

Meeting Minutes

sunwater

Date: 18 March 2021

Time: 10am

Location: Chinchilla

Attendees:

Independent Chair: John Bender

Representing customers: Ian Wolski, Ian Geldard

Council members: NA

Sunwater representatives: John Kelly, Darrell McKinlay

Guests: NA

Apologies: David Uebergang, Mark Jenyns

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Welcome and Introductions	JK
2	Apologies	JK
3	Review of Previous Minutes	JK
4	Business arising from previous Minutes	JK
5	Storage Update	JK
6	FY21 Scheme Budget and Expenditure Review	JK
7	R&E Program Update	JK
8	21/22 Service and Performance Plan (SPP)	JK
9	Storage Level and Public Safety Management Plan	JK
10	General Business - Proposal to desilt the weir	JK

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:10am and thanked the committee members for their attendance.

2. Apologies

Mark Jenyns and David Uebergang

address: Green Square North, Level 9, 515 St Pauls Terrace,

Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

PO Box 15536, City East, Queensland 4002

ACN: 131 034 985

post:

telephone: 13 15 89

email: customersupport@sunwater.com.au

facsimile: +617 3036 6482

sunwater.com.au



3. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 11 October 2019 were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Storage Update

Sunwater advised the IAC that the current storage of Chinchilla weir was 2,456ML or 25.1%. Inflows from recent rain were currently occurring and Sunwater was hopeful that the weir would fill and spill on predicted inflows.

5. FY21 Scheme budget and Expenditure review

Sunwater provided the IAC with the Profit and Loss (P&L) report for the scheme to 28 February 2021. Of note:

- Operating Revenue was on budget by at \$162k
- Operating expenses were above budget by \$33k at \$138k
- Operating profit was below budget by \$24k at \$244k

The full P&L for the scheme for to 28 February 2021 is available for review here.

6. FY21 R&E Program Review

Sunwater provided the IAC of a summary of the FY21 R&E program is available for review here and includes actual costs to date for each project.

The main project for the scheme this weir is the replacement of the 840mm guard valves in the outlet works. Sunwater advised that it had fabricated a bulkhead gate to isolate the outlet structure upstream so the valves could be removed and replaced however due to the lack of an effective seal, the valves could not be removed. Sunwater has subsequently progressed with the fabrication of a steel plate to be installed on the front face of the outlet works against which the bulkhead gate should seal. It is anticipated that work will progress once current inflows cease with a view to replacing the valves this FY.

7. 21/22 Draft Service and Performance Plan

Sunwater provided the IAC with the draft 21/22 Service and Performance Plan for the scheme. This plan is available for review here to the minutes together with an Information Sheet available here. Sunwater noted the key performance measures for 2019-20 as follows:

- Operating costs were \$0.09m or 22.2% less than forecast
- Annuity funded costs were \$0.36m or 14.9% less than forecast
- Total water deliveries were 2,759ML

Sunwater noted the outlook for 2021/22 as follows

- Forecast operating costs are \$0.13m
- Forecast annuity funded costs are \$0.06m

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Chinchilla Weir Irrigator Advisory Committee

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Sunwater did a page turn of the document with the IAC and noted that post 2020-21 the main annuity funded projects are meter replacement throughout the scheme on an as needs basis (run to failure strategy) which will have a positive affect on the scheme annuity balance which is forecast to be -\$192k in 20/21 primarily as a result of the project to replace the guard valves in the outlet works however with reduced annuity expenditure moving forward the annuity balance is predicted to return to a positive in 22/23 with a predicted balance of \$665k in 25/26

8. Storage Level and Public Safety Management Plan

Sunwater provided the IAC with the "Chinchilla Weir Storage Level and Public Safety Management Plan" which has been developed in consultation with a small working group including the Council, Chamber of Commerce, Fish stocking club and Ski club. A copy of the plan is available here.

Sunwater advised that the purpose of the plan is to provide guidance to the business on operational and public safety matters. The objectives of the plan are to:

- Provide a summary or baseline of controls / measures and initiatives implemented to minimise the risk to the public on or near the weir.
- Provide trigger points and guidance for management actions to be considered and implemented
- Inform targeted engagement with customers and the public based on varying storage levels and seasonal conditions
- Support a consistent application of risk mitigations across the state while also considering site specific circumstances.

Sunwater advised there was one outstanding issue in relation to agreement with the ski club on the trigger level at which point a speed restriction of 6 knots should be placed on the weir.

Post Meeting Note: Sunwater subsequently met with representatives of the Chinchilla Ski club and it was agreed that a 6 knot speed restriction should be placed on the storage when it reaches 60%.

9. General Business

Proposal to Desilt the Weir

Sunwater advised the IAC of discussions it had had with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce in relation to potential desilting activities at the weir, particularly in front of the ski club. Sunwater advised the IAC that it had no issues with desilting activities however there are a number of environmental and regulatory approvals required for undertaking such work. Sunwater advised it is happy to facilitate the process however it is cost prohibitive for the scheme to desilt the weir. However if funding was available through other channels and the appropriate approvals were obtained and the safety aspects of such activities were considered appropriately with risks identified and mitigated, than Sunwater was happy to support any endeavours moving forward. Sunwater advised the IAC that it will continue to work with proponents to assist as required.

10. Approval and Review

Chair:	John Bender
Minutes:	John Kelly
Date:	9 April 2021

address: Green Square North, Level 9, 515 St Pauls Terrace,

Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

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