

MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES on THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2006 at 10.05am.

PRESENT

Cr. D. Bolte (Chair), Cr. C. Manchester, Cr. J. Macaulay, Cr. D. Palmer, Cr. J. McGregor and Cr. P. Speirs.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P. Wearne, General Manager, Mr. P. Dwyer, Group Leader - Administration, Mr. N. Nasser, Group Leader - Production and Distribution and Mr. B. West - Group Leader – Engineering,

A. APOLOGIES

06/118 An apology for non-attendance was received from Crs. J. Edwards and J. O'Brien and a leave of absence was granted to both on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Palmer.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

06/119 The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2006 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs Manchester and Speirs.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NIL

D. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)

1. CHEQUE WARRANTS – SEPTEMBER 2006 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	16291 – 16511 Autopays 600219-600220 70705 – 70713	\$1,378,950.54

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 125,696.88
Deposits	\$1,326,791.08
	<u>\$1,452,487.96</u>
Withdrawals	\$1,378,950.54
Balance as at 30 September 2006	<u><u>\$73,537.42</u></u>

2. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 30 September 2006

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,493,102.24	6.20
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$13,869,825.10	5.83
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$100,000.00	5.95
CBA Term Deposit due 03.10.06	\$500,000.00	5.92
CBA Term Deposit due 07.12.06	\$500,000.00	5.80
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.12.06-188203	\$500,000.00	5.86
CBA Term Deposit due 04.01.07	\$500,000.00	6.06
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.02.07-190260	\$500,000.00	6.08
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.3.07-189365	\$500,000.00	5.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 26.4.07-189657	\$700,000.00	6.02
LGFS Term Deposit due 04.5.07-189919	\$500,000.00	6.20
CBA Term Deposit due 01.06.07	\$500,000.00	6.32
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.8.07-191269	\$500,000.00	6.48
TOTAL:	\$25,662,927.34	

I hereby certify that the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's investment policy.

Recommendation

That the information in respect of items E1& E2 be noted.

06/120 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that the information in respect of items E1& E2 be noted

3. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

The balances outstanding as at 4 October 2006 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	66,987	7,307	419,203	493,497
Consumption Charges	185,390	37,312	987,980	1,210,682
Deferred headworks			66,000	66,000
TOTAL:	252,377	44,619	1,473,183	1,770,179
Overpayments				93,644

The balances above include the September quarter accounts.

The balances outstanding as at 4 September 2006 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	74,767	6,484	135,826	217,077
Consumption Charges	157,991	34,822	252,847	445,660
Deferred headworks			66,000	66,000
TOTAL:	232,758	41,306	454,673	728,737
Overpayments				91,959

Recommendation

That the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted

- 06/121 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Manchester that the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

4. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 30 September 2006 is attached (yellow pages) for the consideration of Council.

Details of the main variations are as follows:

Revenue

At this stage no changes have been made to the anticipated revenue. This will be reviewed again with the next review and depending on the weather conditions a revision in anticipated water sales may be necessary.

Expenditure

- Reservoir maintenance – increased by \$135,000 (being \$50,000 for Oura tank repairs and \$85,000 for stage I of the Oura aeration tower repairs – this was reported to the September meeting)
- Treatment works maintenance – increased by \$58,533 for repainting of soda ash silo and erosion rehabilitation works at Jugiong (reported to September meeting).

Operating expenditure increased by \$193,533.

Capital

The votes in this section have been revised in line with the report presented to Council’s August meeting and after review by staff. The revised budget (both upwards and downwards) can be summarised as follows:-

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2006

Capital Works Program (as adopted 2006/07 Management Plan)	\$7,651,912
Plus Amounts carried forward from 2005/06 Program	5,600,989
Revised budget as per Minute 06/082 of 24/08/06	13,252,901
Less proposed variation	1,205,817
Revised Budget as per September Quarterly Budget Review	\$12,047,084

The major variations are:-

- *Additional Reservoirs at Matong* – Increase of \$124,416 after higher than anticipated tenders were received and accepted
- *Additional Reservoirs at Naradhan* – Decrease of \$82,445 following costing adjustment in previous year.
- *Additional Reservoirs at Aria Park* – Increase of \$372,085 after higher than anticipated tenders were received and accepted
- *Coolamon South Reservoir* – Increase of \$89,326 after higher than anticipated tenders were received and accepted.
- *Additional Storage at Ganmain* – Increase of \$211,446 after higher than anticipated tenders were received and accepted.
- *Various System Automation* – Decrease of \$100,000 as works unlikely to be done this year due to lack of resources.
- *Replace Storages at Lonsdale Lane* – Increase of \$79,980 for unplanned urgent works. Refer Minute 06/093.
- *Additional/ Replacement Bore at Oura* – Decrease of \$197,130 as resolution of land matters unlikely to be concluded this year.
- *VSD Upgrade at Thanowring Road* – Decrease of \$130,000. Works deferred until impact of additional storage at Aria Park is known.
- *Repair/Renew Interior Lining, Cowangs Reservoir* – Decrease of \$83,643 following cost adjustment in previous year.
- *Major Upgrade, Jugiong #1 Pump Station* – Decrease of \$946,813. Project deferred, investigation only to occur this year.
- *Mains Replacement, Mirrool towards Ardlethan* – Decrease of \$98,942. Project completed under budget.
- *Various Transformer Replacements* – Decrease of \$150,000. project deferred due to lack of resources.

The following changes are proposed to the budget:

Adopted operating budget (surplus)	\$396,880
Revision at 30 September 2006 – deficit	-\$193,533
Revised result – 30 June 2007 – anticipated surplus	\$203,347

At this stage there are no major areas of concern and the review indicates that Council's financial position is satisfactory.

Recommendation

That the quarterly budget review report as at 30 September 2006 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

06/122 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Speirs that the quarterly budget review report as at 30 September 2006 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

AUDIT REPORT – 2005/2006 FINANCIAL REPORTS

At the time of preparation of the business paper Council was awaiting the auditor's report on the above. It is anticipated the report will be received prior to the Council meeting and a supplementary report will be submitted for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

That the information be noted and the supplementary report be considered.

- 06/123 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Manchester that the information be noted.

6. PENSION REBATES (*Gerard Carr*)

Council is required to write-off concessions granted to eligible pensioners for water supplied. Nineteen hundred and forty six concession claims are current and require the writing-off for the period: 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006 (Subsidy claimed \$24,483.16 – Claim 132)

Recommendation

That Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$44,514.83 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006.

- 06/124 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Palmer and McGregor that Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$44,514.83 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006.

7. PROPOSED DEBT WRITE-OFFS (*Gerard Carr*)

Water Account 73722

Council had received advice from NSW Land and Property Information (LPI) dated 22 May 2003 of the transfer of a number of properties following the death of the then owner. The effective date of transfer was 5 November 2002. This account was transferred into the advised new owner's name with charges since that time remaining unpaid.

As part of debt recovery process, confirmation with the general purpose council revealed the property was in another persons name. A title search with LPI shows this transfer occurred 20 May 2003. It appears that the timing of the transfer advice from the LPI lead to the ownership error.

The account has been transferred to the correct ownership with discussions now under way to see the outstanding debts paid. In these circumstances it is appropriate that interest charges be waived.

Recommendation

That interest totaling \$176.13 be written off water account 73722

- 06/125 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that interest totaling \$176.13 be written off water account 73722

Water Account 72844

During a review on a number of other water accounts for tariff and charge code anomalies water account 72844 came to attention.

This account was transferred to the present owner in June 2003. When changing the meter tariff and charge codes at transfer, the meter tariff was incorrectly left as the vendor's pensioner tariff while a charge code was added for non pensioner purchaser. This resulted in two access charge of \$51.00 being billed each quarter to this customer. While arrangements have been made to correct the most recent charges for the July to September quarter a write off is required to reverse the other charges incorrectly raised.

Recommendation

That access charges totaling \$612.00 raised in error be written off water account 72844.

06/126 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that access charges totaling \$612.00 raised in error be written off water account 72844.

8. OUTSTANDING VACANT LAND CHARGES (Gerard Carr)

Councilors will recall outstanding vacant land charges that were written off at the February 2006 council meeting.

Following those write offs an amount, now \$2,214.47 has been shown on the water account trial balance as outstanding amounts for non tariff water accounts (vacant land charges). A further review of the water billing data has revealed three vacant land water accounts with charges totaling \$2,214.47 that were not previously identified. Each account has no property description attached. One has an unidentified journal of \$823.95 dated 01/07/1995.

Recommendation

That the following three water accounts with amounts totaling \$2,214.47 as detailed below be written off as uneconomic to recover.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	OUTSTANDING BALANCE
71463	\$98.15
73311	\$400.48
73312	\$1,715.84
TOTAL	\$2,214.47

06/127 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Manchester that the following three water accounts with amounts totaling \$2,214.47 as detailed below be written off as uneconomic to recover.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	OUTSTANDING BALANCE
71463	\$98.15
73311	\$400.48
73312	\$1,715.84
TOTAL	\$2,214.47

F. WORKS REPORT *(Nick Nasser)*
SEPTEMBER 2006

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
1/9/06	-	-	Calleen Street, West Wyalong	-	100	50	Replace section of pipe
18/9/06	9.00	12.00	Junee Silo	1	100	1	Rusted clamp
18/9/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Barmedman	-	300	10	Joint failure
20/9/06	3.00	6.00	Bridges Street, Temora	20	100	15	Split pipe
20/9/06	7.00	11.00	Ashelford Street, Temora	5	100	20	Split pipe
20/9/06	-	-	Trunk main, Barmedman	-	300	20	Joint failure
20/9/06	-	-	Malebo	-	150	5	Split pipe
21/9/06	5.30	9.00	Junee	20	100	20	Split pipe
22/9/06	6.00	9.30	Robert Street, Junee	40	100	20	Spilt pipe
24/9/06	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	15	Cracked pipe
26/9/06	-	-	Temora	-	100	10	Joint failure
26/9/06	-	-	Cootamundra/Bauloora	-	375	10	Leaking joint
27/9/06	-	-	Temora	-	100	20	Joint failure
27/9/06	-	-	Cootamundra/Temora	-	375	20	Leaking joint
27/9/06	8.00	3.00	Cowangs/Cootamundra	-	375	50	Leaking collars
28/9/06	-	-	Cootamundra/Temora	-	375	10	Leaking joint

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

4/9/06 Gallipoli Street
 11/9/06 Percy Street
 12/9/06 Railway Parade
 20/9/06 Percy Street

21/9/06	Railway Parade
22/9/06	Railway Parade
Dirty Water – Other	
1/9/06	Perseverance Street, West Wyalong
4/9/06	Cowabbie Street, Coolamon
7/9/06	Showground Road, Ganmain
22/9/06	Sharpe Street, Temora
22/9/06	Turners Lane, Cootamundra
28/9/06	Locke Street, Ganmain

Other Problems:

A total of 51 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of September.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant Works were undertaken in September 2006:-

- Commence mains replacement Percy, Beach and Robert Streets, Junee.
- Commence swabbing Oura-Junee and Junee reticulation.
- Installed new mag-flow meter at Junee Reefs.
- Cut-in new 7.5km of pipe from Mirrool to Ardlethan.
- Installed new water service connection at Temora Hospital.
- Serviced all fire hydrants in Ungarie.
- Flushed mains at Coolamon to Ganmain.
- Overhauled No.1 Flocculator at Jugiong.
- Overhauled No.7 pump motor at Ganmain.
- No.2 pump at Barmedman overhauled and re-installed.
- No.2 pump at Eurollie Road overhauled.
- Continued Stage 1 construction of Oura Aeration Tower.
- Fitted new pivot arms on Harden Balance Tank and Betric Reservoir.
- Changed low-lift pump at Jugiong, transported to Sydney for overhaul. Estimated repair cost to date \$30,000.
- Routine servicing of A.C.Vs.

