

APPROVED MINUTES

DATE: 19TH October 2018

TIME: 10.15 am

LOCATION: Spencer Hotel, Portlaoise

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Connie Rochford, Keith Hyland, Denis Drennan, Thomas Cooney, Ollan Herr, Charles Stanley Smith, Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Martin McEnroe, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Dr. Thomas Harrington, Liam Berney, Derry Dillon, Neil Walker, Brendan Fitzsimons and Gerald Quain

APOLOGIES

Mindy O'Brien, Jonathan Small, Bernadette Connolly, Jean Rosney, Sinead O'Brien, Tim Fenn, Dr. Tim Butter, Laurie Kearon, Kevin Ryan, David Wright and Patrick Murphy.

SECRETARIAT

Sharon Kennedy

Item		Details	Action
1.1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance. He noted the apologies received.	Noted
1.2	Minutes of meeting held on the 4TH September	The draft minutes of meetings held on the 4 th September were noted and agreed.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	No matters arising.	Noted
1.4	To note An Fóram's submission on the Water Environment (Abstractions) Bill 2018.	The members noted the submission to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government which had been drafted following consultation with An Fóram. A concern was raised by a number of the members representing the agriculture sector with regard to the comments concerning the reduction in the registration levels from 25 cubic meters to 10 cubic meters. Following consideration of same it was agreed that the secretariat would write to the DHPLG to advise that its comments in relation to same should not be interpreted as a consensus view.	Noted

1.5	To note summary of Water Services Standing Committee meeting 25th September 2018	Barry Deane, Chair of the Standing Committee, outlined the business transacted at the meeting which was noted by all present.	Noted
2.	To receive presentations on the proposed Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Scheme	<p>Tom Collins invited Michael Donnelly to facilitate this part of the meeting, as had previously been agreed by the members.</p> <p>The members were advised that a press release had been issued on the eve of the meeting advising that Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government has requested the CRU to undertake the review of the project to advise the Minister's decision in relation to the capital consent that will be required in the event that planning approval is obtained for the project. The press release further stated that this request to the CRU is consistent with the CRU's role under Section 40 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 to advise the Minister on the development and delivery of water services.</p> <p>It was further noted that An Fóram is to be formally consulted with regard to its views on the project. The review was welcomed by the Members.</p> <p>Returning to the arrangements for today's presentations, it was noted that each presenter had been given the brief (which had been drafted based on the concerns raised by the members during the past number of months) and that same was to form the basis of their presentation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the members would note any questions or concerns that arise during each presentation and then afterwards, the members would be given a short time to consider and agree the issues which needed to be raised during the Q and A sessions with each of the presenters.</p> <p>The presenters from Irish Water were then welcomed to join the meeting. Ms. Florence White introduced her colleagues, Mr. Sean Laffey, Ms. Kate Gannon, Ms. Claire Madden and Mr. Michael Donnelly. The presenters gave their presentation and following same, the members considered the main issues of concern and questioning that should be addressed. These questions were then put to the presenters and further associated issues were also discussed.</p> <p>On conclusion of this part of the presentation, the presenters from Irish Water were thanked and left the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Emma Kennedy, Kennedy Analysis then joined the</p>	Noted

		meeting and made her presentation. The members then considered same and raised a series of questions which were addressed by Ms. Kennedy. At the conclusion of this part of the meeting, Ms. Kennedy was thanked for her presentation and she left the meeting.	
3.	Consideration of An Fóram's future role in relation to the WSP.	<p>The members considered the presentations and matters arising therefrom and also the information with regard to the Ministers decision to request the CRU to review the project. Follow further discussion, it was agreed that Michael Donnelly will prepare a report on the matters arising from the presentations and Q and A sessions and that same will be posted on the on-line forum. Members will be requested to review same and to raise such other issues as they consider appropriate. This process will assist in crystallising the various issues of concern.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a letter be issued by the secretariat to the CRU welcoming their review of the project and requesting details, once available, of their arrangements in relation to the manner and timing of their review and also arrangements for An Fóram to be consulted. Based on this information, and also the issues arising in Michael Donnelly's report, further consideration can be given to the matter, including the possible appointment of a person with the required knowledge and experience to advise the members with regard to the project.</p>	Agreed
4	Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021	<p>Tom Collins referred to the draft Strategic Plan for 2018 -2021 which had been drafted in consultation with the working group and which had been circulated to all. It was agreed that the draft be further considered at the December meeting but that in the interim, the process of seeking approval for 4 additional members of staff would be progressed and also the commencement of the recruitment process.</p> <p>Tom Collins also updated the members with regard to the process for securing an office in Nenagh and this was noted and agreed, with a further update to be provided at the December meeting.</p> <p>Finally it was agreed to re-convene the working group for the purposes of commencing implementation of the strategic objectives in the draft.</p>	Agreed
5	AOB	No further issues were raised.	Noted
6	Next meeting	This concluded the business of the meeting – next meeting scheduled for the 4 th December in Portlaoise.	

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson