

PLENARY Meeting 40

Tuesday 1st March 2022- VIA ZOOM
Approved MINUTES

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

No.	Details	Summary	Action
1.1	Welcome & Apologies	<p>The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted. Dr Matt Crowe, the new Forum Chair introduced himself giving an overview of his work with the EPA & his involvement in the water area. He commended Tom Collins on his great work as Chair of the Forum this past 6 years. He explained that he intends to contact each member individually over the next few months to get their views on how the Forum is working & that he would like to do some work on the role & focus of the Forum including the area of implementation.</p> <p>The members & executive welcomed the new chair to the Forum & wished him well in his new role.</p>	
2.1	Consideration of the Forums initial draft submission on the 3rd cycle dRBMP	<p>The Chair explained that the objective of today’s meeting is to agree the broad trust of the recommendations for the Forums RBMP submissions. He referenced that member’s had been issued with the draft submission along with a list of the key recommendations.</p> <p>The SEO gave an overview of the progress on the Forums engagement & work in developing a response to the dRBMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant amount of work by Forum Members to date on the dRBMP since the SWMI consultation in Nov. 2019 & at <i>pre-draft</i> stage in 2020/21 • CMSC held series of meetings in 2021/22 with DHLGH, EPA, LAWPRO & other agencies on topics incl: Agriculture, UWW, Hydromorphology, Governance, (meeting on forestry & HSWB arranged) • Engagement with Experimental Governance research (IPA) • Forum webinar on public participation - 3rd Feb 22 • Information/ideas gathered from the Forum’s work on other submissions incl. consultations on CAP/NAP/Foodwise/NIPO-DWWT along with scientific information from Donal Daly <p>Introduction by the Research Lead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the urgency and importance of the RBMP. • Link in with climate and global issues. IPCC report, Climate Bill. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy coherence, addressing co-benefits • Climate Action Plan – renewable fuels, main obstacle is dealing with the nitrates run off from digestate. • Strong emphasis on the ultimate goal of the RBMP is to achieve good status for all waterbodies by 2027 <p>The Research Lead & Comms/ Education Lead brought members through the draft document</p> <p><u>Outcomes based approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise the importance of targeted measures, the right measure in the right place. The measures should be developed keeping in mind the impact we want to have on every water body. • Highlight the need for transparency in the decision-making on targeted measures for reaching WFD objectives. • Need to emphasise that it’s not acceptable to have delays due to policy gaps/implementation in meeting WFD objectives. • Less emphasis on county level plans – focus on catchments & the need for catchment work across LAs. • WFD App should be made available to all key stakeholders (including the Executive of the Forum and Forum members) to increase transparency in the data available and allow full stakeholder engagement in the process. <p><u>Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Forum should be illustrated as a stand-alone Pillar in Figure 8 (outside of all the implementation structures), where there are opportunities for engagement across all tiers of governance. • The Forum’s Executive should have access to documentation (e.g. meeting agendas and minutes) to ensure the Forum members are kept up-to-date on the implementation of the 3rd cycle. • There should be formal engagement established between the Forum and the Regional Committees (e.g. annually) to allow Forum members to receive updates on the progress and implementation of the RBMP at a regional level. • Emphasise the need for transparency across all levels of governance of the RBMP; in particular; clarity in decision making process on the RBMP, meetings and progress, monitoring and evaluation, access to data and documentation. • There needs to be link between regional structures and public participation structures <p><u>Public participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note – expand catchment groups to include GWS • Links with other programmes (joined up approach)-WFD objective. • Examples from NFGWS – can’t underestimate the value of the community sector, it is resource heavy, but can be carried by engaged communities. • Citizen science monitoring central accessible database of data from CS monitoring • Stronger resource section needs resources to support catchment groups. Joined up approach to funding streams (source protection and Rbmp objectives) Easier access to funding for community groups and funding needs to be available at local level • Stronger recommendations on Deliberative democracy – clear process for groups being involved I decision making with emphasis on actions emphasise CH comment 	<p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p> <p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p> <p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for catchment groups, staff admin etc • Specialist training for staff. Training for LA staff, facilitation skills, assessing funding applications, WFD and catchment management, stakeholder mapping, deliberative and participative approaches. • Need for a Liaison person to work with Catchment Groups who can engage with agencies who are ‘causing issues’ (where communities don’t have power). • Regional fora – how they would interact, support and input to regional committees • Operate with existing mechanisms, e.g. include PPNs, Tidy Towns co-ordinators. etc. • Emphasise multiple benefits. And co-creation of projects • How to ensure consistency and accountability across LAs. Climate Action, Water and Nature needs to be included in every decision made at local authority level across all sections. This integration needs to be led by the executive team within local authorities and fed into Regional committee work programmes. <p><u>Invasive Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if NPWS has been allocated as leading agency, ensure single lead agency. • Detail of Customs declaration forms. <p><u>Domestic WasteWater</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include reference to planning and building controls in the final recommendations • Highlight lack of integration in the final recommendations • Include need for follow up inspections & enforcement in final recommendations • Provide recommendations and guidance for addition of nature-based solutions where there are unsuitable land conditions • Training for Local Authority staff on the above <p><u>Hydromorphology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Arterial Drainage Act to ensure compliance with the WFD. • Urgency in development of legislation, but with sufficient public participation. • Current fragmented system needs to be addressed, stronger controls on drainage and dredging and reclamation of wetlands. • Clear information on regulations needs to be made available to all landowners <p><u>Urban Waste Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened language and tone under this area. • IW investment plan should be aligned with the RBMP. • The 208 waterbodies are the primary focus, all measures must be addressed before 2027. • UWWT- 25 years on and still not compliant • More emphasis on NBS. • Include reference to freshwater pearl mussel.in recommendations <p><u>Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to focus on targeted measures, right measure right place. More emphasis on spatially extended targeted buffers. • Independent review of how CAP will support RBMP, e.g. by EPA. • Independent review of how NAP will support the RBMP. Review of AECM – reference Just transition fund. 	<p>Follow up with NPWS.</p> <p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p> <p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p> <p>Amend draft submission as appropriate</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to planning and the NAP for the WFD. • Review CAP SEA against WFD. • Review of the AECM relative to WFD objectives. • Stronger emphasis on the specifics (2,500km interception measures, soil rewetting, 50% reduction in N) – how these will be done. • Include specifics on targeted measures following inspections/ impact. • LAWPRO and ASSAP in a fully integrated approach. • Focus on multiple benefits, design of incentives, urgency of addressing agriculture. <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team to update the draft document with the feedback/comments from today's meeting & to add in other areas such as peatlands & to circulate to the members for consideration • CMSC meeting taking place on Tue 8th March 11.00am to focus on Forestry/HSWB & the dRBMP– DHLGH/Forestry Service to attend • Thur 31st March - Deadline for submissions on the dRBMP 	<p>Amend draft submission as appropriate & circulate for feedback</p>
3.1	Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary meeting on Tue 15th March 10.00am. Some of the members queried if the next meeting could be held face to face. The Chair & SEO to consider & inform members. • Meeting re the dRBMP with the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien T.D., & Minister of State Malcolm Noonan T.D., is scheduled for Thursday 24th March in Dublin 	<p>Chair & SEO to discuss & inform the members.</p>