Recommendation

That the information be noted

06/128 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Macaulay and Speirs that the information be noted

G. OTHER REPORTS

1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT (*Paul Wearne*)

Attached for the information of Councillors are the Capital Works Progress Reports for the period ending 30 September 2006

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

06/129 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and Speirs that the information be noted

2. REPORT TO MINISTER – REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES (*Paul Wearne*)

A Draft Report to the Minister has been prepared for the consideration of Council. However, given the agenda for today's meeting coupled with the Official Opening of the building, it is suggested that this matter be deferred so that adequate time can be allocated to consider the matter. After consultation with the Chairman, it is now suggested that an Extraordinary Meeting be held in November.

Recommendation

That an Extraordinary Council Meeting be held on Thursday 23 November 2006 at Council's Temora office commencing at 1.00 pm.

06/130 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that an Ordinary Council Meeting be held on Thursday 23 November 2006 at Council's Temora office commencing at 1.00pm.

3. OFFICE CLOSURE (*Paul Wearne*)

For the past two years Council has closed its Temora office during the Christmas/ New Year period. Closing the office would give office staff an opportunity to take leave with minimal disruptions to our operations. Naturally, operations staff would still be rostered on call to attend operational issues (water breaks and breakdowns) and if a major emergency arose that would require opening of the office then staff could be recalled to affect this.

Closure of the office during this period means that the office would be shut from close of business on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January, 2007. There are only three (3) business days during this period as public holidays fall on 25th & 26th December and 1st January.

Customers are still able to pay their accounts through the Australia Post facilities during this time. Closure of the office would be advertised during December.

Recommendation

That Council's office in Temora be closed from 27th December, 2006 to 29th December, 2006 inclusive.

06/131 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that Council's office in Temora be closed from 27th December, 2006 to 29th December, 2006 inclusive.

4. CHRISTMAS PARTY (*Paul Wearne*)

In previous years Council has hosted a Christmas Party for staff. Last year a function was held at the Temora Bowling Club after the December Council meeting to which Councillors, staff and their partners were invited. Council provided all refreshments including drinks which were restricted to beer, wine and soft drinks. Anyone wishing to drink spirits did so at their own cost. A budgeted amount was set by Council and, if and when exhausted, individuals became responsible for their own. The event was for a set period of time after which Council "disassociated" itself from any ongoing activities. Some of the benefits of such an event included promoting corporate unity, acknowledging the efforts of staff (and indirectly their partners) over the proceeding year and having a "degree of control" over the event. Assistance with transportation for employees based outside of Temora was also provided. From all reports an enjoyable time was had by all.

Recommendation

1. That Council host a Christmas Party on Friday 15 December 2006 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm in Temora to which Councillors, staff and their respective partners be invited.
2. That Council assist with the provision of transportation for employees based outside Temora.
3. That Council allocates \$2,500 for the event.
4. That the General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, arranges a suitable venue for the event.

06/132 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Manchester and Speirs:

1. That Council host a Christmas Party on Friday 15 December 2006 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm in Temora to which Councillors, staff and their respective partners be invited.
2. That Council assist with the provision of transportation for employees based outside Temora.
3. That Council allocates \$2,500 for the event.
4. That the General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, arranges a suitable venue for the event.

5. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS (*Paul Wearne*)

Subject to the outcome of items 2 and 4 above, the next meeting of Council will be on Thursday 23 November 2006 at Temora with the following meeting to be held on Friday 15 December 2006 also at Temora.

Recommendation

That the above suggested meeting dates be adopted.

06/133 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Speirs that the above suggested meeting dates be adopted.

H. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr. Palmer sought and was provided with information regarding the Reservoir construction at Barellan

Cr. Manchester sought and was provided with information regarding the Temora standpipe.

I. CLOSED SESSION – 11.25am (Pink pages)

06/134 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that the Council meet in Closed Session.

In accordance with Clause 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 the following item is to be considered in Closed Session as it relates to:

“...(c) Information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business,”

06/135 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and McGregor that Council proceed to compulsorily acquire the necessary 6 metre wide easement through Lot 1 DP717988 Parish of Stockinbingal County of Bland and Lot 3 DP717988 Parish of Gundibindyal County of Bland, both being in the ownership of Rakhri Pty Ltd should negotiations prove unsuccessful.

OPEN SESSION – 11.35am.

06/136 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that the Council revert to Open Session and that the resolutions made in closed session be made public.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 11.35am.
