

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Wednesday 18 April 2018
 7.30 – 9.15 pm, Village Inn Partry

Chairperson	Tom Byrne
Vice-Chairperson	Peter Byrne
Secretary	Lynda Huxley
Treasurers	Joe Flannelly and Pat Gibbons
Technical Advisors	Chris Huxley and Cilian Roden

John P. Burke	Joe Flannelly	Tim O’Sullivan
Peter Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Tom Quinn
Tom Byrne	Chris Huxley	Cilian Roden
Joe Conroy	Lynda Huxley	Alan Stephens
Séan Coyne	Mick Kane	Michael Walsh
David Duffy	Ian Keating	Margaret Ward
Olivia Feeney	Al McDonnell	
APOLOGIES :		
Michael Sweeney		
John Thornton		

	AGENDA ITEM
1.	Introduction
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself. He explained that he will initially fill the role of Chair of the newly formed Lough Carra Catchment Association (LCCA) for 6 months. He clarified that this first meeting will establish how the association is going to proceed.</p> <p>Going forward meetings will be conducted as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the last meeting will be circulated by the secretary prior to the next meeting. • Each meeting will start with the minutes of the last meeting being read out followed by any Matters Arising. • There will then be a report from the Treasurers.
2.	Association Goal
	<p>The Chair read out the Draft Goal of the Lough Carra Catchment Association (LCCA) as prepared by Chris Huxley and copies were circulated to the floor :</p> <p>GOAL: To restore, protect and conserve the ecological integrity of Lough Carra and its lakeshore habitats and to ensure the quality of drinking water from the lough.</p> <p>BY: Promoting and encouraging truly sustainable and environmentally sensitive land use practices in the catchment; and Seeking and promoting ways of reducing nutrient inputs into the lough from all sources, including agriculture, forestry and septic tanks; and Pursuing methods to prevent any form of pollution of the lough; and</p>

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	<p>Raise awareness of the unique values of the lough and promoting the enjoyment of its environment by all sectors of society.</p> <p>The Chair asked the floor if all present were in agreement with the Goal as read out. He stressed that if anyone was not in agreement they should say straight away.</p> <p>There was unanimous agreement.</p>
3.	<p>Some Background Information:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the water catchment area is 114km² • A major problem is the inflow of nutrients into the lake which have been locked up in the marl lake bed. Research carried out by Trinity College Dublin showed this to be the case. • Sources of nutrients are primarily agriculture and to a lesser degree forestry and septic tanks. • 2003 farm survey showed change in land use with an increase in livestock density resulting in increased application of fertiliser and slurry • The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has now acknowledged that there is an issue with water quality in Lough Carra. <p>Lots of scientific research has been carried out and there is enough information available to identify the problems. However, more science can be used to suggest ways of how agriculture and the environment can co-exist to the benefit of everyone and the lake. Construction of artificial wetlands have been used successfully on dairy farms in Ireland to deal with waste water.</p> <p>There was general agreement from the floor that the association should explore ways of best alleviating the problem of water quality without affecting farmers in a negative way. Help in dealing with this problem is needed from farmers and in the long-term their assistance should be sought.</p>
4.	<p>General Discussion</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Day : An Open Day be held with participation from stake holders and open to general public. However, it was agreed that it was too soon to consider this at the moment. • A Plan : The association should only approach farmers once it has a plan on how to deal with issues without negatively impacting farmers. • Positive Solutions : It was suggested that LCCA should look for positive technical solutions that do not disadvantage or put a financial burden on farmers. Solutions that could be introduced in the short and long term. Reducing nutrients going into the lake by soaking them up before they reach the lake would be a major step forward. The association could : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) look at projects, such as one in Co. Waterford, that have successfully tackled and solved issues of water quality; b) ask Teagasc to research better, more environmentally friendly, methods of using fertiliser. The technical advisors highlighted there is evidence to show that much of the fertiliser applied to the land does not go into the crops;

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	<p>c) look at beneficial grant aided projects e.g. Native Woodland Scheme as part of a solution; d) look at possibility of creating a buffer zone between farming and lake; e) investigate the potential of a biogas plant to reduce the amount of slurry entering the system; f) find out about LIFE projects in other areas such as the Burren. The relevant authorities need to take the lead and the LCCA consult with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Project : It was suggested that a Life Project may be one way forward and the association could look at other Life Projects such as Burren Life. • Public Awareness and Education: It was agreed that raising Public Awareness should be a major role of the association through schools, social media, local newspapers and radio etc. 	
5.	Actions to be carried out before next meeting	Action By:
	<p>1) Awareness raising in Schools The organisation Leave No Trace is to be approached to enquire what sort of programme they could run in local schools to raise awareness. Also, get advice from them how this could be funded. Proposed : Al McDonnell Seconded : Sean Coyne</p>	Action by: Mick Kane
	<p>2) Waterford Dairy Farm Project Find out location of this project and if someone/a group from this project can come to address the LCCA; or LCCA delegation can visit the project. Proposed : John-Paddy Burke Seconded : Sean Coyne</p>	Action by: C. Roden
	<p>3) Funding and Bank Account The Association will need funds to pay meeting and other incidental expenses. The treasurers and secretary will open a Credit Union account in Ballinrobe before the next meeting where funding can be lodged. Proposed : Michael Walsh Seconded : Dave Duffy</p> <p>Peter Byrne said that the Carra Mask Federation could contribute some funds to the LCCA.</p> <p>Joe Flannelly will ask Partry Anglers if they would like to give some funding to the LCCA.</p> <p>Al McDonnell said that he could allocate around €1,000 to the LCCA from discretionary funds at the council.</p> <p>The Chair and Secretary will look at Water Communities Grant Application before next meeting and consider applying for one of the grants.</p>	Action by: Joe Flannelly, Pat Gibbons, Lynda Huxley
	<p>4) Anaerobic/Biogas Digester Olivia Feeney to look into details of the anaerobic digester plant at Balliaghderreen and to get any other relevant information regarding biogas digesters.</p>	Action by: Peter Byrne
		Action by: Joe Flannelly
		Action by: Al McDonnell
		Action by: Tom Byrne, Lynda Huxley
		Action by: Olivia Feeney

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	<p>Proposed : Pat Gibbons Seconded : Peter Byrne</p> <p>5) LIFE Project Local environmental consultant, Derek McLoughlin, has prepared LIFE project documents. He is to be invited to speak to an LCCA to explain the process and what is involved. Mick Kane will contact him on behalf of the LCCA. Proposed : Pat Gibbons Seconded : Joe Conroy</p>	<p>Action by: Mick Kane</p>
6.	Any Other Business	
	The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited any further comments. There were no further comments from the floor.	
7.	NEXT MEETING	
	The Next Meeting will be held in Carnacon Village Hall on Wednesday 16 May 2018 starting at 7.30pm sharp.	