

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

21 January 2016

Meeting No. 57

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

G Beltchev, J Booth, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at Department Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, 77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide on 21 January 2016 commencing at 12.45 pm

Present:

C Woolford (Chair)

G Beltchev, J Booth, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore (OCA Members), J Wright (Contractor), M Sutton, B Gough and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Outback Communities Authority first meeting for 2016.

There were no apologies.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is noted that there are no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2015 were circulated.

Moved by Member Ferguson

Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 19 November 2015, number 56 be adopted.

Carried.

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 Outback Waste Management (Ref. N13 - 05/11 and N14 - 01/03, Meeting No. 45)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager (Gov M) who confirmed that the original action item started with the treatment of waste areas on Aboriginal lands and progressed to include the refuse dump at Innamincka. The Gov M confirmed that the OCA has an in principle agreement with SANTOS to use their landfill and currently this matter is back with the Innamincka community for further confirmation surrounding specific amounts of waste. The Gov M advised that the item should be removed from the action list.

4.2.2 Community Insurance Review (Ref. Agenda item 6.2, Meeting No. 50)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that advice sought from the Crown Solicitor has prompted further questions. The Gov M will provide the final Crown Solicitors advice once received.

4.2.3 Leigh Creek Operations (Ref. Agenda item 7.4, Meeting No. 54)

The Members agreed that a sub-committee is not required to be formed as all Members will be involved in discussions regarding Leigh Creek operations and the Northern Flinders region. The Chair confirmed that this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.2.4 Andamooka Town Management Committee (Ref. Agenda item 11.1, Meeting No. 54)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that the matter is deferred to later in the meeting agenda and that the matter remains ongoing.

4.2.5 Oodnadatta Development Project (Ref. Agenda item 3.1, Meeting No. 55)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director (Dir) who advised that the Project Manager declined the extension contract to continue in Oodnadatta.

The Members discussed the importance of development in Oodnadatta continuing.

**Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Beltchev**

That the OCA acknowledge that the contract has been declined by the Oodnadatta Project Manager and that the OCA will focus its efforts on engaging with other agencies to explore options to continue development at Oodnadatta.

Carried.

4.2.6 Regional Development Australia Far North Board Nomination (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 56)

The Chair advised that this matter is in progress.

4.2.7 Isolated Children's and Parents' Association (Ref. N15 – 02/11, Meeting No.56)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who confirmed that a review of funding categories will be undertaken and provided at the next Board meeting.

4.2.8 Director's Report (Ref. Agenda item 12, Meeting No. 56)

The Dir advised that confirmation of the projects that he intends to seek funding for have been included in his Director's report later in the agenda, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Asset Sustainability Levy (Ref. N16 – 01/01)

Further to a workshop held earlier in the day, the Chair introduced the Asset Sustainability Levy (ASL) discussion. The Members agreed to defer the matter and requested that a comprehensive report be provided out of session within 2 weeks.

6.2 Remote Youth Community Projects (Ref. N16 - 02/01)

The Chair introduced the remote youth community projects agenda item and referred to the Dir for further information.

The Dir provided an evaluation of the Youth Connect/LEAP project which was managed by the Community Development Officer during 2015. The Dir confirmed that the Youth Connect/LEAP project had certainly highlighted a very positive outlook for outback youth, although it also highlighted the fact that outback youth when provided with support are very capable of good ideas and projects that will assist outback communities. The Dir elaborated on the projects that the youth achieved during the Connect/LEAP project and the desire for the OCA to capitalise on the success of the program by working directly with young individuals in the outback to coordinate community projects.

The Dir proposed that a further extension of the Connect/LEAP project be supported by the OCA which will result in outback youth being trained in project management and provided with the tools to work with local

agencies and community services which will strengthen the outback region.

**Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Michelmore**

That the OCA:

- *Approves the reallocation of \$6,000 from the 2015-16 Grants and Contributions budget and approves the allocation of \$6,000 from the 2016-17 Grants and Contributions budget to the Remote Youth Community Project 2016.*
- *Notes that at the conclusion of the Remote Youth Community Project 2016 a review will be completed and recommendations provided to the Board.*

Carried.

6.3 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report – January 2016 (Ref. N16 - 03/01)

The Chair tabled the 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2015 which outlines the revised full-year estimates of income, operating expenses and capital expenditure for 2015-16 and referred the discussion to Mr John Wright.

