



RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)

Meeting held at the
the Council Chamber, Shire of Moora, 34 Padbury Street, Moora
Friday 5 July 2019 commencing 10:38 am

Minutes

1 OPENING & WELCOME

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Shire of Moora conducted delegates on a short town highlights tour.

The President, Mr L Short, welcomed delegates, declared the meeting open and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr Lawrie Short	President
Cr Moira Girando	Shire of Coorow
Cr Rodney Sheen	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Clarke	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace (by telephone)
Cr Mark Crees	Shire of Merredin
Cr Peter Nixon	Shire of Moora
Cr Phil Bellamy	Shire of Moora
Cr Peter Lines	Shire of Narembeen (by telephone)
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Chris Lane	Shire of Three Springs
Cr Brian Rayner	Shire of Toodyay
Cr John Jefferys	Shire of Westonia (by telephone)
Ms Tracy Calvert	Manager Rural Water Planning, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (by telephone) (from 10:41 am)
Ms Trisha Dadd	A/Regional Manager, Goldfields and Agriculture Region, Water Corporation
Ms Wendy Matthews	Customer & Stakeholder Manager, Goldfields and Agriculture Region, Water Corporation
Mr Adrian Stewart	Regional Manager Great Southern Region, Water Corporation (by telephone)
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr Paul Sheedy	Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Stephen Hunt	Shire of Lake Grace
Ms Denise Gobbart	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Mal Willis	Shire of Merredin
Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Ms Sylvia Yandle	Shire of Three Springs
Mr Stan Scott	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Ross Della Bosca	Shire of Westonia
Mr David Smith	
Mr Norm Smith	
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa ML	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Eileen O'Connell declared her interest in Water Corporation activities as her husband is an employee of the Water Corporation.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held at Northam on 15 March 2019 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the meeting held 15 March 2019, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Eileen O'Connell moved and Brian Rayner seconded –

That the Minutes of the meeting held 15 March 2019, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.
CARRIED

5.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

(a) Minister for Water – Invitation to Attend Meeting (Item 5.2(a))

Last meeting noted that the Minister for Water had accepted the Group's invitation to attend our meeting scheduled for 18 October 2019. Issues which have been noted for discussion include farm water audits, farm rebates scheme, local government owned fixed standpipes pricing policy, cost recovery of license fees, community water grants, farmland projects and delays in transfer of AA tanks to local governments due to Native Title.

The meeting may care to consider any other matters for discussion.

Recommendation

For Consideration

Mr L Short drew attention to the need for water security and to recent comments by the Minister for Water which seemed to indicate that he was not interested in water security.

Ms Tracy Calvert attended the meeting at 10:41 am.

Ms T Calvert commented on –

- Farm Water Rebates Scheme and Pastoral Water Rebates Scheme will be closing after running for 20 years.
- Community Water Supply Scheme still operating - \$100,000 maximum funding with \$30,000 local government or community contribution (includes in kind contributions).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has 121 strategic water supplies. Communities are encouraged to build more reliable strategic supplies.

Cr P Lines asked whether water which falls as rain comes under the control of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Ms T Calvert replied –

- Strategic water supplies can be used by farmers as emergency stock water.
- Understand that there is high demand for spray water.
- Emergency water is free but some local governments charge for swipe cards.

- Aquifer and bore development in some parts of the State are protected and need licenses or restrictions apply; only in drinking water resources.
- Regional DWER officers know the restricted areas and they can provide details.

Cr P Bellamy commented that the requirements for bores must be checked with DWER's local offices.

Cr R Chappell pointed out that no acknowledgments were being made when applications were lodged for water rebate schemes grants. Ms T Calvert commented that 208 applications had been received in the first round.

Mr L Short referred to the Minister for Water's responsibility for water security in rural areas. Ms T Calvert replied that everyone needs to work together on water security.

The meeting requested delegates to advise the Executive Officer any other matters they wish to raise with the Minister for Water.

(b) Invitation to Join (Items 5.2(d))

Last meeting noted that an invitation had been made to the Northern Country Zone and its member local governments to join and participate in the Rural Water Council and that the Zone would be considering the invitation at its next meeting. The Zone has advised that it has resolved to join and that its voting delegates will be Cr Moira Girando, Shire of Coorow, and Cr Chris Lane, Shire of Three Springs.

