



Meeting Update

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

Meeting Details: MLDRIN Board Meeting
Date: 27 January 2021
Venue: Via Zoom Videolink

Attendance

MLDRIN: Brendan Kennedy, Kingsley Abdulla, Grant Rigney (Chair), Stewart Taylor, Melissa Jones, Alice Williams, Peter Ingram, Will Mooney (Executive Officer)

Key issues discussed:

- Directors discussed the feasibility of applying for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status and the importance of developing a fundraising and donations strategy.
- Directors discussed current and emerging MLDRIN projects, including the Murray Darling Water and Environment Research project (WERP). MLDRIN is part of a successful consortium with LaTrobe and Griffith University to undertake research as part of the WERP.
- Directors discussed changes to the MDBA's environmental water planning framework, and options for improved First Nations input to Southern-Basin-scale environmental water planning. Board members agreed that a proposal by the CEWO for a First Nations collaborative environmental water forum, to help shape annual planning for e-water management, was a positive step.
- Directors reviewed the draft Members Application Policy which has been developed to clarify the process for new Members to apply and for approval by the Board and Full Delegation. Under the revised Constitution of MLDRIN, the Board must prepare a members application policy and submit it to the Full Delegation for ratification.
- Directors reviewed a draft Collaborative Decision Making Partnership Agreement between NSW Water agencies and the NSW Aboriginal Water Coalition (MLDRIN, NBAN, NTSCorp and NSWALC). Directors suggested some amendments and adjustments to the document and tasked MLDRIN staff with completing these changes. The updated version of the Partnership Agreement will be tabled at the next MLDRIN Full Gathering
- 2019-2020 Financial reports were reviewed. Discrepancies in the audited financial statements were discussed.

Key resolutions and decisions:

- Directors reviewed and endorsed the Minutes of the previous Board meeting held 14th October 2020.
- Directors reviewed and noted correspondence received since October 2019
- Directors reviewed and approved the Executive Officer's report, including an update on key projects.
Directors agreed to establish a Recruitment Committee
- Directors reviewed applications for membership from Mutthi Mutthi, Yita Yita and Nari Nari nations. The Board noted that applications received for new Mutthi Mutthi and Yita Yita Delegates did not meet the requirements of the MLDRIN Constitution and Membership Application Policy and referred these back to the applicants.
- An application received for a replacement Delegate for Nari Nari Nation (Jamie Woods) was approved by the Board.
- Directors endorsed a new Member Application Policy and Nation Application policy and referred the policies to the Full Delegation for ratification.
- The Board accepted resignations from Jida Gulpilil as a Director and Delegate for Dhudhuroa Nation. The Board also accepted a resignation from Rene Woods, as Chair and Delegate for Nari Nari Nation.
- The Board nominated Brendan Kennedy as a MLDRIN representative to replace Rene Woods in the Steering Committee for the MDBA Native Fish Recovery Strategy.
- Directors agreed that the audited financial reports for 2019-2020 would not be signed off until the identified discrepancies had been addressed and amended.

Key upcoming dates

- MLDRIN Full Gathering 11th and 12th March 2021

If you have any questions about anything raised in this update please feel free to contact Will Mooney on **0404 163 700** or Likarra Morgan on **0436036396** or email: **eo@mldr.org.au**