Mr Wright confirmed that an underlying Budget improvement has now emerged, which has taken into account the carry over amount now approved by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) being projects uncompleted as at 30 June 2015.

The Dir confirmed that he proposed to utilise a significant component of the savings as matching funding when seeking external grants (eg Upper Spencer Gulf and National Stronger Regions grants). The Dir advised that he is confident that the outcome from the grant applications will be known by the end of March.

The Dir confirmed that he will have a better understanding of the budget outcome at the March meeting and with the assistance of Mr Wright, will provide a further Budget Monitoring Report.

**Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Beltchev**

That the OCA:

- *note the updated 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report for January 2016.*
- *note that a further Budget update will be provided at the March 2016 OCA meeting.*

Carried.



7. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that there was no urgent business to be discussed.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair introduced the Business Plan Progress Report and referred the matter to the Dir who advised that the oneOutback questionnaires are progressing with information being collated in readiness for the Prospectus.

The Dir confirmed that Regional Development Australia Far North has released tenders for the Economic Growth and Investment Strategy which is directly linked to the Prospectus. The Dir advised that the opportunity to tender closes on 5 February 2016.

The Dir advised that the Northern Flinders Project Officer has been appointed and that Ms Courtney Harrington will join the OCA on 1 February.

The Members noted the OCA 2015-16 Business Plan progress report.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair did not table a formal report as she had been overseas since mid December. The Chair thanked Member Beltchev who had attended to OCA business in the Chair's absence.

The Chair confirmed that she intends to meet with the Minister for Local Government Relations on a more regular basis to ensure that he is kept fully informed of all OCA business.

10. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Booth reported that she attended the community meeting in Leigh Creek on 25 November which was well represented and thanked Member Beltchev for Chairing the meeting. Member Booth confirmed that the general consensus from the meeting was for communication lines to remain open and free flowing.

Member Beltchev agreed with Member Booth that the Leigh Creek meeting was very positive and he noted a good attendance from service providers. Member Beltchev advised that the message from the meeting is for further meetings to be held on an as needs basis.

Member Ferguson agreed with Members Booth and Beltchev regarding the positive Leigh Creek meeting. Member Ferguson commended the CDO for the assistance he has provided to outback communities when seeking grant opportunities.



Member Fort reported that she had recently attended the Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) Board meeting in Port Augusta which is under the leadership of Jane Luckraft. Member Fort advised that the progressive group has launched a new website with invitations to business partners to market and promote their businesses via the regional website which represents the Southern Flinders, Flinders Ranges and Outback. It is likely that this will benefit FRO by providing a revenue stream but will also offer opportunities to businesses within and on the way to destinations. Member Fort confirmed that there is a general positive vibe for the 2016 tourism season.

11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

The Chair introduced the Andamooka Town Management Committee and referred the matter to the Gov M.

The Gov M confirmed that the ATMC last met on 11 November 2015 and those Minutes remain unconfirmed. The Gov M advised that the meeting discussion centered on the upcoming Annual Business Plan and Budget. The Gov M confirmed that preliminary discussions regarding the future of the Andamooka Town Management Committee have commenced noting that the current terms of reference expire at the end of this financial year.

The Gov M confirmed that good news has been received regarding the continuation of health services for the Andamooka community.

The Gov M confirmed that the debt collection process relating to the unpaid Andamooka Community Contribution Scheme is progressing, noting that overdue payments are increasing.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and provided an overview of the projects and work that the Office for the OCA has been involved in since the OCA's meeting held in November 2015.

The Dir advised that he has predominantly been busy with the recruitment process associated with the Northern Flinders Project Officer position, the Oodnadatta project and also the future of the Northern Flinders region associated with Alinta Energy's decision to cease mining coal.

The Dir confirmed that the following grant proposals were being prepared:

- Open Space Grant (DPTI) – the Outback Community Parks Project.
- Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program (PIRSA) – the Outback Community Facilities Project.



- Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program (PIRSA) – the Oodnadatta Water Project.
- National Stronger Regions Fund, Round 3 (Commonwealth Government) – Outback Water Project.

The Dir confirmed that there has not been any real impact on the Iron Knob community with the scaling back of local mining activity, although there is always the pressure of volunteers to maintain services.

The Chair reminded the Members that the Country Cabinet will be visiting Port Augusta, Blinman and Leigh Creek in late February.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 16, 17 March 2016 to be held in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

