

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

15 October 2014

Meeting No. 49

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

P Allen, G Beltchev, J Booth, F Frahn, M Heylen, M Turner.



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta
on 15 October 2014 at 1.15 pm

Present:

Ms C Woolford (Chair)

Mr P Allen, Mr G Beltchev, Mrs J Booth, Mrs F Frahn and Mrs M Heylen

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An apology was received from Member Turner.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August were circulated.

**Moved by Member Heylen
Seconded by Member Allen**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held
on 7 August 2014, number 48 be adopted.*

Carried.

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 Oodnadatta Project Manager (Ref. N 14 – 02/03)

The General Manager (GM) advised that the proposal to employ a Project Manager at Oodnadatta has progressed and it is envisaged that final approval will be received in the near future.



4.2.2 Outback Waste Management (Ref. N 13 – 05/11 and N 14 – 01/03)

The GM advised that further to a workshop held earlier in the day, the OCA is working with the Innamincka Progress Association and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on their waste management processes and that this may provide an option for other outback sites. The Board look forward to further updates on this matter.

4.2.3 Confidential Orders (Ref. Agenda item 13, Meeting No. 45)

The GM advised that a review of Confidential Order CO-02 could not be undertaken as there has been no progress with this matter. A review will be provided to the Members in due course.

4.2.4 Draft Community Funding Policy (Ref. N14-04/08)

Member Heylen raised the matter of the draft Community Funding Policy and what accompanying information has been provided to the OCA's stakeholders. The Governance Manager (Gov M) confirmed that although the actual Policy has not been posted to the stakeholders, an email message has been forwarded introducing the draft Community Funding Policy which included a link to the OCA's website directing the recipient to the Policy and a frequently asked questions document. The Gov M advised that the Progress Associations have also been individually contacted to discuss the policy and how its implementation might vary current funding arrangements for their respective community and he has encouraged them to hold a community forum where the draft Policy can be delivered. The Gov M confirmed that almost all of the Progress Association's will be either hosting or participating in a local community forum and that he will consider forwarding a follow up email to the stakeholders.

The Gov M confirmed that a set of guidelines has not been provided at this point in time but it was envisaged that the guidelines would be drafted once the Policy has been finalised and would be provided then as supporting information. Member Heylen explained that it is important that the OCA's stakeholders are aware of any impacts that the draft Community Funding Policy may have on a Progress Association's ability to access funding from the OCA. The Gov M identified that he has requested an extension to the consultation period and this discussion appears later in the meeting agenda. He advised that he is confident that the engagement process will provide adequate opportunities for stakeholders to discuss and make comment on the draft Policy.

The Gov M advised that by closing the current consultation in October will not allow sufficient time for those attending later forums to make informed submissions.



5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Draft Community Funding Policy (Ref. N 14 – 01/10)

Further to the previous discussion regarding the Draft Community Funding Policy, the Gov M advised that he is seeking to extend the consultation period on this policy to allow sufficient time for those people attending forums scheduled for later in October to provide submissions. The Gov M requested that the closing date for submissions be extended until 30 November 2014.

The Gov M confirmed that by extending the consultation period on the Draft Community Funding Policy will not create any repercussions for other OCA operational timelines.

**Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Beltchev**

That the Outback Communities Authority notes the extension of the community consultation period for the Community Funding Policy to 30 November 2014.

Carried.

6.2 Office for Youth Funding (Ref. N 14 – 02/10)

The Community Development Officer (CDO) advised he has been successful in securing two grants from the Office for Youth, being \$10,000 under the Youth Connect program and \$7,000 under the Learning Engagement and Partnership (LEAP) program.

The CDO confirmed that the 2014 Youth Connect grant is focused on achieving positive outcomes for young people, aged between 12 and 25 years across priority areas including young volunteers and carers, culturally and linguistically diverse young people and young people with disability.

The CDO advised that the LEAP program provides funding to projects that aim to develop young people's skills and provides opportunities for them to work in partnerships with the funded organisation for the design and management of the project's activities.

The CDO proposed that the Office for Youth funding be directed toward a youth forum targeting approximately 10 young representatives between the ages of 18 and 25 from outback communities.



The CDO advised that the funding received through the LEAP Program will provide assistance to the youth living in the remote areas of South Australia and provide a link back to their respective Progress Association.

The CDO advised that the LEAP Program funding will support the projects that have been identified as part of the outback youth forum.

The CDO recommended that the OCA commit to providing a total \$10,000 in funding toward these projects to ensure that the outcomes can be achieved within the timelines outlined in the respective funding agreements.

Moved by Member Heylen
Seconded by Member Beltchev

That the OCA notes the funding agreements for the provision of funding from the Office for Youth under the Youth Connect and LEAP Programs to the value of \$17,000 and that the OCA commits \$10,000 towards the programs, subject to further refinement of the proposed strategy.

Carried.

6.3 Recovery of Overdue Community Contributions (Ref. N 14 – 03/10)

The Gov M advised that the initial letters of demand sent by Dun and Bradstreet have resulted in a significant reduction in the debt for the Andamooka community contribution scheme. The Gov M confirmed that the debt collection process has now progressed to the stage where final letters of demand have been sent and the next stage of the debt collection process will be to file claims for judgment in the Magistrates Court. The Gov M confirmed that this action is expected to take place in November 2014.

The Gov M advised that the Crown Solicitor has been kept informed of the OCA's debt recovery process and will meet with the Gov M in the near future to confer on the impending Court process.

The Gov M confirmed that the costs associated with lodging the claim for judgement will be added to the debtors balance. The Gov M advised that final checking processes will be undertaken on letters and notices that have been returned to ensure that every effort has been made to locate the debtor.

The Board requested that they be kept informed as this matter progresses.

Moved by Member Allen
Seconded by Member Beltchev

That the OCA notes the next stage of the debt recovery process, to lodge claims for judgement in the Magistrates Court and the associated implications.

Carried.



6.4 OCA Project Grant Assessment for Round 1 2014-15 (Ref. N 14 – 04/10)

The GM advised that the OCA Project Grants Program was released in August 2014 calling for Incorporated outback community organisations to seek funding assistance for projects benefitting the wider community.

The GM confirmed that 13 applications were received and an assessment panel evaluated the applications against assessment criteria, in line with the Project Grants' guidelines.

The GM advised that the following projects were approved for funding:

- Gawler Ranges Progress Association – playground project (\$5,000).
- Penong Progress Association – ride on mower (\$4,518).
- Ngapala Arts – office equipment (\$2,065).
- Beltana Progress Association – water cartage truck purchase (\$5,035).
- Marla Progress Association – town oval water pump purchase (\$5,000).
- Marree Progress Association – sponsorship for local Gymkhana (\$1,000).
- Marree Progress Association – touchscreen television for the local Railway Museum (\$1,500).

The GM advised that the CDO has initiated discussions with those communities who had not been successful in securing funding from the OCA, to seek alternative sources of funding.

Member Heylen enquired as to whether the OCA would consider having one round of funding made available as this would alleviate operational work pressures. The GM advised that the OCA had complied with the current Outback Grants Program (CSD-01) policy which stipulates that two rounds of grants are made available, but this could change depending on the outcome of the consultation with the draft Community Funding Policy.

Member Heylen also enquired whether the OCA would consider the assessment of grant applications be undertaken by an independent panel outside of the OCA. The GM confirmed that the assessment procedure and criteria is closely aligned with the Community Benefits program that is very successful and he was very comfortable with the assessment process and criteria used when considering grant applications.

Moved by Member Booth
Seconded by Member Allen

That the OCA note the approval by the General Manager for seven projects in the OCA's Project Grant Program, Round 1 2014-15 at a total cost to the OCA of \$24,118.

Carried.



6.5 Policy Review (Ref. N 14 – 05/10)

The OCA reviews its policy on an ongoing basis and recently reviewed G-01 Member Code of Conduct Policy, G-07 Member Conflict of Interest Policy and G-02 Member Education and Development Policy.

During the review the OCA Members agreed that the principles set out in G-01 Member Code of Conduct and G-07 Member Conflict of Interest policies are well covered by legislation. The Gov M recommended that these two policies should therefore be rescinded.

The Gov M confirmed that minor amendment has been made to the G-02 Member Education and Development Policy and is provided for approval.

Member Heylen suggested that the Member Education and Development Policy be renamed Member Professional Development. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Moved by Member Beltchev
Seconded by Member Frahn

That the OCA rescinds its Member Code of Conduct and Member Conflict of Interest policies and replace them with a policy statement that specifies the legislative requirements in each area and the OCA's commitment to comply with those requirements.

Carried.

Moved by Member Heylen
Seconded by Member Allen

That the OCA adopts the G-02 Member Education and Development policy as amended.

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The GM tabled the OCA 2014-15 Business Plan progress report. The Members noted the progress and requested that reference to a Communication's Officer be amended to reflect a Community Engagement Officer.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

- The Chair spoke of the honour of attending the Kokatha Native Title Declaration celebration at Andamooka Station and congratulated the Kokatha Nation on this historic outcome and asked that a letter of such be sent to the Kokatha expressing these sentiments on behalf of the Board. She also recognised the continual involvement of APOMA during the last few years.



- The Chair acknowledged the efforts of both the OCA executive and Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) in particular Mark Sutton and Mick Petrovski for the positive OCA outcome with the Premier's Boards and Committees Review. The OCA Board has been retained and its valuable contribution acknowledged.
- The Chair expressed her regret on the recent cancellation of Minister Brock's Outback meeting circuit. Due to the Minister's ill health the scheduled meeting with the outback community's representatives, pastoralists and industry had to be postponed until early next year. She thanked all involved for the massive amount of organisation involved in the planning and then postponement of such a trip however was pleased to report that outback people had been very positive about meeting with the OCA and were disappointed this did not occur.
- The Chair and the OCA GM will be attending the Brand SA Awards as the Andamooka Town Management Committee is a finalist and she wished them well.
- The Chair discussed the meeting held at the Port Augusta office with the new CE of DPTI. A very relaxed discussion took place between OCA staff and the CE where he expressed his future overall agenda and his way of working, then moved into a private meeting with the Chair, GM and Director of Local Government to hear more clearly the future direction of the OCA, its immediate agenda and the sort of initiatives being planned for the next 3 years. The meeting was a very good beginning to a new relationship both with the CE and DPTI.
- The Chair reported that the process for the next round of OCA Board Member appointments due to be finalised in early December is now being triggered, however some delay may happen due to the Premier's Board Review initiative and the current board expertise alignment being undertaken by ThinkOne Team.

10. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Allen reported that he had attended the Roxby Downs Annual Business Awards in September with the OCA Chair.

Member Allen advised that he had the opportunity to chat informally with representatives from Olympic Dam Mine and that the future looks positive for the ongoing mine investments and the flow on effect to Andamooka.

Member Allen reported that he had also had the opportunity for an informal discussion with a BHP representative regarding mining host communities again, with the future looking positive.

Member Allen tabled the Olympic Dam Community Development Management Plan Interim review.

Member Booth reported that she had attended a scholarship program regarding governance for directors which was a joint program offered by the State



Government and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Member Booth advised that she had found the program to be very beneficial.

11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

The Gov M advised that the meeting minutes from the most recent ATMC meeting are still unconfirmed and therefore unavailable to be included in the OCA's meeting agenda. The Gov M advised that he would be attending an ATMC meeting on Thursday 16 October and that there was nothing to report since the last OCA meeting.

12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The GM advised that the period since the last Board meeting continued to be very busy and challenging with the main focus in the upcoming weeks will be to concentrate on the draft 2015-2020 OCA Strategic Management Plan.

The GM provided an in-depth overview of activities that have been undertaken within the Office for the OCA which included the coordination of community forums to review the draft Community Funding policy, coordinating the OCA's debt management processes, ongoing updates to the OCA website, coordinating municipal delivery in Andamooka and Iron Knob which included the delivery and erection of new street signs and the erection of a new water storage tank. The GM advised that the CDO had participated in various meetings in Adelaide regarding prospective funding and had undertaken trips to Innamincka and Penong. The GM reported that the Business Services Team continues to underpin the operations of the OCA whilst working through the Machinery of Government (MOG) challenges.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

The GM confirmed that Confidential Order CO-02 remains in place until a further review has been undertaken, once the Machinery of Government move to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure has been finalised.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 20 November to be held in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm.

