

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 18 June 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	Natalie Duncan	Mick Kane
Verena Berard	Padraig Farrell	Michael Kingdon
Ray Broughton	Eugene Finnerty	Katie King
Deborah Broughton	Joe Flannelly	Al McDonnell
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Alasdair Pilmer
Peter Corbett	Teresa Horan	Michael O Cinneide
Anna Coyne	Walter Hughes	Timothy Quinn
Brian Davies	Chris Huxley	Michael Sweeney
Philip Doddy	Lynda Huxley	Bernadette White
APOLOGIES :		
Patrick Bresnihan		
Peter Byrne		
William Cormacan		
Bryan Kennedy		

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed Michael O'Conneide of Corrib Beo to the meeting. He congratulated Dr Philip Doddy on his recently awarded PhD and Cllr Al McDonnell on his recent election success.

Presentation by Solar Pump Solutions (SPS)

Joe Flannelly introduced Katie King and Brian Davies of SPS. Katie has a background in water quality, Brian in engineering, and they are both from a farming background.

Joe explained that the sub-committee liaising with farmers and fisheries in the catchment came across the SPS equipment and believe it may be a positive solution to the problem of cattle drinking from and urinating/defecating in the lake and rivers/streams with fish spawning beds. Usually the only alternative is for water to be piped across land and a connection set up from the mains supply. However the SPS system is a stand alone system which is solar powered.

Katie and Brian explained how the SPS system works :

- The battery for the pump is solar powered
- The battery can also power a 12 volt fence which can be erected to keep livestock away from water bodies
- The pump can supply water to up to 8 troughs in different paddocks
- When the ballcock drops it draws water in, so it only uses what is needed
- The small system can supply up to 3,500 litres per day (50 head of cattle)
- The larger system up to 7,000 litres per day (100 head of cattle)
- Paddocks with troughs enables rotational grazing which reduces the need for fertiliser
- The system has a suction pump with a stainless-steel filter
- Their systems have been supplied to Kildare CoCo, Waterways Ireland and two Tidy Towns projects
- The battery lasts 5 to 6 years and costs €130 to replace

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 18 June 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

- Smaller model is €1,795 plus VAT and the larger model €2,195 plus VAT

Full details on their website www.solarpumpsolutions.com

The Chair thanked Katie and Brian for their presentation and expressed admiration for their innovative product. He remarked that this would work well in conjunction with buffer zones and the LCCA technical group would discuss how this could be used in relation to the proposed LIFE project.

It was suggested that there may be potential for the Department of Agriculture to include this system in agricultural environment schemes.

Mick Kane and Joe Flannelly will look at funding for such a unit through Leader so that demonstrations can be given to farmers in the catchment. Joe and Mick will liaise with the IFI to identify a suitable location for a demonstration model and Mick will search for the funding.

Joe gave his personal thanks to Katie and Brian for coming along to give their presentation to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Correction to the May meeting minutes - the words 'are not' to be removed from the second paragraph of 'Discussion regarding the LIFE project' on page 3. Text to read "Joe Flannelly highlighted that it would be beneficial for farmers to be involved at this stage."

Proposed : Ray Broughton

Seconded : Verena Berard

Matters Arising

a) Legal Status

Chris Huxley gave an update on the Legal Status. The Association is now registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and this will enable the Association to access different sources of funding. The company name is simply 'Lough Carra Catchment Association'.

The LCCA needs to hold an AGM within 18 months of incorporation date of 3 May i.e. September/October 2020.

In addition, the first annual return up to 3 November 2019 must be filed with 28 days from that date. This report is submitted on-line and is apparently a simple process.

We are now investigating registering for Charitable Status. Mark Horton of the Rivers Trust has been contacted for advice on this process. There is a new requirement in Ireland that all NGOs must be registered with the Charities Regulator.

b) Life Project Concept Note

The deadline for submission of the Concept Note to the EU is 3pm on 19 June. The LCCA submission was made at 5pm today. The budget is 5 million euros over 5 years. 60% EU, 40% within Ireland through the beneficiaries and partners. The co-ordinating beneficiary is Mayo County Council with other stakeholders being NPWS, GSI, Dept. of Agriculture, EPA, Teagasc, LawPro, OPW, IFI, NFGWS, VWT.

We will hear if Concept Note has been accepted in September 2019. If it is successful we will have 3 months to put together the full proposal.

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 18 June 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

The Consultant is now working on further details which can be used for the main application should the Concept Note be successful. They will give a full report at the July meeting.

c) Farmer Liaison Sub-committee

A member of the sub-committee made the observation that he felt that it was the responsibility of the Association in general to encourage farmers to attend LCCA meetings.

d) Education

The NFGWS 'All about Water' programme has been delivered to all primary schools. The practical experiments were very popular. Some schools have visited the local water treatment plant which was very successful.

The IFI 'Something Fishy' programme was met with great enthusiasm and has also been very popular with the school children.

Both programmes have been very important in raising awareness.

GMIT will allocate a student to carry out work experience on a project relevant to the LCCA.

The first draft of the Lough Carra A6 booklet has been reviewed by the Education Sub-committee and there are some small changes to be made.

A logo for the LCCA was proposed to the meeting and accepted by all present. The logo will be used on the A6 booklet.

The LawPro scientific team started their field work and were able to meet with local primary school children to show them insects, water quality probes etc. There were lots of questions and they were very engaging. They will be carrying out their field work over the next few weeks. The preliminary results show that there are impacted sites which tally with the EPA findings that dropped the lake status from good to moderate.

e) Finance

Total in the Credit Union account to date : €7,070.98. Thanks were given to Cllr Al McDonnell for making a credit transfer of €1,000.00

The Treasurer informed the meeting that An Post and the Credit Union do not issue cheque books. The Bank of Ireland would issue a cheque book. Their legal team want to look over our legal status documents and there is a charge of Euros 31.00 for this service. Three signatures are required to open the account : Treasurer, Chair and Secretary. There will be two years free banking and if the association gets Charitable Status the fees will be reduced to 50%.

f) Crayfish Plague

Eugene Finnerty, NPWS Ranger for Lough Carra mentioned that Crayfish Plague DNA has been identified in the Clare River. There is on-going monitoring by the Marine Institute and signs are being erected to notify the public by Mayo and Galway County Councils.

Any Other Business

- The Secretary had received contact from Warren Turner from Turner Printing in Longford. He has very kindly offered to run-off print ready leaflets for the association. Tony Baynes mentioned that Warren's family is well-known in the area as they have Mayo connections.

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
Tuesday 18 June 2019
8.00 To 9.00 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

- Joe Flannelly suggested that some positive awareness about the group could be given through Mid-West Radio's farming programme. Bernie White added that Peter Comer of ASSAP is on the farming programme each Wednesday evening. Mick Kane added that Gary Smyth from the Moy Trust has spoken on this programme and maybe someone from the LCCA could do the same. It was suggested that the Chairman would be the best person to represent the LCCA

Proposed : Joe Flannelly

Seconded : Chris Huxley

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

NEXT MEETING

The July Meeting will be held in Partry Community Centre on TUESDAY 16 July 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/>