

Minutes of AAA Delegates' Meeting 21st November 2006 @ 1950hrs (7.50pm)

Bob Henderson addressed the Delegates, informing that personnel that normally sit in the chair have all resigned from the positions held, or were not available on the night.

Delegates were asked to fill the position for the interim to chair the meeting.

Pat Shinnick offered to fill in to try and get the meeting underway and discuss issues required to continue running the WA branch of the Australian Anglers Association Inc., All accepted his offer.

Present: Brian Walton Northern Districts AC, Terry Fuller Surf Casting and Angling Club, Jim Strong Denmark Angling Club, Rick Cameron Offshore AC South Coastal, Joe Horvath Offshore AC Beach, Martin Humbert Offshore AC Mt Barker, Don Cox Melville Amateur AC, Pat Shinnick Boating Sub Committee, Terry Bell Ocean Reef Angling Club, Rolly Buegge Ocean Reef Angling Club, Andy Cass Ocean Reef Angling Club & Chairperson of Boating Sub Committee, Bob Jones Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club.

Apologies:

Nick Allsworth, John Ward, Paul Frzop, George Holman, Surf Casting and Angling Club,

Notification of Proxies:

Due to the lack of information and lack of the "main" delegates attending Pat apologised to all that did attend and tried to explain some of the issues that had transpired to create this issue, of the resignation, this was reiterated by Bob Henderson.

To all please note the Post Script at the end of the minutes.

Minutes of Previous Delegates' Meeting

Minutes had been prepared by George Holman.

Moved Jim Strong **Seconded** Joe Horvath that the minutes of the previous meeting are true.
Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes.

Reiteration of the motion issues and voted on.

Correspondence Inwards.

Bob Henderson read the list.

By Post	In From	Subject		
ANZ		Sportstar Awards		
Outgoing Correspondence.				
Posted	Out To:-	Subject		
None				

Business Arising from Correspondence:-

Terry Fuller advised that the AAA emails were not being read, due to the lack of a Secretary.

Moved Jim Strong **seconded** Don Cox that inwards and outwards correspondence be accepted –carried.

Treasurers Report.

There was no treasurer's report as the treasurer did not attend and it was understood he was ill, but also that he had resigned due to the negativity to those who have worked so hard to keep the AAA afloat, and did not need the pressure imposed.

A meeting needed to be arranged to ensure that all payments etc had to be done.

Don Cox offered to take all monies and invoices from State Estuary to the ex Treasurer and sort out what needed to be done to get the financials back on track.

To all please note the Post Script at the end of the minutes.

It was noted by Terry Fuller that 1. the AAAWA email and website pre payments would soon fall due and if prepaid credit was not topped up and paid, would be disconnected.,

2 The Ricoh Photocopier, (not being used now) was costing \$175.88 per month for the lease and over \$40 per month for service agreement and needed to be either returned or payments made.

Delegates requested T Fuller to initiate an invoice for the email and website, and decided to return the copier and renew the contract when and if required. **Note.** The previous 5 year lease contract has been completed and is currently being extended month by month. If the photocopier is returned, it will not be available at the same lease rates in future, as the photocopier has been superseded by newer models, but still works well.

Accounts for payment are:-

Pay to	For	Amount \$		
Gwarda	Sports Track Suits (from Carnival Account)	308.00		
Ricoh	Photocopier	175.88		
Telstra	Account	17.89		
George Holman	Sundries, postage	89.00		
John Ward	State Estuary prizes	250.00		
Don Cox	State Estuary sundries	???		

Bank Account Balances.

General Account Westpac Bank	\$14,055.00
Carnival Account Westpac Bank	\$2,557.00

Inwards	For	Amount		

Business Arising from Treasurer's Report.

Payments had been authorised in previous meetings, but the bills being received showed that some payments had not been made Moved seconded that Treasurer's report be accepted and accounts be passed for payment - .

