

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Weddin Shire Council, on Wednesday, 12 February 2014, commencing at 10.30am

<u>Present</u>	Cr. Geoffrey McClelland	Weddin
	Cr. Anthony Durkin	Cabonne
	Cr. Kevin Walker	Cabonne
	Cr. David Somerville	(Deputy Chairman) Blayney
	Cr. Alan Griffiths	Weddin
	Tony Perry	(General Manager)
	Darrell Sligar	(Operations Manager)
	Gavin Rhodes	(Finance Manager)

PROCEEDINGS IN BRIEF

In the absence of the Chairman, Cr Braddon, the Deputy Chairman Cr Somerville, assumed the position of acting Chairman for the duration of this meeting.

APOLOGIES

14/001 RESOLVED:

That a leave of absence be granted to Cr. Braddon following receipt of his apology for non-attendance.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Durkin)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

14/002 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 11 December 2013, being minute numbers 13/102 to 13/106 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Griffiths)

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

Proceedings in brief

In the absence of the Chairman, the acting Chairman, Cr Somerville offered the following observations:

“This is not an official Chairman’s minute as under our code of meeting practice the entitlement to put a chairman’s minute to a meeting is a privilege held only by CTW’s Chairman.

However, I will open the substantive business of the meeting with a few observations.

This is a critical time in CTW’s 70 year history. Several developments are coming to a head at once:

- The government’s response to the Local Government Review. This has recommended that the county council structure be abolished, that water county*

councils along with “Regional Water Alliances” become subsidiaries of a new legal entity to be known as a “Joint Organisation”

- *The uncertain future of CTW’s constituent member Councils, with the LG Review recommending that two member Councils, Cabonne and Blayney, in the short to medium term amalgamate with Orange, and that Weddin Council be downsized to a “Rural Council” or merge with Forbes or Cowra*
- *The formalization of the WBC Alliance, of which CTW is a member, into its own legal entity with a formal business plan to conduct shared services on behalf of its members, with those services no longer being provided by member councils*
- *The planned retirement of CTW’s long serving general manager in circumstances of great uncertainty brought about by these developments*

None of these things, with the exception of the GM’s retirement, are set in stone. CTW’s response to all these issues is in front of us at this meeting.”

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

The Deputy Chairman, Cr Somervaille, reported that he deputised for the Chairman at the press conference, called by the Federal Member for Calare, the Hon. John Cobb, at the Needles Gap proposed dam site on Tuesday 21 January 2014.

01) FINANCIAL MATTERS (FM.BA.1)

14/003 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

02) BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - 31 DECEMBER 2013 (FM.FR.1)

Proceedings in Brief:

Cr Griffith enquired on the cost per kilolitre of chemicals and electricity. The Manager of Operations and Technical Services advised that the approximate cost of each was 30 cents per kilolitre.

Cr Griffith enquired as to how much was outstanding on Council’s current loan and whether with the good result showing this year it could be paid out. It was agreed that this information will be discussed in line with the budget estimates in April.

14/004 RESOLVED:

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the quarter ended 31 December 2013 be accepted and the variations therein be adopted.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. McClelland)

03) LG INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL REPORT (GR.LR.5)**14/005 RESOLVED:**

1. That Council endorse the view of the General Manager that water County Council's should continue to exist as such and as presently constituted and should not be required to become subsidiaries of any proposed Regional Joint Organisation of Councils, and
2. That Council support a joint submission to the Division of Local Government from the five water County Councils, together with an individual Council submission, expressing this view and that the General Manager be authorised to sign such a submission on behalf of Council after circulation of a draft to Councillors for comment.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

04) WATER SECURITY - CENTRAL WEST NSW (WS.SP.4)**14/006 RESOLVED:**

That Council forward letters to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and other relevant Ministers supporting the recent announcement by the Member for Calare, the Hon. John Cobb MP, that he is advocating the construction of a 90,000ML dam at the Needles Gap near Canowindra and that he has written to the Prime Minister and a number of Federal Ministers seeking their support for the initial funding of an estimated \$3 million to conduct a feasibility study, including environmental, geotechnical and preliminary design investigations.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. McClelland)

05) WBC ALLIANCE - EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT (CM.AG.6)**14/007 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

06) COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY (CM.PO.1)**14/008 RESOLVED:**

That, following the statutory period of public display, Council adopt the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policies as endorsed at the December 2013 Council meeting.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. McClelland)

07) LAKE ROWLANDS DAM UPGRADE (WS.SP.4)**14/009 RESOLVED:**

That a Lake Rowlands upgrade program, as required by the NSW Dam Safety Committee, be considered in line with the annual budget considerations at the April 2014 Council meeting.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

08) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)**14/010 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.
(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Griffiths)

09) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)**14/011 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.
(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Griffiths)

10) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Cr McClelland enquired on the status of the Bogolong Dam proposed transfer to Weddin Shire Council.

The General Manager advised that recent communication from the NSW Office of Water indicated that, with the intention of turning Bogolong Dam into a recreational area, Weddin Shire would not be allowed to extract water from the dam and that the Shire would need to obtain a licence for evaporation. The General Manager advised he had never heard of an evaporation licence and that he would be following up on this to seek further clarification.

Cr McClelland enquired on the timeline to replace Trunk Main 'K', Gooloogong to Grenfell.

The General Manager advised Council that at this stage it is scheduled to commence with detailed design works in 2015/2016 but the complete 30 year capital works programme and financial plan will be reviewed in line with the budget estimates discussion at the April 2014 Council meeting.

11) GENERAL MANAGER – REPLACEMENT STRATEGY (GO.CO.4)**14/012 RESOLVED:**

That, as this matter deals with items that are subject to the affairs of an individual, Council consider it in Committee of the Whole and that in terms of Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

12) PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**14/013 RESOLVED:**

That, as business for the Ordinary Meeting has now concluded, Council proceed into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items referred to in the report.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

GENERAL MANAGER – REPLACEMENT STRATEGY (GO.CO.4)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint an ad hoc committee (to be known as the GM Replacement Working Group) comprising:

- The Chairman as ex-officio
- Cr Somerville
- Cr Griffith
- Cr Durkin
- The General Manager

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

RECOMMENDATION:

That as the deliberation of the Committee is concluded, the Council reconvene the Ordinary Meeting.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

13) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

14/014 RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Blayney on Wednesday 9th April 2014

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.29pm