



AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 3rd September 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, David Wright, Derry Dillon, Brendan Fitzsimons, Denis Drennan, Martin McEnroe, Charles Stanley Smith, Keith Hyland, Dr. Thomas Harrington, Elaine McGoff, Liam Berney, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Ollan Herr, Barry Deane, Dominic Cronin, Thomas Cooney, Neil Walker and Joe Gallagher.

APOLOGIES

Laurie Kearon and Dr. Tim Butter

IN ATTENDANCE

Sharon Kennedy and Dr. Alec Rolston

Item		Details	Action
1.1	Welcome and Apologies	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received. He welcomed Joe Gallagher (NFGWS) who is the Rural Water nominee replacing Jean Rosney who is currently on maternity leave.</p> <p>It was noted that we currently have vacancies representing the social housing sector and the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Tom Collins also welcomed Dr. Alec Rolston and congratulated him on his appointment as Research Lead with An Fóram. Alec was invited to outline his experience to date.</p>	Noted
1.2	Minutes of meeting held on the 16th July 2019	<p>The draft minutes of meetings held on the 16th July 2019 were noted and agreed.</p>	Agreed

1.3	Matters arising	No matters arising.	Noted
2	Corporate Issues	<p>2.1 To receive update on expenditure. Members noted the updated report outlining expenditure to date.</p> <p>2.2 Corporate Governance Sharon Kennedy updated the meeting with regard to progress in relation to corporate governance. It was agreed that a further update will be provided at the October meeting.</p> <p>2.3 Website update It was noted that Gretta McCarron has commenced with work in relation to updating and improving the website and members on-line forum. Gretta will provide a further update, together with proposals, at the October meeting. Included in same will be recommendations with regard to increasing the profile of An Fóram’s submissions and if possible, their impacts/outcomes.</p> <p>2.4 Arrangements for symposium March 2020 Alec Rolston outlined a list of potential topics and speakers in line with the themes previously suggested by the Members. It was agreed to further progress proposals in consultation with the focus group established.</p> <p>2.5 To receive summary report on study trip to Bristol re: Rivers Trusts A review of the work study and learning from same which had been submitted by Dr. Thomas Harrington had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Thomas was invited to speak with regard to the trip and learnings in relation to same. The members thanked Thomas for his insights and it was agreed to further develop considerations in relation to this matter.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>
3	Updates from standing committees	<p>3.1 – Water Services Standing Committee The members noted the summary note of the special focus meeting held on the 29th August which was in relation to the CRU’s review of Irish Water’s RC3 for the period 2020 to 2024 and included a briefing from the CRU and also details of advise received from Ms. Nelly Maublanc.</p> <p>The members also noted the draft submission to the CRU on this consultation which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following detailed discussions in relation to this item, it was agreed to make a number of amendments to the draft and to circulate same to the members by Friday with a view to finalising same in time for submission by the end of the following week, if possible.</p> <p>Catchment Standing Committee A discussion took place with regard to an integrated wetlands project which is being managed by Mr. Rory Harrington. It was agreed that a visit to same would be beneficial for the members of the committee and other members of An Fóram might also wish to</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>

		attend. It was agreed that contact will be made with Rory Harrington with a view to arranging a study visit, most likely in November.	
4.	Climate adaption planning	<p>Tom Collins welcomed David Flynn, Deirdre Dunworth and Graham McGovern from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. David has recently been appointed at the Principal Advisor within the Water Policy section. David presented on the department's draft Climate Sectoral Adaptation Plan – Water Quality and Water Services, outlining the main areas to be included in the plan. Following the presentation, the members raised a series of queries in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation processes, • work specific aims and measures, • timelines, specific responsibilities, • reporting arrangements, • impact in relation to the current and next River Basin Management Plan, integration with other sectoral plans • arrangements in relation to the provisions relating to water protection through the Planning Guidelines and the role of local authorities in relation to same; • water abstraction legislation; <p>It was agreed that An Fóram would write to the Department summarising the issues raised and that future engagements can be arranged in due course.</p> <p>David also referred to arrangements in relation to the development of the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan and in particular consultation in relation to the 'Significant water management issues for Ireland'. It was agreed that a pre-consultation briefing would be arranged for members during September.</p>	
5.	Communications strategy	<p>After lunchtime, Barry Deane chaired the meeting in Tom Collins absence. Barry referred to a decision taken at the July meeting regarding a workshop for members to focus on the development of a communications strategy and which will be lead by Neasa Kane Fine and Gretta McCarron. Barry then welcomed Neasa and her colleague Aideen Finn to the meeting . Neasa referred to a document which had been circulated to the members with regard to a number of communication issues and themes and advised that the purpose of today's workshop was to focus on same with a view to defining the issues and concerns which the members wished to have included within the draft strategy.</p> <p>The members then engaged in the workshop, addressing and giving feedback in relation to a number of themes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose of Communications in the context of An Fóram's overall strategy; 	Agreed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the categories of audiences; • the nature and priority of messages and; • the methods of communications. <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, Barry thanked the members and Neasa and Aideen for this input. It was noted that a draft strategy will be developed and further consideration will be given to same at the October meeting.</p>	
6	AOB and Arrangements for future meetings.	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting of An Fóram will take place on the 22nd October next in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin, if available (to note that this date has been changed from the previously advised date of the 15th October).</p> <p>It was also agreed to convene meetings of the Catchment Management Committee and the Water Services Standing Committee for the 24th September. The CMSC taking place in the morning and if possible, accommodating engagement in relation to the 3rd cycle RBMP and SWMII with the Water Services Standing Committee taking place in the afternoon.</p>	Agreed

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins, Chairperson