

Minutes of Public Water Forum Meeting No. 4

Date: 31ST August 2016
Time: 11:00am – 4:00pm
Location: The Spencer Hotel, Dublin

Present:

Dr Tom Collins (Chair)

Andrea Ahern, Berernice Phelan, Colm Brady, Connie Rochford, David Wright, Eoghan Brophy, James Grimes, John Shine, Joe Tuohy, Karen Carney, Keith Hyland, Laurie Kearon, Liam Berney, Michael Brophy, Neil Walker, Orla O'Donovan, Patrick Gerard McGuinness, Paul McMenamin, Philip Tracey , Rena O'Herlihy , Suzanne Linnane, Tim Fenn, William O'Neill, Fergus O'Toole , Aoife Doyle

In Attendance:

James Enright (CER) – Item 4.1

Elizabeth Arnett (Irish Water) – Item 6.0

Apologies:

Dympna Morrow, Mindy O'Brien, Vincent Holmes, Susan O'Keeffe, Tom Horan, Kevin Ryan, Jean O'Dwyer, Liam Tobin

ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
1.1	APOLOGIES The chair noted apologies.	NOTED
1.2	MEMBER UPDATE New members were introduced. Keith Hyland, Joe Tuohy and Philip Tracey. Paul Sigamoney resigned due to work commitments and Brian O'Donnell stepped aside and nominated Liam Tobin (Not Present.)	NOTED
1.3	INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 02ND JUNE 2016 Amendments were received in advance of the meeting, included and approved.	APPROVED
2.1	UPDATE ON PWF WEBSITE Areas that issues / glitches have arisen were discussed. An action was assigned to all members to email any issues to PWF mailbox in order to log with Room Three. Also, items that were not user friendly were outlined, example, when downloading a document there is no option to open the document only save. Two members have subscribed to the Notes from the Chair but are not receiving email alerts. They will check the spam folder on their mailboxes and revert.	NOTED

2.2	UPDATE ON PWF BUDGET	NOTED
	The Secretary discussed the expenditure by the Forum to date. A request was made to add the expenditure sheet to the document library for members to review.	
2.3	CORRESPONDENCE	NOTED
	The revised PWF CER MoU was reviewed and approved subject to an edit to revise the terminology regarding the grievance procedure. David Wright volunteered to complete this action. To date, PWF has not received any update on the MoU with IW. Brian Gould – Public Correspondence. The group discussed this and agreed that the issue should be forwarded to CER.	
3.0	PWF 2017 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE CER	NOTED
	The Chair outlined the requirement to submit a workplan and budget to the CER for allocation of budget for 207. The Chair discussed including PR and Communications support. The Forum was undecided and no consensus was met. The Forum expressed the requirement of an executive and administration support to cover the areas of research. An objection to the use of expert consultants is the loss of the Forum voice. The option to recruit a post doc was discussed. David Wright took the action to draft a job specification. The draft specification will be added to meeting No 5 agenda.	
4.1	CER CONSULTATION ON THE IRISH WATER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT	NOTED
	The Chair thanked members for their input.	
4.2	CER CONSULTATION ON IRISH WATER REVENUE REQUIREMENT 2017/2018	NOTED
	James Enright (CER) gave a presentation on the upcoming CER consultation. James outlined the rationale for Revenue Controls and the background to the current Revenue Control. The presentation included the process undertaken to date and the next steps. During the Questions and Answers time, members queried the source of the research figures and inclusion of affordability in the research. The review was queried with more clarification on how the CER review benchmark the revenue. An action point was taken by CER to circulate the research and supporting documentation.	
5.0	EXPERT WATER COMMISSION SUBMISSION DISCUSSION	NOTED
	The Chair met with Kevin Duffy, the Chair of the Expert Water Commission to discuss a submission by the Water Forum. The Forum agreed to reschedule the next meeting to facilitate a presentation from Mr. Duffy. It was confirmed that the Forum can submit a response post presentation on 27 th September 2016. An action for all members was to post their views on the Expert Commission to be included in a submission from the Forum by Tuesday, 6 th September 2016. The Chair will review and collate into one document for review and submission to the Expert Commission.	

6.0 IRISH WATER WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES FOR 2017 – ELIZABETH ARNETT (IRISH WATER) NOTED

Elizabeth gave a presentation that included works completed to date by Irish Water and information on projects in the early stages. Please see the slides attached separately.

It was confirmed that Elizabeth will be the point of contact for the Forum.

The following areas were queried by the Forum members :

- Boil Water Notices, Irish Water give a 100% allowance on charges to the household in the event of a notice been issued to a property. Boil water notices that have been removed were discussed , including Boyle, Co. Roscommon that were on a boil water notice for 15 years are now as a result of investment able to use drinking water from the tap.
- Pesticides, IW are dealing with this issue via the River Basin Plan with the Dept on this issue. The aim is to change behaviour to a more responsible usage of pesticides.
- Engagement with the Forum, the aim is to improve the relationship and improve communications.
- Metering, the policy to install meters was a government policy and IW were tasked with the implementation of the plan only.
- Group Water Scheme, Colm Brady outlined the positive knowledge of the 25year plan been implemented.
- IW aims to improve transparency and end user engagement.
- Fluoride, this is under the Dept of Health remit and IW only implement government policy.

Elizabeth discussed the achievements of Irish Water, for example, in Whitegate they discovered an underground lake that was feeding into the supply that was previously completely unmonitored. The infrastructure expenditure is the biggest priority for Irish Water.

**7.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORTS
Affordability**

Paul McMenamín presented a paper that the group have drafted.

Ownership and Governance

James Grimes outlined that the Chair is following up with the Dept for legal support to review the Constitutional Mechanism.

Health Group

William O'Neill outlined that the group have been adding informational documents to the Health area in the document library for members to review.

Conservation & Innovation Group :

Andrea gave a brief summary of the meeting held with Irish Water and advised that the presentation and minutes from the meeting with Irish Water to discuss the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (Parteen Weir) would be added to the Conservation & Innovation area on the website for members to review. The group committed to finalising the meeting minutes prior to Meeting No 5.

Website Working Group:

Tom Collins gave an update on where the group are at and reiterated the need to use the website.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Public Water Forum will be held on Tuesday, 27th September 2016.

Minutes approved:



Chairperson

27th September 2016

Date