

MEETING NO. 7

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 20th February 2018

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Kevin Ryan , Jean Rosney, Dr. Tim Butter, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Neil Walker, Denis Drennan, Thomas Cooney, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley Smith, Dr. Thomas Harrington, , Gerald Quain, Sinead O'Brien and Martin McEnroe.

APO LOGIES

Mindy O'Brien, Michael Spellman, Keith Hyland, Derry Dillon, David Wright, Brendan Fitzsimons, Francis O'Donnell, Tim Fenn, Jonathan Small and Liam Berney

IN ATTENDANCE

Sharon Kennedy (NWF)

Item		Details	Action
1.1	Welcome and Apologies	Tom Collins welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received. Denis Drennan representing the ICMSA was welcomed to An Fóram. Denis is replacing Patrick Rohan.	Noted
1.2	Consideration of draft minutes of meeting no. 6 held on the 9th January 2017.	The draft minutes were noted and agreed.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	It was agreed that arrangements will be put in place for the April meeting to have the OPW present on their flood protection projects.	Invite OPW to next meeting of An Fóram.
1.4	To note submission on Irish Waters National Water	The submission made by An Fóram in relation to the NWRP, which had been circulated, was noted.	Noted.

	Resource Plan		
1.5	To note submission the EPA National Inspection Plan	The submission made by An Fóram in relation to the EPA National Inspection Plan, which had been circulated, was noted.	Noted
1.6	To receive update on the Nitrates Action Programme. programme for 2018	It was noted that the EU has granted the derogation in relation to the nitrates action programme. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that a representative from the Department of Agriculture would be invited to address the April meeting of An Fóram.	Noted. Agenda item for the April 2018 meeting.
1.7	DKIT report	This item was taken in the afternoon. Following Dr. Alec Rolston's presentation at the January meeting in relation to DKITs review, it was noted that no further comments or observations had been received. Accordingly, it was agreed to conclude this report and present the findings to Irish Water. It was further noted that some of the general recommendations have recently been shared with Irish Water during the service outage from the Vartry plant.	Finalise report and present findings to Irish Water.
2	Presentation from the CRU	The Chair welcomed Sheenagh Rooney, Brid O'Donovan and Anne Cunningham for the CRU who presented on their work programme for 2018 and also on their consultation process in relation to Irish Waters proposed connection policy. Following the presentations and a question and answer session, it was agreed that An Fóram would submit in relation to the consultation process and that further engagements will take place in due course.	Arrange for drafting of submission to the CRU.
3	Update on symposium	Item adjourned to the April meeting.	Agenda item for April.
4	Presentation from Irish Water	<p>The Chair welcomed Gerry Geoghegan, Mick Garrick (Tobin consultants), Emma Oliveria and Angela Ryan. It was noted that Tom Collins would have to leave during the presentation and that Sharon Kennedy would chair for the remainder of the meeting.</p> <p>Gerry presented on the development of the Eastern and Midland Water Supply Project. Following this presentation, a number of issues were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having regard to the fact that the proposed pipeline will traverse the country for a length of 170 km and in so doing, will cause very significant disruption and cost, has consideration been given to planning for requirements beyond 2050 in terms of installing a second pipeline and also possibly co-locating other service/utility infrastructure alongside the pipeline? • What actions have been taken to reduce overall water demand and usage in terms of planning and building regulations? • In the context of the Water Framework Directive, what actions have been taken to develop technologies and opportunities to utilise grey water? 	Arrange for circulation of presentation and also consideration of issues arising.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has any consideration been given to treating and re-cycling effluent from the Greater Dublin Drainage system? • Details with regard to the acceptable level of leakage and also the sustainable economic level of leakage. • Clarification in relation to community gain/funds and possible proposals and conditions in relation to same as part of the planning process. • The need for a full cost benefit analysis on retro-fitting and associated issues in the context of the sustainability of the project. • Implications for the lower Shannon River as a consequence of the extraction. • Provisions in relation to identifying and addressing invasive species. • Consultation arrangements with the Group Water Scheme sector in relation to the works along the project corridor. • Discussions with farming representative bodies in relation to land acquisition and compensation arrangements. • Status of arrangements with the ESB in the context of the abstraction arrangements/rates. <p>It was noted that members of An Fóram have on-going concerns with regard to the project in terms of the aforementioned issues and that further engagement with IW will be required.</p> <p>Mr. Geoghegan and his colleagues were thanked for their presentation and it was agreed that further presentations will be arranged as required. It was agreed that the presentation will be circulated to all.</p>	
5.	Update from working group on work programme.	<p>It was noted that the working group met on the 10th February last and intend to meet again on the 9th March. While there are a large number of topics which should be addressed by An Fóram, it would appear that a number of specific issues merit prioritisation including – invasive species, nutrient recovery and public health and water. Another significant issue is that of public awareness and education. It was noted that it would not be necessary to undertake primary research and that furthermore, collaboration with other agencies, educational institutions etc would be necessary. The group will report back to the April meeting. It was agreed that Barry Deane will join the group.</p>	<p>Agenda item for April.</p> <p>Meeting of the working group – 9th March.</p>
6.	Presentation on Rivers Trust by Dr. Thomas Harrington.	<p>This item was taken in the morning.</p> <p>Dr. Harrington presented on the development and role of the Rivers Trust. A number of issues were raised with regard to same and it was agreed to put in place arrangements for a presentation in relation to the development of Rivers Trust in the UK.</p>	<p>Put in place arrangements for future presentation.</p>
7.	To receive	<p>Barry Deane updated the meeting with regard to negotiations</p>	<p>Circulate</p>

	update regard Group Water Schemes subsidies.	on the part of the NFGWS and the Department in relation to contributions and subsidies. It was agreed that a newsletter issued by the Federation and detailing the new arrangements will be circulated to all.	newsletter.
8.	Arrangements for next meeting	<p>It was noted that the next meeting of An Fóram will take place on the 2nd March in the Spencer Hotel, as notified last week. There will be two items on the agenda for this meeting - with representatives from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in attendance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft River Basin Management Plan – presentation on the consultation process in relation to same. 2. Introduction and overview on the development of the draft Water Services Policy Statement. <p>The meeting will commence at 11 am in the Spencer Hotel, Dublin (the Ashling is not available) and will conclude with lunch at 1.30 pm. It was further agreed that further information with regard to the two issues would be sought and if possible circulated to all in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>It was further noted that the Department of Housing has issued 'Water Services Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities' for consultation. It would seem that this document relates to processes to be undertaken by planning authorities and Irish Water rather than any policy issue. A review of same will be undertaken and submission made if considered appropriate.</p>	<p>Arrange for further information to be circulated to all in advance of the meeting on the 2nd March.</p> <p>Review draft guidelines.</p>
		This concluded the business of the meeting	

Signed:



Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson