



SPECIAL MEETING (NO. 8)

AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 9th March 2018
TIME: 10.30 am
LOCATION: Spencer Hotel, Dublin

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Mindy O'Brien, Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Neil Walker, Denis Drennan, Thomas Cooney, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley Smith, Gerald Quain, Sinead O'Brien, David Wright, Jonathan Small and Martin McEnroe.

APO LOGIES

Keith Hyland, Derry Dillon, Brendan Fitzsimons, Francis O'Donnell, Tim Fenn, Liam Berney, Kevin Ryan, Jean Rosney, Dr. Tim Butter, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Bernadette Connolly and Dr. Thomas Harrington,

GUEST ATTENDEES

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Officials – Maria Graham, Pat Duggan, Cian O'Lionain, Martin Hehir, Colin Byrne, Eamonn Waters and David Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy (LAWCO)
Sharon Kennedy (NWF)

Item		Details	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received.	Noted
2.	Consideration of nominations to the Water Advisory Board	The Chair referred to an e-mail circulated to the members advising that a request had been received from Minister Eoghan Murphy requesting that An Fóram submit to him the	Agreed

		<p>names of nominees for his consideration in relation to the soon to be established Water Advisory Board.</p> <p>Dr. Collins indicated that it would be important that the nominee(s) be considered to be independent representative of all stakeholders on An Fóram. Following consideration of same, and noting that Dr. Collins is not available for such a nomination, it was agreed that Sharon Kennedy would be nominated and that the Minister be advised accordingly.</p>	
3	Draft River Basin Management Plan	<p>It was noted that this meeting had been convened in order to receive the Department's presentation on the draft Final RBMP and to advise An Fóram in relation to the submissions received and the responses to same. He referred to the draft Final plan which had been circulated to the members almost two weeks earlier. Further feedback had been received from a number of the members which had been collated and submitted to the Department last Monday. Sharon Kennedy noted that there were some concerns expressed that the collated submission was not fully reflective of the submissions received and so the original feedback had been circulated to all members.</p> <p>Tom Collins advised that a number of officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government were in attendance to present on the Draft River Basin Management Plan. He then welcomed Maria Graham (Assistant Secretary) and Maria introduced her colleagues David Smith, Colin Byrne, Martin Hehir, Eamonn Waters and Cian O'Lionain.</p> <p>Mr. Martin Hehir and Mr. Colin Byrne then presented on the progress of the Draft Plan from the contents of the first Draft through to the consultation process and the outcomes from same and then outlined the contents of the final Draft with specific references to the significant issues arising including pressures and measures and projected outcomes.</p> <p>The presentation was welcomed by the members and it was noted that the Draft Final Plan was a significant progression on the original Draft, with many of the issues of concern to An Fóram addressed in same. A number of queries, concerns and issues were then raised including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification of changes between the Draft Plan and the Draft Final Plan in relation to the percentage assigned to the various sectors in the context of pressures. 2. The absence of comprehensive governance arrangements in the context of the management and prevention of invasive alien species and the urgent need for interdepartmental/interagency cohesion with regard to same. 	Invite OPW to next meeting of An Fóram.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The fact that agriculture, as the main land use in the country, is in fact under-represented proportionately as against what might be expected given its scale in the share of risk sources. 4. The fact that the regional structure being used by LAWCO is not the same as that being used by the Regional Assemblies and the need to address this issue. 5. The need to strengthen the Final Plan in relation to monitoring arrangements and ensuring that there is equal attention paid to all of the pressures in this regard. Specific query with regard to monitoring and reporting arrangements for non-compliances at urban waste water treatment plants. 6. The importance of the role of An Fóram in relation to monitoring and reporting arrangements. 7. The unique role of the NFGWSS in assisting with the implementation of the Plan. 8. Compliance issues in relation to the Water Framework Directive and references to same within the Plan. 9. Flood protection works and the competing requirements of same with concerns in respect of environmental protection. 10. Issues in relation to forestry with particular reference to the plantation on wetlands and the environmental implications in relation to same. 11. A range of issues in relation to abstractions – registration, licensing, fees and penalties. Concerns with regard to the treatment of abstractions for domestic and agricultural use and also the position with regard to abstractions relating to commercial usage of water. 12. Provisions within the Plan for climate changes, specifically in relation to rainfall and linkages between the Plan and climate change/adaptation policies that are emerging. 13. Arrangements in relation to fines and penalties for non-compliances. 14. Issues with regard to the role of Coillte and Bord na Mona. 15. Queries relating to possible implications should the targets in the Plan not be met by 2021? 16. Potential for new measures including source separation and nutrient recovery. 17. Clarifications in relation to high status waters, the blue dot programme and the lack of prioritisation in relation to coastal/transition waters. 18. The need to develop useful Key Performance Indicators. 	
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4	Water Services Policy Statement	<p>Tom Collins then welcomed Dr. Eamonn Waters who presented on the Water Services Policy Statement and explain the purpose of the statement, the process in terms of drafting same, the consultation process and how An Fóram might have an input into the process. Following the presentation, it was agreed that An Fóram would submit a document in relation to same.</p> <p>Tom Collins thanked Eamonn Waters and it was agreed that a copy of his presentation would be circulated to all on Monday.</p>	
5	AOB	<p>It was noted that representatives of the OPW will be in attendance at the April meeting of An Fóram.</p> <p>This concluded the business of the meeting</p>	

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson