



Workshop & Plenary Meeting

Tuesday 27th May 2022-

Ashling Hotel Dublin

Agreed MINUTES

Attendees: Matt Crowe (Chair), Denis Drennan, Paul O’Brien, Martin McEnroe, Suzanne Linnane, Bernadette Connolly, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley Smith, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland & Issy Petrie

Apologies: Liam Berney, Siobhan Ward, Jean Rosney, Derrie Dillon, Dominic Cronin, Neil Walker, David Wright, Gerald Quain, Sinead O’Brien, Elaine McGoff, Brendan Fitzsimons, Tim Butter, Tim Fenn,

In Attendance: Donal Purcell, Triona McGrath, Gretta McCarron,

No.	Details	Summary	Action
1.1	Welcome & Apologies	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
3.1	Consideration of minutes of last meeting	Minutes of meeting held on the 15 th March were approved. The SEO mentioned a proposed meeting with Water Advisory Body who would like to engage with the Forum regarding work they are doing on examining how Irish Water is regulated. Members welcomed the opportunity to meet with WAB	
	Workshop	The Chair Introduced the workshop on role and focus of the Water Forum in relation to the Minister, DHLGH, IW, CRU & Rural Water. Members discussed these areas and put ideas forward on the future role and focus. See separate report on the workshop	Circulate workshop report
	Research	Proposal for two research tenders; one on Climate and Water Quantity, the other on Climate and Water Quality. Both would support Forum in advise for review of Climate Adaptation Sector Plan for Water. Proposed by Charles S Smith & seconded by Bernie Connolly. Topics agreed, Research Lead to proceed to develop tenders for research. Additional topic on pharmaceuticals proposed for research; The Research Lead suggested inviting researchers from DCU to give a presentation on pharmaceuticals. This was welcomed, additional presentation on agricultural pharmaceuticals could also be included as it has been found to be an issue in groundwater. DCU doing work on that; Forum could ask Damien Mooney to give a presentation. The Research Lead suggested that Forum could hold a number of workshops spread over the year, inviting in experts on different topics to support Forum’s work (e.g. pharmaceuticals, nutrient recovery).	Research Lead to develop tender documents & to seek Researchers to tender for the work.

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		<p>Research Strategy will be revised over the coming months. Will consider engagement with the EPA, SFI and other research institutes, e.g. EPA fast track policy recommendations, Forum could co-fund EPA research.</p> <p>Overview provided on Policy Coherence Research by Nelly Maublanc, members agreed a presentation at the next Plenary would be useful.</p> <p>Overview provided on Nutrient Recovery Bursary; will consider how to proceed with this (e.g. additional workshop with other experts).</p>	<p>Arrange suitable date</p>
	<p>Communications</p>	<p>The Comms & Education Lead explained proposal to focus communications on water conservation and public participation as it links with the Forum's Strategic Plan and the requirements of the Function of the Forum under the Act.</p> <p>Water Conservation: Proposal to develop an awareness campaign including putting a page on the Forum's website with information on the value of water and the need for water conservation. Proposal to develop a podcast on water conservation with experts and speakers to explain why it is needed in a water-rich country like Ireland.</p> <p>Proposal also to develop a social media campaign with input from personalities on tips to conserve water on tic toc, facebook, Instagram etc. the aim would be to deliver this as part of Science Week as this provides a large promotion platform to us.</p> <p>Public participation: Proposal to do a page on the website to explain and advocate for public participation as this address our strategic goals 4 and 5. Proposal to develop case studies on visioning activities to be funded by LAWPRO under the Community Water Development fund. Early stage of discussion but there is potential to develop a toolkit for communities who wish to develop 'visions' for their local water bodies.</p> <p>Question: Members expressed concern that this approach might stray into the LAWPRO role? Comms Lead explained that it is considered a tool to nudge communities into action but will also provide for clarity on what is required to deliver visions in communities so can further inform future policy needs.</p> <p>Members suggested that as PPNs and communities have already developed visions and plans that could be used as case studies, the frameworks already exist these need to be included in any guidance document. Potential to build on what is already there. Follow up on this suggestion.</p> <p>Develop a Transition year education programme on river catchments and what is unique about a local catchment. Award programme where schools will prepare a short video to be shown to local communities who are developing visions to inform them on what students consider important in their local area. It was suggested that this should be a national award & to explore using BT Young Scientist</p> <p>Answer; Had explored Young Social entrepreneurs but it was expensive and the scope of this proposal was outside of their approach. EPA have funded BT young scientist awards and it is something that the Forum should look into.</p>	<p>Develop proposals</p> <p>Develop proposals</p> <p>Develop programme</p>

No.	Details	Summary	Action
		<p>Develop education proposal this year and potential to develop awards programme for next year.</p> <p>For communications there is a question on how we wish to engage and communicate with other agencies such as IW, CRU, etc. Suggestion to develop a stakeholder engagement strategy? There needs to be further discussions on this.</p> <p>Proposal to update website with information on Water conservation and public participation. Include tabs for links to you tube for the Forum's videos.</p>	Update website
3.1	Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Conference on 18th & 19th May • June Plenary meeting to be held online with a date suitable to include a presentation on the research by Nelly Maublanc on Policy Coherence for Water & Environmental Management. • To hold the July plenary meeting in person with the possibility of having a farewell for Tom Collins (e.g. Athlone) • Suggestion to have meetings at different parts of the country. 	Arrange meetings & notify members