

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 17 July 2018
 8.00 To 9.30 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

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

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| Antony Baynes | Padraig Farrell | Mick Kane |
| Verena Berard | Olivia Feeney | Al McDonnell |
| Lena Boukeha | Joe Flannelly | Bernie O’Flaherty |
| Frank Brady | Pat Gibbons | Tom Quinn |
| Peter Byrne | Jimmy Heneghan | Michael Sweeney |
| Tom Byrne | Walter Hughes | Bernadette White |
| William Cormacan | Chris Huxley | |
| Ailishe Douglas | Lynda Huxley | |
| David Duffy | | |
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| APOLOGIES : Ray Broughton Deirdre Cavanagh Sean Coyne Bryan Kennedy | Maurice McDonnell Richard Murphy Fergal O’Dowd Michael Walsh Fiona White | |

| AGENDA ITEM |
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| <p>The Chair welcomed the newly formed LawSat (Local Authority Waters Support and Advice Team): Bernadette White (Catchment Manager – Western Region) , Ailbhe Douglas (Catchment Scientist), Lena Boukeha (Catchment Scientist) to the meeting and Bernie O’Flaherty the Regional Co-ordinator for LawCo.</p> <p>The meeting started with two presentations.</p> |
| <p>Presentation 1 : Verena Berard reported on the recent RBAPS (Results Based Payments Scheme) Seminar held in Athlone :</p> <p>Summary : The RBAPS scheme paid farmers for results, not actions. It was farmer centred working with farmers to protect biodiversity on marginal land. It was a pilot project designed to give value for tax payers.</p> <p>The scheme covered two areas in Ireland and one in Spain. In Ireland 52 farmers were involved in the scheme covering an area of 260 hectares. One county covered by the scheme was Leitrim which has a lot of non-designated land. In Leitrim focus was given to maintaining</p> |

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habitat for the butterfly the Marsh Fritillary which is Ireland's rarest and most protected butterfly.

Farmers were involved in drawing their own plans in collaboration with a specialist advisor. Farmers decided how they would achieve species rich grassland through grazing practices and rotational grazing. They were taught how to identify plant species and to do their own scoring.

The scheme ran for 3 years and has now closed. It was considered to be very effective and potential for assisting in the development of other such schemes. More information on the scheme can be found on www.rbaps.eu

Questions :

REPS is an action based scheme but was not mentioned. Are they to be dismissed?

Verena response : Area specific schemes are needed to give maximum protection to biodiversity. There is scope for hybrid schemes that incorporate elements from Action Based and Results Based schemes because the two schemes can work hand in hand.

There are also EIP (European Innovation Programme) agri schemes which are overseen by local ecologists and which give flexibility for the farmer. These schemes are co-funded by the EU and the Department of Agriculture.

Olivia Feeney suggested that Dolores Byrne of IT Sligo be invited to speak to the LCCA. She is the ecologist who worked on the concept of the RBAPS programme and is a farmer.

Proposed : Olivia Feeney

Seconded : Verena Berard

Action : Verena Berard

Presentation 2 : Chris Huxley on the ecology of Lough Carra

Summary:

There has been a severe reduction in water clarity.

The marl bottom is changing colour.

There are algal blooms of filamentous green algae and blue-green algae.

There is a change in the aquatic vegetation and animals.

Bulrush density had been studied by Jonathan Shackleton and later by Chris Huxley. The growth has exploded with a spread and increase in density.

TCD (Trinity College Dublin) carried out intensive monitoring. They recorded peaks when phosphates enter the water. Where are these coming from? Where are they going to?

EPA monitors 2 sites on Cloondaver and both sites are classed as 'less than good'. They monitor one outflow at Keel where the site is classified as 'good'. Where have the phosphates gone to? The lake is soaking up phosphates cleaning the water going into Lough Mask.

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| | <p>From a marl sample taken by TCD they were able to read the years when phosphates were locked up in the marl.</p> <p>There is now one fifth of people living in the catchment compared to pre-famine but the cattle numbers have gone up. The increase in livestock has meant increase in slurry and land conversion from semi-natural grassland to monoculture grassland.</p> <p>These changes in agricultural practices are due to the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy).</p> |
| 1. | Minutes of the last meeting |
| | <p>The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 June 2018.</p> <p>Proposed : Pat Gibbons Seconded : Al McDonnell</p> |
| 2. | Matters Arising |
| | <p>Action points from June meeting :</p> <p>a) Awareness raising in Schools</p> <p>Mick Kane informed the meeting that Mark Bowden of ‘Streamscapes’ and Maura Lyons of ‘Leave no Trace’ will be meeting to discuss how to proceed with an LCCA awareness raising programme. They will put together a Leader application and will meet with a sub-group from the LCCA to determine the nature the application should take. Mick asked the secretary to circulate a copy of the Irish Times article on Streamscapes of 14 July by email.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Lynda Huxley and Mick Kane</p> <p>b) Waterford Dairy Farm Project – The Anne River Project</p> <p>William Cormacan is trying to contact Rob Leonard who developed the specifications for this project. He has been able to contact Rory Harrington who would welcome a delegation from LCCA. A visit to the project will be organised for August or early September.</p> <p>The following expressed interested in travelling to Waterford Integrated Wetlands project : Verena Berard, Tom Byrne, Chris and Lynda Huxley, Al McDonnell, Michael Sweeney</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Lynda Huxley, Tom Byrne, William Cormacan</p> <p>c) Funding and Bank Account</p> <p>Further contributions have been received :</p> |

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Al McDonnell €1,000 (from Mayo Co. Co. funds)
 Partry Anglers € 500

There have been no withdrawals.

Total in the account to date €2,310.00

d) Anaerobic/Biogas Digester

Olivia Feeney has been in contact with Biocore who run the plant in Ballaghderreen. They are willing to host a visit on a Thursday or Friday. It was decided that a visit to the plant would be worthwhile to explore how it works and is run.

The following expressed interest in the visit :

Antony Baynes, Tom Byrne, Chris and Lynda Huxley, Mike Kane, Olivia Feeney

Action : Olivia Feeney, Tom Byrne and Lynda Huxley

e) Life Project

William Cormacan has organised a visit on 25 July at 11.30 in the Clara Visitor Centre in Co. Offaly to meet Philip Murphy, the consultant who has worked on several successful EU Life projects for Coillte and NPWS. This will be a fact-finding visit attended by Tom Byrne, William Cormacan, Chris and Lynda Huxley, Al McDonnell.

f) Insurance and Heritage Week Events

Lynda Huxley has obtained a quote for public liability insurance for the LCCA which will be €475.25 from JLT Ireland. Insurance will be needed to support the Heritage Week LCCA events and any other public events. The meeting approved the purchase of the insurance.

Action : Lynda Huxley, Joe Flannelly

Padraig Farrell offered to do a talk in Heritage Week regarding predators on Lough Carra. It was suggested that this be done at the time of the Moore Hall event which will be on Sunday 26 August.

Action : Padraig Farrell, Lynda Huxley

3. LawSat (Local Authority Waters Support and Advice Team) and LawCo (Community Support)

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| | <p>The Chair thanked the LawSat and LawCo members for coming to the meeting and invited them to attend future meetings. He thanked Mick Kane, the local Water Communities Officer, for inviting them to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Frances O’Flaherty commended the presentations given at the start of the meeting and the excellent Work being carried out by the LCCA.</p> <p>The Chair responded that Lough Carra is at the top of the Corrib system and if at the end of the process we are able to achieve reduction in the nitrates and phosphates entering the system this success may spread throughout the region.</p> |
| 4. | Native Woodland Schemes Public Talk |
| | <p>Mick Kane will organise a public talk on the various native woodland schemes that landowners can avail of. Mick will identify relevant speakers and the meeting will be opening to the public to which all farmers will be invited. This event will be organised for October or November.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Mick Kane</p> |
| 5. | Any Other Business |
| | <p>a) Map of the Lough Carra Catchment. The meeting asked Mick Kane if he could obtain a map of the Carra Catchment that could be displayed at meetings.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Mick Kane</p> <p>b) BRIDE project On behalf of Fergal O’Dowd the secretary mentioned that he had sent information on the BRIDE project (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) in Co. Cork. This project is an EIP funded Project (European Innovation Partnership) which is led by farmer and project manager Donal Sheehan. This is an example of an action based and result based system.</p> <p>Fergal has offered to contact Donal Sheehan to ask if he can come to give a presentation to LCCA or if a delegation can go to visit the project.</p> <p>Proposed : Tom Byrne Seconded : Al McDonnell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Fergal O’Dowd</p> <p>c) Education Al McDonnell proposed bringing members of the public out on to the lake in August so that they can learn about the lake. It was agreed that Al would look into organising this and Lynda Huxley would enquire about getting insurance for such an event.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Al McDonnell, Lynda Huxley</p> |

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| | <p>d) Predators Padraig Farrell mentioned that predators such as Grey crows and American mink were having a serious impact on the native wildlife of the lake. He said that he is liaising with the Dept of Agriculture and NPWS to try to address this serious problem.</p> <p>The Chair asked Padraig to keep the LCCA informed on progress.</p> |
| | <p>The Chair asked the meeting for approval of all that had been decided at this meeting. There was full approval.</p> |
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| 7. | NEXT MEETING |
| | <p>The Next Meeting will be held in Partry Community Centre on the N84 TUESDAY 14 August 2018 starting at 8pm sharp.</p> |