

Plenary Meeting

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Aisling Hotel / Zoom

Agreed Minutes

Attendees: Matt Crowe (Chair), Connie Rochford, Bernadette Connolly, Keith Hyland, Denis Drennan, Derry Dillon, Dominic Cronin, Gerald Quain, Tim Fenn, Neil Walker, Suzanne Linnane, Issy Petrie

Attendees Online: Barry Deane, Charles Stanley Smith, Elaine McGoff, Jean Rosney, Siobhan Ward, Brendan Fitzsimons, Paul O'Brien, Liam Berney

Apologies: Sinead O'Brien, Ollan Herr, Martin McEnroe, Tim Butter, David Wright

In Attendance: Donal Purcell, Triona McGrath, Gretta McCarron & Aisling Corkery

No.	Details	Summary	Action
1.1	Welcome & Apologies	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting & apologies were noted	
1.1	Consideration of minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the Plenary meeting held on the 25 October were approved	Minutes to be placed on website
2.1	Corporate Update	<p>Membership – Forum membership recommendations: The SEO outlined the key points from the report that was circulated & explained that he will engage with department re filling vacancies, addressing gender balance, and how to advertise for individuals.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership can roll over for a second term of 3 years • For the filling of vacancies a variety of backgrounds are required – Geographic background (e.g. representative from the west of Ireland) • Sector gaps: fishing to include fishermen with smaller boats within the area of the WFD, National youth council (young people/youth assembly), artisan food and beverage (various groups incl. slow food groups), consumers – idea to recruit a panel of people that may have an interest. • Consumer Members mentioned that there is an interesting structural issue – where in general everyone on the forum 	

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		<p>represents a body, but consumers don't have that, they are working in a vacuum, and would like to address this.</p> <p>Climate Action Mandate The SEO provided an overview of the Climate Action mandate. The Members adopted the draft Action Mandate</p> <p>Actions for 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should use public transport when feasible and hold hybrid meetings etc • Need to report on progress of actions. • Research we are doing is relevant to climate action <p>Draft Schedule of Plenary Meetings - Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a purpose for in person meetings e.g., strategy meeting, workshops, site visits etc. These need to be planned and strategy meeting /workshops should also have a hybrid option. • All meetings should be hybrid, fully in person plenary meetings not necessary. • Request for some in person meetings in the west. <p>Budget The budget report was noted.</p> <p>Correspondence. The following were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Minister Darragh O'Brien re the dissolution of the WAB. • Letter from AFU Chair to Minister Noonan expressing disappointment re cancellation of meeting on Invasive Species Research. 	
3.1	Recast Drinking Water Directive	<p>Donal Cronin, Policy Adviser for DHLGH provided a Presentation of the Recast Drinking Water Directive which will be circulated:</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scanning horizon for new chemical parameters that might cause problems for drinking water – not a fixed list, additional chemicals can be added • There are limits set for PFAs. However, they can't really be removed, if can't be removed, source may not be viable. • The Recast Directive only looks at Legionnaires in terms of drinking water, only specific conditions cause this to occur. Larger building hospitals etc have longer retention times of water which allows these conditions. • GWS trying to align with both directives. Working groups established are being retained as implementation groups, needs to go as smoothly as possible. Department should consider this. • Discussion on threshold for Directive of 10m³/day, lots of small suppliers in Ireland supplying schools, nursing homes etc plus private wells, anything in directive for provision of safer water to these: Nursing homes always covered under Directive regardless of size. Original Directive 100m³/day, so reducing to going 10m³/day should capture smaller suppliers. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Recast Directive is structured to tie into WFD, making sure these two pieces of work align with each other. • Framework approach set up to deal with IW source protection issues between EPA, GSI, IW, LA, Landowners etc. Piece being built in DWSP will be continually improved – more interaction for learning/improvement. • Engagements ongoing re resources for source protection but not finalised yet. Putting number against each activity or organisation hasn't happened. • Access to Water: Drinking water fountains being put in place/ aims at reducing plastic waste 	
4.0	RBMP	<p>Update on the RBMP</p> <p>Following lengthy discussions on draft POMs it was agreed to write a letter to WPAC. Letter was drafted, circulated to members and forwarded to the Department. The Forum will be given an opportunity to see next version of draft plan and the Department is open to engaging further. Traffic light document was prepared with additional suggestions by the Team, which were discussed at Friday's CMSC meeting. There is opportunity to continue to engage in process up to the final stages.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to engage with the Dept. (plan will be published well into new year). 2) Needs to be another meeting with WPAC, should have seen new draft before this. 3) Write to Ministers (O'Brien and Noonan), letting them know we've written to WPAC and are engaging with officials, and will continue to engage. We want to be able to support this plan. 4) Next year's advice will be for Implementation of plan 5) Re: IW UWWTs – Need to write to IW/CRU, stating we are not happy with length of time for assessments/upgrades. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outcome based approach: we need to keep pressure on and not make assumptions. Officials see engagement with AFU as helpful and are happy to facilitate engagement. 2) Level of agreement among members is useful to Department 3) Gap analysis: should we push them to make a commitment to when it will be done. 4) Sectoral Plans: we need to keep pushing for measures in the catchment plans. – They have agreed to this <p>Agriculture/Hydromorphology - Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to committing to rerunning the GAP analysis, must also be committed to implementing measures. • GDPR is the barrier to public access to data, could potentially single out specific septic tanks/fields etc. – farmers concerned about this. • Department not sure about Hydromorphology timelines, we can put pressure on them to update timeframes when they are known. Urgency to identifying interim measures. <p>Further funding:</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP and EIP only funding available at the moment. Can look for further funding stream, possibly under climate. • EIP potentially good but need to be in Full Acres Scheme (numbers limited, only 30,000 places). Potential future discussion with Forum members; Who is in Acres Programme,? and where will it focus. what are the issues with staff in the Burren LIFE project. <p>Other - Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for the 46 catchments: These plans can be a major implementation tool for the Regional Operational Committee. CMPs are part of Tier 3, integrated into LA and regional. Need project management secretariate in Tier 1, overseeing everything. Difficulty in getting it resourced. • Draft CMPs: Pilots will look at public participation, to accelerate right measure, right place... • We will we get to see and discuss new draft RBMP ahead of Chair attending next WPAC meeting Timeline for new draft and WPAC meeting need to be set. • Forestry – Members still have concern re whether actions will be implemented. 	
5.1	Draft NPWS Strategy Education and Communications	<p>Draft NPWS Strategy Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the submission is to Share research resources we have done already and to let them know previous positions: Disseminating what we have already done. • From Forum point of view – who is in charge of nature nationally? NPWS only in charge of protected areas, who is in charge of the rest. Are there problems with governance? • Areas that are meant to be protected are not protected. Nature isn't a priority for the Planning sector. • Some Biodiversity officers already appointed, new process is ongoing and should be welcomed. The Biodiversity Officers role will be enforcement. Highlighted that there are not enough people working to champion biodiversity in protected areas • NPWS strategy: should we stick with what we have already done given timeline? Short cover letter not in line with what we have agreed with members. <p>Education and Communication Key Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots to do/plan in the new year re climate-biodiversity-water • BT Young Scientist (11-14th January) display stand for 4 Days. The awards presentation is 4pm Friday 13th, looking for volunteers. 	
5	AOB	<p>Fieldtrips: Suggested trips 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater treatment plant, e.g. Ringsend • ACP & Kick sampling can be combined • GWS & Source Protection 	
6	Next meeting	Tuesday 24th January - Hybrid	Arrange meeting