



**Renewable Albury Wodonga Inc**

**2020 Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes**

**[www.renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:www.renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)**

**Tuesday 21st July 2020 5:30pm – 7pm**

**Zoom meeting:**

Attachments: CCIG report <http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/projects/wodonga-project/>

CHAIR: NARELLE

MINUTES: MICHELLE

## **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

- to our elders, past present and emerging for everywhere we are based and in particular Albury-Wodonga.

## **2. Welcome**

**Attendance –Board Members:** Bobbi McKibbin (President) , Narelle Martin (Chair), Kate Sleeman (Treasurer), Michelle Wilkinson (Secretary), Jenny Davies

Phil Day, Julie Summons, Stephen Millet, Matthew Dudley, Lyn Reed, Barbara Martin

**Apologies** – Katrina Passey, Ben Fryer, Brian Kemp,

Went around the room to introduce - thank you all for your attendance and welcome!

**Chairperson -**

- Introductions around the table from all in attendance
- Any Items without notice?
- Clarification of voting rights (fully paid current membership)

## **3. Presidents Report – RAW Energy 2019/20 projects and achievements presentation**

Bobbi presented Powerpoint with overview of the projects for year

**DELWP Climate Change & Innovation Grant**

**Beyond Housing Project**

**DEWLP - Beyond Housing** - can Simon re-record a second video for this project? Due to COVID is not in the country

## **Albury/Thurgoona Community**

### **Community Collaboration**

### **Communications sub-group Update**

\*send the report around to the RSVP list.

## **4. Treasurers Report**

- Number of paid memberships - 7 paid memberships, welcome new members.
- Thank Narelle for sponsorship donation \$600 to keep regular expenses for the group.
- Membership fee remains at \$10 (Motion)
- Received Energy benefits funding from DELWP and Wodonga council community grant.
  
- Financial statements have been submitted KS has done bank statement, profit/loss, cash flow. 2018, 27 members down to 13 members. \$269 to \$1492 unspent grant money and donation.
- Full financial audit was not required as RAW Energy was under the threshold for audited accounts.

**Motion 3.1 – Kate proposes the statements be accepted as a true record of RAW Financial statements – second by Jenny, carried.**

**Motion 3.2 KS proposes that the membership remains \$10 - Second - Bobbi CARRIED**

## **5. RAW Energy – Next 12 months**

- What does our membership have interest in pursuing in local renewable energy activities in the next 12 months?
- What skills/interests do people have that they might contribute or get involved in?
  - RAW Energy made a submission to Helen Haines Community Renewable Energy review - NM interested in assisting with Preparing and writing reports as needed.
- Proposed activities from board members
  - Continuing work with social housing projects
  - FoodShare - opportunity to assist them with getting some solar panels on their new private premises. Investigating grant funding and then donations/community sponsorship. Partnership project.
  - 
  - Communications sub-group plans for next 12 months - JD and KS have been reviewing and updating RAW Energy website. Have added other groups and sense of wider networks. Desire to make the website a good 'working document' - other groups struggle to find information about community energy in one place. JD also involved with NERSA - North East Sustainability Alliance so links into other forums. KS would like to continue working on the

website to bring this forward to our local networks and link to our social media.

- Questions/Comments:
  - MD - can ALburyCity provide information to RAW about opportunities and information on NSW side? SM - yes happy to connect with RAW Energy and discuss.
  - Did RAW Energy put in a submission to federal Energy Roadmap? No (Strategic direction on technology and low emissions). Draft technology statement - put an action into review and would be interesting to provide a comment back when this comes out.
- Any other comments that people would like to see
  - BM - more social support projects, getting back to our 'roots
  - MD - second that, what else can we add to those projects to support people with climate variability and energy resilience. Use this 3 months to think about that. Renewable energy can support those outcomes.
  - MW - conscious of NSW side want to see more.
  - LR - involvement with ACF - also talked about relying on volunteers. With respect to incorporation - agree a lot of discussion and support needed and helped with retired person leading. Have worked a bit with Uniting Care - worked alot with social housing so supportive of people who are in constant energy stress.
  - PD - interested in AW becoming a micro-energy grid and seeing what RAW Energy does and where skills/knowledge can support.
  - BMartin - no capacity energy wise personally but interested in composting facility at Baranduda connecting to the grid - BM explained some background. MD - Also depends on the management practices are in place. Examples in WA of methane digesters (Gardening Australia on iview).
  - SM - happy to catch up with RAW and there are ALbury funding opportunities. AC working more with Wodonga council through two cities one community and talking more about community resilience.
  - JS - Interested in project in ALbury - not sure about skills but keen to support.

NSW Update: BM - NSW govt promised interest free loans for solar and solar and batteries. Have decided to run this as a 12 month trial in the Hunter region of NSW. Encourage people to make contact with your state member to roll this program out as part of community recovery efforts. Govt also running a pilot program around renewables on social housing in the Hunter region. There was a resolution through the local government - which has remained unanswered. Time for some advocacy on the NSW side?

We know Wodonga has one of the highest disconnection rate in VIC, what are the figures in NSW? Important role that RAW to consider is advocacy - might be an opportunity for RAW to consider with the "RAMJO" group of councils.

- Renewing our incorporated status
  - KS review of our incorporated status over next few months. ALL will take the time to reflect on

Recommend "Hiatus" from RAW Energy for 3 months then come back together, celebrate, learnings, taking a breather, come back together towards end of 2020.

***MOTION 4.1: PROPOSE RAW Energy enter a 3 month hiatus to investigate future projects, focus and if incorporation is still required then seek office bearers for 2021.***

***MOVED Bobbi***

***SECOND Michelle***

***VOTE Carried.***

***MOTION 4.2: PROPOSE RAW Energy renew its incorporated status (submission of financial report and payment of fee) including keeping membership at current rate of \$10 until determination of future activities (late 2020)***

***MOVED Kate***

***SECOND Bobbi***

***VOTE Carried***

## **6. RAW Energy Board - Office Bearers**

Notice: Bobbi McKibbin has formally tendered her resignation from the position of President of RAW Energy. Bobbi will continue to serve RAW Energy as a Board member. On behalf of the board we would like sincerely thank Bobbi for her dedication to our group, and in particular as a founding member and also your industry expertise has guided RAW Energy on a strong footing as an active supporter of our community in this area.

All thanked Bobbi for expertise and dedication.

RAW Energy Board, based on the discussion of future directions discussed in Item (4) Propose to declare no positions vacant or vote on board members until our October/November 2020 meeting.

### **2019/2020 Office Bearers**

- President – Bobbi McKibbin
- Vice President – Katrina Passey
- Secretary – Michelle Wilkinson
- Treasurer – Kate Sleeman

**MOTION 5.1: That RAW Energy delay its office bearer voting and suspend governance activities associated with incorporation until the October/November 2020 General meeting.**

**MOVED: Kate**

**SECOND: Jenny**

**VOTE: Carried.**

## **7. General Business**

LR - ACF group meeting with Susan Ley - focus and energy currently. We are looking to try and build more relationships with other groups in the area. Mutual connections through Alison Mitchell locally.

To connect with ACF head to the website <https://www.acf.org.au/> link will also be in Watchword and Ecoportal.

BM - Had a wonderful time being the RAW president and this next phase is a great opportunity to refocus on what we would like to do next and get back into networking. Community conversations is what RAW is all about. Looking forward to meeting everyone in person.

What happened with the Thurgoona community solar offering - it didn't get legs due to timing with Christmas and elections. WOuld like to do some more community projects like revenue raising for community buildings - keen to have those discussions again.

MW - also thank Bobbi for presidency - expertise and support! Narelle for Chairing and Kate and Jenny for the wonderful work on the website which is just looking great!

#### **8. Meeting close - NM declared meeting closed at 6:45pm**

Thank you everyone - we are looking forward to some more informal networking and refocusing on what gives us some joy and fun!