



## PLENARY Meeting No. 36

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September - VIA ZOOM

Agreed Minutes

- Attendees:** Tom Collins (Chair), Denis Drennan, Paul O’Brien, Derrie Dillon, Dominic Cronin, Martin McEnroe, Neil Walker, David Wright, Gerald Quain, Issy Petrie, Suzanne Linnane, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley-Smith, Elaine McGoff, Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland, Barry Deane, Jean Rosney, Tim Butter, Tim Fenn & Liam Berney.
- Apologies:** Sinead O’Brien, Brendan Fitzsimons, Laurie Kearon & Siobhan Ward,
- In attendance:** Donal Purcell, Gretta McCarron, Triona McGrath, Angelos Alamanos, & Donal Daly
- Presenters:** Karen Brosnan, Geoff Dooley

No.	Details
1.	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the plenary meeting number 35 of the 13 <sup>th</sup> July were approved. There were no matters arising that weren’t included as an item on the agenda
2.	<p><i>Corporate Update</i></p> <p><b>Introduction to the draft Strategy:</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Karen Brosnan &amp; Geoff Dooley (Consultants to the meeting)</p> <p>Karen explained that the draft strategy shared with the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• had been developed following consultations with members and outside agencies.</li> <li>• The Strategic Plan Working Group (<i>Tom Collins, Dominic Cronin, Suzanne Linnane, Sinead O’Brien, Charles Stanley Smith, Liam Berney, David Wright &amp; Donal Purcell</i>) have worked with the consultants and the team to develop this draft.</li> <li>• There will be a follow up workshop to review any issues members have, omissions or issues that need to be addressed on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 10am.</li> <li>• Members asked that if they have particular issues, they wish to raise to email Karen with the information in advance of the meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Members queried if there is a need to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the members?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair was of the view that this is something that will be addressed after the strategy has been approved and will be facilitated by the new Chair.</li> </ul> <p>Query re. the name “National” Water Forum where the word National has been dropped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is something that will need to be discussed next week.</li> </ul> <p>Outcome of next week’s session will be to agree on the goals, objectives and outcomes. The internal implementation plan that includes actions etc will be an internal document for the team to report to the members on at regular meetings.</p>

	<p><b>Budget</b> Expenditure of €300,000 to 31 August. Eco Eye programme has been approved by the Dept.</p> <p><b>In person meetings</b> Members queried if there are there plans to return to in-person meetings? This item was discussed &amp; members/sectors explained what they were doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IBEC protocols are within office meetings are fine, between office meetings need approval. After 22<sup>nd</sup> October there will be a return to blended meetings for vaccinated people.</li> <li>• ICTU in talks with workforce about a return to office. Gradual return after the 22<sup>nd</sup> October.</li> <li>• Consensus to try blended meetings. Macra are examining use of technologies for blended meetings &amp; will be willing to share results. Likely there will be intermittent meetings in person when discussion and considerations warrant it.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><i>Education Update</i> <i>The Education Lead updated the meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECO Eye programme on Water Conservation is being progressed.</li> <li>• Weekly information updates to members being produced.</li> <li>• Autumn Newsletter will be coming out.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><i>Research Update</i> <i>The Research Lead updated the members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Water Conservation meeting in July, first draft due by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Will have a further update at the next plenary.</li> <li>• Policy tender applications reviewed; Nelly Montblanc who completed research for the Forum before on the Eastern Midlands Project came first &amp; has accepted the contract. Kick off meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• Invasive Alien Species research report circulated. Proposed presentation on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. CMSC meeting open to everyone.</li> <li>• Early-stage research, extension request from some researchers. We have extended to end Sept.</li> <li>• Internal research on data centres, Angelo has done work on this and we are looking at current planning applications and the potential impact on water resources and wastewater treatment. <i>Will present at next WSSC.</i></li> <li>• Legacy Sediment Contamination research presentation, Irene O’Callaghan UCC, highlighted a huge knowledge gap on sediment contamination, recommendations led to discussion at CMSC. More monitoring is needed, no regulations in place, would recommend pilot projects. Lake sediment is an issue and there is lots of unpublished research in this area. It would be useful to collate this information. Excellent report. Should be put on website and consider how to use the recommendations. Sediment is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important pollutant in water after P. It is not well understood and is significant in lakes and estuaries but unsure about its significance in rivers. Would agree it is worth further consideration by the Forum particularly the policy implications. Agreed to Review the research report to identify gaps in knowledge with a view to future research projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nitrates Action Programme draft submission was circulated. The Chair &amp; members were of the view that good work had been done on this by the members of the CMSC &amp; the Team who met on a number of occasions to consider this. It was agreed to include a note in the cover email accompanying the submission outlining that <i>this submission reflects the views of the Forum as a whole, members of the Forum may submit their own submissions reflecting the views of their individual organisations.</i></li> <li>• <i>Submission to Proposed Interventions to CAP</i> Due to the August consultation &amp; short timeline the submission was developed by the Team &amp; drafts circulated to the members for feedback, submission is largely based on research and policy input. Submitted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Dialogue matters training for members and staff</i></p> <p>Originating from stakeholder engagement discussions and considered as an aid to the new strategy objectives. Course duration: 5 half days or 3 consecutive days. Online group of less than 15. Members asked to Email Donal if they wished to put their name forward. Need to commit to the whole course Nov or January. Members queried if an Irish company could facilitate this training? The Research Lead explained that the Forum had sought 3 quotes and this company is highly recommended by the EPA. Members were of the view that there would be value in doing this course face to face, potentially a 3-day residential. Idea of sending out a questionnaire to members to gauge interest &amp; to find out preferences and timings etc. Idea of some of the Team members doing the course in the short term to see what the course is like.</p>
5.	<p><b>Public participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP</b></p> <p>Draft RBMP was expected in Jan 2021. Most likely now to be end Sept early Oct followed by 6 month consultation. Plan is to present to the Forum and engage with CMSC monthly on various topics, to get the Forums view, Dept and LAWPRO. It is planned to have 6 months public consultation and then the Dept will have to draft the final plan.</p> <p>Some members were of the view that we do not have a sense of what had been achieved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> plan &amp; the need for an analysis on priority areas that have been worked on.</p> <p>Potential to have a meeting over the coming weeks on this topic. Begin by reviewing progress and look specifically at work of ACP and ASSAP, aim to have this meeting by the end October. CMSC also suggested an introduction to PIP map and updates on progress.</p>
6.	<p><b>WSSC update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised the MOU between Irish Water and the Forum’s Liaison Group. Circulated &amp; agreed by the plenary.</li> <li>• Irish Water is moving to full implementation of the Excess use charges and the non-domestic tariff framework so that charges are uniform.</li> <li>• Advancing the regional plans as part of the NWRP, starting with the Eastern Midlands Plan.</li> <li>• The CRU have published decisions on Irish Waters Performance Assessment Framework and Irish Water RC3 Financial Incentives, these will be reviewed by the team to assess the Forum’s submission impacts.</li> <li>• Department is currently reviewing the Rural Water sector. The Forum have requested to input to the Rural Water Working Group on this process. The NFGWS have made a submission on the value of creating awareness and behavioural change through the DW Source Protection Strategy. We will circulate that to members. The chair was of the view that it is important for the Forum to monitor progress on this review as it progresses and submit their views when necessary.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the members that this would be his last meeting as Chair &amp; that the Minister will designate a member to chair the meetings until a new Chair is appointed. The Chair thanked the team, Donal, Triona, Gretta, Angelos, Martina and Alec Rolston and Sharon Kennedy for their work for the Forum and particularly thanked the members for their commitment and hard work over the past 6 years &amp; he said he looked forward to meeting everyone in person to have a proper farewell in the coming months. Members thanked the Chair for his commitment to the work of Forum &amp; for his fairness &amp; leadership over the years.</p>
8	<p><b>Next meeting: Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am</b></p>