



## Plenary Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 on Zoom

### Agreed Minutes

**Attendees Online:** Matt Crowe (Chair), Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland, Dominic Cronin, David Wright, Martin McEnroe, Liam Berney, Jean Rosney, Derrie Dillon, Charles Stanley Smith, Paul O’Brien, Tim Butter, Siobhan Ward, Sinead O’Brien, Ollan Herr, Denis Drennan, Brendan Fitzsimons, Bernadette Connolly, Elaine McGoff, Barry Deane & Tim Fenn.

**Apologies:** Issy Petrie, Neil Walker, Suzanne Linnane, & Gerald Quain.

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

No.	Details	Summary	Action
1.1	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting & apologies were noted.	
1.1	<b>Consideration of minutes of last meeting</b>	The minutes of the Plenary meeting held on the 13 <sup>th</sup> June were approved. The meeting noted the briefing to the Plenary on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May on “the Impact of Climate Change on Water Quality & Quantity”	Minutes to be placed on website.
2.0	<b>Corporate Issues</b>	<p>2.1 Update on the Forums expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p><b>Expenditure YTD:</b> The SEO referenced the AFU Expenditure breakdown circulated to the members in advance of the meeting with total expenditure for the year to date is €262,795.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> SEO gave an update on Membership. Membership is governed by the Water Service Act 2017 and members are eligible for reappointment for a second term (a term is 3 years). 13 members interested in re-appointment, 8 not going forward for reappointment and 3 are undecided. SEO discussed procedures for nominating members and timescale for the process &amp; that members to be appointed by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. SEO discussed the 4 previously agreed additional reps/nominating bodies (fisheries, youth, artisan food &amp; beverage &amp; consumer interests)</p> <p><i>Questions/Discussion</i></p>	

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		<p>It was suggested that since there is no panel/governing body for consumer representatives that some form of a 3 month overlap period for consumer members which would allow engagement with exiting members and to understand the working of the Forum. Answer: This could be considered as part of an induction process.</p> <p>Members highlighted the need for an inshore fisheries representative on the Forum.</p> <p>Chair thanked the SEO for his work on the membership.</p> <p><b>Plenary dates and location</b> – Forum to follow the scheduled dates for the rest of the year. Need to decide on alternative locations for meetings well in advance (Lough Derg area suggested as alternative location) Members of the view that a room with mics is better for hybrid meetings – Tim Fenn explained that his organisation had purchased a system which has a camera and mic that picks up sound and visual. €1800 for the whole kit.</p>	<p>Department and Individual bodies will be contacted to discuss.</p> <p>SEO to discuss with Tim Fenn after September meeting</p>
3.0	<b>Research &amp; Policy</b>	<p><b>Recast UWWTD Presentation by Aisling Corkery</b> Discussed Current EU UWWTD and the Proposed Recast UWWTD Challenges for Ireland, including compliance with EU UWWTD, completion of stormwater overflow assessments, need for investment. Draft Recommendations presented on 10 out of 35 Articles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Article 5 – integrated urban wastewater and urban management plans</li> <li>2. Article 6 – 8 – secondary, tertiary, quaternary treatment</li> <li>3. Article 9-10 – extended producer responsibility and minimum requirements</li> <li>4. Article 13 – local climatic conditions</li> <li>5. Article 15 – water reuse and discharge of urban wastewater</li> <li>6. Article 22 – information and monitoring of implementation.</li> <li>7. Article 24 – information to the public</li> </ol> <p>Members agreed to support the extended producer responsibility, without comments regarding medical costs to consumers.</p> <p><i>Social economic caveat that the cost of enhanced treatments will not be passed on to consumers and future climate conditions should be included in the model in plant performance. Data should be made available on the impact of uwwt on receiving waters particularly sensitive areas.</i></p> <p>Chair: We could be stronger on small agglomerations, should comment on appropriate treatment for agglomerations below 1000 p.e. It was noted that there are fluctuations in organic loading for small coastal agglomerations during holiday periods.</p>	<p>AC to update recommendations.</p>

