



Summary Information Sheet

Board Meeting 171

Held in Tatura on Wednesday 13 May 2009

A summary of information and deliberations

Stephen Mills
Chairman

Craig Cook
Deputy Chairman

Catherine Scott
Director (apology)

Peter Fitzgerald
Director

Claire Penniceard
Director

Des Powell
Director

John Brooke OAM
Director

David Stewart
Managing Director

Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary

For queries regarding this information sheet, please contact Russell Barnier, Corporate Secretary, on telephone 5833 5769 or email russellb@g-mwater.com.au

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance.

Governance Report

Conflicts of Interest

The Chairman received declarations of possible interest or conflict that directors believed were relevant in respect of certain agenda items. The customer directors acknowledged that they would not trade in water shares on the basis of information provided to the Board meeting until after any such information became available in the public domain.

Board Planner

In an attempt to hold board meetings across the whole of the area services by G-MW and to assist in director education of facilities and provide access to customers, the Board has agreed to include a meeting in Numurkah (with a visit to Katunga) and at Eildon Dam in its meeting schedule. A later meeting will include an inspection of the Rochester area with the meeting taking place in Bendigo. At each meeting venue there will be interaction with local business partners and other stakeholders.

Chairman's Report

Business Partners Dinner, 12 May, 2009

The Directors hosted a local Shepparton area Business Partners Dinner the evening before the Board meeting. In all, there were 32 attendees from local farming groups, industry, local and State Government, irrigators and G-MW senior management. Many presented their issues and comments when asked to do so by the Chairman. The dinner was attended by Peter Harris, Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

WSC Review

WSC's will receive the review outcomes shortly, but one message coming in was that the WSC's seemed pleased that they would see more of the Board as one outcome from the review. Board noted that the election process for new committee members was about to commence.

Corporate Plan

The Chairman thanked those staff and Directors who had input to the G-MW Corporate Plan, which was lodged with the Minister by the due date of 30 April, 2009. Once cleared by the Minister it will be available on the G-MW website.

Board Improvement Plan – Board Charter

To further support good governance procedures, the Board approved an Appendix to the recently approved Board Charter, which more extensively covered issues of conflict of interest. The Charter will be posted onto the G-MW website.

NVIRP Coordination Committee Report and Charter

An action item from the NVIRP Coordination Committee meeting was for each of the G-MW and NVIRP boards to consider a proposed joint vision. The Board amended the wording of a previous statement to read as follows –

“Within 10 years every customer will be connected to a common user system (“the backbone”) by a connection which is owned by one or more landowners and managed by them.”

and the amended wording will be forwarded to NVIRP for consideration.

Finance and Management Audit Committee

In accordance with modern governance practices, the Committee Chairman indicated that he had undertaken research into an external member appointment to the Committee. This will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee and a recommendation subsequently made to the Board.

Risk and Compliance Committee

The Committee Chairman advised that the inter-relationship of the Committee with Finance and Management Audit Committee had been discussed with the Finance and Management Audit Committee Chairman. It was also noted that –

- The position of a possible external member will be addressed at the end of the year
- the intention of the Committee is to infuse the risk framework across the whole of G-MW and link it into the operational goals and management structure

- scheduled presentations to the Committee on risk systems include the environment and dams.

Managing Director's Report

The report of the Managing Director was noted, with the following key management issues listed –

- integration with NVIRP's works program and minimising disruption to customers;
- conservation of water through carefully programmed dewatering;
- delivery of our own bulk water and retail capital and maintenance programs; and
- ensuring the highest levels of environmental and safety management and compliance.

The Board noted that Peter Guy, General Manager Corporate Services, had recently passed the AICD course.

Season Outlook and Water resource Issues

The Board considered the presentation by the Executive Manager Water Resources.

At the time of the meeting, provisional indications suggest G-MW has recorded the lowest ever deliveries as a result of low allocations and as individual customers had opted to carryover water to the 2009/10 season.

From 15 May 2009, G-MW will undertake several thousand final meter reads and collate further hydrographic data from storages and Area offtakes before finalising estimates for the season. Final estimates will be available after 30 June 2009.

Water recovery Package Bulk Entitlement Changes

Board approved the making of an application to the Minister for Water to amend the Goulburn, Murray and Campaspe Bulk Entitlements before the end of May 2009 in accordance with the obligations upon G-MW as defined in the Water Recovery Package Memorandum of Understanding with DSE.

Goulburn Bulk Entitlement Amendment – Tungamah Water District

The Board considered the paper and approved the conversion of 1,001 ML of HRWS held by G-MW for Tungamah Water District to a Water District Entitlement scheduled in the Goulburn System Bulk Entitlement order.

Review of Gravity irrigation Water Services Committees

The Board noted a presentation from the Acting Manager, Water Services on the procedures adopted for the review into the G-MW WSC's and the resulting recommendations. It was noted that the review incorporated extensive interviews with WSC Chairs and interested parties before making recommendations largely based on the findings of the interviews. It was further noted that implementation of the recommendations will be undertaken in consultation with the WSC's.

The Board then

- a) adopted the final report and recommendations of the Review of Gravity Irrigation Water Services Committees

- b) instructed management to prepare a WSC Implementation Plan from responses to the individual recommendations, and
- c) endorsed the WSC functions proposed by management and based on the "Futureye" recommendations, and
- d) requested a draft of the new charter and code of conduct for WSC's be presented to the June Board meeting for approval.

Water Storage Amenity 2009/10 Business Plan

The Board noted that performance to date against the plan is broadly in line with the overall business plan targets.

OH&S Report

The OH&S Report was noted by the Board. Lost time injury frequency rate was down but benchmarks against other industries were yet to be incorporated, having been raised at the Risk and Compliance Committee only yesterday.

Board Reports

The Board noted the following reports –

- Workforce Reports
- The Finance Report
- The Capital Performance Report

As part of an ongoing assessment method adopted by the Board, feedback is received at each meeting from a nominated director. Comments were made on the performance of Directors, Management and the general decision making process at the Board meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

David Stewart
Managing Director

Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary

26 May, 2009
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