



PLENARY Meeting No. 38

Tuesday 14th December - VIA ZOOM

Agreed Minutes

Attendees: Connie Rochford (Chair), Dominic Cronin, Gerald Quain, Suzanne Linnane, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley-Smith, Keith Hyland, Tim Butter, Sinead O'Brien, Neil Walker, Sinead O'Brien, Tim Butter, Neil Walker, Issy Petrie, Liam Bernie

Apologies: Paul O'Brien, Denis Drennan, Siobhan Ward, Elaine McGoff, Laurie Kearon, Barry Dean, Jean Rosney & Derrie Dillon

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

No.	Details
1.	1.1 The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting. 1.2 Minutes approved & no matters arising
2.	<p>Corporate Update</p> <p>Meeting schedule 2022: The SEO circulated a list of the proposed dates for Plenary meetings in 2022: January 25, March 15, April 26, June 1, July 12, September 13, October 25 & December 6. Members requested that meeting invitations be circulated to members by both email and outlook meeting invitation format.</p> <p>Expenditure The SEO updated the meeting on expenditure for 2021 & outlined that savings were made in the areas of meetings costs, members expenses, staff travel as a result of the impact of COVID as meetings were held virtually for the full year. The Forum has yet to be provided with its budget allocation for 2022. Members asked that the budget for 2022 should align with the new Strategic plan requirements incl. the appropriate staffing cohort for the work programme</p> <p>Members requested an update on the recruitment of a new Chair The SEO explained that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DHLGH had advertised the position. • Members requested that a communication be sent to the DHLGH to clarify the urgency of recruiting a new Chair, to mention the qualities required for the role of chair & to request that a forum member be included as part of the selection panel process. David Wright to Liaise with the SEO in drafting the communication & for it to be passed by & sent in the name of the A/Chair.
3.	<p>Education Update Update on communications and Eco Eye progress.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAS – reports sent to Minister (O’Brien and Noonan) and Dept. officials & requested to meet them, minister Eamon Ryan, DAFM, CAP Consultative Committee, Dept. of an Taoiseach. Articles for catchments.ie and newsletter. • Eco-eye; All recording complete, editing underway, programme for broadcasting in February 2022. • Factsheets: RBMP and WFD developed. Disseminated through education working group. • Webinar; draft outline; propose Feb 3rd. Linked to RBMP, links to Goal 5 of Strategic Plan, advocating for public participation, platform to promote FILLM, whole systems approach. Targeting the 46 catchments plans for RBMP and engaging with communities. Introduce FILLM, best practice in public participation, participative democracy, tool kit for community engagement. Second session public participation in practice (Rivers Trust, NFGWS, Corrib Beo, Duhallow). • Members supportive of webinar taking place on 3rd Feb (world wetlands day on Feb 2nd). Members queried if there are other voices, we could hear incl. possibility of a marine representative (e.g. seagrasses project), as models to use. Supports deliberative democracy. • Members suggested the development of a type of “Bluffers guide for the WFD” as an introduction for people getting involved in the water area now? Possibility of an event over coffee in the new year.
4.	<p>Research Update</p> <p>The Research Lead highlighted an issue around gaining consensus on sensitive issues when developing submissions.</p> <p>Discussion- Members views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of AFU submissions must have the approval of the plenary, a need consensus. • Suggested that sectors should be identified if not in agreement with consensus. All of the Forum reached agreement on issues but 1 sector disagreed with one part. While the Forum should always strive for full agreement, there is a need for transparency. • If you do not agree on something we do not say anything • need to protect the minority view. <p>Members were of the view that this issues needs to be a separate item on an agenda/workshop for discussion, if we are changing the basis of how we work. Timely to go back and give this a well-considered discussion.</p> <p>Members agreed to have a workshop on this, possibility for bringing in outside expertise & to wait until a full-time chair is in place.</p> <p>Water conservation research:</p> <p>Sarah Cotterill to present to the plenary in January, important for the forums work programme going forward.</p> <p>Draft Data centre research:</p> <p>Presentation on information on water use in data centres gathered to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns re a possible lack of transparency on this issue, should be prerequisite in planning that the data is made available. Need to see how much water that data centres use in Dublin in July for example. Planning should only approve if there is water saving technology. May have private abstractions but EPA do not have drop down menu for data centres. • In New year want to know what the industry use is particularly if we are doing domestic water conservation initiatives. • The Forum needs to look at cumulative impacts on catchments • How does the Forum form a policy on this? • Need more time on an agenda for this, look at wider abstractions and host a workshop on this.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum could produce a report specifically on data centres at the start. But expand out to different industries, will need data from IW on this. <p>Send out the draft summary to all the members.</p>
5.	<p>Update from Water Services Standing Committee</p> <p>Letter for the Minister drafted on Ballymore Eustace and Gorey issues to be approved by the plenary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked that under the heading LA staff services training, more balance would be appreciated. The problems would likely have occurred if treatment plan was under the control of IW, it is because of underinvestment, letter needs to be a little more balanced. DW water production should be treated as a food factory. Leave in about an acceleration of transition to public utility. <p>Agreed to revise draft and send</p> <p>NWRP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation open until end of March. <p>Chair of WSSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current chair, Barry Deane to step down but will remain as a member to represent rural water sector. Chair of WSSC can be a current member of WSSC or a new person appointed to the committee. New Forum chair could oversee the process. Suggest an interim proposal until the Forum has its new chair which could include someone from the secretariat.
6.	<p>CMSC update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP outline submission to be dealt with by the CMSC RBMP Engagements with Dept on this in January hydromorphology and wastewater. Dept. stakeholder event on 17th January. Seeking feedback on this. Target audience is stakeholders.
7	<p>Workplan 2021 & Q1 2022</p> <p>Review of 2021 work Programme presented by staff team, further considerations for 2022 in January. Members acknowledged that the work programme in 2021 had been very extensive & acknowledged the input from the staff. The SEO acknowledged the work of the staff & thanked the members for their time & expertise in all the work areas during the year.</p>
8	<p>A member mentioned an article in Sunday's business post concerning 40 wastewater treatment systems with very little regulation around them. Important to ensure this can't happen again.</p>
9	<p>Next meeting of the plenary: 11.00am on 25th January 2022 via zoom.</p>