



**VRFish – VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY  
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday 12 October 2007**

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**1. MEETING OPEN – Chairman**

*The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.*

**1.2 Minutes of the VRFish Board Meeting held 14 September 2007**

*BACKGROUND: Draft Minutes of the VRFish Board Meeting were circulated to Members.*

*OUTCOME: The draft Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.*

**1.3 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

*BACKGROUND: Board Members to raise issues arising from previous minutes and review the Action List.*

*OUTCOME: Grow Boating proposal is still outstanding.*

**1.4 Resignation**

*BACKGROUND: Bob Pearce, VRFish Chairman, submitted his resignation to the Board on 4 October 2007.*

*OUTCOME: Bob Pearce withdrew his resignation. Board accepted the withdrawal.*

**1.5 A Guide to lines of authority within VRFish operations**

*Discussion was held around 'a guide to lines of authority within VRFish operations' paper.*

- *The board discussed the background to the establishment of the paper, after pro-longed discussion the suggestions in the Guide will be reviewed along with any other feedback from State Council members.*

*OUTCOME: Guide to be reviewed along with SCM comments. The Board agreed that Staff report to the Chairman on matters of discipline. This point needs to be included in the governance guidelines.*

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*Report not tabled as discussion was focused on the abovementioned issue.*

**3. VRFISH OFFICE REPORT**

*Item to be removed, as it is superseded by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report to the 2007-2008 Business Plan.*

**4. BUSINESS PLAN**

**4.1 Progress report**

*BACKGROUND: Staff personal key performance indicators have now been signed-off. Please see attached progress report.*

*OUTCOME: Minor amendments to occur to the report. The Staff were congratulated for the production of the report.*

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee met on 9 October 2007 please refer to minutes.*

**5.1 2007/08 revised budget**

*BACKGROUND: Members of the Finance Committee have met with Robert Krix, to establish the change in funding allocation from the previous financial year. The Committee has put forward a paper suggesting changes to the budget.*

*POINTS OF DISCUSSION: The main proposal is a joint proposal with Boating Industry Association for a Project Officer to improve Victoria's boat launching facilities. BIA is yet to consider this proposal. Detail regarding the Project Officer's role needs to be developed.*

*OUTCOME: Project Officer to be the main consideration for the additional budget. Process to be managed by the Finance Committee, as per details outlined in the Finance Committee minutes.*

## **5.2 Other activity**

### **Revenue streams –**

*Sitting fees - It was recognised that many of the Committees that VRFish members participate on are paid sitting fees, a proposal that VRFish requests that these sitting fees be directed through the Office, to which VRFish would reimburse its Members.*

*Boat tickets – a proposal that VRFish investigates possibility of a single ticket valid at all of the Bayside ramps.*

*Recreational Fishing License – establishing a VRFish fishing license to be sold via the website, including adjoining States RFLs.*

*OUTCOME: These items to be discussed further by the Finance Committee.*

## **6. ACCESS COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Access Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting.*

### **6.1 River Parks**

*BACKGROUND: VRFish wrote to the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) seeking clarification on 'River Parks' and also to participate on the Native Fish Strategy Community Stakeholder Taskforce – to which there is no Victorian recreational fishing participants. This Taskforce will be progressing the development of the 'river parks' concept. "Any recommendation emerging from the Task Force will need to be considered by high level Committees, the Commission and Ministerial Council, in due course."*

*OUTCOME: Issue to be referred to Recfish Australia, expressing that NSW, QLD and SA be involved with this issue. A letter to be written to back to MDBC requesting that Victoria be represented on the Taskforce, matter also to be referred to the Minister.*

### **6.2 River Red Gum Investigation**

*BACKGROUND: VRFish finalised and made its submission to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) regarding the River Red Gum Investigation Draft Proposals Paper.*

*OUTCOME: That VRFish plan a meeting with VEAC to discuss our positions – working group to establish meeting attendees. Prior to this discuss VRFish's position with environmental groups e.g. Australian Environmental Foundation, to gauge supportable positions. If the meeting with VEAC fails, VRFish will investigate a process of dealing with Cabinet (after Christmas).*

### **6.3 Other activity**

#### **Werribee River –**

*Meeting outcomes have been produced by DSE. These outcomes did not identify a means to remove the fence. VRFish has responded to DSE regarding the draft recommendations, awaiting response.*

*OUTCOME: If the fence is not removed within the specified timeframe, VRFish will raise the issue with the appropriate Ministers.*

## **7. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Infrastructure Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting.*

### **7.1 Other Activity**

#### **Geelong City Council –**

*Some situations have occurred were the Council was not forthcoming in supporting some projects, but this situation has been rectified.*

#### **Boat Ramps -**

*Applications have been put to MSV for improvements to boat ramps.*

*VRFish Boat Ramp Report application has been put to MSV.*

*It appears that Torquay and Bastion Point boat ramps are being considered for improvements.*

#### **Fish Cleaning Tables –**

*A Project Manager should be appointed in the next few weeks to run the fish cleaning table's project.*

### **8. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Communications Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting.*

#### **8.1 Fishing Lines Magazine Launch**

*BACKGROUND: The Fishing Lines Magazine has been completed and published. As part of the promotion of the magazine, it was agreed to "launch" the magazine prior to the Fishing Show. The launch has been confirmed for 17 October 2007 @ Marine House.*

*POINTS OF DISCUSSION: The Committee will be targeting to produce another edition by March/April 2008, with the aim of producing the magazine quarterly in future years.*

*OUTCOME: Copies are to be handed out to State Council Members tomorrow to distribute through their networks. It is also to be sent out to a mailing list of 2,000. Remainder to be distributed at the Fishing Show, approach BIA and AFTA to distribute the magazine.*

#### **8.2 Website**

*BACKGROUND: Website proposal to be expanded.*

*OUTCOME: Noted.*

### **9. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Research and Development Committee met on 11 October 2007 please refer to minutes.*

#### **9.1 R&D Plan**

*BACKGROUND: The Committee held its first planning meeting for the development of the R&D Plan*

*OUTCOME: The Committee will develop a forum to communicate to researchers VRFish's key areas for research. It is recognised that the process for awarding funds toward researchers should go through a better 'checks and balance' process and that VRFish should be approached about the research. The Committee will aim to develop a R&D Plan prior to Christmas. The Committee identified a need to seek marine & estuarine expertise based members.*

### **10. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*BACKGROUND: The Water Resources Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting.*

#### **10.1 Lake Mokoan**

*BACKGROUND: Goulburn Murray Water has commenced draining Lake Mokoan. VRFish approached DSE in 2006 requesting that steps be taken to translocate the fish out of Lake Mokoan – nothing has been done. VRFish is extremely concerned that if something is not done now, there is a potential for a fish kill. GVAAC has made a submission outlining their direction for Lake Mokoan. Fisheries Victoria has identified suitable waters to translocate the fish to. Lake Mokoan is a 'world class' native fishery for golden perch.*

*OUTCOME: VRFish to put forward that the translocation of fish occurs as soon as possible at the cost of DSE. VRFish requests that another 'world class' fishery is developed.*

#### **10.2 Other activity**

##### **Review of Reservoirs –**

*VRFish has made a submission to Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, the process is continuing, initial feedback looks good for recreational fishers.*

##### **Drought Recovery Plan –**

*The Committee has met with Fisheries Victoria regarding a drought recovery plan. FV promised to release a draft for VRFish consideration two weeks away.*

##### **Fry Stocking –**

*Fisheries Victoria had excess 50,000 trout fry, VRFish was approached on potential waters. Awaiting outcome on the stockings.*

**Emerging issue at Lake Boga -**

*VRFish to put forward the position to Fisheries Victoria that a preferred contractors list be developed, in conjunction with VRFish, for registered fish contractors.*

**Committee Name –**

*That the Water Resources Committee be renamed to Water & Habitat Committee.*

## **11. STRATEGY**

### **11.1 AFTA / Round Table**

*BACKGROUND: It was agreed at the previous Board meeting that VRFish progress building a relationship with AFTA and Futurefish again. A meeting was held with Bill Classon on 4 October 2007. Also discussed at this meeting was the Round Table meetings.*

*OUTCOME: That VRFish participate in the Round Table Meetings (attendees to be identified at a later date) and eventually that VRFish take over the running of the Round Table Meetings which will then coincide with State Council Meetings – in a workshop format. VRFish needs to communicate its position on the Round Table Meetings to Fisheries Victoria and its Membership.*

### **11.2 Focus for November State Council Meeting**

*BACKGROUND: It was agreed at the previous Board meeting that a workshop on the trout policy be held. Originally it was discussed that this workshop be held next year; another topic identified was the Representation Model.*

*OUTCOME: It was agreed to do the Representation Model in the morning session during the State Council Meeting (invite Peter Appleford to present) and the Trout Policy Workshop in an afternoon session.*

### **11.3 Committee Membership**

*BACKGROUND: As the term of office is to end, it was thought prudent to review Committee Membership.*

*OUTCOME: Item to be tabled at the State Council Meeting.. New nomination forms to be circulated for membership to complete to gauge their areas of expertise.*

### **11.4 Rock Lobster Posts**

*BACKGROUND: The Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV) has requested that the State Council Meeting agenda item regarding rock lobster pots be removed from the agenda (see attached correspondence) as it is against SDFV Policy.*

*OUTCOME: The Board agreed that the item will not be removed from the agenda. The Board believes this a matter for SDFV to address.*

### **11.5 Port Phillip and Westernport Fishery Management Plan**

*BACKGROUND: It was noted that the nomination to the Steering Committee has changed. That Bob Pearce and Doug Evers-Buckland were replaced by Ron Lewis.*

*OUTCOME: Replacement nomination was accepted by the Board. Item to be included on the State Council Meeting agenda.*

## **12. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **12.1 Meeting Summary**

*BACKGROUND: The September 2007 VRFish Board draft meeting summary is provided for the Board's consideration.*

*OUTCOME: The Board accepted the draft meeting summary.*

### **12.2 Meeting Dates**

*BACKGROUND: The next State Council Meeting has been scheduled for 18 November. It is proposed that this meeting be moved to 24 November 2007 to be held at Victorian Game Fishing Association Club Rooms. Proposed meeting dates for 2008 – 1 March, 13 July, 12 October and 6 December.*

*OUTCOME: The Board approved the proposed meeting dates.*

### **12.3 Member Nominations**

*BACKGROUND: Current applications under consideration:*

*Darren O'Shannassy – Unaffiliated Member. Interviewed by Geoff Cramer 9 October 2007.*

*Lindsay Grenfell – Unaffiliated Member. Interviewed by Doug Evers-Buckland 8 October 2007.*

*Peter Hair – Unaffiliated Member. Interviewed by Franz Grasser 8 October 2007.*

*OUTCOME: Darren O'Shannassy and Peter Hair were approved by the Board. The Board was unable to reach a satisfactory outcome regarding Lindsay Grenfell's unaffiliated membership surrounding his recreational fishing expertise and has deferred its decision until the following Board meeting.*

#### **12.3.1 Note of thanks**

*BACKGROUND: There have been a lot of changes of delegates in the recent past and there is no formal process to recognise or thank them for their service to VRFish.*

*OUTCOME: The Board accepted the draft letter of thanks to retiring/past members.. A certificate of appreciation also to be developed for any members who have served longer than 5 years.*

### **12.4 VRFish Uniform**

*BACKGROUND: At the previous Board meeting it was agreed to source additional quotes for the VRFish uniform.*

*OUTCOME: VRFish to order brim-hats and caps. VRFish to approach Sun-Smart for a grant.*

### **12.5 Recfish Australia Membership**

*VRFish Board to consider potential nominees to participate on the Recfish Australia Board, if approached.*

### **12.6 Recreational Fishing Policy**

*VRFish to run a workshop to develop policy issues for Victorian recreational fishers to assist in developing a position to communicate to political parties. Workshop to be run in 2008.*

## **13. PRESENTATION- JOHN HARRISON, RECFISH AUSTRALIA**

*Mission - One voice promoting sustainable fishing and representing recreational fishers at a national level.*

*Strategic goals - 1: One voice, 2: Sustainability, 3: Communication & Promotion, 4: Policy Development, 5: Recreational fishing development, 6: Resources & Administration*

*Unity can work - Nationally one voice is essential, Representative organisation of FRDC, National people development program, Opportunities to work together, Learn from one and other, Vision – working together to maintain fishing as a key lifestyle for Australians*

*Items on the horizon – National Fishing Day, National Biennial Conference*

*Membership costs – 2008/09 will be reduced to \$550 to ease the burden on members*

*The Future - Secure funding base, Move resources from govt 300 v 15, Get new people involved in*

*advocacy – continue NGL, Finalise the resource sharing process, Look at tradable rights and the warts,*

*Wetlands – ramp up their value as habitat, Develop funding streams for R,D & E, Increase participation,*

*Partnerships – conservation, OceanWatch, boating industry, tourism, etc, Review National Policy on rec fishing (all Govts current signatories)*

**The Meeting closed at 5.30pm**

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