

MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 1 MAY 2021

1.0 Meeting opened at 1.06

2.0 Attendance

S Samuels, R Whiteway, N Buckland, J Bray, J Killip, K Pfeiffer, P Smith, F Smith, P Batho, B Batho, J Miller, D Flinn, B Blair, G Barlin, G Verney, M Sawa.

3.0 Apologies.

D Collier, M Ogilvie.

4.0 Previous Minutes.

That the minutes as circulated be adopted, Bray/Barlin.

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.

5.1 In regard to 9.2 in the last minutes, concerns that unapproved waterworks on the Bobundara Creek were hindering recovery of flows in the stream, official inspections showed that a dam in question was within regulatory guidelines and unlikely on its own to be a factor in reduced flows. Other dams in the catchment were likely having a greater effect. Also failure of flows to recover to normal levels, despite better rainfall recently, is more likely to be a result of the ongoing effect of the recent drought and the effects of global warming. Nevertheless the seeming failure of compliance inspections to take adequate account of the effect of water developments on stream flows in the past, and with a warming climate, increases the need for organisations such as MAS to get involved in approval processes. Kerry Pfeiffer offered to identify the appropriate authorities and write to them requesting that we be notified of, and where necessary included in consultations on water projects requiring approval in our region.

5.2 Peter Batho has produced a template for an MAS card to be used for acknowledging births, deaths etc.

5.3 In regard to the lack of inspectors on the Monaro. Steve said that a team from SW NSW has been in the area and one of them is staying on.

6.0 Correspondence out

Submission from the President on behalf of the MAS to the proposed Strategic Plan for NSW Crown Lands. See General Business.

7.0 Correspondence in

8.0 Reports

Treasurers Report

Balance at 1 May 2021 \$10,645. The 20-21 Financial Report has gone to the auditors.

9.0 General Business

9.1 The President prepared and sent a comprehensive Submission on the proposed State Strategic Plan for NSW Crown Lands 2020. His main recommendations were:

- Clarify how competing opportunities will be handled
- Place as much recognition on rural lands as you have for urban
- Increase the recognition of social and environmental values for crown lands
- Expand tourism and include activities beyond show grounds and accommodation
- Commit to publishing of a comprehensive and accessible map of all crown lands in NSW
- Provide dedicated staff to service the needs of land managers
- Streamline the process for community groups and land current managers to add to their managed land portfolio for public benefit
- Expand the narrow view of community connections
- Commit to providing responsive and timely compliance action
- Commit to opening western division lands for the purpose of fishing
- Commit to providing a system where crown lands can be identified on the ground.

9.2 Kerry Pfeiffer brought the members up to date on feral horse developments. He was

disappointed that the Invasive Species Council, whom we thought that we had a working relationship with to form a common front against horses in the Park, had published a paper with photo of trout listed as an invasive species.

Government action has not been sufficient to reduce horse numbers

- Management plan still not released
- Damage in Currango area is increasing
- No remedial action taken to repair damage.

Kerry suggested broadening the letter writing campaign by angling groups, not mentioning trout explicitly but saying anglers have noticed the damage being done to the aquatic environment. Need to get Branches involved and develop a form letter. Meeting supported the broadening of action. Moved Samuels/Whiteway.

9.3 John Killip presented a report from 2 Cooma Branch members suggesting that because of climate change that we should consider reassessing where we stock fish. They have studied the Snowy river and believe that as a tail water fishery it would benefit from increased stockings. It was pointed out that substantial extra stockings have been made into the Snowy recently but that Cooma Branch could donate some of their fish to the Snowy and negotiate with other branches for extra fish.

9.4 The President outlined the recent successful stocking of 10,000 and 20,000 18-25 cm rainbows into Eucumbene and Jindabyne respectively by 15 anglers boats. It showed that the hatchery can grow out bigger fish, and successfully tested a distribution method.

9.5 At instigation of the MAS, Snowy Hydro spent \$1m on restructuring the Portal outlet at Providence Portal to stop silt from erosion entering the Eucumbene River. The new channel mimics a natural waterway.

9.6 President outlined progress on the grow-out facility. Lachlan Barnes a Snowy Hydro contractor has been engaged to develop a plan for the facility as well as addressing needs of native fish and a monitoring system. A basic concept plan should be ready for comment by MAS and Fisheries within 8 weeks. This will need to be agreed before development of an engineering plan.

9.7 There has been a restructure in Fisheries. Jim Harnwell has been appointed Project Leader Stocking and Fisheries Enhancement Operations replacing Cameron Westaway. We thank Cameron for his past work in this area and wish him well for the future. Jim has stated that he wishes to strengthen connection with the public. We need to think about what we want from Fisheries. Eg finishing access data base, dedicated research budget, better communication, representing anglers concerns across departmental lines.....any more?

9.8 There have been reports of loss of access to the Maclaughlin river above the Snowy Mountains Highway as a new owner has locked a gate. Secretary to investigate.

9.9 Bill Blair reported on CFA activities.

- Running Zoom meetings on fishway research
- Trying to facilitate work on angler access website
- Looking to appoint a Junior Vice President
- CFA have a website and are inviting input from the MAS.

Closed 2.50 pm

Next Meeting, Bidgee Lodge Cooma, 1pm Saturday, August 7, 2021