

MINUTES OF PUBLIC WATER FORUM MEETING NO. 6

DATE: 23RD November 2016
TIME : 11:00 – 16:00
LOCATION : The Spencer Hotel, Dublin

PRESENT:

Dr Tom Collins (Chair)

Andrea Ahern, Colm Brady, Connie Rochford, David Wright, Dympna Morrow, Eoghan Brophy, James Grimes, Joe Tuohy, Karen Carney, Kevin Ryan, Laurie Kearon, Liam Berney, Liam Tobin, Michael Brophy, Neil Walker, Orla O'Donovan, Patrick Gerry McGuinness, Paul McMenamin, Rena O'Herlihy, Suzanne Linnane, Vincent Holmes, William O'Neill

Aoife Doyle (CER)

Fergus O'Toole (CER)

APOLOGIES:

Berenice Phelan, Jean O'Dwyer, John Shine, Keith Hyland, Michael Spellman, Mindy O'Brien, Philip Tracey, Suzanne Linnane, Tim Fenn, Tom Horan

ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
1.1	Apologies The Chair noted apologies.	NOTED
1.2	Member Update The Secretary discussed the process of replacing a member. The number of members replaced was presented-7- together with the number of replacements and the criteria for the replacement members.	NOTED
1.3	Introduction & Approval of Minutes from Meeting No. 5 Approved without amendment.	NOTED
2.1	Update on PWF Budget and 2017 Submission The Secretary presented the 2017 Budget Submission as approved by The Chair. Due to the significant reduction in the submission from the allocation for 2016, the following queries were clarified, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The remaining monies cannot be included or carried over for the 2017 budget. - In relation to working group projects, that special submissions can be made for approval. - The accuracy and transparency of expenditure and the budget was queried with reference to the actual costs associated with the support from the CER. - Cost of Administration are not included as it is provided by 	NOTED

CER under the legislation accordingly, the cost of this is provided for in the CER Budget.

2.2 Consultations

2.2 (a) *PWF response to CER Consultation on Irish Water Revenue for the 1st January to 31st December 2018*

The Chair thanked Neil Walker for the work conducted for the submission.

2.2 (b) *Expert Water Commission Submission – Update*

Discussion commenced with the Chair thanking all members who participated for their work and an extra thanks to the members who travelled to present to the Expert Water Commission.

The members expressed an interest in presenting to the Oireachtas Committee and PWF Chair was to extend an invitation to the Oireachtas Committee Chairperson. The content of the presentation was discussed and it was agreed that it would be drafted post publication/finalisation of the Expert Water Commission. It was agreed that the format for presenting to the Expert Water Commission will be retained if this invitation is accepted.

2.3 Job Specifications Draft

The Chair confirmed that budget has been allocated to appoint a CEO position and an administrative position. The Chair advised he is waiting on a letter of confirmation.

The specification of the position is to be refined and other significant items to be clarified with receipt of a letter from DECL

3.0 Health Working Group Presentation

Jean sent apologies in advance and the members of the working group requested to defer.

DEFERRED

4.0 Presentation on Rain Water Harvesting (Vincent Holmes)

Vincent commenced his presentation outlining his frustrations with the DECLG as he has previously sought clear guidance on a rainwater policy. Vincent clarified that incentives for home filtration would be a way forward, as units could be retrofitted to toilets. In the discussion that followed, Colm advised that essentially all group water schemes are Rain water harvesters. However, it is still exempt from cost as it needs to be treated and Neil pointed out the sourcing of water was just one of the costs-treatment of waste water constitutes the biggest cost in the provision, regardless of the source.

Liam raised the point that harvesting rainwater undermines the public system.

It was agreed by the group to conduct desk research on rainwater harvesting, Vincent will draft a proposal for the Chair and members to review and the Chair will amend budget submission for 2017 to seek legal guidance and desk researcher.

NOTED

- 6.0 Working Group Update** **NOTED**
- a)Website Working Group*
Paul McMenamín outlined that he had added a document for recording issues and preferences in the document library for members to utilise.
James Grimes took the action to draft a more detailed user guide for David Wright.
- b)Conservation Working Group* **NOTED**
Andrea advised that the group are finalising a document for members to review and comment upon which will be added to the document library. Aoife Doyle will circulate an email to all when Andrea confirms it has been added to the library.
- c)Affordability Working Group* **NOTED**
The group have made some amendments to their document and will update the document online and notify Aoife when the updated version has been added to the library.
- 7.0 The Working of the PWF during 2016 – Review and Discussion** **NOTED**
- The Chair divided the group into 3 groups to discuss the following headings :
- What works well?
 - What could work better?
 - What should be do better?
- There was general agreement that the following was working well :
- The Chairing of the meetings
The Secretariat
The Dynamic of the Group
The participation
Group knowledge
Comfort in presenting diverse opinions
Respectful
Equal contribution opportunity
- Regarding what could work better:
- No formal launch
Low public profile
Need for a survey of public perception of Irish water.
Relevance of the Forum was queried.
Communicate our learnings better
Arriving at decision/consensus
More time involved than initially explained.
Exit interview to determine why members have resigned would be desirable.
Mission statement
Functionality of the website
Engagement with relevant dept/bodies
Working group supports and functioning
Proactive approach to research required
Our role in the discussion of water

Unclear on the achievements of the Forum

Finally, it was felt we could do better: in

Defining the role

Braver doing research

Proactive , a 2017 workplan

Listening opportunity

Carving our own space

Public awareness

Annual report

Personal presentations

Ministerial invitation

The group discussed the above items and agreed to draft a workplan for 2017. The aims are to better define the role, enhance the relevance and improve the profile of the forum and engage with other groups, for example, Right to Water.

It was agreed to draft a submission for legal support and a proposal for a Consumer survey. The members agreed to approve the proposal and expenditure.

A discussion on the EU Water Framework Directive and desire to have a presentation to the Forum on the Directive was expressed.

8

A.O.B

No new items were added under A.O.B.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Public Water Forum will be held on

Minutes approved:



Chairperson

13/12/2016

Date