

**16 MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Tuesday July 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	Philip Doddy	Coran Kelly
Verena Berard	Natalie Duncan	Bryan Kennedy
Patrick Bresnihan	Eugene Finnerty	Mattie Lally
Peter Byrne	Padraig Farrell	Al McDonnell
Tom Byrne	Joe Flannelly	Robert Meehan
John Campbell	Pat Gibbons	Jim Merrick
Norita Clesham	Teresa Horan	Peter Mitchell
Anna Coyne	Chris Huxley	Alasdair Pilmer
Ronan Cusack	Lynda Huxley	Michael Sweeney
		Benjamin Thebaudeau
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Deborah Broughton Ray Broughton Sue Callaghan William Cormacan	Eugene Finnerty Mick Kane Michael Kingdon Emer Morrin	

### AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed the team from Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Sarah Blake, Natalie Duncan, Coran Kelly, Robert Meehan, Alasdair Pilmer who are carrying out an investigation into karst features including in and around Lough Carra. He thanked them for offering to give a presentation on their work to the meeting.

#### **Presentation by GSI**

Sarah Blake outlined that the project is focussing on groundwater and karst landscape. In particular, they are looking at the difference between surface and groundwater catchments. Their findings will be incorporated into the national groundwater databases. More information on [www.gsi.ie/groundwater](http://www.gsi.ie/groundwater).

Alasdair Pilmer gave an illustrated presentation providing an update on the GSI Karst Mapping programme relating to the Carra Catchment. The aim/scope of the work is 'to develop a conceptual understanding of groundwater movement with the Lough Carra Catchment' and this will enable them to provide an input into the LCCA Life Project.

Alasdair gave a detailed explanation of karst features and explained that by mapping these features it helps identify which areas of the catchment are 'recharge zones' where water is entering the groundwater system and which are 'discharge points' where groundwater exits a system. He gave an explanation of the different features they are looking at : Dolines (enclosed depressions) e.g. Deerpark; Springs and Holy Wells e.g. Kilkeeran and Tobar Padraig at Ballintubber; Swallow holes e.g. Cloonaghmore at Ballyhean; Turloughs e.g. Ballyglass; Limestone Pavements and Other features e.g. limestone pavement at Kilkeeran

They are taking thermal images of springs in the lake e.g. at Moorehall.

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Total area covered to date is 150 square kms and within this :

- 574 dolines/enclosed depressions
- 43 springs/holy wells
- 12 swallow holes
- 2 sinking streams
- 8 potential turloughs
- 20 limestone pavement exposures
- 17 augured features
- 3 boreholes
- 28 'geotag' images of quarries, karst windows, potential dry springs etc.

Key areas of Ground Water significance :

- Ballintubber : numerous springs
- Castleburke : springs and limestone pavement
- Annies :
  - potential boundary-defining swallow hole north of Ballyglass
  - sequence of turloughs with springs and swallow holes
- Ballyheane : swallow holes and springs
- Partry : smaller springs

Next steps :

- Focus mapping on the catchment boundaries with a view to tracing
- Continue identifying occurrences of submerged springs
- Conduct a well survey for groundwater levels
- Increase coverage and karst feature mapping in the South East

Response to questions :

Drainage can affect flow of ground water and some areas have been visited that should contain swallow holes but these are now gone because drainage has been put in.

Due to the dry, summer weather, some areas are dry at the moment so the team will revisit areas in the winter time when these areas should be wet.

To identify pathways of water flow an inert dye will be put in at some locations to trace the pathway.

Comments from the meeting :

This work by the GSI is excellent and very valuable.

It would be important to identify the source of the spring in the lake at Moorehall because this area experiences frequent algal blooms.

Some land floods now that never used to and vice versa.

Identifying areas of significant nutrient inputs would be valuable.

### **Presentation by Trinity College Dublin (TCD)– Wisdom Project**

Patrick Bresnihan, supervisor of the TCD Wisdom Project gave a report to the meeting.

The TCD Geography Department team Jim Merrick and Arielle Hesse were carrying out Postdoc research under Patrick's lead for a project called the Wisdom Project. This project is funded by the EPA and is a study looking at the connection between water, infrastructure and people. There were three sites covered by the project :

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Monaghan, Roscommon and Mayo (Lough Carra). One aspect of the project was to give 8 people in each location a disposable camera so that they could take pictures that they felt answered the question 'What most affects the water quality in places you live and work?'

Once the photos were developed each participant was interviewed by the team. The following points struck the team :

- 1) The depth of the richness of knowledge of the participants
- 2) How complex and nuanced the issues are
- 3) The narrative of how things had changed over time

The team now plan to hold an exhibition in early September showing 35 – 40 of the photographs with a explanation and some quotes.

Regarding location for the exhibition, it was suggested the exhibition be held in the Castlebar area, possibly the Linenhall Arts Centre or the Museum of Country Life.

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

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

**Proposed : Al McDonnell**

**Seconded : Antony Baynes and Ronan Cusack**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **a) Life Project Concept Note**

Kristi Leydon of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions gave an update to the meeting.

Kristi clarified that the date when we will receive news from the EU on the LCCA Concept Note is October 2019 and not September as stated in the June minutes.

She also mentioned that the Concept note was submitted in mid-June and this Step 1 of the process of applying for a LIFE project. Step 2 is putting together a full bid should the Step 1 submission be successful.

In preparation of the Concept Note good, solid relationships were established with Mayo CoCo., the EPA, Dept of Agriculture and other stakeholders. Good feedback on the Concept Note was received from the Dublin LIFE Office.

The focus is now on pulling together information that can be used for Stage 2 :

- 1) More detailed rationale for the project
- 2) More detail on the projects with discussion with stakeholders
- 3) More detail on costings
- 4) More detail on role of partners

The next meeting with the Technical Working will be on 16 August.

#### **b) Education**

The Lough Carra A6 booklet is being updated and will be reviewed by the Education Sub-committee before the August meeting.

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Dr Philip Doddy has produced a booklet for the LCCA on the “Marl Crusts of Lough Carra”. This will be presented at the next Education Sub-committee and it is hoped the association can get copies printed for distribution to local schools and community groups. This suggestion was fully supported by the meeting.

**c) Finance**

Balance in account €7,070.98

**d) SPS Solar Pump Solutions**

Further to the presentation by SPS (Solar Pump Solutions) at the June meeting, they have supplied a full system and a concrete base to the LCCA. The system has been set up in a suitable location identified by IFI (John Campbell and Ronan Cusack) on the Partry stream. John confirmed that the system was in place but a drinking trough and fencing still have to be installed.

The Chair said that Mick Kane, the Water Communities Officer, had agreed to find funding for the SPS system but additional funding was required for the trough and fencing. Peter Byrne said that the Carra Mask Federation could donation €300 to cover the costs of this. Chris Huxley offered a second-hand dual water trough

Joe Flannelly asked the meeting if the LCCA funds could cover the purchase of the machine until some grant funding could be sourced by Mick Kane.

Proposed : Joe Flannelly  
Seconded : Pat Gibbons

This proposal was agreed by the meeting.

**Any Other Business**

- **UKILN Conference** 16 and 17 October 2019 - Bryan Kennedy informed the meeting that an EPA sponsored international conference is being held in Westport in October this year. Details at this weblink you can find details of how to register and the full conference programme <https://www.ukandirelandlakes.org/ukiln-conference-papers/full-2019-uk-and-ireland-lakes-network-conference-programme-released/>
  - Lough Carra will feature on the first day with Tom Byrne and Chris Huxley giving a joint presentation. On the second day there will be field trip to Lough Carra visiting Church Island which is being supported by Father Fahy and Mayo CoCo.
- **Tuesday 20 August during Heritage Week**, Benjamin Thebodeau of the Joyce Country Great Western Lakes Geopark Project, will give a talk on the geology of the area. This event is organised by the Partry Heritage Committee and the talk will be held in Partry Community Centre starting at 7.30pm.

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**The August Meeting will be held in Corley's Abbey Lodge in Ballintubber on TUESDAY 13 August 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/>