

MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 7 NOVEMBER 2020

1.0 Meeting opened at 1.20

2.0 Attendance

S Samuels, R Whiteway, J Bray, B Blair, G Barlin, P Batho, B Batho, P Smith, F Smith, J Miller.

3.0 Apologies.

M Sawa, D Flinn, D Collier, J Killop, N Buckland, C Rose.

4.0 Previous Minutes.

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

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.

5.1 From 5.2 Snowy Hydro have taken away from the Boconnoc property and given it to Buckendara Park, and a style will be put in. Also Middling Bank access is opened but users will need to close gate in and out.

6.0 Correspondence out

6.1 A submission from the President on the proposed State Strategic Plan for NSW Crown Lands 2020

6.2 Letter supporting funding of a Tube Fishway Project looking at a cost – effective and efficient way of allowing fish passage over mid-level barriers.

6.3 A letter supporting funding for a project for the development of a robust information base for recreational fisheries social and economic indicators

7.0 Correspondence in

7.1 An Email from Allistair McBurnie from NSW Fisheries alerting us to the fact that Snowy Monaro Council will be handed up to 70 Crown Reserves for Management. Many of these have water access issues and Council will have wide powers in how they deal with them including possible sale.

7.2 A range of correspondence initiated from the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council concerning the tardiness of the Minister and his office in dealing with recommendations of that Council, particularly concerning notification of successful applicants for Grants Funding. Minister and others have responded.

8.0 Reports

Treasurers Report The Treasurer was absent but reported that the bank balance at 30/10/2020 was, and I lost the piece of paper I wrote it on.

9.0 General Business

9.1 There has been a release of Macquarie Perch in the Murrumbidgee up and down from Bidgee Lodge. There will be no repercussions for trout fishing.

9.2 Control of 70 crown reserves has been given to Cooma Monaro Council. The Council have called for submissions about the value of the reserves to the community and how they should be managed. The Council will have the right to change the tenure of these reserves if it wishes eg could sell off. About 12 of these reserves have or provide access to waterways. We need to ensure that these stay in public hands or at the very least public access is retained whatever the tenure decision. If they sell off it is possible that we could demand some offset. We could also offer to take over management of reserves that are important for access. Need to seek input from branches in which these reserves are located.

Motion: In our submission State that as a last resort, given the importance of some reserves to anglers, MAS would be willing to negotiate with Council about becoming the trustee of some. Samuel/P Batho

9.3 The President is considering holding a series of workshops at the Lodge explaining our plans for a grow out facility and augmentation of water supply to Gaden Hatchery via a pump and pipeline from Lake Jindabyne using the \$5 million dollars from the Snowy 2 offset, and a possible \$6 million from Fisheries. Invite local business and business groups to increase their knowledge of MAS activities and benefits to the community.

Motion: The meeting supports the concept of the workshops,

9.4 A State Government initiative is to establish Special Activation Precincts and has set up a special activation team. The Cooma Monaro shire has been identified as one of these areas. In these areas there would be special rules for development reducing red tape primarily aimed at tourism. There was some discussion about whether this could lead to the lowering of environmental protections, but the meeting considered that if it was going ahead anyway then we should try to take advantage of it. The President is considering offering the grow out facility as it could reduce cost and time of the project.

Motion: That meeting supports investigation of using the SAP process to facilitate the grow out project Samuels/Bray

9.5 The temperature loggers have arrived and will go in soon.

9.6 Some concern was expressed that some access trails have been closed in the park because of the fires or Snowy 2. Will check and monitor.

Closed 2.35 pm

Next Meeting, Bidgee Lodge Cooma, 1pm Saturday, February 1, 2021