

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 19th February 2019.

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Ashling Hotel, Dublin

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Connie Rochford, Thomas Cooney, Charles Stanley Smith, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Gerald Quain, Bernadette Connolly, Jean Rosney, Sinead O'Brien, Dr. Tim Butter, David Wright, Laurie Kearon, Keith Hyland, Ollan Herr, Thomas Harrington, Liam Berney, Derry Dillon, Brendan Fitzsimons.

APOLOGIES

Denis Drennan, Jonathan Small, Barry Deane, Neil Walker, Martin McEnroe, Tim Fenn and Kevin Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy LAWPRO, Donal Daly.

SECRETARIAT

Sharon Kennedy

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 4th December 2018.	The draft minutes of meetings held on the 4 th December 2018 were noted and agreed.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	No matters arising.	Noted
2	Corporate Issues	<p>2.1 Membership of An Fóram</p> <p>Tom Collins referred to a discussion at the December meeting regarding attendances at meetings. It has been agreed that each member would be advised of their attendances during 2018 and would be requested to revert in relation to any issues concerning attendance in 2019.</p> <p>Following on from same, the notifications were issued. Since</p>	Noted

		<p>then, 3 resignations have been received – from Mindy O’Brien, Michael Spellman and Patrick Murphy. It was noted that the processes are now in place to arrange for the nomination of their replacements. Their contribution to An Fóram was noted.</p> <p>A discussion also took place with regard to adjusting the quorum. It was agreed to retain the current quorum and to review in time to come, should same be considered necessary.</p> <p>Consideration was also given to extending the membership in the context of the forthcoming regulations. Agreement was reached in principle to requesting the inclusion of the following additional members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nominee from the ICA (who were represented on the former NEWSC and had recently made contact with An Fóram); • a second nominee from the Education sector (possibly from the Universities, having regard to the current nominee from the ITs); • an additional Irish Water Consumer and; • A nominee representing youths. <p>It was agreed to consider same in the context of achieving a better gender balance and to also discuss same with the Department. It was further agreed that the matter would be discussed with the committee to replace the Strategy Working Group (which will be considered later in the meeting).</p> <p>Report on expenditure 2018 and budget 2019 The members noted the reports in relation to 2018 and 2019 which had been circulated prior to the meeting and welcomed the increase in budget for 2019.</p> <p>Update on staffing Sharon Kennedy updated the members with regard to the process of drafting the role profiles and duties for the new posts (and which have been posted on the members forum and website), the approval process including budgetary approval and the advertising of the posts and closing date. It was agreed that further updates would be given, via e-mail, as the process progresses.</p> <p>Tom Collins expressed his appreciation to the members who had participated in this process.</p> <p>2.4/2.5 Memorandum of Understanding It was noted that An Fóram is required to enter into a formal memorandum of understanding with the DHPLG in regard to funding arrangements and same would be concluded with the Department shortly.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
--	--	--	--

		<p>It was further noted that a Memorandum of Understanding is to be drafted with Tipperary County Council in terms of administrative arrangements concerning recruitment and appointments, financial management (payments, payroll etc) and office leasing.</p> <p>Both memorandums will be signed on behalf of An Fóram by the Chairperson.</p> <p>Presentation on the Water Advisory Body Sharon Kennedy presented on the WAB, having been nominated by An Fóram as a member of same. A range of issues arose regarding roles and responsibilities and also the mechanism for An Fóram to feed into the considerations of the WAB. Of particular concern were the transparency of Irish Water in terms of its operation; the consultation processes used and the issue with regard to the ownership of Irish Water.</p> <p>Sharon agreed to raise these issues at the next meeting of the WAB.</p>	Noted
3	Symposium	<p>Tom Collins introduced this item, following on from the Farmleigh Symposium in 2019. Following a lengthy discussion, agreement was reached, in principle, that An Fóram will hold a symposium – most likely in mid to late September and also most likely at a regional venue and that attendees will include representatives from the various nomination bodies to An Fóram and also members of the general public.</p> <p>In relation to the possible theme(s), a number of ideas were suggested. It was generally agreed that the overarching theme might be water and sustainable development – in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs). Sub-themes were also suggested including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the opportunities for a partnership approach to water management; • innovations in relation to water management; • the importance of the international dimension and; • Water and food security. <p>It was agreed to refer same for further consideration to the committee to replace the Strategy Working Group (which will be considered later in the meeting).</p>	Agreed
4	Draft Annual Report	<p>The draft annual report was noted. It was agreed that members would revert to Sharon Kennedy with any suggested amendments within the next two weeks and then that same would be sent for graphic design with final consideration and approval at the April meeting.</p> <p>It was also suggested that we might invite Minister Eoghan Murphy to the next meeting of An Fóram in order to present the Strategic Plan and the Annual Report to him.</p>	Noted Agreed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 3 – Review of the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan and WFD • Objective 6 – Leading a programme of public awareness and education on the value of water (as same relates to catchment management and in co-operation with the WSSC committee) • Objective 7 – Supporting and promoting public consultation and engagement on all matters relevant to water. <p>It was further agreed that the membership of this committee would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 nominees from Environment; • 1 Education nominee; • 2 Rural/Agriculture nominee; • 1 nominee from Water Sports/Angling; • 1 nominee from Fisheries/Forestry; • 1 nominee from the Rivers Trust. <p>It was further agreed that Tom Collins will chair this committee. The nomination process to this committee will be undertaken immediately.</p> <p>It was also noted that responsibility will rest with Tom Collins, Barry Deane and Sharon Kennedy to ensure cohesion between the two committees. It was further noted that both committees would be required to report back to An Fóram at its plenary meetings and would require the approval of An Fóram in relation to any significant or strategic issues.</p> <p>5.3 Water Services Standing Committee meeting notes The note from the most recent meeting of the WSSC had been circulated before the meeting and was noted.</p>	Noted
6	Strategic Themes	<p>6.1 – Strategic Theme 4 Tom Collins referred to the CRU’s review of the proposed Water Supply Project and also to the presentations received on the project from Irish Water and Emma Kennedy at the October meeting.</p> <p>Following on from same, the members indicated their requirement for advice on a range of issues in order to inform An Fóram’s participation in the review. Since then, a procurement process has been undertaken and the services of Ms. Nelly Maublanc are in the process of being retained in order to advise and assist An Fóram in its deliberations. Subject to the conclusion of that process, the following are the areas in which advice has been sought:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the context of data on current and projected leakage, consideration of the capability of IW to respond to the leakage crisis in terms of timescale, costs and likely water conservation including an assessment of what is realistic in 	Noted

		<p>the context of on the ground conditions in a busy city with a multiplicity of aged and poor condition pipe work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In terms of alternative solutions, further information is required with regard to desalination in the context of advancing technologies, including the provision of costings and also examples of significant desalination projects in large cities internationally and how do they work? 3. Of further consideration are alternative/complimentary sources rather than sole reliance on surface abstractions from rivers, thus spreading the risk amongst other sources. In particular, the use of groundwater e.g. aquifers which we understand supply other large cities including Paris. Examples are required of international best practice- where there is a mix of supplies from groundwater sources, surfaces sources and/or desalination and also international best practice regarding rainwater capture at municipal and domestic levels. 4. Advice on the viability and potential contribution to water supply from recycling wastewater and grey water for drinking water purposes based on international best practice. <p>It was noted that Ms. Maublanc has also been requested to attend a future meeting of An Fóram in order to present her findings.</p> <p>This proposal was welcomed by the members who requested that the issues of energy use in terms of the WSP be considered.</p> <p>As a separate issue, it was agreed to further consider the issue of waste water recycling particularly in relation to the Greater Dublin Drainage project.</p> <p>6.2 Strategic Theme 6. Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy referred to the need for An Fóram to progress with its remit in terms of engagement and PR. Following on from same, the advice of Ms. Neasa Kane Fine (RPS) has been secured (based on a tendering process carried out for the local government sector). Ms. Kane is advising An Fóram in relation to high level considerations and approaches and a further update will be given at the next meeting. Members welcomed this development in the context of raising awareness of An Fóram and the issues of concern to same.</p> <p>6.3 and 6.4 3rd Cycle RBMP consultation process and research call. It was noted that this issue had been considered by the Strategy Sub-Group and following same, a brief was developed in relation to a research call on public and stakeholder engagement. Same has been issued to the ITs and Universities with a closing date of the 27th February. It was noted that same</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
--	--	---	---------------------------

		can be used by An Fóram in order to inform its views and submission on the 3 rd cycle RBMP. The members of the sub-group were thanked for this work.	
7	WFD review	<p>It was noted that a focus group had met to consider An Fóram's response to the review/fitness check on the WFD. The draft responses to the questionnaire which had been reached at that meeting had been posted on the member's forum. It had been further agreed to submit a short response in relation to the WFD, its importance, issues omitted from the questionnaire and additional concerns and consideration.</p> <p>The members considered this draft response and a number of amendments were made to same. It was agreed to finalise the draft response and to post same on the members forum.</p> <p>It was further agreed to submit the amended response before the closing date (3rd March).</p>	Agreed
8	Presentation	Mr. Martin Hehir had been invited to present on an initiative regarding Fish Migration in the Lower Shannon Catchment – however it had been necessary to defer same to the next meeting of An Fóram.	Noted
9	National Marine Planning Framework	Sharon Kennedy and Bernie Connolly gave a very brief overview on this development. It was agreed to arrange for a focus meeting in relation to same.	Agreed
10	A.O.B	None arising.	
11	Next meeting	This concluded the business of the meeting – next meeting scheduled for the 9th April in Dublin. Members were also reminded that the May meeting will take place in Galway on the 28 th May to facilitate attendance at the EPA Conference which takes place on the 29 th and 30 th May.	Noted.

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson