

AAT GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2011, Zeps Campbell Town

Present

Mike Stevens *AFTA*(Chair), Terry Byard *STLAA*(Vice Chair), John Broomby *Northern Clubs*, Michael Caminada *Indep Nth*, John Diggle *IFS*, Gary France *TGALT*, Alan Gordon *Break O'Day*, Peter Murphy, *TFFA*, Leroy Tirant *Indep NW*, Denis Edwards *Exec assistant*

Apologies

Stephen Bax *AFTA*, Norm Cribbin *STLAA*, Malcolm Crosse *TFFA*, Peter Maloney *DAC*

Minutes of last meeting

Motion: "to accept the Minutes of the meeting held 15 August 2010"

Moved: Mike Stevens Seconded: Terry Byard Carried

Matters arising

John Broomby queried status of Constitution - suggested changes to be sought .

Constitution available on AAT website www.anglersalliance.org.au

Financials

Mike Stevens explained that all the ATDP grant projects have been signed off & the final GST payments made. Current funding for the AAT is from the IFS, at \$2000 per month. Now that there is no longer a fully paid Executive Officer (who was also the Chairman) there is enough to pay all costs including the Executive Assistant and have a buffer remaining .

Terry Byard suggested that payment of GST on IFS payments be clarified and that ATO exemption or change to annual GST payments be explored.

Denis Edwards expressed thanks for Roger Butler's contribution as Treasurer during this period and that a letter of appreciation be sent.

AAT Executive changes

AAT recently advertised for a part time Executive Assistant to take over the day to day work. Denis Edwards - the former Southern Independent representative was the successful candidate.

With Denis being appointed it reduced the Executive to just two people - the Chairman, Mike Stevens and Terry Byard as Vice Chairman. It was decided at least two more people were needed to at least give AAT a more balanced structure. Current General Committee members, Gary France and Malcolm Crosse were approached to fill these positions until the AGM later in the year.

An advertisement has also been placed to attract a new Southern Representative.

IFAC report

Minutes of last IFAC meeting tabled. Denis Edwards gave a brief outline of rainfall predictions to 2100 of guest speaker J Bennetts study 'Climate Futures for Tasmania' and John Diggle explained the Ministers wish to restructure IFAC to be smaller, more skills based and to work closer with the IFS. John Broomby inquired about the process of appointing members and was informed that they are advertised and this is due in April 2011.

IFS report

John Diggle suggested some parameters for the "Southern Lagoon" dedicated fishery project ie, Crown land, good water flow and within an hour of Hobart. It would function in a similar way

to Four Springs.

Shannon Lagoon restoration was discussed and Mike Stevens explained that the turbidity issues could be easily solved by a modest increase in height of the dam wall. This would result in a top class fishery - bureaucratic 'naysayers' should not hinder the process. AAT and JD to meet with the Minister to discuss these projects.

IFS has purchased a "triploid vessel" from France which will give the IFS increased control, yields and capacity for producing triploid fish. These fish have better growth rates and so result in bigger fish. They will be stocked at waters with no/poor recruitment such as Four Springs, Penstock, Curries etc. Rainbows taken from wild stock have been successful and brown trout will be trialed this season.

"Big Brookies" were seen as an international marketing opportunity and Leroy Tirant knows of locals who have unwittingly exceeded the IGFA world record of 10 lb regularly.

Bream tournaments

Mike Stevens has unravelled the complex sponsorship agreement with Spirit of Tas and renegotiated an agreement for a further year of \$10,000. MS explained that the agreement is of little benefit to AAT - the AAT only being the intermediary for distributing the money for management fees and prizes. Terry Byard suggested that a better form of sponsorship could be negotiated eg a subsidy to interstate club members for cars with boats (presently about \$1800 return) that would benefit trout fishermen and tourism generally.

Irrigation Schemes

Terry Byard tabled a report on the following

Lakes

Sorell and Crescent -- Turbidity lowest since 2006. Review of WMP has stalled after getting under way in 2010.

Midlands -- Terry Byard tabled a report outlining AAT's submissions and the present state of play is that uncapped water rights on the Lake River remain unresolved, interest in water uptake is unknown and the date for outcome for the Strategic Assessment has not been announced. John Broomby expressed concern at the minimum drawdown levels and the real possibility of these being exceeded in times of drought.

Macquarie -- A brief report from Roger Butler was read. There have been three meetings so far on the scientific and hydrological studies. The next meeting is in March will address management issues such as --- Trigger point for irrigation takes is controlled by Hydro from levels at Trevallyn Dam which don't reflect the upstream levels -- need upstream monitoring stations to optimize pumping times, and reduce takes at lower levels. Possible scenarios are off river dams, and a large headwater dam above Tooms River to regulate flow.

South Esk -- Draft WMP is waiting approval. No date has been given for its release.

Clyde -- This scheme has been suspended due to a number of factors that include failure to remove uncapped water rights and poor uptake from irrigators.

Ringarooma and Ingles/Flowerdale -- AAT unable to get a representative on the WMP but are being informed through DPIPWE. A letter (previously emailed to the Committee) was tabled from Nerida Bleakley from DPIPWE, who is working on the draft WMP for these catchments, asking for the importance of these waters to anglers. Michael Caminada is the only reply so far. A chance for your say - please take it up - the irrigators will if we want. Suggested that AAT write to all NW clubs and licensed individuals.

Christys Creek

Letter tabled from Inspiring Place (Parks consultants) recording AAT's meeting with them regarding helicopter access. AAT opposed to any helicopter access except for emergencies. Mike Stevens said that the applicant is considering his position. AAT awaiting a reply from Martin Fieldhouse (Parks)
Gary France indicated that TGALT also opposed helicopter access.

MAST report

MAST report for inland waters tabled.

Anglers access

Report from Neil Morrow (IFS) tabled and well received.
Highlights are -- Western Lakes completed. Meander River almost complete. Lake Fergus walking track to start this year. Mersey to start this year and good contact has been established with Gunns that will open more sections of the river. Planning has commenced for Derwent and Tyenna projects.
Future possibilities are South Esk and St Patricks. Any suggestions for further projects are welcomed.
Application for Tas Community Grants (up to \$100,000) via AAT is under way.

Neil is in urgent need on feedback on any problems or maintenance requirements on existing access projects and would like to establish contact with any clubs or individuals willing to 'adopt an access' This will free his time and limited budget up for more productive new anglers access work. Please contact Denis Edwards dedw@bigpond.net.au and a contact list will be forward to Neil.

Red Jelly

Inquiries by Mike Stevens revealed \$40,000 of grant monies being "minded" by Red Jelly that was earmarked for projects such as webcams, Fishing Tasmania brand, AAT and Fishing Tasmania website upgrades etc. There are no outstanding liabilities for AAT.
Indicative budget costing needed for webcams so any left over monies can be re-allocated.

Payment for access

Letters from Peter Hayes tabled documenting request for payment per rod /day from the land owner of 'Kingston' on the Ben Lomond Rivulet. John Diggle suggested that IFS check title details and also ascertain if the payment request is illegal.

Brumbys Creek

Inquiry from Peter Hayes about Hydro flows, the use of the mitigating pond and increasing turbidity. The Hydro phone number on the Access brochure that gave predicted flows is no longer in service and Gary France indicated it would be very easy to get caught with sudden flows. Concern was also expressed at lack of flows during the proposed prolonged shutdown from Poatina.
Letter to Andrew Catchpole of Hydro needed .Copy to Minister?

Junior angling

Letter from Peter Maloney tabled telling of the overwhelming success of Devonport Anglers Club junior program and the difficulty of finding enough adults to run the program. Requested thoughts on running the program and their junior fishing information day days on the 23rd & 24th of July 2011.

It was suggested that a Fishcare co-ordinator talk to them, that monthly events are too regular and that events should be programmed to coincide with good fishing times. John Diggle said that additional funding to stock dams would be required.

Grants

A number of grants from \$10,000 to \$100,000 are available and suggestions for submissions are sought. Most of the grants have a closing date of 29 March 2011.

Contact data base

Needs updating and mailing addresses added.

Penstock Lagoon

Letter from Kingborough Anglers Association was tabled regarding the issue of using outboards on Penstock Lagoon. IFS to reply.

Bream research program

Leroy Tirant has requested details of the DAFF grant for this program. A letter was written to DAFF on the 14 Feb 2011 requesting details of the original grant, any variations and the final report.

General business

John Broomby requested more regular meetings. Mike Stevens explained the difficulty of the transition of Chair and it would be business as usual from now on.

Terry Byard reported that the Tarraleah Bronte Club is now the Bronte Brady Club.

Neil Morrow is unable to attend the IFS Liawenee trout weekend on the 21-22 May.

Terry Byard, Mike Stevens & Gary France volunteered to fill in.

Michael Caminada asked why there is no boat access on Lake Palooana. AAT to write to Hydro and ask if anglers can have access.

Allan Gordon reported the sad state of the Break O' Day River with low fish numbers and suspected sewerage runoff from treatment ponds. John Diggle agreed that it is a much changed river and a very complex problem. He sighted a number of factors influencing this including tench, eels, drought, mine runoff; sewerage runoff, recruitment failure, warming, agriculture runoff and a high cormorant population.

AAT to write a letter to Council & EPA (Alex Schak)

John Diggle tabled a paper on redundant regulations. Proposed stockings on under performing rivers can be seen on IFS website.

Peter Murphy reported a rainbow in Pine Tier Lagoon and suggested that the Nive, above the lagoon, would be a good rainbow water.

NEXT MEETING:

10am Sunday 29 May 2011. Zeps Campbell Town

ACTION LIST

ALL Constitution
Southern Lagoon
Ringarooma and Ingles/Flowerdale
Anglers access - suggestions and contacts for Neil Morrow
Grants - suggestions

MS Letter to Roger Butler

Shannon Lagoon restoration
Big Brookies
Christys Creek
Red Jelly washup
Brumbies Creek- letter to Hydro
Junior angling
Liawenee 21-22 May

- DE** GST
Ringarooma etc-contact clubs etc
Data base upgrade
Bream research program
Lake Paloona access
Break O' Day letters
- TB** Midlands irrigation
South Esk WMP
Liawenee 21-22 May
- IFS** Payment for access
Penstock Lagoon - reply to Kingborough Anglers
- GF** Liawenee 21-22 May
- LT** Big Brookies
- RB** Macquarie WMP