

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 9TH April 2019.

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Ashling Hotel, Dublin

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Connie Rochford, Thomas Cooney , Charles Stanley Smith, 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, Denis Drennan, Barry Deane, , Martin McEnroe and Dominic Cronin.

APOLOGIES

Jonathan Small, Neil Walker, Tim Fenn, Kevin Ryan and Dr. Suzanne Linnane

IN ATTENDANCE

Donal Daly and Guest presenter Ms. Nelly Maublanc.

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. He welcomed Dominic Cronin who has joined An Fóram, replacing Michael Spellman from ICOS.	Noted Agreed
1.2	Minutes of meeting held on 19 February	The draft minutes of meetings held on the 19 th February were noted and agreed.	Noted
1.3	Matters arising	Clarification was given with regard to the invitation issued to Minister Murphy to attend with An Fóram and also further clarification was given with regard to extending the membership of An Fóram.	
2	Corporate Issues	2.1 Annual Report 2018 The draft annual report for 2018 was noted and approved. 2.2 Update on staffing Sharon Kennedy updated the members with regard to the recruitment process and the proposal to hold interviews in late April and early May.	Noted Noted
3	Water Supply Project	Tom Collins introduced Ms. Nelly Maublanc who has been retained by An Fóram Uisce to provide advises to An Fóram to assist it in its preparation for its submission to the CRU on the review of Irish Waters	noted

	<p>WSP.</p> <p>Ms. Maublanc presented on a range of issues as had been requested by An Fóram including matters pertaining to water demand, water supply, leakage and alternative options.</p> <p>Following her presentation, the members of An Fóram raised a range of queries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to reducing demand for water; • Education programmes to raise awareness with regard to water usage and waste; • Use of grey water and circumstances where same might be feasible; • Waste Water re-use and the potential for same; • Impact of climate change in terms of available supply and usage patterns; • The importance of cost comparisons when considering alternative options; • Dealing with leakage – leakage programmes – economic level of leakage – European examples of best practice; • Requirements in terms of water security and diversification of supplies for large populations; • Linking supplies to provide water resilience; • Lessons which can be learnt from other utilities in terms of reducing demand; • Alternative options for supplies including desalination and rain water harvesting; • Impact of water storage and treatment capacity in terms of resilience; • Potential for connections to proposed benefitting corridor as part of the proposed WSP – can other towns/networks link in to provide resilience for their supplies; • Role of regulator in terms of strengthening the process with regard to large scale projects – also oversight role; • Risk assessment and risk management in terms of managing water services; • Confusion in relation to data issued by Irish Water; <p>Following this question and answer session it was agreed that Nelly will prepare a report to An Fóram for its further consideration. Tom Collins and An Fóram members thanked Nelly for her most informative and balanced presentation.</p>	
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4.	Updates from Standing Committees	<p>4.1 Report from the Water Services Standing Committee Barry Deane reported on the meeting of the WSSC which was held on the 27th March and was focussed on the CRU's review with regard to Irish Water's Household Water Conservation Proposals (Excess Use Charges). Daniel Ward and Tara O'Beirne from the CRU had provided a presentation at the meeting and engaged with the members present in relation to same. Following the meeting, a draft submission had been prepared and circulated to all of the members of An Fóram. Barry outlined the main issues raised in same and following consideration of the draft, it was agreed to submit same to the CRU.</p> <p>4.2 Catchment Management Standing Committee The briefing note from the CMSC meeting held on the 20th March had been circulated to the members and noted by all. It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 9th May.</p>	Approved
5	Strategic Themes	<p>5.1 – Strategic Theme 6 Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy updated the members in relation to further discussions with Ms. Neasa Kane Fine (RPS) who is to assist An Fóram in relation to drafting its first Communication Strategy. It was noted that arrangements had been put in place for a focus meeting but that same will be rescheduled to June to facilitate two special meetings on the 1st May.</p> <p>5.2 – Strategic Theme 7 Sharon Kennedy updated the meeting with regard to progress on the Call for Research on public and stakeholder engagement – it was noted that the first draft report should be ready by the end of the month.</p>	Noted Noted
6	AOB	<p>It was noted that two issues have arisen which require An Fóram's input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the nitrates derogation by the Department of Agriculture and; • CRU proposed decision on IW proposal regarding non-domestic tariff framework. <p>It was agreed to hold a special meeting of the Water Services Standing Committee on the 1st May and to invite the CRU to present which would facilitate the drafting of An Fóram's submission in regard to the non-domestic tariff framework.</p> <p>It was further agreed to hold a special meeting of the Catchment Management Standing Committee on the same day to consider the review of the nitrates derogation and to invite a presenter from the DAFM to attend same.</p> <p>All members of An Fóram are welcome to attend either or both meetings. Arrangements to be advised.</p>	Agreed
7	Next meeting	This concluded the business of the meeting – next meeting scheduled for the 28 th May in Galway with EPA conference on the 29 th and 30 th .	Noted.

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins, Chairperson