

## Minutes of Public Water Forum Meeting No. 3

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016  
**Time:** 11:00am – 4:00pm  
**Location:** The Gresham Hotel, Dublin

### Present:

Dr Tom Collins (Chair)

Andrea Ahern, Colm Brady, David Wright, Dymrna Morrow, Eoghan Brophy, John Shine  
 Karen Carney, Laurie Kearon, Liam Berney, Mindy O'Brien, Neil Walker, Orla O'Donovan,  
 Patrick Gerard McGuinness, Paul McMenamin, Paul Sigamoney, Rena O'Herlihy, Vincent  
 Holmes,

### In Attendance:

Colm Lavery (DECLG)

### Apologies:

Fergus O'Toole, David Wright, Kevin Ryan, Dr.Suzanne Linane, Dr. Jean O'Dwyer, Berenice  
 Phelan , William O'Neill, Brian O'Donnell, Tom Horan

ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
2.1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> The chair noted apologies.	<b>NOTED</b>
2.2	<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016</b> Approved.	<b>APPROVED</b>
3.1	<b>UPDATE ON PWF BUDGET – DEFERRED</b>	<b>NOTED</b>
3.2	<b>UPDATE ON PWF WEBSITE – DEFERRED</b>	
3.3	Correspondence	
4.0	<b>PWF and Current Political Climate</b> Colm Lavery (DECLG) gave a presentation on the current proposals of government for the overseeing and further implementation of water charges in Ireland. Points to note from the presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Utility model is not in question and will be retained.</li> <li>- Two new bodies are envisaged, an Expert Commission and an External Advisory Group</li> <li>- The exchequer will provide subvention for the period of charge suspension.</li> <li>- The Commission will be established within 8 weeks of government forming</li> <li>- Proposed legislation does not refer to or reference the PWF</li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>

In the discussion which followed,

- The relevance and visibility of the PWF was raised.
- There was some discussion on the interaction between the political domains and the executive domains in the development of the current proposals
- It was confirmed that the membership of the External Advisory Board would be competency based

The Chair indicated he would be meeting with DECLG officials in the coming weeks to discuss the role of the PWF in the light of these new developments.

After the Presentation members addressed three questions in a number of break-out groups, concerning respectively the

- Rationale of the PWF given the new structural arrangements
- Role of the PWF in the new context
- Distinction between PWF and the other entities on the scene

The Chair undertook to summarise the deliberations of the groups and to circulate.

## **5.0 Working Group Update**

A member from each working group provided an update on their work streams.

### **5.1 Ownership & Governance, James Grimes**

The group clarified that the objective is to develop proposals to ensure Irish Water and affiliated assets, infrastructure and services remain in public ownership. The group are reviewing existing legislation and are preparing a document for procurement of legal services should clarification be required.

### **5.2 Conservation , Vincent Holmes**

The group had met with Irish Water regarding the plan for Parteen Weir. The group were satisfied with the information from Irish Water. And undertook to provide a summary of the Irish Water presentation to the next Forum meeting  
A summary of the project to be prepped for meeting no 4.

### **5.3 Health Working Group**

Colm Brady had circulated two documents for the information of forum members as follows;

*Rural Water News, Spring 2016* – which includes an article on the disinfection of drinking water supplies using chlorine and other material relevant to health and water.

*What's in your water?* – a brief guide to each of the parameters specified in the Drinking Water Regulations, including details of possible health risks.

---

The group is working on a presentation for the August meeting.

**5.4 Affordability Working Group , Paul McMenamain**

The group will produce a draft paper with findings for the next meeting.

**5.5 Web Working Group, Tom Collins**

Tom discussed the web management working group initial meeting and outlined that the following will be developed and overseen by the group;

- Content for issues such as style , proofing and clarity
- Develop a policy on accuracy , libel and use of disclaimers

It was agreed that the Forum as a whole would feed into populating the website and review of the content every six months. This will be via the regular Forum meeting as a standing agenda item.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Public Water Forum will be held on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

Minutes approved:



---

Chairperson

31st August 2016

Date