

MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 2 FEBRUARY 2019

1.0 Meeting opened at 1.46

2.0 Attendance

S Samuels, R Whiteway, G Barlin, N Buckland, D Collier, J Bray, P Batho, J Killip, K Pfeiffer, L Stapleton, B Hetherington, G Zatschler, M Sawa, P Bourne, S Sturgon.

3.0 Apologies.

D Ryrie, G Wood, F & P Smith D Flinn.

4.0 Previous Minutes.

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

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.

5.1 Kerry Pfeiffer made a presentation to the Invasive Species Council to put our arguments for reducing wild horse numbers in Kosciusko National Park and we are supporting their actions. Kerry made it clear that our support for the Council runs only to the removal of wild horses from the park, as we are aware that they also consider trout to be feral animals. A matter of joining forces to oppose the greater threat. Kerry also announced that in the week after the meeting the executive were taking the Monaro Shooters and Fishers party Candidate to the Currango creek area to view the horse damage.(this has taken place and will be reported at the next meeting).

5.2 Work on the production of a draft Trout Strategy by Fisheries continues to be slow and this highlights the need for a dedicated trout manager.

6.0 Correspondence out

Letter to branches with stocking forms attached. Please get these forms filled in and back to me if you have not already done so.

7.0 Correspondence in

8.0 Reports

Treasurers Report

As per the AGM minutes.

9.0 General Business

9.1 The President has held discussions with the NSW Fisheries access officer about what is required to get gazetted access to reserves on the Murrumbidgee and the Snowy rivers. If Council get control they could sell off roads and reserves. We need to talk to the Lands Department and will probably have to survey the roads. The Recreational Fishing Trust could fund this.

9.2 The President had discussions with 2 Councillors who cast dissenting votes on the decision to stock Lake Wallace and may have convinced them to change their position. One Councillor agreed to put a motion to Council.

If this fails there is a State Govt process funded by the Rec Fishing Trust to look at the risk to waterways by providing access. Results so far have shown low to moderate risk. (Since the meeting there has been a setback as the Nimmitabel Advancement Group have made their support for the stocking conditional on getting a new water treatment plant. Report next meeting.)

9.3 on the issue of access to the shore of Lake Eucumbene in the vicinity of Middlingbank the President has held discussions with Snowy Hydro about securing vehicle access to this property.

9.4 The exiting of the Thredbo River bike path through Gaden Hatchery has already created some management problems.

9.5 No Redfin have been found as yet in Lake Williams.

9.6 Gaden Hatchery suffered major fish losses of around 30,000 fish during a recent heat event when water in the Thredbo river reached 27 degrees on a number of consecutive days. There were also reports of dead fish in the Thredbo river at the Hatchery. Nearly a total loss of Brook Trout, nearly all the Rainbow brood stock and two thirds of the display fish and more browns than rainbows were lost. Hatchery staff have made an early release of lake fish in case of another event. We have asked the Hatchery to hold the remaining river fish as long as possible, but we should be prepared for the worst. If necessary I will pro-rata remaining fish across the branches.

9.7 The President advised that his term on the Ministers Advisory Council is due to end. The position will be advertised and he will reapply but suggests anyone with an interest should consider applying.

9.8 Members were reminded that there is an option for members attending CFA meetings to claim expenses. Members at the meeting also conferred on filling in a questionnaire from the CFA asking where they should be focussing attention.

Closed 3.35 pm