



AGREED MINUTES

DATE: 10TH April 2018

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Ashling Hotel, Dublin

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Mindy O'Brien, Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Connie Rochford, Denis Drennan, Thomas Cooney, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley Smith, Gerald Quain, Sinead O'Brien, Martin McEnroe, Keith Hyland, Derry Dillon, Francis O'Donnell, Tim Fenn, Liam Berney, Jean Rosney and Bernadette Connolly

APO LOGIES

Brendan Fitzsimons, Kevin Ryan, Dr. Tim Butter, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Dr. Thomas Harrington, Neil Walker, David Wright, Laurie Kearon and Jonathan Small

GUEST ATTENDEES

Nathy Gilligan, John Murphy and Mark Adamson, OPW

Jack Nolan, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Colin Byrne, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Officials

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy (LAWCO)

Sharon Kennedy (NWF)

Item		Details	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received.	Noted
		The draft minutes of meetings held on the 20 th February and 9 th March were agreed.	Agreed
		The submission to the CRU in relation to Irish Waters proposed connection charges was noted, as was the submission in relation to the Draft Water Services Planning Guidelines. Members noted the EPA conference on water which is scheduled to take place on the 20 th and 21 st June next –	Noted

		<p>further details to be circulated as soon as they come available. Having regard to the nature of this conference and its relevance to the work of An Fóram, it was agreed that any member who wishes to attend, and is not being covered by their own organisations, will be covered by An Fórams budget.</p> <p>It was noted that Karen Carney has resigned from An Fóram for personal reasons and that Laurie Kearon from the PWF will replace Karen.</p> <p>Sharon Kennedy advised on the drafting of the Annual Report for 2017 and it was agreed that same will be circulated to all and further considered at the May meeting of An Fóram.</p> <p>It was noted that a date has been set (subject to confirmation) for the 11th June for the symposium in Farmleigh. Further details to be advised in due course.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
2.	Consideration of establishing a standing committee for water services	<p>Tom Collins referred to previous discussions with regard to the establishment of two standing committees to deal with issues pertinent to public water and rural water services. Having regard to the fact that many issues will be of relevance to both rural water and public water consumers and, further, that two committees might result in duplication of work for the members and secretariat, he proposed that a single standing committee of An Fóram be established to address issues relating to water services. The members of same were suggested as follows:</p> <p>Rural Water - Jean Rosney and Barry Deane. Public Water – Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland and Laurie Kearon. Environmental pillar - One representative agreed between Mindy O’Brien, Charles Stanley Smith, Ollan Herr, Bernadette Connolly and Sinead O’Brien. Agriculture Pillar – One representative agreed between Michael Spellman, Denis Drennan and Thomas Cooney. Social housing- Kevin Ryan Education – Suzanne Linnane Business and trade unions – It was noted that both of these sectors might have a role within the standing committee and that further consideration can be given to same in due course.</p> <p>These proposals were agreed and further, that the chairing of the group would be rotated (on an annual basis) between rural water and public water representatives. Following same, it was agreed that Barry Deane will chair the group for the first year.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

		<p>Finally, it was agreed that the first task of the group is to draft a response in relation to the Departments Water Services Policy Statement which must be submitted by the 25th April. It was noted that the draft submission would be circulated to all of the members of An Fóram in advance in order to give an opportunity for feedback.</p>	
3	<p>Update from work programme working group and arrangements with regard to developing a strategy</p>	<p>It was noted that the working group has met on two occasions with a further meeting scheduled for the 16th April. The group is currently in the process of prioritising issues for the work programme and has agreed to recommend that any such programme should cover the period from 2018 to 2021 (subject to an necessary amendments along the way). It was further recommended by the group that a focussed workshop, with external facilitation, be arranged for all of the members of An Fóram.</p> <p>Having regard to same, Sharon Kennedy advised that she and Tom Collins had met with Tom Barry, former CE with Carlow County Council (and who has extensive experience in terms of facilitation and also the range of issues of concern to An Fóram) and that he is available to assist An Fóram in this regard.</p> <p>Following further consideration, it was agreed that the workshop will take place on the 8th May in the Midlands Hotel, Portlaoise (subject to availability).</p>	<p>Agreed and noted.</p>
4	<p>Presentation from the OPW</p>	<p>Tom Collins then welcomed Nathy Gilligan, Mark Adamson and John Murphy from the OPW who presented on their role in relation to flood protection and relief works. Following same, a number of issues were raised by the members including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to the movement of fish; • Choices and selections in relation to measures including soft measures and catchment management approaches; • Research studies and opportunities to develop new solutions; • Flood risks in specific catchments (e.g. River Shannon) • Requirements contained in the Water Framework Directive in the context of flood risk management plans and the application of derogations in relation to same; • Methods and extent of maintenance works; • Drinking water source protection in rural communities; • The role of An Fóram in the context of large infrastructure projects; • Public engagement; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National CFRAMS steering group and stakeholders group. <p>Tom Collins thanked the presenters for their presentation and contribution to the debate and it was agreed that a copy of his presentation would be circulated to all.</p> <p>The presenters extended a welcome to the members to contact them should they have any specific queries.</p>	
5	Presentation on the nitrates programme	<p>Tom Collins welcomed Colin Byrne (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government) and Jack Nolan (Department of Agriculture) and thanked them for their attendance.</p> <p>Colin and Jack then gave a presentation on the nitrates programme and arrangements in relation to derogations.</p> <p>The presentation was welcomed by the members. A number of queries, concerns and issues were then raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient management planning; Nutrient recovery; Critical source areas; Absorption rates and production targets; Linkages with Northern Ireland. <p>Following further discussion, Jack Nolan extended an invitation for the members to visit an agriculture catchments programme facility in order to meet with researchers and see developments in relation to this topic.</p> <p>The discussion then concluded and Tom Collins thanked the presenters and contributors to the discussion. It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to all and that further consideration would be given to the site visit.</p>	
6	Development of a communications strategy	<p>Tom Collins referred to previous discussions with regard to the development of a communications/engagement strategy is required in order to support the work of An Fóram and to assist An Fóram to develop its communications externally. Sharon Kennedy advised the members that a Framework arrangement had been put in place by the Local Government Management Agency in relation to a service provider and that same could be accessed by An Fóram via LAWCO. It was noted that the service provider is RPS/Communique. Following further consideration of same, it was agreed to put in place arrangements for this purpose and to report back to the next meeting of An Fóram with regard to same.</p>	
7	Irish Water's Eastern and Midland Water Supply Project	<p>This item was dealt with in conjunction with item 2. A discussion took place with regard to the potential water crisis for the greater Dublin area, the status of the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply project and the role of An Fóram with regard to same. Following discussion, it was noted that An Fóram has a role in terms of oversight of the process and that</p>	

		<p>further consideration should be given to how this issue should be addressed. It was agreed that a day or half day should be set aside in order to receive further presentations from Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders and to give consideration to the role of An Fóram in this regard. It was further agreed that Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy will revert with proposals.</p>	
8	AOB	<p>It was noted that confirmation had just been received from the Department that Farmleigh is available for the 11th June and that a symposium is to be arranged for that day.</p> <p>It was further agreed to accept Jack Nolan's invitation to visit an agriculture catchments programme facility and that the May meeting might be held there (29th May).</p> <p>It was agreed that Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy will raise issue with regard to pilot project on nutrient recovery with Colin Byrne.</p> <p>This concluded the business of the meeting</p>	

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson