

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 26 March 2019
 8.00 To 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

Antony Baynes	Padraig Farrell	Jean Peirre Maire
Verena Berard	Olivia Feeney	Al McDonnell
Ray Broughton	Thomas Fitzpatrick	Darren McGann
Deborah Broughton	Joe Flannelly	Joe McHale
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Richard Murphy
John Campbell	Tom Gillespie	Cilian Roden
Anna Coyne	Walter Hughes	Nicola Stronach
Sean Coyne	Chris Huxley	Sally Shaw-Smith
Ronan Cusack	Lynda Huxley	Deirdre Walsh
Philip Doddy	Mick Kane	Fiona White
Jim Fahey	Michael Kingdon	
APOLOGIES : Peter Byrne Sue Callaghan Peter Comer William Cormacan	Ailbhe Douglas Pauline Jordan Peter Mitchell Brian Reidy Sean Roberts	Alan Stephens

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Tom Gillespie of the Connaught Telegraph and Will Woodrow of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions to their first meeting.

He apologised for the postponement of the 12 March meeting but this was necessary for health and safety reasons relating to the storm warning for that evening.

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed : Ronan Cusack

Seconded : Tony Baynes

Matters Arising

a) Education

200 copies of the National Federation of Group Water Schemes education publication 'All about Water' for children have been ordered and will be distributed to all schools in the catchment within the next two weeks. The schools have undertaken to deliver the programme laid out in this publication.

It is planned to hold the proposed school art competition before the summer holidays.

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Next meeting of the Education sub-committee will be held at 9pm on 2 April at Tom Byrne's house. Norita Clesham asked to be included on this sub-committee.

There is no official news on funding application to support the publication of a Lough Carra specific booklet.

b) Funding and Bank Account

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

However, the following donations were presented at the meeting :

- Partry Angling Club €1,000
- Ballinrobe Angling Club €1,000 (to be used specifically for the LIFE project)
- Lough Carra Anglers €500

Letters of thanks will be sent from LCCA to the clubs.

Cllr Al McDonnell pledged a donation of €1,000 for 2019 (as per the donation of 2018) which will be lodged by EFT.

Lynda Huxley mentioned that LCCA could join the organisation The Wheel to get access to their monthly newsletters detailing funding opportunities. It was suggested that the PPN already offers service and LCCA is a member. It was agreed that more research be done on the difference between PPN and The Wheel before a decision is made.

Tom Byrne suggested that the LCCA purchase a copy of the latest version of 'Directory of Grant Making Trusts' which contains information on thousands of grant making trusts in the UK. The cost is £125 plus postage.

Proposed : Sean Coyne
Seconded : Pat Gibbons

c) Lawpro Farmer Information Evenings

The Lough Carra ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme) information evening for farmers in the catchment will be held on Tuesday 16 April at 8pm in Carnacon Community Centre.

d) Presentation by Will Woodrow of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions

The chair introduced Will Woodrow to the meeting. Will is director of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions, a consulting company based in Sligo which has been taken on by LCCA to carry out the Leader funded feasibility study and concept note preparation for a LIFE project for Lough Carra.

Below is a brief summary of Will's presentation :

- LIFE is a funding instrument for the EU.
- The LCCA application will be under Environment, Nature and Biodiversity
- Funding allocation for successful applications is 60-75%, clarification is being sought this percentage allocation.
- The LCCA has to raise the remainder through funding partners e.g. NPWS, Mayo Co Co, LawPro, Teagasc, Dept of Agriculture etc.
- The likely scenario is for a 5 year project with a budget of around €5 million.

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- The intention for the Lough Carra application is to reduce and reverse nutrient inputs which sits very well with LIFE not least because of its designated status.
- The advice received during the visit to the Kerry LIFE project was to get the funding partners in place as soon as possible. If this is done their officers time can be used as part of funding calculation by way of benefit in kind.
- The project needs to be innovative and have pilot projects. It also needs to show resilience to climate change. In addition, demonstrating the legacy of the project is fundamental.
- The LCCA has a great advantage because there is good basis of knowledge about the ecology of the lake
- The call for LIFE projects opens on 4 April. Will and his colleague Kristi Leydon will be attending the LIFE Open Day on 9 April to get information on the application process.
- The Concept Note must be submitted by 19 June 2019.
- The Concept Note is a 10 page document which must detail funding partners, total cost in addition to details of the project proposal.
- We will hear in October if the application is successful and LCCA would then be invited to submit a full proposal by January 2020.
- In addition to preparing the Concept Note, WSS are putting together information needed for viability of actions for a full LIFE project.
- The aim is for the Concept Note to be robust showing a sound scientific basis that proposed actions are going to work.
- WSS are currently working on establishing partnerships and funding commitments. Once this is done they will be developing actions to go forward in the proposal.
- There will be input from WSS team of 10 specialists and will be contacting other specialists where appropriate.
- During April and May WSS will be consulting relevant stakeholders and groups.
- WSS are aware that have to tick every box to satisfy the rigorous EU bureaucratic process.
- At least 25% of the project must be taken up by concrete conservation actions.
- The LCCA project will be competing against applications from the rest of the EU so need to ensure that it stands out with some innovative approach.

Questions :

Al McDonnell : In terms of stakeholder contribution, what portion of contribution can be benefit in kind? Who measures the benefit vs cash?

Will Woodrow : He is seeking clarification on this so does not yet have specific answer. There does have to be a signed commitment from the partners. The benefit in kind is measured on a monthly basis and the partner's employees have to fill out a time sheet. This has to be audited.

Al McDonnell : The County Council is willing to be a stakeholder. Are payments made incrementally?

Will Woodrow : Yes.

Cilian Roden : Kerry LIFE project managed to get matching funding. Would it be possible to get some concrete examples from them?

Tom Byrne : We can make contact with Richard O'Callaghan and ask.

Ray Broughton : Regarding time sheets used from the matching funding. How is the level of expertise of the employee calculated?

Will Woodrow : This has to be clarified and is an onerous task. The partners need to be committed.

Chris Huxley : William Cormacan sent details of a Concept Note submitted last year. Can this be used as a model?

Will Woodrow : It is very beneficial to be working with NPWS. The Corncrake project Concept Note has been provided and so we can see what a successful Concept Note looks like. The Lough Carra Concept Note has to punch above its weight. Aine O'Connor, NPWS responsible for marl lakes has been allocated the role of liaising with WSS and a meeting with her will be held in the near future.

Cilian Roden : I know her well and have worked with her on marl lake projects.

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Verena Berard : Would it be possible to partner with an IT or University for desk space etc.

Will Woodrow : Sligo IT have already expressed an interest but a lot depends on how the project starts to look. An aspect of the project actions is research and monitoring.

Joe McHale : Is this linked to CAP funding?

Will Woodrow : No, LIFE is a separate funding stream.

The Chair thanked Will Woodrow for his presentation.

e) Presentation by Joe Flannelly on behalf of Farmer Liaison Sub-committee

The Farmer Liaison sub-committee is made up of Joe Flannelly, Pat Gibbons, Anna Coyne and Olivia Feeney.

The sub-committee, along with the IFI Representatives, John Campbell and Ronan Cusack, had a consultation meeting with Will Woodrow prior to this evenings meeting.

Over the last couple weeks the sub-committee have been looking at a the pros and cons of anaerobic digesters :

- They are well established across Europe but not so much in Ireland.
- Gas Network Ireland are trying to push for more digesters. There are 20 more stations on their lines so it is progressing.
- The digesters can be fed with biodegradable material.
- Farmers can change from producing beef to producing grass, with the grass going to feed the digester.
- Local farmer John Sheridan has a digester which will become operational in May. He is close to Lough Carra but not in the catchment.
- At his digester he will mix pig slurry with other material. The digestate not be turned into pellets but will be spread out on farms in a liquid form that will be low odour.
- The digestate will be pasteurised and possibly less toxic than slurry.

Any Other Business

a) Fundraising

Partry Anglers have offered LCCA the opportunity to fund raise by taking over their annual boat raffle.

Sean Coyne suggested that the clubs in the area could get together to organise this. He said he would approach Peter Byrne of the Lough Carra Anglers to ask if he would co-ordinate this.

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

NEXT MEETING

The April Meeting will be held in Ballintubber, Corleys Abbey Lodge on TUESDAY 23 April 2019 starting at 8pm sharp.

The May meeting will be held on 14th in Partry Community Centre

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