

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 14 May 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	Anna Coyne	Ger Heverin
Verena Berard	Sean Coyne	Teresa Horan
Ray Broughton	Ronan Cusack	Lynda Huxley
Deborah Broughton	Philip Doddy	Mick Kane
Peter Byrne	Natalie Duncan	Michael Kingdon
Tom Byrne	Padraig Farrell	Mattie Lally
John Campbell	Olivia Feeney	Jean Peirre Maire
Norita Clesham	Eugene Finnerty	Peter Mitchell
Peter Comer	Joe Flannelly	Sara Raymond
Paul Connolly	Pat Gibbons	Sean Roberts
William Cormacan	Ken Irvine	Cilian Roden
Peter Corbett		
APOLOGIES : Patrick Bresnihan Bryan Kennedy Michael Hegarty Chris Huxley Al McDonnell	Lorna Roberts Michael Sweeney Deirdre Walsh Jim White	

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed Professor Ken Irvine to the meeting. He also welcomed Natalie Duncan and Sara Raymond from Geological Survey Ireland.

Presentation by Professor Ken Irvine

The meeting started with a presentation by Professor Irvine of the IHE Delft Institute of Water Education

He worked at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) for 17 Years on returning from working in Africa on Lake Malawi.

As part of his work at TCD, Ken was keen to establish some research projects in Ireland. This coincided with him being contacted by Tony Waldron, a member of the Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection Group. Tony asked Ken to get involved with helping to 'save Lough Carra'. Ken spent a day with Tony being shown around the lake which resulted in Ken establishing a research project on the lake. Just as the research was starting Chris Huxley contacted Ken and offered to help facilitate some of the research by providing infrastructure to get out onto the lake. Thus followed over a decade of research on Lough Carra which demonstrated the concerns that the anglers had seen.

The fishermen had been saying that the lake was changing but the authorities were saying that their monitoring was not showing any changes. However, the TCD research did show that Lough Carra was

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 14 May 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Partry Community Centre

indeed changing. The research showed that pre-famine the lake was slightly nutrient rich, post-famine it recovered in 10-15 years. However, in the 1950s it once again became nutrient enriched with the intensification of farming and this has continued to increase dramatically. When looked at on a global scale, Carra is considered to be in a good state but that shouldn't mean that we don't pay attention to the signals. Philip Doddy's work on the 'krustenstein', has been the next step in research and it is good to see that the research on the lake is continuing.

Finally, Ken mentioned the recent IPBES report (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - see link below) which highlights that nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history. The announcement of this crisis can assist the cause of the LCCA <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed : Pat Gibbons
Seconded : Verena Berard

Matters Arising

a) Update on LIFE Concept Note by Will Woodrow

The project is based on a 5 year plan.

Representatives of the Association met earlier in the day with Peter Hynes, Executive Officer and Martin Keating, Senior Executive of Mayo County Council. It was agreed that Mayo County Council will be the Co-ordinating Beneficiary for the proposed Lough Carra Life project. This is a very important commitment from the council. Other agencies will be involved as Associated Beneficiaries e.g. NPWS, Teagasc, Coillte etc. Details are to be confirmed.

Coillte in Sligo are currently looking at holdings in the Carra Catchment and reviewing their Bioclassification plans. In order for them to have FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) approval for their products they must have 15% of their land performing for biodiversity. They are looking at increasing the amount of land they are putting over to biodiversity. They are considering using some of their holdings in the Carra Catchment for investigative work to reducing nutrient input e.g. by going over to broadleaf from coniferous.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust works to protect the Lesser Horseshoe bats around Lough Carra – this species is a feature of the SAC designation. They will provide advice how to tailor buffer zones to benefit the bats who rely on corridors of trees.

Will met with OPW last week and they are open to discussions. OPW are governed by the drainage legislation, however, they are open to discussions and it would be very valuable to have their support for the LIFE project.

Further meetings are scheduled with Group Water Schemes, Geographical Survey Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The project proposal is now in a robust position and a full first draft will be made available to the technical working group by the end of the week. This will be followed up by a meeting with the working group.

The Chair emphasised that the project approach is that all participation from stakeholders, including farmers, will be on a voluntary basis, nothing will be compulsory. There are plans for an integrated agency approach.

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 14 May 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Partry Community Centre

Discussion regarding the LIFE project

Olivia Feeney asked if there would be a community meeting for stakeholders. The Chair responded that at this stage preparation of the Concept Note was key and if in the future the Association has something concrete to offer stakeholders then there would be a public meeting.

Joe Flannelly highlighted that it would be beneficial for farmers to be involved at this stage. With the BRIDE Project the farmers were involved from the start.

Verena Berard mentioned that a LIFE project is not like an EIP such as the BRIDE Project which has limited funds of €1.1 million. There could be more flexibility and funding with a LIFE project and it would be an evolving process as it is rolled out, with all participation being voluntary.

The Chair highlighted that the Association has three sub-committees/group :

1. Education sub-committee
2. Technical Working Group
3. Farmer liaison sub-committee

All three were working on their assigned tasks. It was hoped that the Farmer Liaison sub-committee could put in train some method to get farmers to come to the association meetings. All farmers are welcome to come to the LCCA monthly meetings.

b) Education

The Chair thanked the Ronan Cusack and John Campbell of IFI for running the 'Something fishy' programme. A letter had been sent on behalf of the LCCA to Mr John Conneely, IFI Directory, to thank him for supporting the Association and enabling his staff to deliver the programme in the Carra catchment. Mr Conneely sent a positive, supportive response, sending his congratulations to LCCA on its education programme.

The Chair has arranged for some of the staff of secondary schools to come to the next Education sub-committee meeting.

Mick Kane informed the group that he is organising an event at Moore Hall, Lough Carra for Heritage Week. This will involve several agencies.

Olivia Feeney highlighted that Partry Heritage Day is usually on the last Sunday of August and it was agreed that it would be best if the two events didn't clash.

c) Funding and Bank Account

Total in the Credit Union account to date : €6,245.98

The Treasurer mentioned that it may be necessary to have audited accounts once the association has obtained charitable status. The meeting authorised the Treasurer to investigate having an account with a cheque book e.g. An Post.

d) Legal Status

The Chair confirmed that the Association now has legal status. The relevant documents will be placed on the Lough Carra website under the Catchment Association section.

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 14 May 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Partry Community Centre

e) ASSAP meeting

The Chair apologised for any misunderstanding and confirmed that the April minutes would be amended.

The Chair and Treasurer highlighted that everything the Association has achieved so far is a 'win' and we should keep moving forward.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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

NEXT MEETING

The June Meeting will be held in Carnacon Community Centre on TUESDAY 18 June 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/>