Draft Minutes of the Plenary Meeting
Tuesday 8th September 2026
Ashling Hotel

Attendees: Matt Crowe, David Wright, Martin McEnroe, Connie Rochford, Michael Kenny, Mark Farrelly, Charles Stanley-Smith, Dominic Cronin, Maria O'Gorman, Marie Doyle, Eimear Manning, Elaine McGoff, Constanze O'Toole, Steve Conlon, Karin Dubsky, Jean Rosney, Keith Hyland

Apologies: Brendan O'Brien, Fintan Kelly, Ciarán Maguire, Tadhg Buckley, Suzanne Linnane, Juan Pablo Martinez, Puneeta Sreenivas, Eamon Carroll

In Attendance: Donal Purcell, Triona McGrath, Divya Flynn, Aisling Corkery

No.	Item	Details
1.	**Apologies & Minutes**	**1.1 Welcome** Chair welcomed members to the meeting. **1.2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** No conflicts of interest. **1.3 Consideration of draft minutes of Meeting no. 76 held on 7th July 2026** Minutes Approved. **1.4 Matters arising from the minutes** None.
2.	**Corporate issues**	**2.1 To receive update on:** **Forums expenditure to 31st August.** The SEO explained that expenditure to 31st August 2026 was *€388,348* **Approval of the Draft Terms of Reference for Strategic Plan Steering Committee** SEO outlined the purpose and membership of the Steering group which provides oversight and guidance for the development of the strategic plans. *Plenary Adopted the draft ToR for the Strategic Plan Steering Committee*.
3.	**Research & Policy**	**3.1 Research & policy update:** **The Catchment Management Standing Committee** • The draft 4th Water Action Plan is at an advanced development stage. It is planned to commence the 6 month public consultation by year end. • EU Commission to send evaluation report on 3rd cycle • 2 proposed actions: Forum's role with the CCF and Forum to advise on a Framework for Communications. • Draft Planning Guidance is due for Public Consultation • EPA Catchment tracker to be published **Member Discussions:** Member mentioned that Dept of Agriculture have published all their Catchment Assessments. Forum will engage before Christmas to talk about the process.

		Action: Send Catchment Assessment link to members. A member highlighted the enormous amount of fish lost in our rivers this year and that getting water into clean status has failed in his view., **The Water Services Standing Committee** • Discussed meeting with the CRU re the establishment UE Water stakeholder Engagement Evaluation Panel (WSEEP). • Discussed setting up a meeting with UE on WSEEP and Interest of public consumers. • Discussed UE's Public Consultation on the Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan Issues Paper (deadline 20th Oct 2026). • SEO and Chair met with UE Chair and Chief Exec to open up an avenue of communication. • Discussed the Forum having a position on Data Centres. Member highlighted the issue of warm water emission from data centres and it's potential use as an energy source. Member asked are there any European Water Forums we can link with during the EU Presidency (possibly the Netherlands – Water Boards, Finland, Danube Forum)
5.	**Education & Communications**	**4.1 Communications Update:** **The Forum's Water Resilience conference** Date & Location: **12th November in the Tullamore Court Hotel** Conference Title: "*Building Water Resilience – a conference connecting policy, action and communities*" The Communications Lead gave an overview of the conference programme and proposed speakers that will be presenting on the day, including the Keynote Speaker, Henk Ovink, and discussed the proposed conference programme.. Registration to open on Eventbrite soon via invite.
6.	**Workshop on the development of AFU Strategic Plan**	**AFU Strategic Plan workshop facilitated by Kim Knowles & Muireann ní Sheanlaoich** 5.1 Introduction to the Strategic Planning Process 5.2 Reflection on the Forum in its current context (SWOT/PESTEL) 5.3 Deeper discussion on topics emerging from the member survey Consultants will prepare a report on the workshop and the recent member and staff survey
8.	**Date for next Plenary**	**6.1 To confirm the date of the next Plenary meeting** Tuesday 20th October 2026 – Ashling Hotel