Other than extending their apologies for the last meeting the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has not responded to our request to again participate in our meetings. I understand from a discussion with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation that they are keen for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to be involved with the Group.

The Shire of Dowerin has advised that it would welcome the opportunity to attend the Group's October meeting and requested that they be added to our mailing list. Information has also been forwarded to the Shire of Gingin with regards to the aims and objectives of the Group.

Recommendation

For noting

The meeting requested that participation by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in the Group be followed up.

Mr L Short referred to the drilling program undertaken between Gingin and Moora to investigate the availability of more water from the Gingin Aquifer and asked if information on the program could be made available to the Group. Ms T Calvert replied that she would follow up.

Mr L Short referred to the facility being developed at Koojan by the Harvest Road Group (part of Minderoo Group) to finish cattle and to the quantity of water that they would require – currently they have a license for 1.4 GL which will need to expand to 10 GL with the proposed expansion to 100,000 cattle.

(c) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Water Corporation Report

Presentation of the Water Corporation's report (to be presented at the meeting).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Corporation's report be received.

Ms T Dadd tabled the Water Corporation's report.

Cr B Rayner referred to the desalination trial and asked as to the size of the farm desalination plants being trialled. Ms T Dadd replied that she believed that the trials were looking at determining sizes for various demands and cost effectiveness; the reverse osmosis process was being tweaked to get effective water production when needed rather than 24/7.

Mr A Stewart commended that additional work was being done at Lake Grace and Ravensthorpe to improve access to non-potable supplies.

RESOLUTION

Brian Rayner moved and Phil Bellamy seconded –

That the Water Corporation's report, as attached, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report

Presentation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report (to be presented at the meeting).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report be received.

Ms T Calvert tabled the Department of Water and Environment Regulation's report and commented on –

- Water Deficient Areas have been declared for Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe and Kent.
- Water carting costs are now over \$100,000.

Mr A Stewart commented that the Water Corporation had spent \$350,000 on tanks and non-potable water supplies.

Mr L Short enquired as to whether funds would be included in the next State Government budget for rural water planning. Ms T Calvert replied that there was still work to be done; \$350,000 has been spent of the \$500,000 allocated; The Department is tracking rainfall deciles 1 and 2 and these areas will be a priority; \$800,000 for community water supply program is likely to be included.

RESOLUTION

Rodney Sheen moved and Mark Crees seconded –

That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report be received.

CARRIED

6.3 Region Reports

Presentation by delegates of region reports.

RECOMMENDATION

That Region Reports be received.

Narembeen (Peter Lines)

- Recent good rains – 15 mm and 20 mm.
- Problem with Waterbidden Rock Dam. It is lined with concrete bricks and one wall is starting to crumble. Estimated cost of repair is \$100,000. Water has been diverted to run into bush. Are there any objections to others rebuilding the wall or could water from the rock be diverted into a local catchment?

Ms T Calvert replied that the problem was investigated in 2015/2016 and engineers were concerned that if the wall was removed the other 3 walls may cave in. The simple fix is to level an area around the dam to stop the water pouring in. There would be indemnity problems with others working on the dam. The dam services 5-6 farmers and the cost effectiveness of repairs has to be considered. The soil round the rock catchment is not suitable for construction of dam and there would be a need to cart clay soils in. Offered to undertake an onsite inspection and revisit the situation.

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

- Rainfall - March 8 mm; April 16.5 mm; May 12.5 mm; June 50.5 mm; July 22.5 mm
- A lot of crop sown dry. Some farmers started and kept going till they finished while others staggered their programs or put their stubbles in and waited for rain before putting in pasture paddocks. I started on the 11/06/2019 and finished on the 26/06/2019 exactly the same dates as last year the only difference this year is that we did have a germination.
- Have been feeding sheep full on since February but have been lucky as only had to cart water to one mob. Feed started to grow so now not so reliant on being fed every day.
- The Shire's Deputy CEO has left to go back to being a CEO at the Shire of Wandering.
- Lack of non-potable water has meant a lot of our roadworks not getting done.
- Lake Grace and Newdegate now have standpipes connected to their old town dams.
- Lake Grace and Newdegate have had their sporting oval dam silt pits cleaned out.
- Tommy's dam and 14 mile dam have been cleaned out.
- Our CBH site is having 85,000 tonnes of storage added. Their biggest problem has been sourcing water which they have from nearby farms for water binding.
- No more closing of standpipes but did get notified of a major burst water pipe north of us which might affect supply to Lake Grace.

Westonia (John Jefferys)

- Carting water up to early April when thunderstorms went through.
- June 90-100 mm rain. North of the Shire received better rainfall.
- Standpipes - Shire has budgeted to decommission one standpipe and install swipe cards on the others over a number of years. Trial as the cheaper alternatives rely on mobile telephone service. One standpipe reduced to a 25 mm service with the remainder staying as 50 mm services. Looking at installing tanks over coming years.
- Hard to understand the rationale behind the new charges for standpipe water. Believe it will encourage people to travel to cheaper water and not reduce consumption.

Nungarin (Eileen O'Connell)

- Town dams and CBH dam are empty. Depot tanks 73,000 L.
- Scheme water use for the oval has been cut by transferring water from the Depot tanks to the dams.
- All areas received rain – June good; July very good.
- Looking at cleaning out dam catchment areas.
- The Shire is looking at installing swipe cards on standpipes. Have a difficulty with people from 'over the boundary' taking water from standpipes.

Three Springs (Chris Lane)

- Three Springs received good rain
- The Shire has seven standpipes – one with swipe card, one going to swipe card and the others being community standpipes.

Coorow (Moirira Girando)

- First meeting attended and the Northern Country Zone has not yet provided any brief.
- The Shire has a lot of National Parks and has concerns with emergency services and access to standpipes.

Goomalling (Rodney Sheen)

- A long dry summer.
- Rainfall – May 43 mm; June 92 mm; July 26 mm.
- Town and Oval dams nearly full.
- Have five standpipes - Three Shire standpipes and the others to 25 mm.

Moora (Phil Bellamy)

- First meeting attended.
- Queried the rationale behind the new charges for standpipes. Will increase the cost of water. A lot of spray quality water needed and the quantity is increasing all the time.
- 120-140 mm rain since the break of the season.
- A lot of dry seeding.
- Not hearing any major water problems in the areas.

Toodyay (Brian Rayner)

- Rainfall – May 0 mm; June 110 mm; July 28 mm. West Toodyay received more rain.
- Toodyay's existing standpipe is 100 mm. Looking at installing a second 25 mm standpipe.
- Well off for water for fire control as there are tanks located throughout the Shire.
- 26 new fire hydrant connections in West Toodyay townsite area.

Merredin (Mark Crees)

- Town dams pretty dry. Since June have been topping up from CBH.
- Dry seeding.
- Rainfall since June 65-70 mm.
- Shire considering installing swipe cards on standpipes.
- Cost of standpipe water - \$30,000-\$50,000.

Goomalling (Peter Clarke)

- Rainfall – 105 mm in June.
- Dry seeding.
- Canola has germinated but coming up patchy.
- Standpipe at Jennacubbine reduced to a 25 mm service and locked.
- No scheme water service of Goomalling and reliance on standpipe water for domestic use. Many have to go to Toodyay for this water.

Moora (Peter Nixon)

- Last year 20% above average rainfall for the district.
- This year a long dry summer, however water supply not a major problem.
- 35 mm rain in the last 24 hours.
- There is a problem with collection of water.
- Run-off just starting.

Dandaragan (Lawrie Short)

- District has seen a lot of run-off.
- Aquaculture ponds installed to stop run-off are overflowing.
- 190 mm rain for year to date.
- Seems most farmers are happy and looks like a reasonable year.

Resolution

**Mark Crees moved and Brian Rayner seconded –
That Region Reports be received.**

CARRIED

7 FINANCE

7.1 Financial Reports

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial report for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 be received.

RESOLUTION

Phil Bellamy moved and Peter Clarke seconded –

That the financial report for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 be received.

CARRIED

7.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are presented for payment –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Accounts to be Paid</u>		
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Service March 2019 to June 2019	1,245.25
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u><u>\$1,245.25</u></u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,245.25 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Brian Rayner moved and Eileen O'Connell seconded –

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,245.25 be passed for payment.

CARRIED

The Group has an account with Redback Conferencing to allow members to participate in meetings by telephone when the meetings are not held at the Water Corporation in Northam. The teleconferencing arrangements are being used to enable members to participate in this meeting. As it will be several months before our next meeting, authorisation is requested to pay the account from redback Conferencing on receipt of the invoice. The amount is not known but likely to be in the order of \$100-\$120.

Recommendation

That payment of teleconference fees to Redback Conferencing be authorised.

RESOLUTION

Eileen O'Connell moved and Peter Clarke seconded –

That payment of teleconference fees to Redback Conferencing be authorised.

CARRIED

Executive Officer Note: The invoice from Redback Conferencing was \$273.15 (Teleconferencing \$170.72, Toll Fee \$77.60, GST \$24.83). This amount has been paid.

8 BUSINESS

8.1 Fixed Standpipe Pricing

Last meeting resolved that the Zone write to local governments in the Integrated Water Supply Scheme with regard to the changes to the fixed standpipe policy and the timeline for the policy's introduction and request advice of any concerns with the implementation of the changes. 48 local governments were identified and requested to comment. Responses have been received from –

- Shire of Cunderdin – Still early days but the following matters have been raised, particularly in regard to the impact on fire brigades:
 - Cost of controlled access arrangements
 - Controlled access requirements may be disruptive to the response time given that not all brigade members have access to a key
 - Potential for damage to the standpipes by those that no longer have access
 - Use of commercial designated standpipes might best be managed directly by Water Corporation
 - Increased cost of water may lead to potential increased unauthorised access.
- Shire of Dowerin – The Shire has allocated its 5 standpipes as Local Government and plans are in place for them to be locked via keyed padlock. While the latter is yet to be implemented there are implications around the provision of keys to necessary persons. The Shire also has concerns around aligning its fees and charges to that of the Water Corporation and the impact that will have on other water users, particularly Commercial and Community/Farmer use.
- Shire of Dalwallinu – We have concerns with the changes to the pricing for fixed standpipe users. There are numerous properties in our Shire that have not and never will have access to scheme water. Over the years the quality and supply of underground water has diminished and whilst many have extensive infrastructure for water harvesting, it is unable to meet the needs and access to standpipe water is a necessity. The tripling of the rate for water has penalised these users who have no other alternative. It would seem plausible that the Water Corporation should consider a concession for agricultural use.
- Shire of Narrogin –
 - Believe the exorbitant price hike on standpipe water to Local Government from \$2.53 per kilolitre to \$8.85 for commercial supply of standpipe water as totally unfair and unreasonable and this represents another cost imposed on the Narrogin community from the State Government.
 - The Shire has had to outlay around \$20,000 to install one electronic control system to one of our standpipes with this cost being met by our ratepayers.
 - Council has received criticism over a State Government initiative for the increase in the price of standpipe water which is totally unfair however predictable.
 - Emphatically request the Minister for Water not to increase the cost or fees of any standpipe water and to keep it at its current rate for all Shires or Local Governments that can prove they have installed electronic controllers and manual locking devices to their standpipes.
 - Ask the Minister to offer Local Governments reimbursement on electronic control systems purchased and installed so as Local Government is not burdened with this cost attributed from a State Government initiative.
- Shire of Toodyay –
 - Despite this being a new development elsewhere, the Water Corporation implemented commercial standpipe pricing in Toodyay in 2011. This was probably as a result of the volume of water that is delivered through Toodyay's single standpipe. In 2017-18 the Toodyay standpipe delivered almost 16 million litres of water. Council charged users the cost price plus 75 cents for each 1,000 litres of water. The standpipe generated \$80,171 for the Water Corporation in 2017-18, and \$10,654 for the Shire of Toodyay.
 - The Shire's income is used to support the cost of maintaining the standpipe, control system and water tank attached to the standpipe. The water tank was installed by the Shire when the Water Corporation, despite the considerable customer demand on the standpipe, installed flow restrictions. This made it very difficult and expensive for water carters, and by extension their customers, to fill up.
 - The Shire is able to claim free water for firefighting activities and a reduced rate for water for municipal use or watering stock. There is a 12,000 litre water tanker based at the Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade. The tanker is used to support firefighting operations and to fill up emergency water tanks which have been installed at strategic locations around the Shire.

- Two thirds of Toodyay's population is not serviced by a reticulated water supply and must rely on rainwater, ground water and water delivered by water carters. The vast majority of the water from the Toodyay standpipe is delivered for domestic use. This is an issue that has been raised with successive Water Ministers over the last 7 years. Subsidised water is available to water stock but not to water children and families. On the other hand, people on a reticulated water supply receive water at a subsidised rate.
- Have argued unsuccessfully that the cheapest way for the State to deliver water is to a central point for people to collect it. Unfortunately this argument has not gained any traction. Not only is there no sympathy for the argument; flow restrictions have further increased the cost to customers.
- On an unrelated issue, West Toodyay, the site of the original Toodyay townsite was established in the 1830s. Despite being one of WA's oldest settlements it does not have a reticulated water supply.
- Shire of Williams – Has 13 standpipes and the Shire provided a detailed listing of these and there proposed classifications. 3 standpipes with swipe card controllers are to be retained as commercial as they able to track the water usage and directly bill the users from the swipe cards. The other standpipes are to be classified as local authority. The changes will add some \$14,000 to Council's water accounts for 2019/2020:

Service Charges	2018/2019	\$623.61	2019/2020	\$7,564.71
Water usage	2018/2019	\$6,022.92	2019/2020	\$12,622.71

- Shire of York -
 - Initial concerns were:
 - Community consultation was left to the Shire, when the changes were instigated by the Water Corporation.
 - There were no guarantees around what the adopted fees would be for 2019/2020. The risk that fees for commercial standpipes could increase exponentially, with little warning was a concern.
 - The flow rates from a 25mm community standpipe would not suit the majority of our user base.
 - The decision making time frame was short and it is impossible to implement all the required changes or install new infrastructure before 1 July 2019, particularly as the costs will require a budget allocation which can only be included in the 2019/2020 budget.
 - The Shire of York acknowledges the need for greater controls on water consumption to reduce misuse of the system and already have four automated standpipe controllers in operation. Water consumption can effectively be monitored via these systems and can be charged to customers accordingly. Equally, the Shire could alert Water Corporation to high volume users.
 - Increasing the price of water will not necessarily stop people from consuming the water, all it does is cost them more. Putting in place robust monitoring systems would be a more successful method to control the use. We do not expect the water consumption to reduce as a result of the pricing changes. Our customers will continue to obtain water from fixed standpipes. There may be reduced consumption once the public standpipes have automated controllers implemented, providing effective monitoring of the water use, reducing reliance on the honesty of individuals.
 - The Shire of York undertook a period of community consultation regarding the proposed changes and received responses from three of our regular users. Their main concerns related to the fees and the flow rates. The consensus was that a 25mm standpipe was not suitable for any of them, two of which are small landholders filling their property water tanks. Our customers are willing to accept a higher charge for a faster flow rate. This raises a question of who would actually use a 25mm standpipe if it was available? Does the lower charge rate justify the time lost waiting for a tank to fill?
 - The lack of demand for a 25mm standpipe has resulted in the Shire of York not opting to have one installed. Whilst other options are available, where a tank could be filled by a 25mm standpipe and then water obtained using a 50mm or larger output valve, this would still mean more cost to the Shire to provide this set up, as well as ongoing maintenance and monitoring of use.
 - Allocating standpipes for Local Government and fire use only will reduce our operating costs. However, implementing appropriate monitoring systems to the designated public standpipes comes at a fairly hefty cost, with no assistance from Water Corporation, even though the monitoring is a requirement they have stipulated. It would be helpful to know if

there will be audits of fixed standpipes, their set up and their usage and what penalties could be imposed, if any.

- The final issue we have yet to see the effect of is the increased administration with monitoring the standpipe water use as well as lodging claims for water consumption relating to Local Government or Fire water use at non-designated standpipes.

RECOMMENDATION

For Discussion

Ms T Dadd commented on –

- Equity of cost of standpipe water with other supplies.
- The State Government sets the pricing structure and it is reflective of costs of supply of water across schemes and the number of concessions available.

Ms W Matthews commented on –

- The pricing structure is based on the standpipe meter size.
- A large drawdown from a standpipe has an impact on others on the scheme. The review identified that this was happening quite a lot as well as a worry with water being taken on the honour system.
- Standpipes were originally installed for local government use and fire control and as such were allocated concessional rates. There was no structure in place and this had to be provided.
- The prices put in place were not new but were standard prices. All pricing changes reflect what commercial operators pay and meter size (ie 25 mm meter for a standard service).
- Initial request was that swipe cards be installed however it was decided not to mandate this. It is requested that locks be placed on local government standpipes if there are not in the Shire depot of for fire.
- Mapping an overview of local government charges and if it is believed there will be an impact Water Corporation will go back to those Shires. 97 out of 98 local governments responded. Water Corporation will consider requests from local governments to re look at.
- Pricing is based on the end-user and the size of the meter.

Cr M Crees commented that the problem with the installation of swipe cards was the cost and poor mobile phone reception. He suggested that a rebate be provided on swipe card installation costs.

Mr A Stewart commented that cost reflective pricing for water across the State reflects the cost of supply.

Ms T Calvert left the meeting at 12:32 pm.

9 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No business was brought forward.

10 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 18 October 2019 – Northam
- Friday 20 March 2020 – Northam
- Friday 3 July 2020 – Host to be determined
- Friday 16 October 2020 - Northam.

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 18 October 2019 at the Water Corporation, Northam.

RESOLUTION

Brian Rayner moved and Peter Nixon seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 18 October 2019 at the Water Corporation, Northam.

CARRIED

Due to the attendance by the Minister for Water and increased interest by delegates in attending, the Water Corporation representatives indicated that they would follow up a suitable venue for the October meeting.

RESOLUTION

Mark Crees moved and Brian Rayner seconded –

That the Shire of Merredin be requested to host the ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council to be held Friday 3 July 2020. **CARRIED**

11 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked delegates and observers for their attendance, the Shire of Moora for hosting the meeting and the town highlights tour and declared the meeting closed at 12:36 pm.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed: <i>(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)</i></p>
--

REPORTS

WATER CORPORATION

Update on Farmlands Project

Stage 2 is complete.

Stage 3 – commenced in 2017/18, estimated budget expenditure \$7.5 million

- Stage is now 80% complete, with 12 of 17 sites fully completed (2 extra sites added).
- Of the five, two are under construction, one is being processed for tender, two are in design finalisation.

Stage 4 – commenced 2018/19, estimated budget expenditure \$3.5 million

- 11 sites - 7 in Avon/Wyalkatchem district and 4 in the Merredin district.
- The project is about to be in delivery stage and all the designs for this project are ready.

Stage 5 - planned to be activated in July 2019.

- The scope currently has 10 -11 sites
- Proposed sites include 4 in Avon/Wyalkatchem district and 6 in the Merredin district
- Project continues to utilise local contractors as much as possible. Two new local welding contractors from Boddington and Gelorup have recently been engaged.
- Ongoing investment in farmlands is intended whilst water savings and cost efficiencies are being provided

Beverley Water Supply Improvements

- In Beverley, a four megalitre storage tank, associated water main and an upgrade to the existing pumping station is due for completion in mid-2020.
- The tank and pipeline have already been constructed and the final stage is constructing the pump station.
- This work will improve water pressure for customers in Beverley and provide a greater volume of reserve water storage for the shire.

Northam Tank Roof Replacement

- We are currently planning work to replace the roof of the Northam Tank No 2, which is aged and needs replacing.
- We are aiming to start this work in August 2019, pending on acquiring access through private land to complete this work.

Small Scale Off Grid Desalination Trial

- Water Corporation is sponsoring research with Murdoch University and the Wheatbelt Development Commission into desalination plants that could provide farms with fit for purpose water for farming and household uses
- The trial was showcased in June at the Muresk Institute's FarmSmart Showcase
- This research provides the opportunity for farms to become self-sufficient in water supply and could reduce the demand on the Integrated Water Supply Scheme
- Currently developing proposal to fund ongoing research for on-farm and small community groups for use of alternative water

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Rural Water Planning and Watering WA

The Rural Water Planning program targets the state's dryland agricultural regions which receive less than 600 millimetres of annual rainfall. Those without access to a reticulated water service are given priority as these areas are the most vulnerable to serious water deficiencies.

The program increases long term self-sufficiency for and optimises the efficient use of all available non-potable water supplies. It does this by implementing a variety of programs:

- **Farm Water Rebate Scheme** which allowed commercial farmers can apply for a rebate for 50 per cent of the cost of approved infrastructure improvements such as dams and catchments, tanks, pipes and pumping systems. This scheme closed on the 31st June 2018 however applications received before end of May 2018 are being processed and payments will be finalised in November/December 2018. Watering WA Farms a R4R founded program expanded on the Farm Water Rebate Scheme with rebates up to \$20,000 available to commercial farmers. This scheme also closed on the 31st June 2018 however applications received before end of May 2018 are being processed and payments will be finalised in November/December 2018.
- **Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme** which allowed farmers to engage an approved auditor to develop a farm water plan to identify ways to improve the sustainability of their on-farm water supplies. This program is still current and rebates have increased from \$750 maximum to \$1000 maximum rebate.
- **Pastoral Water Grant Scheme** which provided grants for commercial pastoralists looking to develop alternative water supplies. This scheme also closed on the 31st June 2018 however applications received before end of May 2018 are being processed and payments will be finalised in November/December 2018.
- **Community Water Supply Grant Program** which provides grants for community water supply improvements to ensure reliable non potable water supplies to meet emergency and community needs. This scheme is still open and maximum rebates up to \$100,000 are available to communities and Shires to build or improve non potable sources for emergency livestock and firefighting water. The program also focuses on reducing the use of scheme water for non-potable needs such as irrigation of sporting ovals. Currently due to the increasing dry conditions the program is focusing on funding support to develop or improve emergency off farm livestock sources. Watering WA Towns a R4R founded program expanded on the Community Water Supply Program with funding up to 2 million dollars available. This scheme closed end of June 2019 with ten completed projects. See final table for project outline and cost.
- **National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme** is a 3 year Commonwealth Government scheme run by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The scheme commenced in July 2018 and will end in June 2021. A rebate for 25 percent is available for a commercial farmers and pastoralists in Western Australia to cover costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water including dam desilting and bore development for animal welfare needs and to improve resilience against stock water deficiency. Farmers can claim a maximum rebate of \$25,000.
- **Strategic Community Water Supplies** throughout the dryland agricultural region are available for emergency livestock water requirements. They are substantial and valuable water supplies that have been established primarily to protect from major livestock welfare incidents caused by low winter rainfall. The Department is working through a program to upgrade priority sources vested with the Department. Table 1 outlines the works undertaken in 2018/2019.

For the current financial year, the Rural Water Planning and Watering WA programs funded:

- Farm Water Rebate Scheme payments of \$1.12 million to 116 applicants
- Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme payments of \$92 880
- Pastoral Water Grants of \$114 137 to 13 Pastoralists
- Watering WA Farms payments of \$586 742 to 52 projects

In the 2018-2019 financial year, four submissions are awaiting approval.

Dry Season Works: Three Water Deficiency Declarations have been made in May 2019. Water is being carted to central locations to meet livestock water needs in these areas.

The table summarises the works completed on Department of Water and Environmental Regulation vested community water sources and others in 2018/2019.

Table 1 Dry Season Works per Shire in the financial year 2018 – 2019 (as at 9 July 2019)

Locations	Shire	Works	Money Spent (ex GST)
Tommy's Dam		Enlarge dam, de-silt, re-grade catchment	\$91,545
14 Mile	Lake Grace	Contour work; grade, de-silt, excavator work; dig out 40x trees, concrete spillway	\$39,577 (note dredge spoil removal to be added)
Cuffys dam	Lake Grace	De-silt dam and silt trap, grade catchment	\$55 960
Magenta (Ardler Rd Dam) Also known as Kennedy's)	Lake Grace	Re-grade catchment & clean out silt pit	\$8,180 (tank and solar pump installation to be added)
Mount Madden Bore	Lake Grace	Equip bore with pump and extended pipework to a large 150KL tank	\$39 011
Dunn Rock	Lake Grace	Pump repairs, electrical works and road access (further repairs planned)	\$6 126
Lake King Dam	Lake Grace	Pump clean and replace, tank and solar system repair and new 150KL tank	\$41,609 (added cost for sand pad to be added)
Mount Short Dam	Ravensthorpe	New pump & fittings, catchment repair, de-silt dam & silt trap (total refurbishment).	\$35 936 (service to windmill to be added)
Hamilton's Dam	Kent	Clean and de-silt trap	\$29 320 (catchment upgrade to be added and Tank infrastructure)
Holland's Rock tank	Kent	New pipe installation and fittings	\$6,000 (estimated as invoice to come)
Cowalellup Rd bore development	Jerramungup	Drilling and mobilisation, supply and install submersible pump & pipe	\$13 572
Bore; Devils Creek Rd	Jerramungup	Drilling and mobilisation, supply and install submersible pump & pipe, new tank	\$46 910 (works still in progress – tank to be added)
Holt Rock; Henderson Rd Bore	Kulin	Large 150KL Rhino tank on bore to increase storage (recent addition to assist Kulin)	\$18 098
		Total	\$431,844

Applicant	Total Project value	Grant requested	Shire contribution	Project Description	Project Status
Esperance	\$1,528,643	\$998,643	\$530,000	Eastern Suburbs Water Supply Scheme (ESWSS) Non-potable irrigation pipeline upgrade	On track for completion May 2019
Kojonup	\$106,500	\$66,000	\$40,500	Kojonup – Showgrounds dam and catchment refurbishment - source to supplement treated wastewater irrigation water and installation of community emergency standpipe swipecard system	Project Complete August 2018
Wongan - Ballidu	\$747,426	\$522,972	\$224,454	Morcardy Dam water use project – Partnership between Wongan District High School and Shire to irrigate school grounds, supplement town irrigation and provide emergency farm and firefighting water.	On track for completion April 2019
Boddington	\$249,228	\$171,569	\$77,659	Boddington Dam water use project - catchment refurbishment and pipe water to storage facilities at sporting ovals for irrigation. Development of emergency farm and firefighting facilities	On track for completion May 2019
Coorow	\$258,540	\$172,360	\$86,180	Leeman foreshore–extension of non-potable irrigation scheme project	Project Complete January 2018
Cunderdin	\$154,100	\$100,000	\$54,100	Dam construction and town catchment stormwater harvesting project	On track for completion June 2019
Tambellup	\$146,187	\$61,904	\$84,283	Shire depot stormwater harvesting and water recycling project	Project Complete August 2018
Toodyay	\$92,851	\$64,058	\$28,793	Emergency firefighting water supply. Roof stormwater harvesting and storage facilities at three strategic fire stations.	On track for completion July 2019
Jerramungup	\$67,898	\$46,282	\$21,616	Jerramungup and Point Henry (Bremer Bay) Emergency firefighting water supply expansion project	Project complete August 2018
Gnowangerup	\$344,474	\$209,568	\$134,906	Gnowangerup School and Community Hub Irrigation project	Project Complete December 2018
Total value	\$3,695,847	\$2,413,356	\$1,282,491		

Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
 FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 30 JUNE 2019**

	Actual For Year	Estimate For Year
RECEIPTS		
Membership		
Associations (@ \$200)	0.00	3,600
Individuals (@ \$30.00)	60.00	90
Previous Year	20.00	100
	<u>80.00</u>	
Interest Earned	1.21	6
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><u>\$81.21</u></u>	<u><u>3,796</u></u>
PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses	0.00	0
Fees - Change to Rules	42.00	52
Secretarial Service	1,862.26	3,800
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><u>\$1,904.26</u></u>	<u><u>3,852</u></u>
CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	3,762.70	3,763
Plus Receipts	81.21	3,796
	<u>3,843.91</u>	<u>7,559</u>
Less Payments	1,904.26	3,852
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$1,939.65</u></u>	<u><u>3,707</u></u>
BANK RECONCILIATION		
Cheque Account Balance (as at 31/5/2019) (Westpac)	1,939.65	
Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement	0.00	
	<u>1,939.65</u>	
Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement	0.00	
Balance as per Cash Book	<u><u>\$1,939.65</u></u>	



.....