

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 12. February 2019
 8.00 To 9.00 pm, Partry 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

Antony Baynes	Padraig Farrell	Kristi Leyden
Verena Berard	Olivia Feeney	Jean-Pierre Maire
Ray Broughton	Joe Flannelly	William Maire
Peter Byrne	John Flannelly	Al McDonnell
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Darren McGann
Sue Callaghan	Peter Heaps	Pat McHale
John Campbell	Arielle Hesse	Sean Roberts
Peter Comer	Teresa Horan	Michael Sweeney
Peter Corbett	Chris Huxley	Kelly Trunnell
Sean Coyne	Lynda Huxley	Jim White
Ronan Cusack	Mick Kane	
APOLOGIES : Deborah Broughton Norita Clesham William Cormacan Tom Gillispie Denis Goggin	Brian Reidy Cilian Roden John Thornton Peter Mitchell Richard Murphy	Lorna Roberts Deirdre Walsh Bernie White Fiona White

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He also welcomed Sue Callaghan of NPWS District Conservation Officer and Kristi Leyden of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions.

Ear to the Ground – Anne River Constructed Wetlands

The meeting commenced with screening of an episode of Ear to the Ground kindly provided to LCCA by Independent Pictures via Ella McSweeney. The episode featured the Anne River constructed wetlands project from Co. Waterford, a system created by dairy farmers under the guidance of Rory Harrington to act as a natural filter to clean water from the dairy farming process. Two farming families that had adopted this method were interviewed and explained how effective this was for them.

Should LCCA get LIFE funding or some other large grant, this is the sort of project that could be supported in the Carra Catchment where relevant.

Trinity College Dublin project

Arielle Hesse and Jim White of the TCD Department of Geography WISDOM project (EPA funded) have been attending LCCA monthly meetings since November 2018. They explained that their project covers three key sites in Ireland - Lough Carra is one of those. They explained their Community Photographic Project initiative - a well-established scientific method. They would provide volunteers (ideally 8 or more) with disposable cameras to use to capture ideas, tell stories and document the environment in the community. The volunteers would take photos over a two week period in response to a specific question supplied by them.

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The cameras would be returned to Arielle and Jim for processing. In Phase 2 they would meet with the volunteers to discuss the developed photos either individually or as a group.

Anyone interested should approach Arielle or Jim at the end of the meeting.

Briefing meeting with Woodrow Sustainable Solutions

Chris Huxley gave a brief summary of the initial meeting of the Technical Working Group with Will Woodrow and Kristi Leyden of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions (WSS) who will be carrying out the Feasibility study and concept note preparation for the LCCA Life Project. Three members of the Technical Working Group were present : Chris Huxley, Bernie White and Mick Kane the rest of the group were not available for personal reasons.

It was agreed that the second briefing meeting would be held on 7 March, the week before the March LCCA meeting.

The first priority for WSS is to begin consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders e.g. EPA, Mayo Co Co, LawSat, Pobal, Teagasc etc.

The second priority is to begin consultation with potential partners because a small number of partners will be needed for the LIFE concept note e.g. NPWS, Mayo CoCo, EPA, Coillte who will sign up to take part and make a contribution. LIFE funding would be 75% and partner contribution is 25%.

It was also agreed that Will Woodrow would attend the LCCA visit to Kerry Life Project. Will Woodrow will make a presentation to the March meeting about the work WSS will be carrying out for the LCCA.

A copy of the Feasibility Study working documents will be put on the Lough Carra website under the Catchment Association/Life Project section by 16 February.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Chair read out the minutes of the January 2019 meeting.

Proposed : Al McDonnell

Seconded : Sean Coyne

Matters Arising

a) Visit to Kerry Life Project

Tom Byrne reported on the visit to the Kerry Life Project to meet project manager, Richard O'Callaghan on 6 February 2019. Those attending were : Verena Berard, Tom Byrne, Olivia Feeney, Chris and Lynda Huxley, Will Woodrow.

- The meeting was held at Kerry Life Offices in Glencar Community Centre which is in one of the most remote, disadvantaged areas of Ireland.
- Meeting started with Chris Huxley giving an overview of the LCCA.
- Richard prepared the application for the Kerry Life project in 2013. The project was approved in 2014.
- The project concentrates on conservation actions for the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.
- The area covered by the project is two-thirds farming and one-third forestry.

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- They informed local communities through public meetings, flyers etc. In their application they estimated 25 farmers would sign up to their land management scheme, this was based on a % of the farms in the project area. In reality, 40 signed up.
- Farmers get between €1,500 to €8,000 per annum depending on actions. These payments are for actions such as infrastructure e.g. fencing, troughs and are results based. An initial start-up payment is made and the balance paid once works are completed.
- They visited farms signed up and prepared a farm management plan for actions to support the conservation actions. This is supervised and supported by the project team.
- Slurry is spread based on soil testing. Fields are assessed and scored. Slurry is spread in fields that are not in proximity to the river where pearl mussel is located.

Advice specific to LCCA :

- LIFE projects are now supervised by EASME set up by the EU to manage programmes including LIFE.
- Monitoring from EASME is once a year.
- The Concept Note that LCCA will have to prepare is a stand-alone document but will bind the project to specific questions.
- LIFE projects are about action i.e. activity based, not research.
- Project actions should be sensible, realistic, attainable. It is better to under rather than over commit.
- Climate is an important topic
- State the obvious and keep language simple and direct
- Important to get commitment from statutory bodies – this is key
- LCCA will have obligation of 25% funding from partners. WSS will play a major role in identifying partners and getting them signed-up e.g. NPWS, Pobal, Coillte, Teagasc etc. Other sources of finances can be sourced to make once off cash payments

Joe Flannelly asked how LCCA circumstances relate to Kerry LIFE project given that the landscape in the Carra Catchment is very different? Chris Huxley responded that this difference is important – if it was the same then LCCA would not be considering applying for LIFE project. What is of significance is to be looking at parallels. He also highlighted that Richard O’Callaghan had highlighted that at the Concept Note stage it is not necessary to have farmers signed up but can do as they did for the Kerry Life which is to calculate a %. In addition, if we make low statements but have high achievements then the objectives are easier to achieve. Tom Byrne added that the novelty of the project is important and the LCCA project is novel.

Verena noted that one of the most important parallels of LCCA project with Kerry LIFE was water quality and believes nutrient management plans are very important.

Joe Flannelly asked if Woodrow would be meeting with the LCCA Farmers Working Group. This group had met farmers in the catchment and have noted their views. John Campbell said that he and Ronan Cusack, IFI Fisheries Officers, would also welcome being part of the meeting with Woodrow. Chris Huxley confirmed that such consultations have been specified as a priority (see above).

Tom Byrne confirmed that Woodrow would be asked to contact and arrange a consultation meeting with : Joe Flannelly, Pat Gibbons, Olivia Feeney, Ronan Cusack and John Campbell

Peter Comer of Teagasc informed the meeting that a LawPro farmers information evening is being organised for the Mask and Carra Priority Areas of Action. The Department of Agriculture will be informing all farmers with Herd Number about these events. These meetings will explain the Local Authority Waters programme and will give free advice to all farmers.

Tuesday 26 February – Lough Mask meeting in Tourmakeady

? March – Lough Carra Catchment meeting – date and location to be confirmed

b) Funding and Bank Account

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Total in the Credit Union account to date : €3,646.75

The treasurer mentioned that no person from the committee is claiming expenses.

c) Legal Status

Chris Huxley confirmed that the documentation for LCCA to be registered as a Company Ltd by Guarantee was now signed by the Committee. There is a further form for Companies Registration that will be signed prior to the March meeting.

By April all documentation should have been submitted. This status will make more funding avenues available.

d) Education

At the first meeting of the education sub-committee it was proposed that LCCA produce an A6 booklet focussing on Lough Carra. The booklet content would cover all aspects of Lough Carra including archaeology, heritage, water quality, recreation, bathing points etc. Application for a grant to the Water Communities Development Funds has been made to fund the design and printing of 3000 booklets. The total cost will be €2,055.00 and the grant will cover most of this, however, a contribution of around €200 would be required from the LCCA. The Chair asked for approval of this from the meeting :

Proposed : Pat Gibbons

Seconded : Padraig Farrell

The booklet would be distributed to schools and community groups in the catchment as part of the LCCA awareness raising actions. The National Schools in the catchment area, with around 200 pupils, are :

- Ballintubber; Ballyglass; Carnacon; Clogher; Partry; Robeen; Roxboro

Paul Connolly, Regional Co-ordinator of the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, previously mentioned their education publication 'All about Water' aimed at primary schools. It was agreed that LCCA would ask all schools in the catchment to run this programme. This could involve visit to local water treatment plant for the pupils. Teresa Horan, Principal of Partry NS, described this publication as an excellent resource and has introduced it to her school. She has made contact with Roxboro NS, Ballyglass NS and Ballintubber NS who have all agreed to run this programme.

Ronan Cusack, the IFI representative on the Education sub-committee, also mentioned their 'Something Fishy' programme which involves visits to schools with specimens of the fish species inhabiting our local lakes. Ronan agreed to look into delivering this programme at the local schools.

Mick Kane, LawCo Officer, intends to organise stream sampling at the schools. This is field work and hands-on for the children which they find extremely enjoyable plus it raises awareness about the health of the water courses based on the organisms in the water. Mick also suggested a summer camp on Lough Carra which could be organised in collaboration with GMIT Outdoor Education programme with no cost or insurance implications for LCCA.

The possibility of running a Lough Carra themed art competition for schools was discussed with prizes for each school. Al McDonnell said there was a possibility of Mayo Co Co involvement with presentation of prizes being made in the Council Chambers. The local media could be involved and this would further the objective of raising awareness.

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Visits to schools will be co-ordinated by those participating to ensure no overlapping. Fiona White has been involved in place-based education by bringing Breaffy NS to Moorehall and Lough Carra. This could be extended to other schools. She also mentioned that there is the possibility of GMIT students carrying out research on the lake. The Chair remarked that LCCA is fortunate to have the 3rd level institution on our doorstep with the potential for collaboration.

Any Other Business

a) LawSat Information Evenings

The Lough Mask event will be held on 18 February at 7.30pm in Tourmakeady Community Centre
The Lough Carra event will be held on 19 February at 7.30pm in Carnacon Community Centre

The LCCA would encourage as many people as possible to attend the event on the 19th.

b) Deirdre Walsh Art Exhibition

Chris Huxley mentioned that Deirdre Walsh has sent her apologies for this evenings' meeting, however, he wanted to mention that a selection of her Lough Carra paintings are currently on exhibition in London at the Barbara Stanley Gallery in Hammersmith <http://www.irishartinlondon.com>
The Chair extended congratulations to Deirdre on behalf of the LCCA.

The Chair asked for blanket approval for all decisions and discussions from the meeting. There was full approval from the floor.

NEXT MEETING

**The Next Meeting will be held in Carnacon Community Centre
on TUESDAY 12 March 2019 starting at 8pm sharp.**

All meeting minutes and other documents relevant to LCCA can be found on the Lough Carra website
<http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/>