Estuary, Rock and Beach Report

Don Cox indicated that most things were ready for the State Estuary competition in late November. The agreed money of \$250 for advance for prizes had not been received so prizes would need to be paid for from out of money received for nominations, etc.

Boating Report.

A meeting of the boating subcommittee was held on Wednesday 15th of November, Pat Introduced the Chairperson of the boating Subcommittee in Andy Cass, Andy explained his position and thanked those on the committee, and Terry Bell also indicated that the Booklet was nearing completion, The MAAC and ORSSC were the predominant members of the subcommittee, with members from HYC, CPBA and the MOFSC, always in attendance.

Dry Casting Report.

Bob Henderson gave a report for the State Dry Casting which was held on 29th October at Yokine Reserve. Magic Nissan was the sponsor again.

Bob indicated that George Holman made two State Records on the day.

George Holman had declined to run the State Dry Casting due to allegations and insinuations and personal comments made in a personal letter to him from Kevin Hughes (who is a member of the Bunbury Angling Club) about George's actions and motives in the matter of the two changes to the rules, as recorded in the minutes of recent Delegates meetings. These rules were aimed 1. at providing the AAA WA with suitable rules to handle situations where an entrant in a AAA event does or has done unacceptable things, and 2. to define that selection of dry casting teams and team members will be based on MERIT.

As a result, the State dry casting event had to be run by other people. Bob Henderson stepped up and ran the day. Due to the hassles prior to the day, the computer operator did not attend, so there was no computer and the normal computer calculated results could not be provided on the day. There was no prior check of this and no back up person arranged.

Terry Fuller has his own portable computer equipment and printer and could normally have been available to take over, but had previously decided not to attend State Dry Casting. The letter to George Holman was a significant factor in that decision.

The scores were recorded and basic results calculated by hand on the day, everything was cross checked and verified as correct.

Later, arrangements were made for the results to be entered into the computer scoring system.

Unfortunately some of the records for the day were not inputted into the computer correctly. It was obvious from the computer generated results there were problems such as people appearing in two different teams and showing as a member of the wrong club. Some of these could be corrected relatively easily. The computer program has a weakness (if users are not familiar with it) where it does not list the individual competitor's results unless every event has a score entered. Since some scores were missing (in the computer), but the scores sheets from the day were not available; the problems could not be fixed. Up to the time of the Delegates' meeting, the score sheets had not been supplied, so results from the computer scoring system were incomplete and wrong and could not be copied and distributed.

There was no back up person to assist; Terry Bell offered his assistance for future events, and has taken the computer to reinstall the results for the electronic version.

National Championships.

A meeting of the Dry Casting subcommittee has been arranged for Monday 4th December at George Holman's to discuss travel, etc.

Notices of Motion.

Terry Fuller gave written notice of two separate motions on behalf of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.) to amend the AAAWA Constitution, the version as shown on the AAA WA website at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/DraftAAACConstitution.html>

Motion 1. Amend section 38 from "38. The presence of twelve delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice-President or General Secretary shall constitute a quorum."

to read:-

"38. The presence of eight delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice-President or General Secretary shall constitute a quorum."

End of Motion 1. (Section 38 refers to the monthly Delegates meetings.)

Motion 2.

Amend section 20. from "The presence of twelve delegates representing no less than six Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice President or the General Secretary shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Delegates Council meeting."

to read:-

"20. The presence of eight delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice President or the General Secretary shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Delegates Council meeting."

End of Motion 2. (Section 20 refers to the Annual General Meetings.)

Some explanations. *These explanations are not part of the motions.*

As many delegates know, the Australian Anglers Association has had low attendance at its meetings for many months over the last few years.

This means that there has not been a quorum present to make it possible for the Association to legally carry out its business, including making rules and paying bills.

One way to resolve this situation is to make two changes to the Constitution, one to reduce the number of delegates and clubs needed to form a quorum at the Delegates Meeting, so that it is much more likely that a quorum will be present at most meetings. The other change is to the numbers required for a quorum at the Annual General Meeting. At least one AGM has had to be rescheduled in recent years because of the lack of a quorum.

Although these reductions in numbers may seem undesirable, the reality is that not enough delegates and clubs attend to form a quorum at present, and this is extremely unlikely to change in the future.

The motions were seconded by Jim Strong.

Recfishwest Report.

Recfishwest AGM. The Recfishwest Annual General Meeting and election of Board members was held in late October. A new Board member from the Fishing Tackle Association, Ben Patrick, was elected to Recfishwest. The Charter Boat Owners Association representative Bruce Lockett has been invited to the Recfishwest Policy Development committee and will help with the development of Recfishwest policies.

Seminar on Marine Protected Areas. A two day Seminar was run by Recfish Australia in Brisbane. Recfish Australia and Recfishwest are two separate organisations but they are linked. That was attended by over 80 people from all around Australia.

The States have very different MPA systems for State waters, and some are much more advanced than others. With only a couple of exceptions (eg NSW who feel they have been really done over by the MPA's in that State) everyone agreed that:-

- MPA's will happen,
- They give benefits,
- They are for biodiversity conservations not for fisheries management,
- They are a complement to but are not a replacement for proper Fisheries Management - which is essential,
- Recreational fishermen must continue to be involved in the decisions,
- Conservation objectives can be obtained, and good recreational fishing access can remain if the process is done properly with the right information.
- Some MPA planning has not considered the social and economic impact.....

and lots more agreement about on working on MPA designs - not opposing as some people think is all that Recreational Peak Bodies ever do. In particular, the Commonwealth representatives made it VERY CLEAR that:-

"Government welcomes and actively supports the participation of the recreational fishing sector at key steps in the planning process, including through the formal statutory consultation on each draft plan. While establishing MPAs will have implications for recreational fishing access it need not be a negative relationship and significant opportunities exist for recreational fishing and MPAs to be mutually supportive."

There was lots of info provided at that seminar, and lots came out of the discussions. All proceedings and presentations will be put onto the Recfish Australia website <http://www.recfish.com.au/> as it is collated, starting with the presentations.

Informing Recreational Anglers about Commonwealth MPAs. Obviously, one of the topics covered in some detail was how to inform and involve recreational anglers about and in Marine Protected Area issues.

The sad fact is that most recreational anglers are not interested in getting informed and involved in things such as Fisheries Management and Marine Protected areas, and one challenge is how to get more of them involved and to present the information in several ways so that people can chose the amount of detail they want to absorb. Not surprisingly, lots more \$\$\$\$ and people (volunteers or employed) are required.

Recfish Australia has an agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage to facilitate the engagement of the fishing public on consultation for proposed MPAs in Commonwealth waters. This agreement runs to September 2007 and was drawn up to focus on the North and the South West regions.

A meeting was held 5 November during the Recfish Australia MPA Seminar between representatives of DEH, Recfish Australia and nominated liaison people from the States to discuss some of the details.

Although many details of how the activities will be resourced and carried out still have to be decided and documented and will need advice from the recreational fishing representatives, the principles of the proposals are generally acceptable. One principle strongly stated is DEH's intention to introduce the MPAs with least social and economic cost, so it needs to know what areas to avoid. Any issues from local State MPA activities should be kept separate from these Commonwealth activities.

New recreational limit on whaler sharks. The WA Dept of Fisheries issued a Media Release on 16 November 2006 <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=406> covering some restrictions on commercial shark fishing. Included was:- "...also noted that this maximum size limit would soon apply to recreational fishers for all whaler shark species taken south of Steep Point.

The new recreational size limit is expected to be in place in early 2007. It will equate to a bronze whaler of about 1.5 metres in length."

The media release indicates that commercial fishermen will have a maximum size limit only for dusky whaler sharks (commonly called Bronze whalers) whereas recreational fishermen will have a maximum size limit on **all** whaler sharks.

Information available to Recfishwest is that very few large sharks are caught and/or kept by recreational anglers, so a recreational ban will have little positive effect on the stocks. Recfishwest has previously written to the Minister for Fisheries with the opinion that the shark sustainability problem is completely the result of the commercial fisheries and the failure of the Department of Fisheries to change the management despite the sustainability concerns being expressed by many different organisations.

Recfish Australia recreational fishing awards. Western Australia received two of the five awards, and had several finalists. Category 2: best recreational enhancement project was won by Greg Jenkins' project - "Restocking the Blackwood River Estuary (WA)" with black bream through a stock assessment of black bream in the estuary. Recreational fishers were closely involved in the project. Category 3, Best project or initiative encouraging women & young people's participation in fishing was won by the Recfishwest Sunsmart Fishing Clinic Program. These Recfishwest initiated clinics have reached over 3,000 children in metropolitan and regional WA and have become an annual event. The clinic program encourages messages of sustainable fishing, respect for the marine environment and principles of catch and release. The clinics have been well received by the many local communities visited and have become a festival of fishing for many families.

Resignation of the Executive Director, Department of Fisheries. Peter Rogers has resigned from the Department of Fisheries on 15 November. Peter had a close association with Recfishwest and influenced many decisions which were favourable to recreational anglers.

Mackerel Management. Commercial mackerel fisheries were supposed to have tighter management from the beginning of January 2005. The changes were not introduced until January 2006. A number of commercial fishermen who formerly caught mackerel did not get licences and have appealed. The Department of Fisheries has been instructed to advertise and consider applications for additional licenses.

Recfishwest has concerns about the sustainability of the mackerel fishery and the equity and sharing of the catch with recreational anglers. Recfishwest has sought an urgent meeting with the Department of Fisheries for a briefing on how the Department intends to allocate and manage the commercial catch.

Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. Recfishwest has put in its comments on the proposed changes to this Marine Park. See <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubShoalwaterOct2006.htm>

Capes Marine Park. Submissions on the draft plan close 15 December. Recfishwest will have a draft of its comments in the near future. It is very important for recreational fishermen to say what they think about the proposals, particularly if they agree with them, or do not have any particular problems with them, because it is certain that some groups will demand that significantly larger areas are closed to fishing. Such demands need to be balanced by the usual silent majority who accept that the proposals are a balance between social impact and conservation outcomes.

Walpole Nornalup Marine Park and bream captures. The draft Walpole Nornalup marine park plan gave some information for the catches of bream in the inlets. Mark Halse who was on the community advisory committee objected to the publication of these figures, and the apparent excessive estimate, because no figures had never been provided to or discussed by the committee. Recfishwest checked with the Department of Fisheries researchers who provided a reduced catch estimate, however Recfishwest still has significant concerns about this because of the apparent large average weight used.

Unfortunately the figure is published in the management plan which has gone out for public comment, but there is no mention of the recent change in the recreational bag limit from 20 down to 8, or the State wide possession limit which will restrict the take of bream, so Recfishwest will be approaching the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure that any public comments based on those figures are properly interpreted.

Submarine cable fishing exclusion zone. Recfishwest is a member of the group working on the details of the exclusion zone around the optic fibre submarine cable which goes northwest from City Beach, then about 5 km offshore parallel to the coast to Mullaloo, then west. Recreational fishers targeting bottom-dwelling fish cannot anchor or use wire mainline or J-hooks above size 4/0 in waters beyond 500 metres from shore 1 nautical mile each side of the cable route.

Recreational Consultative Structures Report. Ross Winstanley's report into recreational consultative structures has been finalised and passed to the Minister for Fisheries. This reviews the structures and activities of both Recfishwest and the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee including how well they consult with recreational anglers in Western Australia and recommends how that should be carried out in future. This review was part of the election policy of the State labour government.

Jurien Bay Marine Park Community Advisory Committee. As a personal appointment, (nothing to do with Recfishwest,) I have been appointed to that committee and have attended the first two meetings. The role of the committee is to advise Department of Environment and Conservation about ongoing management of the Jurien Bay Marine Park.

Topics covered so far have included signage, research, fish kills in the Jurien Marina which although not part of the Marine Park, is the gateway to the Marine Park, the AAA State boating championships in March this year, zoning and compliance issues, education of recreational anglers, website publicity about all these, etc.

Report prepared by Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association.

Business Arising from RFW Report.

Terry Fuller answered several questions about the topics listed above. Most were just giving some more detail or explaining background.

General Business.

Discussions were had as to how we could get the AAA back on track. Of course this would not have been needed if both George Holman and Terry Fuller had not tried to have been the diplomats that they are, had not tried to keep information and action "in house", had not tried to respect the rights of an individual in the Surfcasting and Angling Club, and if they had been more definitive by advising all AAA clubs about all the actions that had happened and that were required at the 2005 National AAA Dry Casting Titles after the definitively documented issues that occurred due to the unacceptable outburst by a representative of the Surf Casting and Angling Club representing the Western Australian AAA Branch.

The Surf Casting and Angling Club committee was to decide disciplinary action on its member under its Constitution. However due to the actions of the then club President and the accused member's resignation from the Surf Casting and Angling Club before a decision, no disciplinary action could be taken by that Club.

The issue was left unresolved, and as expected by many, has returned to cause more disruption. Chas Riegert has now joined the Bunbury Angling Club and Kevin Hughes is supporting Chas's return to AAA WA activities as though nothing had ever happened.

Several dry casting members have said they will withdraw from National events if Chas is involved, (this is not what we want to hear).

Unfortunately this has taken its toll on both Terry Fuller and George Holman, and both volunteer stalwarts of the AAA and club members have decided that they do not want to be forced to spend their valuable personal volunteer time to resolve issues and deal with criticisms such as in the recent letter, and deal with strictly legal approaches to what should be friendly competitions and when all that is required are normal standards of socially acceptable behaviour.

Of course due to the positions that they both took and despite only being the voices of the AAAWA, they were deemed guilty by association, it would have not mattered who was in the executive positions they also would have been criticised

Both have pulled back at this stage from assisting in the running of the AAA, we need someone to fill their shoes please!

As similar incidents (albeit not abusive) had happened at the AAA State Boating Championships, those members had been banned from any AAA run event, till the club that the members belonged to had applied for the ban to be lifted after a nominated period imposed by the club and AAA boating Sub Committee, this does not mean that the members can not fish in their respective clubs events., and is controlled by that club.

Bob Henderson and Pat Shinnick will attempt to organise an executive meeting prior to the next AAA Delegates meeting to address financial and all correspondence issues.

Terry Fuller advised he has been waiting since August for a Secretary to take over AAAWA property. If there is no Secretary to take it over by late in December, he will pack up all the AAAWA property and he will place it in storage and send the account for the storage to AAAWA.

Meeting closed @ 2140hrs (9.40pm)

**Next Meeting Tuesday 19th December 2006, at WA Sports Association,
Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley.**

You are required to attend, there will be nibbles and refreshments supplied.

Post Script

A meeting was held and payments have been made

Mail picked up

Issues discussed to rectify future events and meetings

All correspondence to do with the cause and subsequent “demise” of the AAA till now has been copied and filed for all to see, as an independent person I feel that those that this personally effects need to come to a round table discussion and take the positive steps to rectify the issue and take the blame where it lays, what a pity it has got to this stage when a simple, decision could have stopped the childish antics of the perpetrator, not the friendly and diplomatic (which was not dictator style) way it was handled, causing disharmony, amongst many hard working club members of those effected., I applaud now those that backed me up when the decision was made on the AAA Boating Rules.

I will personally chair the meeting to rectify this issue.

Regards Pat Shinnick