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		<p><i>Approved for submission, with 1000pe point.: Keep an eye on progress on this.</i></p> <p><b>Water Forum Submission to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications on the 2024 Climate Action Plan.</b></p> <p>The Research Lead explained that she developed the submission to DECC based on the previous submission to the Climate Change Advisory Council and to the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO).</p> <p>Discussed relevant sections of the call for expert evidence by the DECC (built environment, public sector leading by example, research &amp; innovation)</p> <p>Built Environment related to specifications for new builds, but more can be done in terms of individual habits, including feedback for customers from district meters. – Recommendation on the need for education on water as a resource.</p> <p>Some members shocked by acceleration of change of climate, young people expressing anger that climate action isn't happening fast enough. Situation is stark and a radical shift needs to happen by 2030 (7 years away). We all need to be much more proactive/radical.</p> <p>This submission is a real opportunity to highlight multiple benefits of what can be achieved.</p> <p><i>Submission approved.</i></p> <p><b>To Receive update on LAWPRO approach to the development of the Catchment Management Plans &amp; Catchment Community Fora &amp; public participation, following meeting between the Forum's Executive and LAWPRO staff</b></p> <p>Discussed the proposed plans for the development of Catchment Management Plans and the Catchment Community Fora</p> <p>LAWPRO are proceeding with 5 pilot catchments - Sectoral Action Plans being a core element of the CMPs.</p> <p>Forum Response to LAWPRO:</p> <p>Discussed CMP forum recommendations.</p> <p>Link on cathment.ie to express interest in Pilot Catchment, Fora and Workshops</p> <p>Discussed Forum's recommendations in terms of outcomes for water.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Member mentioned that PPNs are putting together paper for what they can do for climate actions (biodiversity, climate and water all linked)</p> <p>Members are concerned with the approach to the Catchment Management Plans and are worried that it will be business as usual with a siloed Sectoral Plan approach. The Catchment Management Plan need to be able to influence via catchment characterisation and scientific data what measures are put in place within the Sectoral Plans and not the other way around i.e., just include what the Sectoral Plans are proposing within the CMPs. Focus should be on best practice for integrated management plans.</p>	<p><i>Circulate link to discussion doc.</i></p> <p>TMcG will circulate for members to summarise input. Advise at higher level can be given to WPAC.</p> <p>TMcG will engage with LAWPRO and summarise Forum's concerns.</p>

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		<p>Chair: The recommendations highlight the issues with the sectoral plans. Chair is happy with initiatives, clearly there are gaps, but it doesn't mean LAWPRO shouldn't go ahead with the pilots. CMPs will identify what the actions will be needed, and they will end up in the Sectoral Actions plans. We have an opportunity to give LAWPRO some "high level" feedback.</p> <p>SEO: is it Water Advisory Unit we should talk to first rather than going straight to WPAC.</p> <p>Members agree it's good to follow up with WPAC...who has the teeth to drive the change. LAWPRO is tasked with difficult work but don't have authority to dictate what is done.</p> <p>Forum asked for Project secretariat in our recommendations, and these would be the people to drive this. Member suggested expert support should be given to the Community Fora from the beginning (this is best practice) – budget not available for this.</p> <p><b>Research</b> Water Customer Survey is finalised and discussed for when it will go live, detailed additional GWS survey.</p> <p>Public participation research – preliminary results presentation on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Third Research Project:</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> piece of research on the review of the Programme for Government – Environmental Commitments (discussed research by Friends of the Earth) – Proposed project would review Water Commitments. Approximate cost of €25,000 Member suggested putting more of a future focus on the research (4<sup>th</sup> point on emerging water issues and 3<sup>rd</sup> point on barriers) <i>Approved</i></p> <p>Discussed Waters of Life meeting – <i>presentation on FILLM</i>, opportunity for forum to be involved in next steps.</p>	<p>TMG will develop and advertise tender for this project.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Education and Communications Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Communications and Education Update</b> Proposed Land Use review workshop to learn about review and find out Phase 2 plans.</p> <p>Members request that some balance is required at the workshop for all views to be represented, speakers from other side should be considered. (Teagasc report – goal post have changed for LULUCF. New research shows only sector that needs to change is Forestry)</p> <p>Members stated that other views need to be based on scientific/academic work, giving a critic of the factual inaccuracies in the Land Use review. – Agricultural Catchments Programme running for last 12 years, so need to look at this data. Government policy is very mixed up on this, effects of land use change needs to be known.</p>	<p>GMcG to discuss speakers with POB <i>proceed with planning</i></p>

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		<p>Chair: Workshop must be based on science and evidence and must be based on Water.</p> <p>DW suggest all members read “Six Thinking Hats by The de Bono Group”</p>	
5.0	<b>AOB</b>	<p>Martin McEnroe provided an update from the 2<sup>nd</sup> National working Group meeting on Invasive Species – Working on National Plan for submission to Minister, Workshop in the autumn. Discussed Oak moth incident in Dublin.</p> <p>Need to look at Rural Water recommendations – encourage all members to attend Rural Water Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Programme to be issued this week.</p> <p>Chair: Water &amp; Agriculture Group Details – Chair was asked to be Forum representative. The group has met three times and terms of reference were agreed at the last meeting. Other forum members are part of the group representing their own organisations.</p> <p>Ollan requested members to read proposal he had sent.</p>	Chair to circulate ToRs
6.)	<b>Next meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10.30am in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin</b>	