

MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 6 MAY 2023

1.0 Meeting opened at 1.11

2.0 Attendance

S Samuels, R Whiteway, D Collier, J Bray, J Killip, M Ogilvie, F Dunford, P Kilfoyle, B Blair.

3.0 Apologies.

P Smith, F Smith, G Wood, J Miller, G Verney, G Barlin, D Flinn, K Pfeiffer, M Sawa.

4.0 Previous Minutes.

That the minutes as circulated be adopted, Whiteway/Samuels.

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.

5.1 Initial meeting with Wedge Group Consultants who are undertaking the options investigation for the grow-out facility was held on Nov 29. Draft has now gone to Fisheries. Will be a recirculating system with water temperature maintained at 14-16 degrees and oxygenation available if required, fish grown in 3 tanks housed in 20 x 40 metre shed. There will be 4 header tanks with enough water to last 2-3 weeks. Water will be recirculated 3 times and jettisoned in a settlement treatment pond before release into the river. There may be money left over from the construction which could be donated to Fisheries to offset electricity costs.

5.2 Further issues have arisen in regard to the Anglers Reach boat ramp. The cultural and aboriginal heritage survey has been carried out, but now the department of planning wants an underwater geological survey undertaken. So further delays.

5.3 Work has commenced on upgrading tracks around Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne. Frying Pan and Middleing bank road have been done to waterline and Rushy Plains to the toilet block. Snowy Hydro is proceeding using their contribution but we are still awaiting release of the Government contribution. MAS has loaned the project \$600 to construct signs saying who is responsible for the work. Work still to be done on the Wainui, 7 Gates and Paddys Corner.

6.0 Correspondence out

7.0 Correspondence in

8.0 Treasurers Report As of the date 06/05/2023 the following are the bank balances of the different bank accounts we administer.

MAS, balance \$13,941.00 plus payment made for signage for "Keeping Trout Anglers on the Right Track" of \$546.92. Adjusted Balance \$14,487.92

Adaminaby Fishing Club "Anglers Reach Boat Ramp" balance \$30,812.80

MAS & Snowy Hydro "Keeping Trout Anglers on the Right Track". Balance \$27,000.00 minus cheque for \$546.92 for signage. Balance \$26,453.08.

9.0 General Business

9.1 The MAS extends their condolences to the family and friends of Ray Vickery who died recently. Ray was a stalwart of the Cooma Branch and the MAS. Ray was a passionate and keen fisher whose focus was always the fish and fisheries. He contributed strongly and straightforwardly to the Monaro/Snowy fishery that he loved so much, whether it was through stocking or involvement in policy development. Vale Ray

9.2 The President and Secretary(Steve and Rod) are attending the Stocking Allocation meeting}. Apart from stocking issues the meeting will consider and provide feedback on the first iteration of the Trout Strategy being developed by consultants.

Following this it will go out for public comment. Branches are encouraged to read the document and provide feedback either directly or through the MAS.

9.3 In relation to the restrictions on access to a traditional access and stocking site on the Maclaughlin river upstream from the Snowy Mountains Highway bridge, The Lands Department will contact the owner to make the gate trafficable. In addition the President found out that the Lands Department did not understand the way that the Enclosed Lands Act acted to define access on crown roads. Further meetings will be required between Fisheries, MAS, Lands Department and possibly the Police to try to regain access.

9.4 Murray Ogilvie from the Jindabyne Branch drew attention to illegal and unsavoury behaviour that is occurring on the spawning run fishing on the Eucumbene and Thredbo rivers leading to confrontations between anglers. It seems that the spawning run fishing draws many of the worst kind of angler. President and Secretary to raise with Fisheries for greater efforts by inspectors to ensure that there is greater adherence to angling etiquette and regulations governing fishing the spawning run.

9.5 Bill Blair reported on activities of the Council of Freshwater Anglers.

- Whether the proposed higher licence fees being mooted in New Zealand for visiting anglers contravenes CER arrangements
- Some TSR's are being closed without referral to recreational angling organisations
- Concerns about the explosion in Carp numbers.

Closed 2.35 pm

Next Meeting, Bidgee Lodge Cooma, 1pm Saturday, August 5, 2023