

MEETING NO. 3

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 12th September 2017.

TIME: 10 am

LOCATION: Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland, Neil Walker, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Patrick Rohan, Thomas Cooney, Jean Rosney, Gerald Quain, , Brendan Fitzsimons , Bernadette Connolly, Sinead O'Brien, Charles Stanley Smith, David Wright, Dr. Thomas Harrington, Dr Tim Butter, Ollan Herr

APOLOGIES

Tim Fenn, Mindy O'Brien, Liam Berney, Jonathan Small, Francis O'Donnell, Derry Dillon

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy (LAWCO) and Sharon Kennedy (NWF)

Item		Details	Action
1.1	Welcome and Apologies	Sharon Kennedy welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. She noted the apologies that had been received. It was noted that we have now received a nomination to represent Angling interests.	Noted
1.2	Consideration of draft minutes of meeting no. 2 held on the 2nd August 2017.	The draft minutes were agreed, as presented.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	Dr. Collins referred to a letter issued by him to the Managing Director of Irish Water with regard to the significant service interruptions in the supply of water to customers of Irish Water in the Drogheda and East Meath region. In that letter, he had requested information with regard to customer services and also future risk management. While Irish Water had acknowledged receipt of the letter, they have yet to furnish their report as same has not yet been completed. However, Ms. Florence White from their Communications Division will be	Noted .

	<p>in attendance at the afternoon's meeting of the PWF to report on the various issues. Dr. Collins also referred to his intention to undertake some consultation with the customers affected and that same would be required to go through a procurement process.</p> <p>Reference was also made to the Forums submission on the Draft River Basin Management Plan and members were thanked for their engagement with same. It was noted that the Department has received in the region of 1000 submissions and will be processing them in due course. It was also agreed that Mr. Cian O'Lionain is to be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum to provide feedback in relation to the submissions and also outline the process in relation to addressing the issues and also finalising the Plan.</p> <p>Concern was expressed by the members with regard to this process, having regard to the work that is currently being undertaken, at regional level, with regard to the development of work programmes. Specifically, concerns were expressed with the on-going prioritisation process and the making of key and strategic decisions at regional level without full consultation with the stakeholders represented on the Forum. The role of the Forum and its input into key decisions at strategic/policy level were considered and there was a general consensus that the Forum wishes to have a positive input at national level in relation to the processes of finalising the Plan and developing the implementation stage. It was noted that while the Forum is operating at national level, and LAWCO at local level, the input for stakeholders outside of the main implementation bodies at regional level is undefined and it is at this level that many of the key decisions are being made. It was agreed to request that the current work programmes be adopted on an interim basis, pending the finalisation of the Plan.</p> <p>It was noted that Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy will be attending the next meetings of the National Co-Ordination and Management Committee (in late September or early October) and the Water Policy Advisory Committee (late September).</p> <p>Following further consideration, the following actions were agreed: That Tom and Sharon will hold discussions with Cian O'Lionain and Ken Jordan in the Department expressing the concerns of the Forum in relation to these issues and to see how same can be addressed;</p> <p>That a letter be issued to the Department, outlining the concerns and considerations of the Forum and also inviting Minister Murphy to meet with the Forum.</p>	<p>Series of actions to be taken by Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy.</p>
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		That an invitation be issued to the Chairs of the Regional Committees to attend a meeting of the Forum to provide an opportunity to engage in an effective manner.	
1.4	Consideration of the creation of a sub-committee in relation to Rural Water.	<p>Mr. Barry Deane was invited to present a proposal with regard to the future position of the National Rural Water Services Committee. Barry outlined the composition and work of the committee since its establishment in 1998. He referred to the role for the NWF in relation to 'rural water issues' as provided in the Draft RBMP and also the reference to same in the Terms of Reference of the National Water Forum.</p> <p>He requested that consideration be given by the Forum to establishing a rural water sub-committee which would address the issues heretofore addressed by the NRWSC.</p> <p>Following a discussion with regard to same, this proposal was agreed and it was further agreed that the proposal would be presented to the Department for approval and statutory provision.</p>	Issue to be referred to the Department for further action.
2	Consideration of vision document.	This document, which had been circulated for the August meeting, was noted in the context of the Communications Strategy at item 4.	
3	To commence drafting our work programme.	<p>Tom Collins advised that it was now timely to establish a work programme for the Forum. It was noted that there are four main areas for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications. 2. Education and engagement. 3. The Forums role in relation to the RBMP and its implementation. 4. Policy issues. <p>It was noted that item 3 has already been addressed earlier in the meeting and item 1 will be addressed at the next meeting. At the invitation of the Chair, the members broke into three groups two to consider policy issues and the third to address the education/engagement issue.</p> <p>In relation to education and engagement, the following items were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The necessity to ensure that all education and engagement actions are based on set ground rules, using appropriate language and terms and ensuring a consistent approach. • The need to influence key decision makers to properly engage as part of their decision making process. • To assist/oversee the development of joined up thinking in relation to activities and policies for adults and young persons with regards to engagement and education. • The need to develop a general media campaign (similar 	Agenda item for next meeting.

		<p>to those for waste etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing policy in relation to the inclusion of water quality issues in the education curriculum. • The further development of schemes like Glas and the diary initiative. <p>It was noted that, in due course, the Forum might require education and research services as part of its core support. It was further noted that some of the stakeholders have schemes and supports in place that might assist the Forum in this regard.</p> <p>In relation to policy areas, the following were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues arising from the RBMP in terms of policy development and implementation arrangements. • Issues not provided for in the Plan including invasive species, climate change, rural water issues and coastal water issues. • Areas requiring further/new research. • Concerns associated with septic tanks. • Concerns associated with microplastic and chemical residues in water. • Security of drinking water in rural areas. <p>The Forum also noted that the main pressures identified in the Plan must also be addressed including: agriculture; domestic waste water and urban waste water discharges; forestry and hydro-morphology.</p> <p>It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting when these issues can be further considered and prioritised.</p>	
4	Development of a Communications Strategy.	As the meeting was coming to an end, it was not possible to give full consideration to this issue. It was agreed that this would be referred to the next meeting of the Forum and that in the meantime, our website will be launched.	Agenda item for next meeting.
5	AOB	<p>An issue was raised with regard to floor relief works currently being carried out in Bandon which appear to be having a very negative impact on waters further downstream.</p> <p>It was agreed to request LAWCO to carry out an examination of same.</p>	Agreed
8.	Arrangements for next meeting	It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum will take place on the 10 th October –in Dublin (if possible the Ashling Hotel).	Agreed
		This concluded the business of the meeting	

Signed:



Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson