

APPROVED MINUTES

DATE: 4th December 2018

TIME: 10.30 am

LOCATION: Midlands Hotel, Portlaoise

PRESENT

Dr. Tom Collins (Chairperson)

Connie Rochford, Denis Drennan, Thomas Cooney, Charles Stanley Smith, Martin McEnroe, Dr. Suzanne Linnane, Gerald Quain, Bernadette Connolly, Jean Rosney, Sinead O'Brien, Tim Fenn, Dr. Tim Butter, Kevin Ryan, David Wright.

APOLOGIES

Mindy O'Brien, Jonathan Small, Laurie Kearon, Patrick Murphy, Keith Hyland, Ollan Herr, Michael Spellman, Barry Deane, Thomas Harrington, Liam Berney, Derry Dillon, Neil Walker and Brendan Fitzsimons.

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol McCarthy LAWPRO, Sean Keating LAWPRO, Andy Fanning EPA and Darragh Page EPA

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 19th October	The draft minutes of meetings held on the 19 th October were noted and agreed.	Agreed
1.3	Matters arising	It was noted that there were a large number of apologies in terms of attendance at the meeting and further that attendance levels at meetings is beginning to cause concern in the context of securing a quorum. Following consideration of the issue, it was agreed to issue a letter to each member, noting their attendances during 2018 and requesting confirmation with regard to availability for 2019. It was also agreed that consideration of an adjustment to the quorum, as per standing orders, will be considered at the next meeting of An Fóram.	Agreed

	Dates for meetings in 2019.	It was further agreed that the dates for meetings for 2019 are as follows: 19 th February; 9 th April; 28 th May; 16 th July; 3 rd September; 15 th October; 3 rd December.	Noted
1.4	To note summary of Water Services Standing Committee meeting 15th November 2018	The note of the business transacted at the meeting was noted by all present.	Noted
1.5	Update on CRUs consultation regarding Irish Waters Proposed Connection Charging Policy.	Sharon Kennedy advised on the consultation process which had been considered by the Water Services Standing Committee at its recent meeting.	Noted
2.	To receive presentations on the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan.	<p>Tom Collins welcomed Darragh Page and Andy Fanning from the EPA and Sean Keating from LAWPRO and thanked them for the attendance.</p> <p>Sean Keating presented on the progress to date by Local Authorities Water Programme (incorporating the Water and Communities team and also the Catchment Assessment Unit). He also gave an update on the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme.</p> <p>Darragh Page presented on the EPAs work in terms of monitoring water quality and waste water discharges and also progress in relation to Irish Waters implementation of its programme in the context of the RBMP.</p> <p>Andy Fanning presented on the EPAs role in reporting on progress in relation to water quality parameters and also the implementation of the RBMP.</p> <p>Following the presentations, a number of key issues were discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity security; • Invasive Species; • Flood protection works and their impact on water quality; • Inclusivity in terms of integrated catchment management; • Addressing diffuse sources of pollution; • Nutrient management plans, soil testing, breaking the pathways in relation to pollution of water bodies from agricultural sources. • Management of septic tanks; 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Planning Authorities in the context of catchment protection; • Regulation of discharges from drinking water plants. <p>The presenters were thanked for their presentations and this concluded this part of the meeting.</p> <p>In the afternoon, a further discussion took place between the members with regard to the presentations and issues arising. It was agreed that further consideration of the issues can be given in the context of the Strategy.</p>	
3	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 considered at the November meeting.</p> <p>Amendments have been made to same in the interim based on suggestions received from a number of the members and also Donal Daly. A small number of further amendments were considered and agreed and the draft Plan was approved.</p> <p>It was noted that An Fóram should establish a new standing committee to oversee the implementation of the Strategy. It was agreed that the existing working group's work is now substantially completed but that a further meeting of the group will take place on the 8th January in order to draft terms of reference for the new standing committee. This document will be tabled for the February meeting of An Fóram.</p> <p>Tom Collins and Sharon Kennedy also updated the members with regard to progress in terms of recruitment of staff.</p>	Agreed
4	AOB	<p>Concerns with regard to ongoing issues with the flood relief works on the River near Bandon were tabled by a number of members. It was agreed that members would submit their concerns to Sharon Kennedy and that contact will be made with the appropriate department to request a review of the works in the context of compliance with appropriate legislation.</p> <p>A further issue was raised with regard to the development of the National Marine Spatial Planning Framework and it was agreed that same will be considered at the February meeting.</p>	Noted Agreed
6	Next meeting	This concluded the business of the meeting – next meeting scheduled for the 19 th February in Dublin.	Noted.

Signed:

Dr. Tom Collins
Chairperson