as streamline is an external program whereas SunWater Online is internal.

- Committee will consider which way to go once the government has made its announcement on the management of schemes

Action: Bronwyn to put Change over of Water Ordering System on agenda for next meeting

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- Process for changing over if that was the decision would be to rollout workshops to show customers how to use SunWater Online water ordering system. Have done one on one session in other areas.
- General Feedback on SunWater Customer Service - Brisbane office slow at returning phone calls – rang at end of financial year and took several days to get back to then
- No problems with returning e-mail – that system works well and quick turnaround

5. Relift Consultation Group:

- Had meeting on Tuesday night
- Discussed pump efficiency, future options for reducing power price, discussion on water usage day vs night as that impacts the electricity tariff that the re-lift pumps run on.
- Paddys Green – 2/3 customers pumping 1/3 gravity
- Price Creek – 80% pumping 20% gravity
- Ergon efficiency check – Charlie finding out whether SunWater would allow the re-lift pumps to be included on the list for Ergon efficiency checks
- Re-lift irrigators raised some other general issue with Charlie and commented on the fact that having the meeting gave them a better understanding of the issues
- Need to fight for a CSO for re-lift in the next price path
- Re-lift irrigators also flagged cost sharing the re-lift price increases through all irrigators

6. Release of Barron WRP & ROP:

- Released and have e-mailed to Committee

7. Temporary Transfer & Permanent Trade Water Register:

- TCL and MDFVGA both agree to have a register and will discuss way of doing it

Action: Bronwyn to put Temporary and Permanent Water register on agenda for next meeting

8. Local Management

- Announcement will be made in next 3 weeks

9. Other Business:

- Put Critical Water Sharing Rules on agenda for next meeting

Action: Bronwyn to put Critical Water Sharing Rules on agenda for next meeting

10. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: TBC at 10am

Meeting closed: 12.37pm