



**VRFish – VICTORIA
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY
Friday 14 September 2007**

1. MEETING OPEN – Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Minutes of the VRFish Board Meeting held 6 July 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: No issues arose from the previous minutes.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As it's an extraordinary meeting - no report tabled.

3. VRFISH OFFICE REPORT

Report tabled. A first step toward reporting against the business plan. It was requested that explanatory notes of acronyms be included. This also to be distributed to State Council and posted on the web to assist in reporting against the business plan.

4. BUSINESS PLAN

4.1 2007/2008 Business Plan – Corporate Key Indicators

BACKGROUND: At the last Board Meeting it was agreed that Corporate Key Indicators be developed for the staff to report against the progress of the 2007/2008 Business Plan. These have now been developed.

OUTCOME: The Board noted that the Business Plan progress reports will now be formed addressing the Corporate Key Indicators.

4.2 Performance Reviews

BACKGROUND: It was agreed at the last Board Meeting that performance reviews take place by the second week of August – reviews were completed on 20 August 2007.

OUTCOME: Outcomes of reviews were reported to the Board. Further follow up with the staff members will take place as a matter of priority.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

5.1 2007 Financials

BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee has reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 out-of-session and provides them to the Board for endorsement.

OUTCOME: The Board approved the 2007 financials. Clarification notes will be compiled for the Annual General Meeting. Minor changes need to be made in MYOB for identification of items.

5.2 2007 Financials

BACKGROUND: The final instalment figure has been provided and an invoice has been sent to the Department of Primary Industries, the final figure is an increase of \$80,000.

OUTCOME: That the Finance Committee meet to develop a revised budget. Meeting to be held with Robert Krix to double-check that the funding formula and to ensure that the funding stream is stable.

6. ACCESS COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND: The Access Committee met on 8 September 2007 please refer to minutes.

6.1 VEAC River Red Gum Forests Investigation

BACKGROUND: The Committee has met to form the response to the VEAC River Red Gum Forests Investigation, Draft Proposals Paper. A draft was provided for the Board's consideration.

OUTCOME: A summary of process, draft media release and template for a draft submission to the Investigation. A position on management is required. Board to provide comment on the draft submission. Access Committee to develop a Position Paper. A media release to be circulated to provide points for recreational fishers to put forward to VEAC and what they need to do – directing them to the VRFish website. Communications Committee to work up the media release. To be completed ASAP. Encourage Associations to make submissions. Position Paper to be circulated widely to Ministers and Politicians.

6.1.1 Draft MoU

BACKGROUND: The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia has approached VRFish and Field and Game (Vic) to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share information regarding the VEAC Investigations – draft provided for the Board's consideration.

OUTCOME: It was noted that recreational fishing issues will be different from Field & Game and the Sporting Shooters Association. The Board agreed that a MoU is not necessary to engage with these groups and share information.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

7.1 Boat Ramp Report Update

BACKGROUND: VRFish was unsuccessful in obtaining funding through the Federal Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Marine Safety Victoria (MSV) will be approached next.

OUTCOME: Discussions have been held with MSV regarding the concerns about the conditions of Victorian boat ramps. An application will be submitted to MSV. It was noted that the grant programme has become very restrictive – excluding small organisations. Involvement with other key stakeholders is required e.g. Boating Industry Association Victoria.

8. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND: The Communications Committee met on 3 August 2007 please refer to attached minutes.

8.1 Annual Report / Fishing Lines Magazine

BACKGROUND: The production of the Annual Report / Fishing Lines Magazine is progressing well.

OUTCOME: A launch for the magazine to be organised.

8.1.1 Fishing Show

BACKGROUND: The Fishing Show is scheduled for 25-28 October 2007. The magazine will be the main material provided at the VRFish stand. A give-away will be run to attract more people to our stand. A volunteer roster has been circulated.

OUTCOME: Noted.

8.1.2 Trade Mark

BACKGROUND: It was discussed some time ago about registering 'Fishing Lines', this process wound-down as it was considered that copyright would be sufficient. However the issue has come-up again. It is now suggested that 'Fishing Lines' be registered as a trade mark. The cost for a 10-year registration is \$450

OUTCOME: That VRFish registers 'Fishing Lines' as a trade mark.

8.2 Website

BACKGROUND: Staff have been discussing the revamp of the VRFish website to include the boat ramp report etc with Go4 Multimedia. A quote has been submitted – estimated to cost \$19,000. It has been suggested that VRFish should source funding from the FRAC regarding the revamp of the VRFish website and also MSV.

OUTCOME: Scope of project needs to be expanded. Further consideration of the quote is required – be rolled over to the next Board agenda. Cannot be decided upon until the budget has been finalized. Additional quotes for the project to be sourced.

9. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND: The Research and Development Committee have not met since the last Board Meeting.

9.1 Committee Membership

BACKGROUND: Geoff Hall and Ron Lewis form part of the Fisheries Victoria R&D Reference Group, to provide consistency between the VRFish R&D Committee and the Fisheries Victoria R&D Reference Group, that the current membership be expanded to include Geoff and Ron.

OUTCOME: It was noted that a lot of R&D Meetings are held during business hours, which limits or makes participation difficult. Expanding the Committee will assist in making these commitments. Board agreed to expand the Committee to include Geoff and Ron. Membership still requires further expansion.

9.2 Other Activity

Research Committee will meet during October to map the direction of R&D for recreational fisheries. This is to be discussed further at the next Board meeting. A key component to make this process work is gaining a project officer.

10. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

10.1 Fish Relocation and Recovery Protocol

BACKGROUND: A Meeting was held between Fisheries Victoria and Members of the Water Resources Committee regarding the update/review of the Protocol in September 2006. It was agreed that Fisheries Victoria would revise the Protocol and submit a draft to VRFish to review. Recent conversations with Fisheries Victoria have advised that they are working on developing a policy – but no timeframe has been promised.

OUTCOME: Peter Appleford has agreed to provide a draft for consideration in a week or two. A letter to be written to Fisheries Victoria expressing concern about not having this protocol in place before summer.

10.2 Review of Reservoirs

BACKGROUND: Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water has released a series of discussion papers detailing the proposed operating scenario for each of the assets following the completion of the pipeline. GWMWater are seeking public submissions on the proposed operating scenarios until 14 September. Delegates of the Water Resources Committee have put together a submission to GWMWater.

OUTCOME: Noted – submission posted on website.

10.3 Drought Contingency Plans

BACKGROUND: A Meeting was held between Fisheries Victoria and VRFish to discuss the stocking program and the drought contingency plan on 7 September 2007.

OUTCOME: Fisheries Victoria has revised their fish stocking policy to include maintaining fish stocks during the drought. A draft to be provided to VRFish to consider through State Council.

10.4 Other Activity

Lake Fyans, Tullaroop and Greenhill – Fisheries Victoria is going to facilitate a meeting with VRFish to try and build a better relationship with the water authorities.

OUTCOME: VRFish to write to Fisheries Victoria about progressing additional stockings at Lake Fyans, Tullaroop and Greenhill.

Paul Sinclair is moving on from Environment Victoria.

OUTCOME: VRFish to write to Paul wishing him well in his future endeavours.

11. STRATEGY

11.1 Victorian Fisheries Consultative Arrangements Review

BACKGROUND: Forums have been held on 8 August (Peak Bodies), 4 September (recreational), 6 September (commercial) and final to be held 18 September (FCC). Brief summaries have been circulated to State Council Members on the Forums. Draft Minutes from the 1st Forum is provided for the Board's information. A response is due on the draft Minutes from the 2nd Forum.

OUTCOME: A clear demonstration of all advice received has been considered and put forward. VRFish to progress building relationships with ATFA and Futurefish again. The Steering Group to continue with this process.

11.2 Native Title Agreement

BACKGROUND: A draft agreement between Latji Latji Native Title Group and the Mildura RSL Angling Club has been provided to the VRFish Board for support.

OUTCOME: There is a concern that if the MoU is signed it could exclude VRFish from participation in the Native Title processes. VRFish agreed that it could not sign the MoU. However local angling clubs can do so.

11.3 Round Table Meetings

BACKGROUND: In light of recent events, the Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria has decided to 'hand-over' the running of the Round Table Meetings to VRFish. In the mean-time individuals within the recreational sector have taken it upon themselves to keep the Round Table Meeting going without consulting VRFish. It is understood that the Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria wishes to put the Round Table meetings on hold until the Consultative Arrangements Review is complete.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board discusses its involvement with the Round Table Meetings.

OUTCOME: It was agreed that the next Round Table meeting has been postponed until later in the year. VRFish to run the next meeting to discuss the stakeholder consultation engagement arrangements and how groups should be involved. Needs to be an issues based forum. Steering Committee to have a preliminary meeting with AFTA to discuss a way forward.

11.4 Draft Petition – Launching Ramps Victoria

BACKGROUND: VRFish has been approached to conduct a petition on the substandard and/or lack of facilities of current launching ramps around Victoria.

OUTCOME: VRFish to respond and outline that VRFish supports the principles of the petition but it's not something that VRFish can undertake.

11.5 Trout Policy

BACKGROUND: Comments were sought from State Council Members on the Australian Trout Foundation's 'Trout Management Policy for Victorian Rivers' by the end of August 2007.

OUTCOME: It was noted that the trout regulations have at least two or three years until sunset. Need to work with Fisheries Victoria to establish at what are the steps that need to be undertaken to review the regulations. It seems appropriate to host a workshop next year. Outcomes of the workshop to feed into the VRFish Trout Policy.

11.6 Fisheries Regulations Review

BACKGROUND: Fisheries Victoria has provided a summary of recommendations that will be included in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). It is anticipated that the RIS will be released in late September, early October.

OUTCOME: Comments to be sourced from State Council when the RIS is released.

11.6.1 Recreational Snapper Fishery Management

BACKGROUND: VRFish recently commented on the draft Fisheries Notice to change the size and bag limit of snapper. The recommendations were to increase the size limit to 28cm. The bag limit of 10 to remain the same, but to limit a maximum of three fish above or equal to 40cm. There have been discussions that this change to 40cm should not have been supported.

OUTCOME: That VRFish recommends at the time of the RIS review that the limit be put back up to 50cm.

11.7 Port Phillip and Western Port Fishery Management Plan

BACKGROUND: Fisheries Victoria is forming a steering committee to develop the abovementioned and have called for two nominations from VRFish to participate. Three volunteers have registered – Bob Pearce, Doug Evers-Buckland and Franz Grasser.

OUTCOME: Considering the size of the area, three nominations to be put forward.

11.8 Governance Guidelines

BACKGROUND: An initial draft of the governance guidelines has been produced. An annual planning calendar and delegation process is still required to complete the documentation. However, confirmation that the guidelines is progressing on the 'right path' is required.

OUTCOME: Franz was congratulated for his efforts. Board to provide input to the draft within a week. Final to be tabled at the AGM.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Meeting Summary

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

OUTCOME: The Board approved the draft meeting summary. Office Report to be included with the Meeting Summary.

12.2 Member Nominations

BACKGROUND: Current applications under consideration:

Max Trist – Affiliated Member (Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron). Replacement Member for Matthew Ruffin.

Ben Nieuwerth – Affiliated Member (VRFish North East). Replacement Member for Norman Jones.

Ian Pickering – Affiliated Member (Association Geelong & District Angling Clubs). Replacement Member for Ron Cain.

Dale McCabe – Unaffiliated Member. Interviewed by Bob Pearce and Christopher Collins on 27 August 2007.

Tonia Stokes and Mick Jenkins – Kindred Interest Group (Fishcare Victoria)

OUTCOME: The Board approved the change of delegates and new members.

12.2.1 Kindred Interest Group

BACKGROUND: The possibility of the Fishing Charter Industry becoming a Kindred Interest Group Member has been discussed and not initiated in the past. Due to the stakeholder review, it is felt that it may be timely to reconsider this group's involvement.

OUTCOME: EO to establish if the Fishing Charter Industry is a properly constituted organisation. Once this has been established VRFish will take the next step to discuss membership with the Industry.

12.3 VRFish Uniform

BACKGROUND: It was requested at the last State Council Meeting that prices be sourced to print VRFish caps. Quote sourced is \$65 for set-up and \$15 per cap.

OUTCOME: Doug Evers-Buckland and John Hotchin to research floppy hats and shirts. F/U Pat Hutchinson also regarding his contact. Table costs at next Board meeting.

The Meeting closed at 4.30pm
