

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Wednesday 16 May 2018  
 7.30 – 9.00 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

Chairperson	Tom Byrne
Vice-Chairperson	Peter Byrne
Secretary	Lynda Huxley
Treasurers	Joe Flannelly and Pat Gibbons
Technical Advisors	Chris Huxley and Cilian Roden

Verena Berard	Joe Flannelly	Tony O'Connor
Peter Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Tim O'Sullivan
Tom Byrne	Walter Hughes	Tom Quinn
Joe Conroy	Chris Huxley	Sally Shaw-Smith
Anna Coyne	Lynda Huxley	Michael Sweeney
Kevin Coyne	Mick Kane	John Thornton
David Duffy	Gareth Lloyd	Larry Walsh
Frank Fahey	Jean-Pierre Maire	Michael Walsh
Padraig Farrell	William Maire	Fiona White
	Al McDonnell	Matt Whitelaw
<b>APOLOGIES :</b>		
Cyril Burke		
Bryan Kennedy		
Sean Coyne		
Peter Heaps		
Sean Roberts		
Cilian Roden		

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>
	The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 April 2018. <b>Proposed : Pat Gibbons</b> <b>Seconded : Al McDonnell</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	Action points from April meeting :  <b>1) Awareness raising in Schools</b> Mick Kane reported that he had met with Maura Lyons of Leave No Trace Ireland. They have started work on a draft application for Leader Funding of around €30,000.00 for school and community awareness raising activities. They are preparing something bespoke for the LCCA and will have a draft document to bring to the June meeting.

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**2) Waterford Dairy Farm Project – The Anne River Project**

Lynda Huxley reported on behalf of Cilian Roden that the scientist Dr Rory Harrington initiated this project. It had not yet been possible to find out the contact details for any of the farmers involved. Michael Sweeney mentioned that he was aware of this project from his time at NPWS.

The Chair concluded that the LCCA should get in touch with farmers involved in the Anne River project via the IFA (Irish Farmers Association).

The Chair suggested that LCCA pay expenses for any farmers from the Anne River Project who would be willing to come to speak to the group. If the farmers are not able to travel the Chair said a delegation from the LCCA would travel to meet them.

**Proposed : David Duffy**

**Seconded : Michael Sweeney**

Michael Sweeney was asked if he could contact NPWS for information about the Anne River Project from an environmental perspective.

Joe Flannelly was asked to contact the IFA to ask for contact details of farmers involved in the Anne River Project.

**Action by : Michael Sweeney and Joe Flannelly**

**3) Funding and Bank Account**

The Treasurers have opened an account with the Credit Union in Ballinrobe on behalf of the LCCA using letter of authorisation signed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. They lodged €10 to the account activated.

The Chair asked the meeting if there were any objections to either of the Treasurers being authorised to withdraw funds independently. There were no objections so the Chair and Secretary signed the Credit Union authorisation form.

Peter Byrne presented the Treasurers with a cheque for €500.00 from the Carra Mask Angling Federation.

It was proposed that the LCCA apply for the Water Communities Grant of €1,500.00 to help with set up costs for the association. The deadline for applications is November 2018, therefore details of the LCCA application will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Proposed : Al McDonnell**

**Seconded : Pat Gibbons**

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**4) Anaerobic/Biogas Digester**

Olivia Feeney not present at the meeting so update on this point.

**5) Life Project**

Mick Kane has spoken to Derek McLoughlin of Aniar Ecology. Derek would be happy to come to a future meeting of LCCA to brief group on Life Projects. It was also suggested that John Moran, lecturer at GMIT in Galway would be worthwhile inviting to speak at a future meeting on high nature value farming.

The Chair proposed that Mick Kane arrange for Derek McLoughlin and John Moran be invited to give presentations to the LCCA at a future date.

**Action by : Mick Kane**

**Proposed : Verena Berard**

**Seconded : Pat Gibbons**

**3. Common Agricultural Policy**

The CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) is being renewed and there will be changes. It will be implemented directly from Dublin and not the EU. The IFA will be directly involved. The LCCA might be able to lobby the IFA with regards to Lough Carra. The Chair highlighted that if LCCA could get changes incorporated that would reduce nutrients without disadvantaging farmers then this would be very advantageous for the lake.

It was proposed that an initial phone contact be made with the IFA and then official letter be sent from LCCA to the IFA requesting a meeting to discuss Lough Carra and CAP.

**Action by : Joe Flannelly**

**Proposed : Michael Walsh**

**Seconded : Chris Huxley**

It was suggested that the LCCA could make a direct submission regarding CAP that would be in the best interest of the lake and the farmers. It was also proposed that a delegation from LCCA could be sent to Dublin in due course.

**Proposed : Al McDonnell**

**Seconded : Chris Huxley**

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**4. Meeting with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)**

On 11 May, Chris and Lynda Huxley visited the EPA facility in Castlebar. Tom Byrne and Cilian Roden sent apologies due to other commitments. Bryan Kennedy and Alan Stephens hosted the visit. Chris Huxley presented a report on the visit :

- There was a tour of the facility to see the high standard of equipment used for monitoring fresh water and marine.
- EPA's role under the Water Framework Directive is to monitor and assess water bodies.
- EPA Catchment Management Unit recently set up which is involved in the characterisation of water bodies e.g. decide if at risk.
- LawSat being established with offices at County Council i.e. similar set up to Water Communities Officers LawCo. The Chief Scientist will be based in Galway and there will be 4 assistants based in Castlebar. Lawsat will include agricultural advisors and will be responsible for proposing 'mitigation measures'.
- 12 months monitoring of all the tributaries from May 2016 to May 2017. Results are not yet available.
- They will establish investigative monitoring of Annie's River this summer.
- Chris had asked EPA for clarification on the One Out All Out regarding presence of roach in the lake because the presence of an invasive species should mean that the lake cannot be classed as High Status. He was advised that this query should be put to the IFI via Mick Kane, the Water Communities Officer.
- Recent hydromorphological studies have resulted in Lough Carra's ecological status being changed to Good but a further explanation is required regarding this.
- The EPA said they have flexibility that if members of LCCA wanted to take water samples for analysis this could be done provided special collection bottles and guidelines were obtained from the EPA office in Castlebar.
- The LCCA can get reports from the EPA by requesting them through the Water Communities Officer.
- The EPA would welcome memories of observations of Lough Carra over the years by members of LCCA.
- Sampling has been taking place from two points on Cloondaver which is of moderate status.
- EPA have formally identified two locations on the Annie's river for ecological monitoring which will enable them to assign a status to this river.
- A study is being carried out to show the turnover of water in the lake i.e. the flow rate. The result is not yet available.
- After the meeting the following website links were sent by the EPA :

[www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) potential source of further information on L. Carra catchment  
<http://www.epa.ie/QValue/webusers/> to access data for the Lough Carra River monitoring stations  
<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/> some fact sheets  
for some of the Biological Quality Elements (BQEs) monitored for the WFD

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[http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/2018\\_Call\\_Technical\\_Description\\_Water.pdf](http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/2018_Call_Technical_Description_Water.pdf)  
Managing the Conservation and Environmental Objectives of Marl and Oligotrophic Lakes in Ireland

Larry Walsh informed the meeting that the LawSat assistants would be in place in the first week of June. It was suggested LCCA contact them to ask them to take an active role in Lough Carra.

**Action by : To be decided at June meeting.**

**Proposed : Chris Huxley**

**Seconded : Peter Byrne**

**5. General Discussion**

- **Irish Hill and Nature Farmers Association** : There is a local branch of this association in Tourmakeady.
- **Kerry Life Programme** : It was noted that the work being done under the Kerry Life Programme may be of interest to the LCCA with contact names being Dr Eileen O'Rourke at UCC and Nadine Kramm. It was agreed that this would be followed up on after the Anne River Project.
- **RBAPS (Results-based Payments for Biodiversity) Seminar on 22 June.**

Derek McLoughlin of Aniar Ecology (as mentioned above) will be a keynote speaker at this event. James Moran of GMIT will also present a paper. This event is free and anyone is welcome to attend this event but it is advised to register in advance.

Verena Berard, who is carrying out a Masters on High Nature Value Farming, will attend this event as will Chris Huxley. They will report back to LCCA

Link to seminar details :

<https://rbapseu.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/rbaps-seminar-programme-june-2018.pdf>

A summary of RBAPS from the Seminar website :

“Over the course of 3.5 years, the Results-based Agri-environmental Payment Scheme (RBAPS) project trialled a mode of paying farmers for the quality of biodiversity on their farms in three differing pilot locations of County Leitrim and the Shannon Callow floodplain in Ireland, and the Navarra region of Spain.

This seminar presents the experiences of the RBAPS and other projects, including the AranLife project and the Hen Harrier and BRIDE EIPs, and will explore how payments for the quality of farmland biodiversity can work in reality.

This event is aimed at anyone interested in the future of agri-environment schemes, particularly farmers, farming authorities, farm advisors, administrators and those interested in European Innovation Partnerships, particularly those with a biodiversity focus.”

**Action by : Verena Berard and Chris Huxley**

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<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p><b>1) NPWS attendance at future LCCA meetings</b> Through the Secretary, NPWS regional office expressed interest in attending future LCCA meetings in a professional and/or private capacity.</p> <p>There was unanimous approval from the meeting that NPWS staff would be very welcome to attend future meetings.</p> <p><b>Action by : Lynda Huxley</b></p>
	<p><b>2) Heritage Week</b> It was proposed that the annual Heritage Week event at the Doon Peninsula be held as an LCCA supported event. The Water Communities officer had offered his support for this event.</p> <p><b>Action by : Lynda Huxley and Mick Kane</b></p>
	<p><b>3) Article in Irish Times</b> The meeting was informed that in first week of June an article on Lough Carra would appear in the science section of the Irish Times written by journalist Margaret Ward.</p>
	<p><b>4) Meeting start time</b> It was proposed that future meetings start a little later. There was a show of hands and the new start of 8pm was agreed upon.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
	<b>The Next Meeting will be held in Carnacon Village Hall on Wednesday 20 June 2018 starting at 8pm sharp.</b>