

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 16th July 2019.

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Ashling Hotel, Dublin.

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Connie Rochford, Tim Fenn, Gerald Quain, Bernadette Connolly, Sinead O'Brien, Dr. Tim Butter, David Wright, Derry Dillon, Brendan Fitzsimons, Denis Drennan, Martin McEnroe, Charles Stanley Smith, Keith Hyland, Thomas Harrington, Elaine McGoff and Liam Berney.

APOLOGIES

Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Ollan Herr, Barry Deane, Dominic Cronin, Thomas Cooney, Neil Walker, Kevin Ryan, Jean Rosney and Laurie Kearon

IN ATTENDANCE

Sharon Kennedy, Dr. Gretta McCarron and Donal Daly

Item		Details	Action
1.1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received.	Noted
1.2	Minutes of meeting held on the 28th May.	The draft minutes of meetings held on the 28 th May 2019 were noted and agreed.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	No matters arising.	Noted
2	Corporate Issues	<p>2.1 Update on staffing approvals and recruitment process. Tom Collins welcomed Dr. Gretta McCarron who is to take office with An Fóram as Communications and Education Lead. Gretta was welcomed to An Fóram and invited to outline her experience to-date. It was noted that Gretta will take up office in early August and further, that Dr. Alec Rolston will join An Fóram as Research Lead in mid August. The members welcomed the new staff members and wished them success in their roles. It was noted that the post of Technical Lead remains unfilled.</p> <p>2.2 To note Memorandum of Funding Agreement 2019</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>

		<p>Members noted the memorandum of funding agreement signed with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. It was noted that a further memorandum of understanding will be signed with Tipperary County Council in relation to administrative supports. Further update to be provided at the September meeting.</p> <p>2.3 To receive update on expenditure. Members noted the updated report outlining expenditure to date. A discussion took place with regard to the proposed budget for 2020.</p> <p>Corporate Governance Tom Collins advised the members in relation to a recent meeting which he, along with Sharon, attended in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to corporate governance issues for bodies under that departments aegis. It was noted that An Fóram has already complied with a number of the requirements and that a further report will be provided at the September meeting in relation to any outstanding issues.</p> <p>Office of the Planning Regulator Tom Collins also referred to a brief overview given at that meeting by Mr. Niall Cussen from the recently established Office of the Planning Regulator. The members noted the role of the OPR and it was agreed to arrange for a meeting with Mr. Cussen in order to gain a deeper understanding of his role and also any issues of relevance to An Fóram.</p> <p>Letters of thanks and congratulations. It was agreed to issue a note of congratulations to Jean Rosney following the birth of her baby daughter. It was agreed to issue a note of thanks to Cian O’Lionain in the DHPLG who was instrumental in the establishment of An Fóram and to wish him success in his new assignment within that Department.</p> <p>Temporary replacement It was agreed that Mr. Joe Gallagher will become a temporary member of An Fóram in place of Jean Rosney for the duration of Jean’s absence.</p>	
3	Updates from standing committees	<p>3.1 – Water Services Standing Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members noted the summaries in relation to meetings held on the 19th June and 26th June. • The members noted An Fóram’s submission to the CRU on their review of the WSP . <p>3.2 Catchment Management Standing Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members noted the summary of the Catchment Management Standing Committee meetings held on the 19th June and 26th June. • The members noted An Fóram’s submission on the review of the guide to Good Agriculture Practice in relation to the use of ammonia. 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The members noted An Fóram's submission in relation to the consultation process on the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Planning process. <p>The members discussed the efficacy of their submission and how same might be measured. It was agreed that work on drafting a proposal for a review of the effectiveness of submissions will commence with an update provided at the September meeting.</p>	
4.	Communications strategy	<p>Ms. Neasa Kane Fine (RPS) was welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that Neasa, alongside Gretta, will assist in process of drafting a Communications Strategy for An Fóram. Neasa outlined the issues that might typically be addressed in the communications strategy, having regard to the vision and objectives contained within An Fóram's Strategic Plan. These included objectives, audiences and key messages.</p> <p>The members considered the process for developing the plan and agreed that a focus session would be undertaken at the September meeting. In advance of same, Neasa will circulate issues/themes to be discussed so that the members will have an opportunity to consider same in advance of the meeting. A draft strategy will then be developed and presented to the members for their further consideration prior to finalisation.</p> <p>Members expressed their concerns with the current website and on-line forum and it was agreed that same can be reviewed and updated.</p>	Noted
5	Symposium 2020	<p>Tom Collins referred to agreement reached at the May meeting that our symposium would take place close to World Water Day in March 2020 and suggested a theme of 'Water quality in Ireland – the task of re-imagining the future'. It was agreed to establish a folder on the members forum to commence a discussion in relation to sub-themes and speakers and other arrangements.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a working group will advise and inform in relation to the symposium comprising of Sinead O'Brien, Denis Drennan, Elaine McGoff and Martin McEnroe.</p>	Agreed
6	AOB	<p>Sharon Kennedy provided an update to the members in relation to the role and work of the Water Advisory Body.</p> <p>Members discussed issues of concern relating to recent discharges from the Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant and it was agreed that an updated report will be requested from Irish Water in relation to progress on their work programme (water and waste water services). It was also agreed to review reports issued by the EPA and to place an item on the October agenda in relation to same.</p> <p>It was noted that An Fóram will be interacting with the DHPLG in relation to climate adaption planning.</p>	Noted Agreed
7	Next meeting	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting of An Fóram will take place on the 3rd September next in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin and that dates for the standing committees meetings will be set in the near future.</p>	Agreed

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins, Chairperson