

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Wednesday 20 JUNE 2018  
 8.00 To 9.30 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	Joe Flannelly	Roy O'Brien
Frank Brady	Pat Gibbons	Fergal O'Dowd
Ray Broughton	Walter Hughes	Tim Quinn
Peter Byrne	Chris Huxley	Tom Quinn
Tom Byrne	Lynda Huxley	Sean Roberts
William Cormacan	Al McDonnell	Sally Shaw-Smith
Anna Coyne	Paddy McGing	Michael Walsh
Olivia Feeney	Richard Murphy	
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Joe Nestor	
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Kevin Coyne Padraig Farrell Peter Heaps Mick Kane Jean-Pierre Maire	William Maire Cilian Roden Alan Stephens John Thornton Mick Wade	

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
	The Chair welcomed National Parks and Wildlife representative William Cormacan and IFA representatives Thomas Fitzpatrick and Rory O'Brien.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>
	<p>The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 May 2018.</p> <p>There were two amendments to be made :</p> <p>Point 2 5) should read James Moran not John.</p> <p>Point 3 : The CAP will implemented directly by the Department of Agricultural, Food and the Marine (DAFM).</p> <p><b>Proposed : Al McDonnell</b>  <b>Seconded : Michael Sweeney</b></p>

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
Wednesday 20 JUNE 2018  
8.00 To 9.30 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

**2. Matters Arising**

Action points from May meeting :

**a) Awareness raising in Schools**

Message received by Mick Kane to say that Maura Lyons of Leave No Trace Ireland is on honeymoon. They will continue working on the draft application for Leader Funding when she returns to work.

**Action : Mick Kane**

**b) Waterford Dairy Farm Project – The Anne River Project**

Michael Sweeney confirmed that he had contacted the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and introduced William Cormacan, Regional Manager to the meeting.

William gave some information regarding Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW). He confirmed that he had made contact with Liam Fahey, Senior Inspector with DAFM, who informed him that there are currently none in the west, however, the DAFM has a document giving minimum specifications (Specification Ref. S133 on DAFM website) which have to be adhered to under the nitrate regulations. However, not all areas are suitable for ICWs. Liam Fahey recommended contacting Jack Nolan in Co. Wexford who has an ICW and that this would be the best example to visit and William will be following up on this.

The Chair asked William to contact Lynda Huxley with any news on follow-up regarding ICWs.

**Action : William Cormacan**

**c) Funding and Bank Account**

Joe Flannelly reported current balance is €800.00 made up of :

Donation from Carra Mask Angling Federation	€500.00
Westport Angling Club	€300.00

There have been no withdrawals.

**d) Anaerobic/Biogas Digester**

Olivia Feeney reported that BioCore is the company that run the plant at Ballaghadereen. They take sludges from local authorities and slurry. The resulting pellets from treatment is currently used on arable farms. The plant does not currently have the infrastructure to provide electricity to the grid from the gas produced during treatment. Currently BioCore have to be paid to take slurry and the cost is approximately €700 for a lorry (20 metres cubed). It may be possible to get a grant that would cover the cost of selling the slurry to BioCore. They would welcome a visit from the LCCA.

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
Wednesday 20 JUNE 2018  
8.00 To 9.30 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

Joe Flannelly added that he knows a local person who is planning to build a biodigester on his farm. He can be asked to give a talk at a future LCCA meeting.

**Proposed : Joe Flannelly**  
**Seconded : Al McDonnell**

**Action : Joe Flannelly**

**e) Life Project**

Lynda and Chris Huxley reported that they had a meeting with Derek McLoughlin of Aniar Ecology. They reported that Derek has not been involved in submitting or implementing a Life Project but has been involved with the RBAPS (Results-Based Payments for Biodiversity on farms) Scheme. In order to pursue a Life Project, LCCA would have to secure funds to employ someone to do a feasibility study to assess the potential.

Successful Life Projects are funded by the EU and it is possible to get around 60% funding which has to be made up to 100% by local funding. They promote enhancement of biodiversity and the best example is the Burren Life in County Clare.

William Cormacan added that NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Service) are involved in 2 applications which were prepared by consultant Philip Murphy who has past experience in successful Life applications for Coillte. The Chair proposed that William ask Philip if he could meet with a delegation from LCCA to discuss what steps are involved in Life Project.

**Proposed : Tom Byrne**  
**Seconded : Chris Huxley**

**Action : William Cormacan**

**f) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**

Joe Flannelly introduced representatives from the IFA (Irish Farmers Association), Mr Roy O'Brien (Regional Development Officer) and Thomas Fitzpatrick (Mayo branch) and asked if they could give a brief overview of the current status with CAP.

Roy O'Brien said that CAP is currently under review and being renegotiated but that the budget for environment has been cut. There is going to be more emphasis on carbon emissions. He said that the two major issues for farmers are 1) profitability 2) time. He assured the meeting that farmers have an interest that water is pristine but that productivity and profitability are important. There are many varieties of farmers, from large, smaller, intensive, organic etc. He recommended that the LCCA meet with farmers to let them know about the association adding that it is important to talk to farmers but not to enforce any more rules. Bringing the farmers with the association is key and he wished the LCCA well.

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Wednesday 20 JUNE 2018  
 8.00 To 9.30 pm, Carnacon Community Centre

	<p>The Chair thanked Mr O'Brien and said the LCCA have to find ways to improve the environment and not reduce payments to farmers. To give clarification, the Chair read out the LCCA objectives emphasising that the aim is find ways to improve water quality and the environment without disadvantaging farmers in any way.</p> <p><b>g) Heritage Week</b>        Two LCCA related events have been registered with the Heritage Council for Heritage Week :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Saturday 25 August from 2.30 to 5pm. Event at Doon Peninsula lead by Cilian Roden and Chris Huxley "Discover the aquatic ecology of Lough Carra from the lake shore at Doon. Also, learn about biodiversity of this very unique habitat. You can also follow the trail around the Doon Peninsula."</li> <li>2. Sunday 26 August from 2.30pm to 5pm. Event at Moore Hall lead by Dr Fiona White and Chris Huxley "Dr Fiona White will talk about the Moore family, Moore Hall and its walled garden. Chris Huxley will cover natural heritage including the aquatic life of Lough Carra."</li> </ol> <p>The secretary suggested the LCCA acquire public liability insurance that would cover these and other events. One quote had been obtained for annual fee of €475.00</p> <p><b>Proposed : Al McDonnell</b>  <b>Seconded : Pat Gibbons</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action : Lynda Huxley, Fiona White, Chris Huxley, Cilian Roden</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LawSat (Local Authority Waters Support and Advice Team)</b>        Under this new initiative established under the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, there will be a team of 7 scientists working in the Galway/Mayo region. The team will be performing the following roles :       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing Implementation Plans for each region</li> <li>- Carrying out local catchment assessments</li> <li>- Identifying suitable actions to improve water quality</li> <li>- Supporting implementation of actions at local level</li> <li>- Supporting Teagasc and the dairy co-op advisors under the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme</li> <li>- Building partnerships with communities, local authorities and public bodies</li> </ul>       They are currently undergoing training and should be in position in January.     </li> </ul> <p>Mick Kane, the LawCo Officer, is already in contact with the people who will be working in Mayo and has already approached them regarding Lough Carra.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>
	<p><b>1) Irish Times article by Margaret Ward</b>        Chris Huxley informed the meeting that the article on Lough Carra had been published in the Irish Times and copies were available for anyone who had not seen it. The newspaper had received</p>

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
**Wednesday 20 JUNE 2018**  
**8.00 To 9.30 pm, Carnacon Community Centre**

several letters following the article suggesting constructed wetlands and biogas. As a result of this, Margaret Ward has been asked to write an article about constructed wetlands.

**2) EPA**

Al McDonnell expressed concern that the EPA have not yet analysed the 25 months of data they have acquired. He proposed that the LCCA should request that the EPA carry out the data analysis urgently. Chris Huxley highlighted that the EPA had asked that any requests from the LCCA should be directed to them via Mick Kane, the LAWCO Officer.

**Proposed : Al McDonnell**

**Seconded : Pat Gibbons**

**Action : Mick Kane**

**3) Public talk on Native Woodland Schemes**

Through the secretary, Mick Kane has suggested that he organise speakers for a public talk on the various native woodland schemes that are available.

**Proposed : Chris Huxley**

**Seconded : Sean Roberts**

**Action : Mick Kane**

**4) Meeting day**

It was proposed that future meetings be held on Tuesday evenings as Wednesday evening clashes with other group meetings. This was agreed.

The Chair closed the meeting thanking the IFA and NPWS representatives for attending the meeting and were invited to attend future meetings.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

**The Next Meeting will be held in Carnacon Village Hall on TUESDAY 17 July 2018 starting at 8pm sharp.**