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NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED COUNCIL MEETING 8.00 am SATURDAY 21 May 2011 THE PAVILLION, NEMINGHA, TAMWORTH MINUTES

Present:

Rodney Tonkin (President), Ron Butler(LFFC), Radge Diakiw (SFR), Rod Dillon (SSFC), John Humphries (CCFC), Alan Izzard (BS), Andrew Matenson (PFGIA) Laurie Muldoon (NETAS,)Steven Newman (SFFC), Christopher Robertson(LFFC), Don Salter (LS)

Invited Guests:

Craig Watson, NSW Primary Industries; Brett Smith, NSW Primary Industries

1 WELCOME AND COMMENCEMENT

Rodney Tonkin welcomed delegates and invited guests and commenced the Meeting at 8.00am.

Apologies

Chris Beale, Josh Burns, Peter Gibson, Daryl Girling, Ben Hicks, Terry Maloney, Trevor MCKinnon, Ben Nieuwerth, John Robb, Steve Samuels, Karl Schaerf, Les Simshauser, Betty Williams, Tom Williams, Steve Williamson and David Wilson.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 19 February 2011 were adopted. (Diakiw/Humphries)

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 19 FEBRUARY 2011 MEETING

3.1 Angler Access Project update.

Christopher Robertson advised the Council that 4 Applications had been submitted to the Department of Lands another 4 sites have been drawn up for LPMA consideration (some of these applications are for salt water sites). Whilst there has been good progress there have been a number of difficulties particularly with some landowners however, these are being resolved and as more applications were processed the experience gained the application process was becoming more refined and easier.

Christopher Robertson also advised the Council that he had started developing a manual which will assist others including angling groups make applications for crown land reserves.

With regard to the implications of the native title claim on land including Paddy's Corner, Christopher Robertson advised the Council that he and Steve Samuels of MAS had discussed this matter and at this stage MAS did not consider it necessary for Christopher to get involved in the MAS application for trusteeship of Paddy's Corner.

3.2 Finance Committee update.

The Council agreed that this matter be referred to the Executive for consideration.

3.3 NSW Fishing Inquiry outcome of findings

The Council agreed that Radge Diakiw seek advice from ACoRF members on the outcome of ACoRF's deliberations on the Fishing Inquiry Report to assist NSWCFCA in developing a response to the Inquiry.

3.4 Funding Environmental Defenders Office actions

The Council agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

3.5 Murray Darling Basin developments

Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that he had written to the new Chair of the MDBA and also the MDB Inquiry secretariat. He also attended a forum in Orange and advised that Professor Parton was undertaking an economic evaluation of impacts of various levels of water diversion for environmental flows. At the forum Rodney Tonkin asked that the NSWCFCA be included in further consultations. The Council agreed that Rodney Tonkin ask Professor Parton to speak at the next AGM

Rodney Tonkin also advised that he was invited to participate in a teleconference on 28 May which will involve a number of key participants, including DPI officers and Terry Maloney, to discuss the possible implications of proposals of any plan to change water allocations in the Murray Darling Basin on recreational fishing. Further the economic assessment of recreational fishing in the basin will be reevaluated by Ernst and Young at a cost of about \$16,000 on behalf of fisher interests.

3.6 Salmonid Impacts on Natives – Where is the report?

The Council again noted that a report on the Impact of Salmonids on Native Fish undertaken by Wayne Fulton had not yet been released by the federal Minister, Mr Bourke although it had been with the Minister's department for some time. The Council agreed that Radge Diakiw write to the Minister asking that the final document be released as soon as possible.

3.7 Freshwater safety DVD

The Council noted that the Freshwater Safety DVD's were being distributed and that the DVD was also available on the website. The Council expressed its thanks to Peter Gibson and others involved in the preparation and distribution of the DVD.

3.8 Illegal religious fish stocking update

The Council noted the initiatives reported in the background papers and agreed to monitor the matter.

3.9 Aquatic Reserves report follow-up

Radge Diakiw advised the Council that he had consulted DPI and was advised that any plans to create aquatic reserves would need DPI support. The Council noted that Radge Diakiw would write to DPI seeking an assurance that NSWCFR be consulted if there were proposals to consider establishing Aquatic reserves.

3.10 Access assurance to water supply dams

Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that he had not yet been able to organise a meeting of the NSWCFR alone, or in conjunction with RFANSW, with the new Minister, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson. Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that he would also consult with Karl Schaerf on this matter.

3.11 Proposals for fishing licence changes to include Pensioners, minors and indigenous members of the community

The Council agreed to continue to seek a response on proposals to require pensioners, minors and indigenous members of the community, accepting that licence fees may differ for each group. The Council noted that such changes could help in efforts to incorporate an insurance scheme as part of the licence.

Att: Radge Diakiw

3.12 NSW fishing calendar

The Council noted the report in the background papers on this matter and agreed not to take further action. (John Humphries/Christopher Robertson)

4 REPORTS

4.1 NSWCFR Executive

Rodney Tonkin advised that there had not been an Executive Meeting since the last Council Meeting.

4.2 RFA-NSW.

Radge Diakiw advised that there was no report on RFA NSW activities since the last Council Meeting

4.3 Regional Reports

Radge Diakiw tabled the report from Region 2 (Sydney Region). Issues from other regions are detailed in the general minutes.

4.4 Treasurers Report

- **current statement adoption**

Don Salter talked to the Treasurers Report (previously circulated to delegates with the Background papers). Don Salter advised that the expected deficit of about \$2000 this year would be of the same order as the previous year's deficit and he looked forward to the Finance subcommittee addressing this continuing deficit. The Council adopted the Report. (Don Salter/John Humphries)

- **endorsement of accounts for payment**

The Council endorsed the quarterly payment of \$150 each to the President and Secretary

4.5 CFA Interclub Meeting

The Council noted the report provided in the background papers and congratulated John Humphries for running yet another very successful social and fundraising event. Further to the report John Humphries advised that the profit from the event was about \$1850 but a benefactor had donated a further \$1690. The Council asked John Humphries to pass on its deep gratitude to the benefactor. The Council agreed that John Humphries organise an interclub event for the second week in March of 2012 at Wallerawang

4.6 ACoRF and RFFTEC

The Council noted issues considered by ACoRF and RFFTEC included:

- advice that the recent blackwater fish kills were due to flows arising from serious flood events rather than environmental flow releases.
- The drawdown of Lake Mulwala over the winter period
- The possibility of an explosion of carp numbers as a result of the breaking of the drought.
- The CPI increases could warrant a licence fee increase of \$5.00 in October.
- An increase in funds available to the Freshwater Trust Fund to \$4.5 Million

4.7 Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee

The Council noted that Peter Ternell of the Department of Primary Industries had advised the Trout Allocation Committee that a meeting of the Hatchery Management Committee was imminent and would probably be held at Gaden. John Humphries noted that when he was last at Jindabyne he came across a tourist pamphlet which detailed activities and

points of interest in the Jindabyne area that was mute on recreational angling and on Gaden Hatchery and he would recommend that efforts be made to include these in future tourist pamphlets.

Att: John Humphries

4.8 Trout Allocation Committee Report

The Council noted the report prepared by Peter Gibson (See Background Papers) and thanked Peter for his work on the Committee. Noting that Peter Gibson had decided to step down from the Committee, the Council agreed that in future nominations would be called for the NSWCFCA representative on the Trout Allocation Committee and that nominations be decided at each Annual General Meeting of the Council.

4.9 Snowy Lakes Strategy Committee Report

Further to the short note in the Background Papers, Craig Watson advised the Council that the current approach appeared to be working well, with 150,000 rainbow trout being stocked to supplement wild recruitment. The fishery did not appear to be overstocked with no major problems being encountered.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Further to the letter sent to the new Minister (see background papers), Significant items of correspondence included:

- A letter from the Warrumbungle Shire Council rejecting a DII proposal to construct a Box Culvert over the Castlereagh River on Merryula Road
- A letter from SWAA advising that it would not be renewing its affiliation with the NSWCFCA (See Agenda Item XXX)

Other items are referred to in the Agenda Items

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1/2 TSR's and NPA Conference

The Council considered Items 6.1 and 6.2 together. Delegates noted that the National Parks Association (NPA) was convening a second TSR conference on 26 July in Orange and that Rodney Tonkin indicated that he would attend. The Council agreed that it would support the attendance of Christopher Robertson if he was not supported through the Access Project funds as the Council considered it an important aspect of access in NSW. Att: Rodney Tonkin, Christopher Robertson

6.3 Current and Future Interclub Events

John Humphries advised the Council that preliminary consideration had been given to organise a NSWCFCA Interclub event in the Snowy Mountains in addition to, rather than instead of, the annual Wallerawang event. The Council agreed that Steve Samuels be approached about the

possibility of organising an event earlier in the season noting that the 2012 Interclub event at Wallerawang had been scheduled for the second week in March (See Agenda Item 4.5).

6.4 Shooters and Fishers Party policy on:

- **bow hunting for carp**
Noting the Background paper, the Council decided that it would not support the Shooters and Fishers Party in their attempts to legalise bow hunting for carp. The Council agreed to invite Karl Schaerf to help in developing a formal NSWCFCA position on bow hunting for fish.
- **hunting in national parks**
Noting the Background paper, the Council decided not to involve itself in the debate on hunting in national parks unless it directly impacted on recreational anglers.

6.5 Name and shame

In line with the comment in the background papers, the Council agreed that the NSWCFCA approach the new Minister and again ask that the government adopt a name and shame policy and publish the names of fisheries offenders in media releases following successful prosecutions. The Council also agreed to seek the involvement of Peter Gibson in this initiative.

6.6 Fin clipping volunteers

Further to the Background Paper, the Council agreed that as well as publicising the call for fin clipping volunteers in the Freshwater Fisher, that delegates also publicise the request for volunteers within their organisations. The Council also accepted with thanks, the offer from Peter Gibson to establish an automated register of volunteers, in association with the Freshwater Fisher. Those on the register could then be contacted nearer the fin clipping date to determine whether they are available to participate.

6.7 Changes to declared trout waters and regulations

Further to the presentation by Craig Watson, the Council urged those interested to ask their Acclimatisation Societies for copies of the document which outlined some of the changes being proposed for the freshwater regulations review.

6.8 RFFTEC funds

Rodney Tonkin advised that he had written to Bruce Schumaker seeking information about RFFTEC funds but had not yet received a response. This item was deferred to a future meeting

6.9 Trout stocking information

In response to the request from Peter Gibson in the Background Paper, Craig Watson advised that he would investigate ways of putting fish stocking records on the DPI website

6.10 Keep Australia Fishing

Rodney Tonkin commended the report, which is available on the website at:

<http://www.tarfish.org/documents/Keep%20Australia%20Fishing%20Report%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

to all delegates and looked forward to its consideration leading to some Agenda Items at future Council Meetings.

6.11 Fish Habitat Network Report

The Council thanked Peter Gibson for his report on Network activities and his participation in the Network. The Council noted that Peter Gibson intended to step down as the NSWCFR representative to the Network. The Council agreed to accept Alan Izzard's offer to become the NSWCFR representative.

The Council also agreed that NSWCFR would also consult with the Department to help identify priorities for the NSWCFR to support in the future

6.12 Loss of SWAA

The Council noted with disappointment, a letter read out by Rodney Tonkin from Terry Maloney, Secretary of SWAA, advising that SWAA would not be renewing its affiliation with the NSWCFR for the coming year. The Council anticipated that it would have interactions with SWAA in the future and would investigate ways of freshwater recreational anglers having a united front when fostering the freshwater fishery in NSW.

6.13 Senior Personnel Fisheries

Craig Watson advised that the new that the new structure for Fisheries within the Dept. of Primary Industries was:

- **Dr Richard Sheldrake:** Director-General, NSW Primary Industries
- **George Davey:** Deputy Director-General, NSW Primary Industries
- **Dr Geoff Alan:** Principal Director, Fisheries
- **Andrew Goulstone:** Director, Commercial Fisheries - Responsible for commercial fisheries management and the commercial fisheries structural adjustment program.
- **Peter Turnell:** Director, Recreational Fisheries - Responsible for Recreational Fishing, Aboriginal Fishing, as well as commercial and recreational fisheries licensing.
- **Bill Talbot:** Director, Aquaculture, Conservation & Marine Parks - Responsible for Marine Protected Areas (including Marine Parks), and the fish habitat and threatened species programs.
- **Steve Kennelly:** Director, Fisheries Research

- **Glenn Tritton:** Director, Fisheries Compliance).

6.14 NETAS Changes

Laurie Muldoon advised that he was now Secretary of NETAS

7 PRESENTATION Craig Watson, DPI

Considerations for changes to declared trout waters and regulations

Further to the summary in the Background Papers, Craig Watson provided the Council with an overview of the process to review the recreational fishing rules. He advised that the Department had, with new technology, refined their maps of all trout waters and had been able to overlay stocking activities over recent years as well as to better identify sections of waterways where current boundaries between trout waters and other waters overlapped.

He noted that the catchment area of the 75 trout waterways, taking in tributaries and creeks covered 100's of 1000's of sq kms. He noted that some waterways had not been stocked in more than a decade, possibly because they were located in remote or inaccessible locations, had been affected by drought or that experience of acclimatisation societies suggested that stocking did not improve the fishery. He advised that except for some tail race fisheries trout stockings were generally conducted in waters above 600m.

Reviewing this information demonstrated the complexity of the current regime more clearly. In particular, trout could be encountered in waters having 5 classifications:

- Artificial Fly and lure waters
- Trout spawning streams
- General trout streams
- General trout dams
- Other waters

Anglers currently need to be aware of the different rules and be aware of where different sections of a waterway have different classifications and where the changeovers are. For example at the changeover between a general trout stream and general inland waters, 2 lines are permitted in general waters but only one rod and line is permitted in a general trout stream. As well, handlines are not permitted in trout streams. Furthermore in the closed season for trout, other species such as cod or bass, which anglers can target elsewhere, cannot be fished for in general trout streams.

The rationale for trout closures is also being reviewed. Currently, trout closures extend from mid-June to early October. The rationale being that such a closure protected spawning trout as historically brown trout spawned from late May to late July and rainbow trout spawned from August to early October. However, for a number of years now Dutton Hatchery has been selectively breeding rainbow

trout that spawn early (an approach used overseas). So in the New England area, rainbow trout have essentially finished spawning by the end of August. Selecting for early spawning rainbow trout gives the newly hatched trout more time to build up strength and better survive the hot summer conditions.

If in fact the prime reason for having a closed season for trout is to protect spawning trout there could be merit in allowing trout fishing in streams from September rather than October, particularly in New England. Furthermore there could also be a case for not having a closed season for trout in those parts of waterways where trout do not spawn successfully e.g. below tailrace fisheries.

There is also a lack of consistency in rules relating to spawning closures. For example all forms of angling are prohibited in trout closures on trout streams thus excluding fish for other species such as golden perch, eels or carp. Whereas in other waters subject to spawning closures e.g. cod or bass, other species can be fished for during the closure period. For instance, if a person wishes to take a cod in a general trout stream areas, s/he could not legally fish in the waterway between mid-June to the start of December because the Murray cod and trout spawning closures overlap i.e. fishing is prohibited for more than five and a half months in such areas. Whereas an angler could legally fish for trout all year round in a section of a stream subject to cod or bass closures, but not classified as a trout stream.

Consideration of these and other matters have resulted in a document that the Department has circulated to acclimatisation societies to seek their views on revision of trout rules and trout water boundaries. A separate process will develop a discussion paper that will allow the community to comment on proposals to change general fishing regulations however the acclimatisation societies are the primary source for consultation on trout matters. Craig Watson advised those wishing to view the document should contact their local Acclimatisation Society

The Council thanked Craig for an excellent and very informative presentation.

8 NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed that the Annual General Meeting and the August General meeting be held at the Penrith Regatta Centre at Penrith on Saturday 20 August 2011

CLOSE

Rodney Tonkin thanked participants and invited guests for contributing to the meeting and particularly thanked Charlotte Jenkins for her help in getting access to the venue. Rodney Tonkin then closed the meeting at 11.50 am

BASS SYDNEY REPORT TO NSWCEFA GM MAY 21st 2011

Riparian regeneration

Bass Sydney has successfully applied for permission to rehabilitate a section of Nepean R “River-Flat Eucalypt Forest” in Emu Plains, near Penrith. Penrith City Council (PCC) has gratefully given BS permission to regenerate a riparian zone which is also considered to be an Endangered Ecological Community. This is a long-term project which is estimated to take 5 – 10 years, if there’s an “end” at all.

For BS, this represents a change in our community and ecological work. The club has been involved in several bush regeneration, tree plantings, lantana removal projects over the last few years, always under the auspices of another group and on numerous sites. This time, BS with the assistance from PCC, has ownership of a long-term community-based project in the heartland of Sydney’s bass region. We will be able to see the results of our efforts over a long period of time and interact with other volunteer groups from the area who have already pledged their support.

Work is expected to start soon over this Winter.

Illegal Religious Fish Release

BS initiated contact with the NSW Buddhist Council (NSWBC) about a more centralized approach to this problem. Fisheries (I&I NSW) has also made contact with the NSWBC and will take over all further communications with them. This is mainly because the NSWBC would rather deal with a government body than a small group of bass fishos. There is no doubt they are against this practice on ecological and animal welfare grounds and with I&I, will disseminate information to the 110 Buddhist groups under their umbrella. However, they are a volunteer organisation and have no direct powers over their member groups.

Sydney Basin fishways

The 2010/2011 bass season is the first season since all the fishways on the Hawkesbury-Nepean have been rebuilt. Our BassCatches and a club outing to the upper reaches this season has already indicated that they are working, with catches of small bass in the upper reaches of the river.

**HS Tham
Bass Sydney**

GENERAL MEETING 21 MAY 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED 30 APRIL 2011

\$		\$	
(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	3 mths		YTD 10 mths
Income:			
Affiliation fees			
Central Acclimatisation Society		300	
South West Anglers		300	
NSW Rodfishers		300	
Monaro Acclimatisation Society		300	
ACT Flyfishers		126	
Illawarra Flyfishers		120	
Barrington Club Inc		111	
Lakeside Fly Fishing Club		97	
Big River Bass Club		67	
Canberra Anglers		61	
Central Coast Fly Rodders		54	
Bass Sydney		39	
Fly Fish Bathurst		35	
Professional Fishing Guides		31	
Anglers Action Group		30	
Mid North Coast Flyrodders		20	
OTAS		20	
The Lakes Club		13	
0		2,024	
Investment & Other income			
Term deposit interest (St George)		997	
Current account interest (Orange Cr Union)	1		3
Donations	100		100
101		3,124	
Expenditure:			
"Freshwater Fisher" monthly newsletter (Jul to Jan)	1,903		5,253
Meeting expenses	149		805
Postage & stationery	41		357
Insurance		264	
RFA affiliation		220	
Sony recorder (meetings)	179		179
Website expenses	189		189
Annual Return lodgement fee		48	
2,461		7,315	
Net deficit for period	(2,360)		(4,191)
(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 APL 2011			
Accumulated working funds:			
Balance b'fwd 1 Feb 2011, 1 Jul 2010	22,457		24,288
Net deficit for period	(2,360)		(4,191)
Balance c'fwd 30 Apl 2011	20,097		20,097
<i>Represented by:</i>			
Current assets			
St George Bank - Grants account	1		1
Orange Cr Union - current account	1,771		1,771
Investments			
St George Term Deposits:			
Maturing Sep 2012 @ 6.00%		10,059	10,059
Maturing Jun 2011 @ 6.00%		5,346	5,346
Maturing Aug 2011 @ 6.00%		5,216	5,216
20,621		20,621	
Orange Cr Union membership shares	10		10
Current liabilities			
Interclub receipts	(2,300)		(2,300)
Other	(6)		(6)
Net assets	20,097		20,097
DA Salter			
14 May 2011			