

New CFA Freshwater Fisher email

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**NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING – 15 NOVEMBER 2008
WOLLONGONG GOLF CLUB 151 CORRIMAL ST WOLLONGONG****Present**

Steve Samuels (President), Ron Croker (SB), Radge Diakiw (SFR), Craig Johnson (SB) Ben Nieuwerth, Don Salter (Lakeside), Karl Schaerf (CAS) Betty Williams (CAS) and Tom Williams (CAS)

Invited Guests:

Robert Brown, MLC Shooters Party.

1. Welcome and Commencement

Steve Samuels welcomed delegates and invited guests and commenced the meeting at 9.30am after the Council agreed to reorder the Agenda in light of the NSW Government proposing to sell off Gaden Hatchery in its November 08 minibudget and the small attendance at this Council Meeting.

Apologies

Ian Andrews, Chris Beale, Brian Dobbie Peter Gibson, Jim Gilchrist, Daryl Girling, John Humphries, Alan Izzard Peter Kelly, Terry Maloney, Terry Rowling, Rodney Tonkin (OTAS), Lofty Tottenham and Allan Wilcox.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 16 August 2008 were adopted after the minutes were amended to reflect that Brian Dobbie and Terry Rowlings were present at the August meeting.
(Diakiw/Schaerf)

3. GADEN HATCHERY UPDATE

Steve Samuels outlined the events as he understood them, following the release of the minibudget in which the NSW Government had indicated it proposed to sell off Gaden Hatchery. He alerted the Council to the press releases he had distributed and attempts he had made to discuss the proposal with members of the government. He also advised that Steve Whan, the member for Monaro had also initiated a campaign to stop the Gaden Hatchery from being sold off and that he had been involved with a number of joint initiatives including participation in a protest meeting at the Gaden Hatchery planned for Sunday 16 November. He also urged delegates to get as many people as they could to write to MP's ministers

and the Premier along the lines outlined in the NSWCFCA letter which was distributed to all delegates and interested parties. Steve Samuels thanked those within and outside the NSWCFCA who had helped He was especially appreciative of the efforts of the Alpine Angler in distributing the NSWCFCA letter to its 2,500 contacts.

Steve Samuels did however note that the NSWCFCA response to this crisis would have been better coordinated if the Council had procedures and strategies in place to forward its goals and to respond immediately to threatening/unexpected situations. The Council noted that Steve Samuels foreshadowed a review of the operations and activities of the Council and its Executive so that it would be better placed to respond.

The following motion was passed: "The Council opposes the decision to close Gaden Hatchery as contained in the mini budget and supports the actions to date and future actions taken by the Executive in relation to this matter. The Council endorses reasonable expenditure by the Executive in relation to this matter"
(Samuels/Schaerf)

4. GUEST SPEAKER – Robert Brown MLC, Shooters Party

Robert Brown detailed how the Shooters Party, with its 2 members in the Legislative Council, held the balance of power on a number of issues of importance to recreational anglers. He outlined many areas, particularly access and the protection of habitats, where the values of the Shooters Party were essentially the values of recreational anglers.

Robert Brown pointed out that the Shooters Party was not seeking election in the Legislative Assembly and that the Party saw its role as being able to influence the Government rather than forming a government. He emphasised that a vote for the Shooters Party in the Legislative Council still enabled a voter to vote for any political party they wished to form government in the Legislative Assembly. As a consequence, the voter essentially had 2 votes, one for the party they wished to form Government and another vote for a party that would use its influence for the benefit of groups such as recreational anglers.

Further, Robert Brown undertook to negotiate with the Government on the range of matters the NSWCFCA presented to the Shooters Party prior to the release of the minibudget. Robert Brown advised that he opposed the shut down of Gaden Hatchery and provided a copy of his speech to the Legislative Council in response to the minibudget in which he focused almost exclusively on the folly of closing Gaden Hatchery.

The Council thanked Robert Brown for an excellent presentation and his strong support and efforts in trying to keep Gaden Hatchery open.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 16 AUGUST 2008 MEETING

5.1 Meroo and Termeil Lakes.

The Council was not aware of any progress and deferred consideration to a future meeting..

5.2 Fence Stiles

S Samuels advised the Council that for logistical reasons, D McRae and A McBurnie had agreed that A McBurnie should sign off on the installation of the stiles so as to not delay their erection. The Council endorsed this approach.

5.3 Freshwater Safety DVD

The Council deferred discussion of this item until a future meeting.

5.4 Illegal Removal of Snags from Murray River

The Council noted the advice from Chris Beale (See Region 6 Report) and deferred discussion to a later meeting.

5.5 Political Party Interactions

S Samuels advised that he and R Diakiw met with Andrew Fraser, the Coalition Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and that the outcome of this meeting was sent to delegates on 26 September. S Samuels envisaged the NSWCFCA would become more politically active in the future, particularly in light of the Governments proposed closure of Gaden Hatchery.(See Agenda Item 3)

5.6 Access Conference

The Council deferred discussion of this item to a future meeting.

5.7 Proposed Sale of NSW Electricity Assets

The Council noted the Government had encountered difficulties in its proposal to sell off NSW Electricity assets and the Council agreed to keep a watching brief on the proposed sale.

5.8 RFA Future Leaders Project

R Diakiw advised the Council that calls for participation in the **New South Wales Young Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing** initiated by RFA NSW had been sent out to all delegates and urged member organisations to encourage their young members to apply. The Council expressed its great support for this project

5.9 Golden Gully.

The Council deferred discussion of this item to a future meeting.

6. REPORTS

6.1 NSW CFA Executive

No report.

6.2 RFA-NSW Report

No Report.

3.3 ACoRF

This ACoRF September 2008 meeting report was tabled on behalf of J Humphries:

Yass railway weir management project:

\$17000 was allocated to the Yass Landcare Group for willow removal & bank stabilisation with native tree species.

Habitat improvement in the Indi River:

\$9960 was allocated to Murray CMA for willow removal, stock management & native plant revegetation.

Status of stream frog populations on the Styx River catchment in the New England area:

9500 was allocated to Newcastle Uni for a study into the status of threatened stream frog species in the upper catchment of the Styx River on the New England Tablelands near sites where trout releases occur. This is a continuation of this project.

Enhancing Australian Bass populations in the Clarence River:

\$9960 over two years was granted to DPI Fisheries for enhancing bass populations in the Clarence River which involves tracking of their movement in relation to flow & barriers which will contribute to on going management of this species.

Restructure of the Wild Harvest Fisheries Branch.

Mr Doug Hocking is the Executive Director of fisheries, Compliance and Regional Relations.

The Wild Harvest Branch within DPI was recently restructured to ensure best service delivery.

A new Fisheries Operations Branch has been created and entails the following positions:

Peter Turnell, Director, Fisheries Relations,

Murray Spicer, Acting Manager Recreational Fisheries

People that we generally deal with.

Bryan van der Walt, Senior Manager, Recreational Fisheries

Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager – Inland.

5.4 RFFTEC

K Schaerf advised the Council that he expected significant debate about Gaden Hatchery at the forthcoming RFFTEC meeting.

5.5. Interclub Report

The report from J Humphries advised the Council that preparations were underway for the 2009 Interclub to again be held at the Black Gold Country Cabins at Wallerawang from 1 to 3 May 2009 and Ross Salvato has again agreed to be the prime sponsor. The report is available on the NSWCFCA website.

5.6 Freshwater Fisher

See Agenda Item 8.2.

5.7 Regional Reports

The following regional Reports were presented:

Region 2 Report – Nov 08

Bass Sydney is in negotiations with Steve Black of Maritime Services about a proposal to establish a water ski slalom course on the Hawkesbury/Nepean system above Windsor. I would like DPI Fisheries to become involved if they plan to go ahead.

Alan Izzard

Zone 5 Report – Nov 08

1 Lack of Inspectors in Central West - 1 resigned 2 on Annual Leave. The closest inspectors are in Yass or Dubbo. This is not good enough.

2 Trout Allocation went very well – a credit to all involved.

3 Still no result on Golden Gully.

4. Wyangla Dam - back waters camping. A fee is charged to stay overnight, what people are complaining about is there are no amenities, not even a pit toilet. Can we request State Parks to rectify this problem?

Tom Williams

Region 6 Report – Nov 08

Kananagee.

Last weekend the SWAA had our three monthly meeting and our guest speaker was ADAM VEY from DPI. Adam gave us a run down on the re snagging of the river at Corowa ,Some 411 snags were removed .However 411 were replaced by DPI, retagged, relocated etc in the Murray river and adjacent billabong and creek. This is a major win and we thank the DPI team involved.

We the SWAA view this as stage one complete; however we await the next step by the DPI .I hope DPI give a full run down to the NSWCFWA at this meeting

Rivers and Red Gums

More effort must be given to fight the VEAC proposals in Victoria as it will be a disaster right along the Murray if these recommendations get up. Already the NSW natural forest association web site is gearing up to push for the same in NSW. We must insure we will still have access to the Murray to fish.

Garden Hatchery

We will go along with whatever the meeting suggests, we agree far to important to lose for the sake of a few quick \$.

Lastly please accept our apologies for not attending this meeting. We are flat out with Harvest and can't get there Terry Maloney, Daryl Girling and Chris Beale
Regards Chris Beale

6.8 Treasurers Report

6.8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council adopted the financial report (See Attachment 1) tabled on behalf of R Tonkin.

6.8.2 Out of Pocket Expenses.

The Council endorsed the quarterly payment of out of pocket expenses of \$150 each to the Secretary and President.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Significant items of outgoing correspondence included:

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Redfin – NSWCFWA Approach.

The Council noted that VEAC had developed a policy on Redfin and that there was merit in NSWCFWA also having a policy. The Council considered that the most appropriate approach would be for the Executive to establish a working group to develop a draft for consideration at a future meeting.

8.2 Freshwater Fisher Funding Proposals.

Steve Samuels tabled an application he had submitted to fund the Freshwater Fisher through the Volunteer Grants Program 2008 managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Council agreed to defer consideration of other funding options for the Freshwater Fisher for a future meeting.

The Council, also noted advice from Steve Samuels that many organisations including State and Australian Government agencies offered grants which could help fund the Freshwater Fisher and other NSWCFAs initiatives and that a more focused effort should be made to identify and make use of these sources of funding.

8.4 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 – NSWCFAs submission.

Steve Samuels advised the Council, that after consultation with the Executive he had submitted comments on the title bill in September. He further advised that the Bill had since been passed with some amendments, such as the approach to criminal convictions, which went some way to address NSWCFAs concerns.

8.5 Locketts Crossing – Coolongolook River

The Council noted correspondence from Bill Spiers to RFFTEC supporting provision of fish passage at Locketts Crossing on the Coolongolook River. The Council noted that K Schaerf would seek to take Bill Spiers' place on a regional steering committee set up under the "Bringing Back the Fish" program to determine priorities for this and other projects within the Hunter Catchment Authorities region.

8.6 EHNV Research - NSWCFAs Involvement.

The Council endorsed a proposal from S Samuels to help develop a better understanding of the threat of Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (EHNV) to native fish species in the Murray Darling Basin. The Council agreed to encourage its members and others to provide samples of redfin, salmonoids, and goldfish caught in the Murray Darling Basin to Professor Richard Whittington at Sydney University. A number of sample kits containing instructions on how to collect, store and dispatch samples were distributed to attendees. Further sample kits are available from S Samuels.

8.7 Tallowa Dam

R Croker and C Johnson advised the Council that Southern Bass were participating in sampling studies aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the environmental flow and fish passage works around the dam wall and that work was progressing well.

9. CLOSE

S Samuels closed the meeting at 2.00 pm and thanked Southern Bass for organising the venue.

NEXT MEETING:

Kempsey, Saturday 21 February 2009.

NSWCFA Financial Statement for November 2008 **ATTACHMENT 1**
For the period 1 July to 22nd October 2008

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Membership fees			
NSWRF	300		
Sth Bass	66		
SWAA	300		
Bass Syd	27		
PFI/G	30		
OTAS	37		
MNCFR	23		
CSDAC	199		
IFF+SRF+BFF+CAS	699		
HNF+MAS	323		
CAA	75		
Scone	150		
Total	2229	2350	-121
Foundation Members	100	50	50
Interest	826	1200	-374
Raffles	72	100	-28
Inter Club Meet	-	2500	-
Total Income	3227	6200	
Expenditure			
Affiliation fees	200	200	0
Award	112	112	0
Bank Charges	55	150	95
Dept Fair Trading	45	45	0
Meeting Expenses	80	280	200
Postage & Stationary	257	260	3
Conference attendance	200	200	0
Telephone Allowance	600	1200	600
Insurance	-	168	-
Newsletter	-	4500	-
PO Box Rental	-	354	-
Website fees	-	240	-
Total Expenditure	1549	7709	
Net Surplus/Deficit	1678	-1509	
2088 Net Surplus		1507	

NB: The above statement has been compiled without having access to the August and October Bank Statements

Resolutions:

1. That the expenditure be approved
2. That the Newsletter be funded from accumulated funds when required.
- 3 That the St George Term Deposits be rolled over to best advantage.

Rodney Tonkin, Hon. Treasurer.

Abbreviations

ACoRF	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
BMNDAA	Blue Mountains and Nepean District Angling Association
BS	Bass Sydney
BRFC	Barooga Recreational Fishing Club
CAA	Canberra Anglers Association
CAS	Central Acclimatisation Society
CSDAC	Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs
CTAA	Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth)
DPI	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
DWLC	Department of Land & Water Conservation
FFB	Fly Fish Bathurst
FWA	Far West Anglers
GFFC	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club
HNF	Hunter Native Fish
IFF	Illawarra Fly Fishers
LS	Lakeside Fly Fishing Club
LHA	Leeton Hotel Anglers
MAS	Monaro Acclimatisation Society
MDBMC	Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council
MNCFR	Mid North Coast Fly Rodders
NCC	Nature Conservation Council
NETAS	New England Trout Acclimatisation Society
N&NWRA	North and North West Recreational Anglers
NSWCFA	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers
NSWRFS	NSW Rod Fishers' Society
OTAS	Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society
PFIGA	Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association
RFA-NSW	Recreational Fishing Alliance
RFFTEC	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
SB	Southern Bass Fishing Club
SCAC	Sydney Coarse Angling Club
SFR	Sydney Fly Rodders' Club
SFFC	Singleton Fly Fishing Club
SH	Snowy Hydro
SWAA	South West Anglers Association
WA	Wingham Anglers