

Plenary Committee Meeting No. 33

Meeting held on the 27th April 2021 via ZOOM

Minutes Agreed

Attendees: Tom Collins (Chair), Denis Drennan, Paul O'Brien, Dominic Cronin, Neil Walker, David Wright, Gerald Quain, Suzanne Linnane, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley-Smith, , Connie Rochford, Barry Deane, Siobhan Ward, Tim Fenn, Liam Berney, Izzy Petrie, Derrie Dillon, Keith Hyland, & Tim Butter, Brendan Fitzsimons, Laurie Kearon, Jean Rosney, Martin McEnroe

Apologies: Neil Walker, Brendan Fitzsimons, Elaine McGoff, Sinead O'Brien, Donal Daly

In attendance: Gretta McCarron, Triona McGrath, Angelos Alamanos and Donal Purcell

Item	Details	Summary
1.1	Welcome	The Chair welcomed the members & staff to the meeting.
1.2	Minutes	Minutes of the Plenary meeting No. 32 – 23 rd March 2021 were agreed
1.3	Matters arising	none
2.	Corporate Issues	<p>2.1 To receive update on the Forum's expenditure for 2021. The A/SEO updated the members regarding the Forums expenditure to the 31st March 2021 with a total expenditure €81,153.42.</p> <p>2.2 To receive update on the procurement of a Consultant to facilitate the Forums next Strategic Plan The A/SEO explained that the Staffing/ Strategic Plan Steering Group (Liam, Suzanne, Sinead, Dominic, Charles, Tom & Donal) carried out a desk-based assessment of the two applications received & that Karen Brosnan (Appianpoint) was awarded the contract. The Strategic Planning process will start immediately with the plan to be completed by the beginning of Q4 of 2021. The total cost is €20,000 incl. VAT. It is proposed to have a workshop with the Plenary at 10.00am on Monday 10th May.</p> <p>2.3 To note the Water Forums Annual report for 2020 Final draft has been sent to the Minister. Waiting for approval from Minister to share publicly. Query over hard copy, will look into costs. Members could support social media campaign to circulate to wider community.</p> <p>2.4 To note update from meeting with the DHLGH The Chair updated the members on the meeting that he & A/SEO had with the Water Policy & Water Advisory Sections of the DHLGH on the 22 April to discuss a number of items regarding the Forum including the current strategic planning process, governance and the current arrangement with Tipperary County Council (TCC) & the proposed ECO Eye programme. The Chair explained that the Department had given very positive feedback regarding the future role & work of the AFU particularly regarding the upcoming RBMP. It is proposed to have a pre-draft briefing in May, with public consultation from June. Once in public consultation, the Dept Team would like to meet with the CMSC on a regular basis to focus and create dialogue on different themes. It was agreed to have a</p>

		<p>briefing/workshop with the full plenary & the DHLGH on the RBMP on Friday 14th May, at 14.30.</p> <p>In regard to the current hosting arrangement with Tipperary County Council the Chair was of the view that it is working well & has many advantages in areas of HR, IT, Gov reporting etc. It also has some disadvantages around limits of salary scales for employing staff. The Chair also explained that he & the A/SEO will be meeting with Joe McGrath, CE of Tipperary County Council to discuss the current arrangements. Some members expressed concern regarding the extra staffing & governance requirements that would be placed on AFU members if the Forum was an Employing Authority. The Chair said that this would be addressed as part of the Strategic Planning process</p> <p>The A/SEO explained about a proposed IPA workshop for May 20th with members, to discuss links to WPAC, role of AFU in RBMP. Members welcomed this opportunity & agreed that it should be a stand-alone meeting. Request for afternoon on May 20th. The workshop should aid AFU take on more directive role, and discuss what improvements in governance arrangements are required for 3rd cycle of RBMP.</p>
3.	Education and Comms	<p>The Education & Communications Lead provided the following update:</p> <p>Peatlands Webinar: Taking place via Crowdcomms on the 21st May –invitations circulated to over 150 people. Press release was reported in Irish Times.</p> <p>Spring newsletter circulated, included infographic of FILLM redrafted. FILLM policy document also online. Education and Comms Lead gave presentation on FILLM at IAH (over 200 people) conference (260421) and CIEEM (~150 registered) conference (270421)</p> <p>Weekly news – CRU report, competition, Twitter growing, more engagement.</p> <p>Eco eye – AFU proposal to focus on water conservation & have discussed content with Eco Eye; rationale, pressures, solutions, good practice. E.g. GAA, LAWPRO (water harvesting Dublin, funded by industry), re-use of water. This feature would promote AFU research. Programme makers have explained that some funding would be required from AFU to support the development of the programme. NFGWS & LAWPRO may also be interested in supporting the development of the programme. The DHLGH has indicated their support for the development of the programme on water conservation.</p> <p>Further detail to be developed with the programme makers who have also indicated an interest in the developing content for a programme on bathing waters.</p> <p>Education output – winners for Water Conservation competition announced on Earth Day. Prizes will be distributed in near future, with planned press release.</p>
4.	Research and Policy Update	<p>4.1 To receive update on the Forums Research & Policy Actions including:</p> <p>Research Lead reviewed Open research calls: Domestic Water Conservation & National results-based agri-environment scheme.</p> <p>Call for reviewers for open calls:</p> <p>Review panel – Domestic Water Conservation; Barry, Laurie, Suzanne, Connie, Ollan & Triona</p> <p>Review panel – Results based Agri-environment scheme; Donal D. Suzanne, Charles, Denis, Siobhan, Triona</p> <p>Call development: Bottom-up initiatives in C. Management; discussed the building of social capital, a framework for social science to parallel FILLM, avenues for creating connection with water. It was suggested that the executive could discuss with the topic with Sean Corrigan in NFGWS about learnings from source protection pilot projects for community engagement.</p> <p>Invasive Species research update, final report received. Planning for a presentation in June.</p> <p>Update on 2020 ESR projects:</p> <p>Report on Water Quality of Small Private Supplies was circulated.</p> <p>Angelo provided an update on the water Resilience Project with UCD & in regard to</p>

		<p>Commercial Water Usage.</p> <p>One member81,153 requested that nutrient recycling from wastewater at both treatment plants and DWWTS should be included as a key focus for future research. This was supported by a number of members. Triona discussed possibility of including in this years ESR call.</p> <p>4.2 DHLGH briefing – MPA. Research Lead gave overview of consultation and summary of Dept. briefing. Members expressed concern over resources required and the lack of commitment for future resources for this proposal. Lack of resources should not be an acceptable reason to limit public consultation.</p>
5	WS Standing Committee	<p>To receive update from meeting with IW & contact with the CRU regarding the progress on the EMWSP</p> <p>The A/SEO gave an update to the meeting from IW on the progress of the NWRP & the EMWSP including a timeline with key milestones for its delivery.</p> <p>Some members expressed concern regarding the option chosen by IW to deliver the EMWSP from the Parteen Basin on the Shannon & in their view not giving enough consideration to utilising the boglands in the midlands as water reservoir. Above item to be queried at the next Liaison Group meeting with Irish Water.</p> <p>To note update from the DHLGH re draft Water Abstractions Bill.</p> <p>The A/SEO highlighted the update from the DHLGH regarding the Water abstraction’s legislation</p>
6.	CM Standing Committee	Referred to earlier discussion in relation to RBMP.
7.	AOB	<p>Ollan discussed the UN SDGs, we should be assessing how water is managed from the view of SDG and circular economy goals, to include in proposals that we make for Government.</p> <p>Connie – request to send an outline of SDGs to members.</p> <p>Note Gretta is an SDG advocate in the Education and Awareness group.</p>
8.	Date & time of the Next Plenary meeting	1 st June at 10.00am VIA ZOOM