

New CFA Freshwater Fisher email

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NEW SOUTH WALES COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES GREENWELLS CLUBROOM, GREENFIELD PARK ALMA STREET ALBURY SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

1 OPENING

Rodney Tonkin opened the meeting at 9.35 am, welcoming delegates and invited guests and thanking Des Waters (president) and Greenwells Fly Fishing Club for hosting this meeting.

Death of Bill Spiers

The Council, observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Bill Spiers a NSWCFCA President 2007-8, Hon. Secretary 2004-7, delegate, colleague and friend to many.

Present

Rodney Tonkin (President), Don Barton (BMNDAC), Sean Bowyer (GFFC), Rob Chick (GFFC), Radge Diakiw (SFR), John Hawkins (GFFC), John Humphries (CCFRC), Ben Nieuwerth (GFFC), John Robb (CCFRC), Don Salter (Lakeside) and Des Walters (GFFC)

Invited Guests:

Brian Boyle Game Council NSW, Cameron Westaway (DPI).

Visitors:

John Bowdren (SWAA), Lance Kottur (SWAA) and Marie Hoffmann

2 APOLOGIES

Josh Burns, Ron Butler, Rod Dillon, Terry Flanagan, Peter Gibson, Alan Izzard, Laurie Muldoon, Colin Henderson, Bill Johnston (MDBA), Steve Newman, Malcolm Poole (RFA), Christopher Robertson, Steve Samuels, David Screen, Les Simshauser, Hock - sook Tham, Steve Williamson and Dave Wilson.

3 MINUTES

The following changes were proposed to the draft Minutes of the General Meeting of 20 August 2011:

Agenda Item 1 - Present: Include **Don Barton (CAS)** and substitute **CCFRC** for **CCFC** after **John Humphries** and **John Robb**

Agenda Item 4.6: Substitute **PFIGA** for **PFGIA** in the final sentence 4.6 last paragraph.

Agenda Item 5.5 First sentence: Substitute **John Humphries advised that the Gaden Implementation Committee has not met since the last NSWCFR meeting** for **John Humphries advised that the Gaden Trout has not met since the last meeting**

Agenda Item 7.2 Delete the following 3 dot points which were mistakenly attributed to Cameron Westaway:

- The Bureau of Meteorology in consultation with Fisheries has improved website forecasts making it more relevant to anglers
- Maritime is investigating rescue support services for inland waters particularly alpine lakes
- Operation Icebreaker, a program where, this winter, Maritime investigated how well boats on alpine lakes were fitted out. The Council applauded this initiative and noted it was about time that something was done for boat owners who used boats on inland waters and paid owner registrations like other boat owners.

Agenda Item 7.2, 6th dot point. Delete the first **suggested** from the last sentence.

The Council endorsed the minutes as amended (Diakiw/Humphries).

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 20 AUGUST MEETING

4.1 Angler Access Project update.

A Power point presentation prepared by Christopher Robertson was made available for delegates to view during breaks in the meeting. Copies of the presentation are available from Radge Diakiw.

4.2 Salmonid Impacts on Natives

Radge Diakiw advised the Council that he was yet to seek a copy of the report on the Impact of Salmonids on Native Fish undertaken by Wayne Fulton from the Commonwealth but would do so.

Action: Radge Diakiw

4.3 MDB Plan

The Council noted that the draft MDB Plan would be officially released in late November 2011. In a recent teleconference, the Murray Darling Basin Recreational Fishing Council (MDBRFC) endorsed the appointment of Matt Barwick to replace Len Olyott to prepare a communication document which would be used in developing an angler response to the draft MDBA Plan. The MDBRFC has been associated with a recent study with the Victorian DPI, carried out by Ernst and Young which showed that the value of recreational fishing in the basin was of the order of \$1.3 billion. Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that the MDBRFC provided a forum for recreational anglers from a number of states to interact and make a concerted effort to improve the MDB fishery as a whole in the process of the proposed MDB proposed Plan.

4.4 Macquarie River water extraction

Don Barton advised the Council that he and Rodney Tonkin attended a meeting in Orange in mid – November, called to discuss a proposal to extract water from the Macquarie River above Burrendong to feed water into Orange town water supply. He advised that an Environmental Impact Statement was being prepared for release in March 2012 and it was expected that a decision as to whether to proceed after study of the EIS. Don Barton praised the efforts of the local anglers particularly Cat Smith from Sofala Fishing Club and Matt Hanson from Dubbo to alert those present of potential impacts on the fishery of such a project. The Council agreed that Don Barton and Rodney Tonkin advise the Executive of the implications of the EIS so as to enable the NSWCFCA to make a submission on this proposal.
(Humphries/Diakiw)

4.5 Freshwater Safety DVD distribution

The Council noted the report by Peter Gibson in the background papers. John Humphries reminded the Council that the impetus for developing this DVD was the tragic death of 2 NSWCFCA delegates on Lake Eucumbene in November 2004. The Council hoped that distribution of this DVD would help in preventing such deaths in the future.

5 REPORTS

5.1 NSWCFCA Executive

The Council acknowledged the minutes of the 13 October 2011 Executive Meeting (See Background Papers). In relation to these minutes Rodney Tonkin advised that, to his regret, CAS had resigned from the NSWCFCA and that the Executive were seeking a replacement representative for that region. He also reminded the Council that Jeff Baldock from Greenwells had accepted the nomination as vice president representing the south west region of NSW.

Further to the Executive minutes on:

- Farm Dams – Don Barton advised that he had prepared a draft for consideration that it will be circulated to delegates.
- The Native Fish Forum- Don Barton had also prepared a report on the native Fish Forum which will be circulated to delegates.
- The Government response to the Fishing Inquiry - Radge Diakiw advised the Council that Matthew Isaacs from the Ministers Office had advised that the Governments response would be released by 10 December 2012.
- Interaction between NSWCFCA and RFA NSW – Radge Diakiw advised that contact had been made and Don Barton advised that he and Steve Samuels were developing a roles / responsibility / interaction / expectations document to aid better interaction between affiliated groups within the NSWCFCA.

5.2 ACoRF and RFFTEC

John Humphries advised that RFFTEC had met last week and that ACoRF planned to meet on 29 November. The Council noted that at its recent meeting RFFTEC:

- approved habitat grants;
- noted reports on Murray Cod and the impact of recent black water releases; and
- noted reports on Bass stocking in Brogo Dam.

5.3 RFA-NSW.

Radge Diakiw advised that there was no formal report from RFA NSW but advised that Malcolm Poole (President) and Stan Konstantaris (Secretary) were in Queensland conducting the Future Leaders workshop.

5.4 Regional Reports

Radge Diakiw advised that only one written report (Sydney Region) had been received (see Attachment 1). Rodney Tonkin expressed his disappointment at the lack of regional reports and questioned continuing with them.

Ben Nieuwerth as a delegate to VRFISH advised that there were differences in state fishing regulations relating to trout particularly between NSW and Vic although trout could move freely across the borders. He questioned the merits of having such differences and urged that efforts be made to harmonise those regulations and so avoid the confusion to anglers caused by such differing requirements.

5.5 Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee

Further to the report in the Background Papers the Council expressed its concerns to Cameron Westaway that a meeting of the management committee was long overdue but there seemed to be no interest within the government/department to schedule a meeting. Cameron Westaway advised that the chair of ACoRF has written to the Minister seeking clarification on the funding of the hatchery. Hopefully a response will soon be available.

The Council also noted that Sam Crocker, manager of the hatchery was retiring. The Council asked Cameron Westaway to pass on the Council's best wishes and sincere appreciation to Sam Crocker for his commitment to and the excellent work he did in managing the hatchery.

5.6 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for Payment Approval

Further to the report in the Background Papers (and at Attachment 2 of these minutes), Don Salter advised that the total income for the first 4 months of the financial year was \$3371 and expenses were \$3080. He advised that he expected that the next major source of income would be the NSWCFIA interclub event in March 2012 and major expenses were the production of the Freshwater Fisher (about \$475 monthly), Insurance, and quarterly payments of \$150 each to the President and Secretary. Overall he anticipated a deficit of about \$2000 for the financial year 2011/2012. Don Salter moved the statement of accounts be accepted.

Salter/Barton

5.7 2012 Interclub event

John Humphries advised that plans for holding the 2012 Interclub Meet at Wallerawang on 9 to 11 March were progressing in line with the previous report to the Council.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

The Council noted the correspondence referred to in the background papers

- Minister's response on Bow hunting
- Minister's response on name & shame
- Minister's response on fishing license suggestions

and noted that Northern Rivers CMA correspondence on their action plan and a request for nomination of a contact person

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Withdrawal of CAS from NSWCFCA and other Office Bearers

Further to the sentiments of regret expressed by Rodney Tonkin again expressed regret (See Agenda Item 5.1) that CAS had resigned from the NSWCFCA. Rodney Tonkin also advised that the Executive had endorsed the filling of some of the unfilled positions from the August 2011 AGM. These were detailed in the Minutes of the Executive Meeting (see Background Papers)

7.2 MBD Recreational Fishing Council

Rodney Tonkin advised that a teleconference had taken place on Friday 18 November. The Council agreed to await the release of the Draft Plan before deciding on further action.

7.3 Decentralisation of Cronulla Fisheries Research Station

The Council noted that the Minister had stated there would be no net loss of fisheries staff as a result of the sale of Cronulla. However the Council was concerned that the sale might compromise the long term research activities and productivity of Fisheries. For this reason the Council agreed that Rodney Tonkin write to the Minister seeking assurances that the level of research and other activities carried out at the Cronulla site would not be diminished.

7.4 Murray Cod Fishery Management Group

Cameron Westaway advised that further to Agenda Item 7.2 of the August 2011 Meeting, the Murray Cod Fishery Management group had been formed. It is chaired by Peter Turnell (NSW Fisheries) and included angler representation (including Kevin McKinnon from SWAA) scientists and fisheries manager from all jurisdictions. Matt Barwick is its Executive Officer. The overall aim of this group is to improve the lot of Murray Cod by fostering a cohesive cross border approach to managing MurrayCod.

Among its activities the group is monitoring:

- information on cod spawning sites is being gathered from sites as far afield as the Qld border and Blowering Dam

- concerns about the survival of cod larvae – since the drought, murray cod have been spawning but SA is concerned that the expected cod recruitment did not occur.
- Vic and Qld studies on cod populations and fish take.

7.5 Fishing competitions

Members of the Council expressed concerns that many fish did not survive catch and release competitions where captured fish were put into tanks for extended periods, then measured at a later time and often released a great distance from where they were caught. Many considered that with modern technology it would be better to catch the fish, record its measurements, take a photograph or get the catch witnessed and then release the fish immediately.

Another concern was that many fishing competition organisers were unfairly exploiting the fishery by making a profit out of their competition but not putting any of that profit back into the fishery.

The Council agreed that John Bowdren (SWAA) and Rodney Tonkin write to Fisheries suggesting that proposals to:

- Require fish caught in catch and release fishing competitions be released as soon as possible; and
- A portion of profits made by fishing competition organisers be put back into maintaining the fishery.

If appropriate, such proposals could be canvassed in the upcoming bag and size limit review. The Council noted that any amendments made should then be incorporated in the Fisheries Code of Practice for Fishing Competitions
Attn: Rodney Tonkin

7.6 Sale of Electricity Generating Assets.

The Council agreed that Don Barton write to the Government, Opposition and the Shooters and Fishers Party seeking their support to ensure that anglers retain access and where possible achieve greater access to associated waters.

7.7 Angler Representation

The Council noted that groups representing recreational anglers were fragmented and that more effort should be made to towards getting greater cohesion. Ben Nieuwerth advised that VRFISH had, not without many difficulties, achieved a more unified angler voice than NSW. The Council noted that in the recent Fishing Inquiry the Shooters and Fishers Party had proposed something akin to the Game Council as a unified recreational angling voice. The Council agreed that the Executive should consider how to improve angler representation in the future.

7.8 NSWCFR Fishing Licence Policy

The Council noted that Rodney Tonkin would present a draft Policy on Recreational Fishing Licences for Council consideration at the next meeting.
Attn: Rodney Tonkin

8 GUEST SPEAKER: Brian Boyle CEO Game Council NSW

Brian Boyle provided an overview of the Game Council NSW proposal and talked to:

- **Information Paper - Proposal to allow bow fishing for carp in NSW and**
- **Game Council NSW submission to Legislative Council Select Committee on Recreational Fishing – Proposal to allow bowfishing for Carp**

Brian advised that of the 130,000 shooters in NSW there were more than 16,200 licenced game hunters through the NSW Game Council. He also advised that according to the NCIS statistics hunting was very safe - much safer than fishing.

Bowfishing in particular was safe and practiced all over the world, particularly in the USA. Bowfishing was legal in SA. In NSW bowfishing is legal in the open ocean under certain conditions.

The Game Council was seeking to legalise NSW bowfishing for carp in certain NSW waterways where carp are prevalent. Brian Boyle claimed that the practice of bowfishing made it highly unlikely that there would be accidental threats to other fish species, humans or other animals. His justification for this claim was:

- Carp would be the only fish targeted
- Bowfishing arrows are very heavy and have a range of not much more than 50metres.
- Bowfishing arrows are attached to a line (usually about 50 metres long)
- Fish need to be sighted before they can be shot at, which further restricts the range to not more than 20 metres. However in the large majority of cases the bowfishing range is between 5 and 10 metres.
- Because of the short range arrows are pointed ground wards rather than upwards
- Fish have to be at or near the surface to be targeted successfully as the arrows have an effective range of less than a metre in water.
- Because the fish have to be close and near the surface it is unlikely other fish species would be mistaken for carp

Brian Boyle also advised that Game Council proposal would seek that :

- Bowfishing only be undertaken in daylight hours
- Bowfishers be at least 50 metres away from other people

The Council thanked Brian Boyle for his excellent presentation and noted that the Secretary could provide copies of the above documents on request.

9 NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed that the next meeting be held in Region 3 (Goulburn) on Saturday 18 February 2012. Details of the venue will be provided at a later time.

CLOSE

Rodney Tonkin thanked delegates, invited guests and visitors for participating in the meeting. On behalf of the NSWCFA he also expressed his gratitude to Greenwells Fly Fishing Club for their generous hospitality and looked forward to conducting future meetings there. Rodney closed the meeting at 14 10.

Regional Report

BASS SYDNEY/SYDNEY REGION REPORT TO NSWCFR GM
NOVEMBER 2011

Riparian regeneration

Bass Sydney is continuing its monthly work on the stretch of the Nepean R at Emu Plains. So far, we have completed 5 work days at the site and has started some plantings of riparian vegetation. Our main problem continues to be the lack of tools. As reported in August, we are awaiting money from a Grant that we applied for before we can afford to buy some tools for our work.

Hawkesbury-Nepean Bass Catch October 15 & 16, 2011

Bass Sydney's October Bass Catch has been & gone. We enjoyed good weather and a average-to-good turnout with 32 fishers on the water over the weekend. 403 bass were landed and measured with an average size of 202mm (fork length). The largest were 3 bass of 360mm. No fish over 400mm this year which is unusual, but the results keep confirming good recruitment. Very few participants fished the upper reaches this time, but we have a lot of anecdotal evidence that the fishways revamped last year have been doing their job with reports of many fish and small fish in the upper reaches this season. These upper reaches used to be devoid of small fish.

One of the downsides of the proposed relocation of NSW Fisheries Research Centre at Cronulla is that the Angler Catch Database will be a casualty of the move.

Parramatta R Fishways

Bass Sydney has been working closely with Parramatta City Council on the fishways on the Parramatta R, with most of them being in the centre of Parramatta City. It has been a long process with numerous hurdles to overcome, but it is getting close to the end. We hope that the fishways will be allowed to work and that remnant populations of Australian Bass will, one day, thrive in this urban waterway.

HS Tham
Bass Sydney