



MEETING NO. 5

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 21st November 2017

TIME: 10 am

LOCATION: The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Mindy O'Brien, Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland, Neil Walker, Patrick Rohan, Thomas Cooney, Jean Rosney, Derry Dillon, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Sinead O'Brien, Charles Stanley Smith, Dr. Thomas Harrington, David Wright, Liam Berney, Gerald Quain, Brendan Fitzsimons and Martin McEnroe.

APO LOGIES

Francis O'Donnell, Tim Fenn, Jonathan Small, Dr. Tim Butter and Dr. Suzanne Linnane

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy (LAWCO) and Sharon Kennedy (NWF)

Jenny Deakin (EPA) and John Breen (Kerry County Council)

Alan Walsh (LAWCO)

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 that had been received. Mr. Martin McEnroe was welcomed to An Fóram. Mr. McEnroe will represent the angling interests. Dr. Collins also welcomed Jenny Deakin (EPA) and John Breen (Kerry County Council) who were presenters at the meeting and also Alan Walsh (LAWCO) who was attending as an observer at the meeting.	Noted
1.2	Consideration of draft minutes of meeting no. 4 held on the 10th October 2017.	The draft minutes were agreed, subject to inclusion of Sinead O'Brien's name on the working group relating to the Bandon Flood relief works.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	Sharon Kennedy advised on recent contact with the OPW with	Noted.

		regard to the flood relief works on the River Bandon. It was noted that both she and Tom Collins are arranging to meet with relevant personnel in the OPW, before Christmas, to discuss the matter and will revert to the next meeting of An Fóram in January.	Agenda item for next meeting.
1.4	Update on customer review	Dr. Collins advised the meeting that the assessment of customer engagement by 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 is on-going by personnel in DKIT and a report will be available for the January meeting.	Noted. Agenda item for next meeting.
1.5	To note submission on NPF	Dr. Collins referred, for nothing, the submission from An Fóram in relation to the NPF which had been circulated to all.	Noted
2	Presentation from Jenny Deakin (EPA)	<p>Dr. Collins then welcomed Jenny Deakin from the EPA. Jenny presented on the extensive work carried out by the EPA and a range of other agencies/statutory bodies in relation to the on-going characterisation and prioritisation process and also the Regional Work Programmes as provided for under the Draft River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Jenny also informed An Fóram on the requirements of the Water Framework Directive in this regard.</p>	
3	Presentation from John Breen, Kerry County Council	<p>Dr. Collins welcomed John Breen, a Director of Services with Kerry County Council and also a member of the National Co-ordination and Management Committee.</p> <p>John presented on the work of that committee in the context of prioritising and targeting measures at regional level. John also spoke on the need to continuously improve consultation and interaction processes between agencies, non-government bodies and citizens.</p>	
4	Question and answer session	<p>Dr. Tom Collins thanked Jenny and John for their presentations and then opened a discussion on the issues raised. The members of An Fóram raised a number of issues which were discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of emissions from septic tanks, inspection regimes etc. • The management of invasive species, the role of various bodies with regard to same, the absence of a co-ordinated approach and the differences in relation to how these issues are addressed from one county to another. • Linkages between the regional programmes and the requirements of recent national plans e.g. NPF, Food Wise 2025 etc. • The extent of political engagement in relation to policies and actions. • The development of knowledge transfer initiatives. • Developments in relation to phosphorus recovery. • Interaction between the National Co-ordination and 	Noted and agreed

		<p>Management Committee and other bodies at regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of resources for community engagement and action. <p>Dr. Collins thanked the presenters and the members of An Fóram for their interaction and advised that many of the issues raised would receive further attention in due course.</p> <p>It was agreed that Dr. Thomas Harrington will present on Rivers Trusts at the next meeting of An Fóram.</p> <p>Carol McCarthy updated the meeting on developments in relation to additional resources being put in place to implement the various measures required under the RBMP.</p>	
5	Water Services Bill.	<p>Dr. Collins referred to the progress of the Water Services Bill towards enactment and the provisions contained therein in relation to the dissolution of the PWF and the National Rural Water Services Committee. It was noted that once the Bill is enacted, regulations will be made by the Minister in relation to the operational details of An Fóram Uisce.</p> <p>It was noted that the Department has agreed to extending the membership of An Fóram by 3 to include two further domestic customer representatives and one representative from social housing. It was further noted that this was considered at last week's meeting of the PWF where the two additional members were drawn by lot and are Karen Carney and Andrea Ahern. The social housing representative will be Kevin Ryan.</p> <p>Mr. Barry Deane advised An Fóram that while Karen Carney was a member of staff of the National Federation, her membership on the PWF was in a private, consumer capacity.</p> <p>It was noted that An Fóram will have two standing committees – one on rural water and the second on public water. It was further noted that draft standing orders and terms of reference for both committees will be drafted once the relevant legislation, including regulations, are enacted.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
6.	Presentation on waste water treatment systems	<p>Dr. Collins thanked Jean Rosney and Barry Deane for preparing a presentation on domestic waste water treatment systems. Jean presented on the activities and advice which the NFGWS have undertaken in relation to the management of septic tanks in the catchment areas of group water schemes and also their schools programme.</p> <p>A number of queries were raised by the members of An Fóram in relation to the operation and maintenance of septic tanks.</p> <p>Dr. Collins then thanked Jean and Barry for the presentation.</p>	

7.	Submission in relation to the Nitrates Action Programme	<p>Dr. Collins advised the meeting of the background to the Nitrates Action Plan and Regulations and that submissions in relation to the Natura Assessment and SEA must be submitted to the Department by the 28th November and that it is not possible to get an extension to that date.</p> <p>He further advised that he and Sharon Kennedy had sought advice with regard to the programme and that based on same, will draft a document for circulation to all the members prior to submission.</p> <p>It was noted that as there are many aspects and interests in relation to this programme, the submission will focus primarily on the process of engagement and overall concerns.</p>	Noted
8.	A.O.B.	<p>Dr. Collins advised that at a recent meeting of the PWF, that Forum agreed to recommend that a joint symposium be arranged with regard to public engagement on issues associated with water quality. It was agreed that arrangements should be put in place for same – possibly in February.</p>	Update to be provided at next meeting.
7.	Arrangements for next meeting	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting of An Fóram will take place on the 9th January in Dublin – venue to be confirmed.</p>	Agreed
		This concluded the business of the meeting	

Signed:



Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson