

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Tuesday 20 November 2018
 8.00 To 9.00 pm, Village Inn, Partry

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

Antony Baynes	Sean Coyne	Al McDonnell
Verena Berard	Ronan Cusack	Pat McHale
Deborah Broughton	Ailbhe Douglas	Brian Reidy
Ray Broughton	Olivia Feeney	Sean Roberts
Peter Byrne	Pat Gibbons	John Thornton
Tom Byrne	Arielle Hesse	Deirdre Walsh
John Campbell	Chris Huxley	James White
Norita Clesham	Lynda Huxley	
Anna Coyne	Mick Kane	
Kevin Coyne	Brian Kennedy	
APOLOGIES : Peter Comer William Cormacan Philip Doddy Joe Flannelly	Peter Heaps Michael Hegarty Gareth Lloyd Bernie O'Flaherty	Tom Quinn Lorna Roberts Alan Stephens Michael Sweeney Larry Walsh

AGENDA ITEM
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting started with three presentations.
<p>Presentation 1 : Verena Berard on the Burren Winterage School 25-27 October 2018 'Farming for Nature'</p> <p>Brief Summary :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Burren Winterage School is an annual event which incorporates field trips and talks that are relevant to farming for nature. • This year there were field trips to two 'locally led' agri-environment schemes, both of which include a results-based payments approach namely the 'Burren Programme' www.burrenprogramme.com and Hen Harrier Project www.henharrierproject.ie. For both of these programmes the farmers have greater freedom to decide how to manage their land to achieve the conservation goals and thus highest payment is received for best results. • All Burren projects have a social, cultural and biodiversity aspect. • The National Farming for Nature Award 2018 was presented at the event and was won by Mayo farmers, The Calvey Family from Keel. https://www.farmingfornature.ie • Verena felt that presentations of particular note were John Sweeney's presentation "Winners and Losers in Agriculture as Climate Changes" and Kevin Hanrahan's presentation "Brexit : Potential Implications for High Nature Value Farmers".

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- All the speaker presentations can be accessed on-line <https://www.burrenwinterage.com/copy-of-burren-winterage-school-2>

Questions :

- There were no questions

Presentation 2 : Dr Arielle Hesse and Jim White, TCD Department of Geography WISDOM project

They explained that they are currently carrying out postdoctoral research on an 18 month EPA-funded project on the history and development of community-managed water schemes in Ireland. The team have a website 'Learning from Group Water Schemes' www.waterschemes.ie where you can find more details about the project. The research project is about connecting water, infrastructure, and people. Arielle and Jim would like to learn from the Carra community about the history of group water schemes in the area and why people care so much about the water quality.

They will be coming to the area often over the next couple of months as Carra is one of 3 identified research sites, the two others are in Counties Monaghan and Roscommon.

They met with Pat Gibbons and Chris and Lynda Huxley on 15 October and Pat took them to Lough Carra. They would be meeting with others from the association.

Presentation 3 : Ailbhe Douglas, LawSat (Local Authority Water Support and Advice Team)

Ailbhe gave an update on progress on behalf of the LawSat following the presentation given to LCCA September meeting by Bernie White, the Catchment Manager, Western Region.

The team are working on the first step which is the desk study. It involves collating existing available data. They have been given information by Chris Huxley and the EPA. They are awaiting information from the EPA on the 2 new monitoring areas at Annies which they hope to receive in January 2019.

Once the desk study is complete a field work strategy will be designed.

In addition, a community information meeting will be held in the Carra area to establish a link with the community and the date set for this meeting is 19 February 2019, location to be decided. The existing link with the LCCA is very valuable and all members will be invited and encouraged to attend the February community meeting. A second community meeting will be held in the Mask area. Both events will be advertised well in advance.

Questions & Comments :

- Olivia Feeney mentioned that the EPA have made historical data and interactive maps available through the EDEN Portal (Environmental Data Exchange Network).
- Chris Huxley asked if in view of Government's policy to encourage further intensification of agriculture, the LawSat would be looking to the future to give advice based on findings. Ailbhe responded that they will be identifying measures that can be used to mitigate issues going forward and provide advice to change policy.
- Verena Berard mentioned that PhD Thesis supervised by Prof. John Sweeney, NUI Maynooth on agricultural production in the Boyne Catchment PhD could be of interest to LawSat and the LCCA. The thesis can be downloaded from NUI Maynooth <http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/4879/>

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- Al McDonnell said that he believes the community information meetings are crucial as people are concerned. People need to know the lake is in decline and that something needs to be done to remedy this.
- Ailbhe responded that LawSat will be presenting details of the significant issues at the public events.

The Chair asked Olivia if, at the next LCCA meeting on 11 December, she could demonstrate how to access and use the EPA EDEN Portal as mentioned. Olivia agreed.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 October 2018.

Proposed : Al McDonnell
Seconded : Sean Coyne

2. Matters Arising

a) Public Talks

As mentioned at the previous meetings, a Public Talks event will be organised for February 2019. The event will probably be held at GMIT in Castlebar. The following persons put their names forward to help organise the event on behalf of the LCCA : Verena Berard, Anna Coyne, Olivia Feeney, Mick Kane, Lynda Huxley, Fergal O'Dowd

b) Education – Streamscapes

Tom Byrne attended a *Streamscapes* session at the National School in Claran near Headford, from 9.30 until 12 noon on 10 October, representing the LCCA and observing how this programme is applied in the classroom. He found the programme to be well presented having both classroom and field (open-air) aspects which were equally successful.

It is proposed to run a tailor-made programme for the Carra Catchment. This will help to affect how young people think about water and will also fulfil a curriculum requirement for the school.

c) Leader Funding Application

Norita Clesham confirmed that Evaluation Committee had met on 10 October and had approved the LCCA application. She added that the application had been well received by the Committee and had scored highly. It has been through the Pobal check as required under Article 48 and is now ready to be submitted for approval to the Mayo LCDC LAG which is scheduled to meet on 11 December 2018. The Chair thanked Norita for her support during this process.

d) Funding and Bank Account

No change since the October meeting. **Total in the Credit Union account to date : €3,648.75**
The Tax Clearance certificate from Revenue has been received.

e) EPA Visit Report

As agreed at the October meeting, Al McDonnell paid a visit to the EPA offices in Castlebar on behalf of the LCCA to request a copy of the Annie's River Monitoring Report.

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	<p>Al met with Brian Kennedy and reported to the meeting that any concerns he had were allayed and eliminated by Brian and there was thorough explanation as to why the Annie's River Monitoring analysis was taking so long to produce. He was also delighted that Brian had agreed to attend this evening's meeting to explain in person.</p> <p>Brian Kennedy addressed the meeting and confirmed that he had read the meeting minutes when they were circulated. He also confirmed that the EPA has an open data policy so there is no need to request data through FOI. It would suffice to call into their office or to submit a request through the EPA enquiries office.</p> <p>Brian clarified that the Annie's River Monitoring was additional work and not part of the regular monitoring programme. It was carried out informally but with the objective of supporting Lough Carra. The chemical data they have is only one part of the puzzle. All data and information have to be interpreted. The final analysis will be available in January 2019. Brian confirmed that all the raw data will be available through the EPA website.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Al and Brian for the information provided.</p>
3.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) LawCo Water Communities Funding</p> <p>Mick Kane informed the meeting that application for the LawCo Water Communities Funding 2019 would soon be open. This funding source could be used for the planned Public Talks event. He will have further information at the December meeting.</p> <p>b) Regional Operations Committee presentation by LCCA</p> <p>Mick Kane informed the meeting that the Regional Operations Committee would be meeting in Roscommon on 9 January. There would be a 30 minute slot allocated to Lough Carra and a 10 minute presentation by the Lough Carra Catchment Association would be appreciated. Mick will liaise with the Chair when he has further details about the meeting.</p> <p>c) Restore my local River Workshop</p> <p>Mick Kane informed the meeting that on 10 November a training workshop was held on the Glone River near Kiltimagh giving guidelines for community groups completing projects on rivers. Mick suggested that a similar workshop could be held in the Carra Catchment. He will give more information at a future meeting.</p> <p>d) Public Participation Network PPN</p> <p>Olivia Feeney suggested that the Association join the PPN as this is a useful portal for all funding calls. The secretary responded that she had looked into this but it appeared the LCCA did not meet the specified criteria. Mick Kane offered to explore this possibility with the PPN officer, Mary Costello.</p>
	<p>The Chair asked for blanket approval for all decisions and discussions from the meeting. There was full approval from the floor.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all those who had given presentations and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and supporting the LCCA.</p>
7.	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Next Meeting will be held in Corley's, Ballintubber on <u>TUESDAY</u> 11 December 2018 starting at 8pm sharp. There will be refreshments after the meeting.</p>