

**MINUTES of the MEETING of RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL,**  
**held at 91 HAMMOND AVENUE, WAGGA WAGGA,**  
**on WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 at 1.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Clr. R. Kendall (Chairperson), Clr. A. Brown, Clr. W. Geale OAM, Clr R. Goodlass, Clr. I. Kreutzberger, Clr. J. McInerney, Clr. J. Ross, Clr. L. Vidler and Clr. P. Yates.

The General Manager and the Director of Engineering were in attendance.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

10/01 No declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary interest received.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

10/02 The Minutes of the Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009 having been circulated and read by the Members, were taken as being CONFIRMED on the motion of Clrs. Kreutzberger and Brown.

**CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE**

10/03 MOVED Clr. Ross and SECONDED: Clr. Goodlass that Chairman's Minute be moved to last item.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW:** forwarding a copy of weekly circulars 09/44 – 09/52 AND 10/01 – 10/04.

**STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:** (16<sup>th</sup> December 2009) forwarding a copy of minutes of meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

**MINISTER PHILLIP COSTA MP:** (6<sup>th</sup> January 2010) acknowledging receipt of letter regarding motions to 2010 "G" Division Annual Conference.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE:** (22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010) forwarding a copy of Minutes of Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

PAUL BRAYBROOKS OAM: (10<sup>th</sup> February 2010) thanking Council for our letter of congratulations upon his recent award of an Order of Australia Medal.

10/04 RESOLVED, on the motion of Clrs. Vidler and Geale OAM that the correspondence be received.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - LIST OF INVESTMENTS**

10/05 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Brown and Geale OAM that the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of December 2009 and January 2010 be received.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FUND POSITION AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

10/06 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Vidler and Brown that the Financial Statement be received.

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN – PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

10/07 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. McInerney and Brown that the report detailing the progress achieved towards the various objectives set out in the 2009/2010 Management Plan be noted and received.

### **SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW – ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

10/08 RESOLVED, on the motion of Clrs. Yates and Ross that:

- (i) Council be represented at the Shires Association of NSW, 2010 Annual Conference;
- (ii) Council's delegate be the Chairman and the General Manager attend as an observer;
- (iii) The Chairman and General Manager be authorised to attend the Local Government Managers Australia Annual one-day Forum on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010; and
- (iv) Nomination from any other Councillor as an observer.

10/09 Clr. McInerney nominated to attend as an observer, Seconded Clr. Ross; and

10/10 Clr. Brown nominated to attend as an observer if not attending as a WWCC delegate or observer. Moved Clr. Goodlass and Seconded Clr. Brown.

## **COMPULSORY ACQUISITION EASEMENTS**

10/11 RESOLVED, on the motion of Ctrs. Brown and Vidler that:

### **Walbundrie:**

- a) The Council resolves to acquire an easement at Walbundrie 5 metres wide within part reserve 9579, Parish of Walbundrie, County of Hume, Part Lot 25 DP 753763, Parish of Walbundrie, County of Hume; Part Lot 7004, DP 1023952, Parish of Walbundrie, County of Hume; Part Lot 7005 DP 1024197, Parish of Walbundrie, County of Hume, and within travelling stock reserve 84211, Parish of Bulgandry, County of Hume by compulsory acquisition for the purpose of constructing, extending, controlling and managing works for its water supply activities under the Local Government Act;
- b) The Council resolves to authorise the necessary application for compulsory acquisition to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor of New South Wales;
- c) The Council resolves that all minerals on the land be excluded from the compulsory acquisition;
- d) The Council resolves that the Valuer General be engaged to value the land for compensation purposes for the compulsory acquisition and compensation be paid in accordance with this valuation; and
- e) Authority be and is hereby given to affix the Council's Seal on any documentation required for the acquisition process.

### **Oaklands:**

- a) The Council resolves to acquire an easement at Oaklands 5 metres wide within Lot 7005 Deposited Plan 1021549 and Crown Land R31478 Deposited Plan 1064561, parish Clear Hill County Urana by compulsory acquisition for the purpose of constructing, extending, controlling and managing works for its water supply activities under the Local Government Act;
- b) The Council resolves to authorise the necessary application for compulsory acquisition to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor of New South Wales;
- c) The Council resolves that all minerals on the land be excluded from the compulsory acquisition;
- d) The Council resolves that the Valuer General be engaged to value the land for compensation purposes for the compulsory acquisition and compensation be paid in accordance with this valuation; and
- e) Authority be and is hereby given to affix the Council's Seal on any documentation required for the acquisition process.

**DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2009**

10/12 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. McInerney and Ross that the Director of Engineering's works report covering the month of December 2009 be accepted.

**DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2010**

10/13 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Geale OAM and Yates that the Director of Engineering's works report covering the month of January 2010.

**DEMAND MANAGEMENT AND RESTRICTIONS**

10/14 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Brown and Yates that the report on demand management and restrictions be received and noted.

**PORTABLE METERED STANDPIPES**

10/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Kreutzberger and Yates that the report on portable metered standpipes be received and noted.

**WATERWORKS MASTER PLAN**

10/16 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Vidler and Ross that:

- a) the Wagga Wagga Waterworks Masterplan be adopted as a guiding document comprised of this report and drawing 10-30059, and
- b) the existing Hammond Avenue site be further developed to include a new surface water treatment plan, new depot and store building and ancillary works in accordance with the Masterplan.

**RED HILL RESERVOIR AND TRUNK MAIN PROGRESS**

10/17 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Yates and Brown that the report on progress on the construction of the Red Hill Reservoir and Trunk main be received and noted.

**TENDER W141 – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL SUPPLY TO COLOMBO CREEK PUMP STATION**

10/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs McInerney and Kreutzberger that the tender for construction of electrical supply to the Colombo Creek Pump Station be awarded to NJ Construction Pty Ltd for an amount of \$281,454.55 (excluding GST)

## **INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT**

10/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Vidler and Brown that the report on Integrated Water Cycle Management be received and noted.

### **QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

10/20 Clr. McInerney: Asked if the rolling meter reading timetable could be adjusted. In Holbrook the electricity and gas meters are read at the same time as water. If the water bills were staggered there would be less financial impact on customers who receive numerous bills at the same time.

General Manager: Will take on notice.

10/21 Clr. Ross: When attending Greater Hume's Council meeting in Walla Walla he observed that the water quality was not very good.

Director of Engineering: Bores at Walla Walla are problematic and we have looked at various options. A substantial upgrade may be required on water treatment process.

10/22 Clr. Goodlass: Thanked Riverina Water for new facility at Tarcutta and congratulated Council on holding a good event yesterday. Also noticed that the gents toilet here is running unnecessarily and could we investigate waterless urinals.

10/23 Clr. Brown: Congratulations to management and staff on yesterday's event at Tarcutta, good job, large number of staff in attendance. Good idea having a staff member to give an overview of the system to those in attendance. Media coverage missing, suggest sending press release – "truly innovative what's happened at Tarcutta - \$1M spent on 340+ people".

10/24 Clr. Yates: Referred to Item 1 in Business Paper – investments with Wagga Mutual Credit Union and Westpac. Riverina Water does derive income from rural areas, suggest looking at investing with a rural bank eg Bendigo Bank. Can we afford to invest/borrow from Bendigo Bank.

General Manager: Will take on board and advised that he has spoken to Bendigo Bank, but at this stage not offering rates we require.

Clr. Yates: With profits they make, a bit more tolerance of say 0.5%, would help sustainability and support of rural communities?.

10/25 Clr. Yates: I believe the policy we have in regard to water connections for rural consumers paying off over 3 years in some cases is too harsh. Some smaller rural properties are paying up to \$40-60,000 to get water connected and they can't pass the cost on like subdividers can. Possibly spread loan over 5 – 10 years or separate water usage fees.

Chairperson: General Manager will bring back report to Council. Currently prospective consumers pay full cost, with interest free loan over 3 years. Hopefully interest in connections will lessen when drought conditions are less severe.

10/26 Clr. Kreuzberger: Regarding Walla bores. There is good quality water coming from the state government bore which is 7 km from Walla near Morgan's Lookout. This may be worth investigating.

Chairperson: General Manager will investigate.

10/27 Clr. Vidler: Tarcutta has an innovative new water treatment plant based on Council looking at filters in Perth some time ago. Hopefully the people at Tarcutta appreciate what they've got.

### **COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

10/28 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Ross and Geale OAM that Council now resolve itself into a Committee-of-the-Whole, to consider General Manager's Contract of Employment.

***RECOMMENDED*** that:

1. Regrettably accept Mr. Pieper's retirement notice,
2. Mr. Pieper contract be extended to 10th December, 2010,
3. Mr. Pieper continue employment on a temporary basis as maybe required until the appointed person commences, and
4. Advertising for the position start in or after August, 2010

### **OPEN COUNCIL**

10/29 The Committee RESOLVED into Open Council at this stage on the motion of Clrs. Brown and Geale OAM.

### **ADOPTION OF REPORT**

10/30 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Yates & Geale OAM that the recommendations of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 3.43 pm

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