

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Thursday 13 September 2018
 8.00 To 9.30 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

Verena Berard	Ailbhe Douglas	Mick Kane
Peter Byrne	Padraig Farrell	Al McDonnell
Tom Byrne	Olivia Feeney	Brian Reidy
John Campbell	Joe Flannelly	Lucy Roberts
Norita Clesham	Pat Gibbons	Sean Roberts
Peter Comer	Peter Heaps	Michael Sweeney
Sean Coyne	Chris Huxley	Deirdre Walsh
Ronan Cusack	Lynda Huxley	Bernie White
APOLOGIES : Antony Baynes William Cormacan Philip Doddy	Fergal O'Dowd Tom Quinn Cilian Roden John Thornton Fiona White	

AGENDA ITEM
<p>The Chair opened the meeting acknowledging the recent deaths of supporters of the Association, Dee Cavanagh and Matt Whitelaw extending sympathies to their families.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including the following who were attending for the first time : IFI representatives Ronan Cusack and John Campbell; Peter Heaps of Ballinrobe Tidy Towns; Peter Comer of LawSat/Teagasc; Deirdre Walsh; Brian Reidy representing NPWS in the absence of William Cormacan.</p> <p>The meeting started with two presentations.</p>
<p>Presentation 1 : Dr Bernie White, Catchment Manager, Western Region of LawSat (Local Authority Water Support and Advice Team) :</p> <p>The full presentation can be found on www.loughcarra.org in the section 'Catchment Association'</p> <p>Brief Summary :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive (WFD) of 2000/60/EC 'A framework for community action in the field of water policy information, consultation and active involvement.' With an overall aim "to achieve good ecological status in all waters". Being driven by the social and economic benefits of healthy waters. • The WFD requires River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and Programmes of Measures. • New structure has been put in place to implement WFD. • New structure in place to implement the RBMP. RBMP listed 35 areas of action, 177 water bodies, 112 at risk and 65 under review. • LAWSAT is a shared service with LAWCO with 35 scientists – 7 per region. Bernie is Catchment Manager for Western Region with a team of 6 catchment scientists located in Galway and Mayo.

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- LAWSAT staff come from varying backgrounds : environmental scientists, biologists, hydrogeologists, agricultural scientists etc.
- Priority areas of action : 190 identified listed on www.watercommunities Lough Mask-Carra are identified as one Priority Area of Action.
- The team will be carrying out further assessments of the Priority Areas of Action. Collaborating with stakeholders, agencies and local authorities. They will be working with farmers and local stakeholders to find solutions.
- Public meetings will be held in advance for further catchment assessments.
- In addition there are 30 new Agricultural Advisors linked to LawSat working with Teagasc and Dairy Coops. Peter Comer, present at this meeting is one of those advisors. They will be giving free advice and solutions to farmers regarding best agricultural practice in Priority Areas of Action.
- When Bernie's team have completed the desktop study she will come back to the LCCA with a further presentation.

Questions :

- There were no questions

The Chair thanked Bernie for her informative and clear presentation about the work of the LawSat team.

Presentation 2 : Chris Huxley on EU Life Project

Brief Summary:

- There was a meeting of the LCCA LIFE Project Working Group : Verena Berard, William Cormacan, Chris Huxley, Mick Kane, Cilian Roden, Bernie White

Stage 1 :

- Working group to agree overall project plan
- LCCA to apply for Leader funding for Feasibility Study with maximum budget of €25k for minimum of 60 days work
- Detailed Terms of Reference for work to be carried out by consultant over 5 months.
- If successful with Leader funding plan to hire consultant in December 2018

Stage 2 :

- Register as Company Limited by Guarantee. This has to be in place in order to apply for a LIFE project.
- Get support from Moy River Trust and Joyce Country & Great Western Lakes Geopark.
- Consultant to carry out feasibility study and prepare LIFE Project Concept Note – submission date expected to be June 2019.
- Feasibility study will identify activities to pursue to meet the LCCA's goals and objectives even if not successful with LIFE application.

Goal :

- To restore, protect and conserve the biodiversity value and ecological integrity of Lough Carra and its lakeshore and catchment habitats and ensure the quality of water in the Lough.

Principal Objectives :

- A. To maintain and enhance existing priority habitats in the SAC.
- B. To ensure the protection and conservation of key species in the SPA, the SACs and the catchment.
- C. To prevent and reverse eutrophication by reducing the flow of nutrients into the Lough.
- D. To promote and encourage truly sustainable and environmentally sensitive land use practices in the catchment.
- E. To prevent the further conversion of land and intensification of agriculture in the catchment.

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	<p>F. To raise awareness of the unique values of the Lough, including ecosystem services, and promote its enjoyment by local communities and all sectors of society.</p> <p>Questions : There were no questions.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the members of the LIFE working group and Norita Clesham of the South West Mayo Dev. Co. for progressing this project.</p>
1.	Minutes of the last meeting
	<p>The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 August 2018.</p> <p>Proposed : Pat Gibbons Seconded : Michael Sweeney</p>
2.	Matters Arising
	<p>a) Predator Control The Chair invited Pdraig Farrell to give an update on the predator issue on the lake.</p> <p>Pdraig explained that mink and hooded crows are two problem species. He has been carrying out work controlling mink for National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and is hoping to involve the Department of Agriculture regarding the crows.</p> <p>He is currently in contact with the National Game Council and the Hill Farmers association and would report back to the group in due course.</p> <p>b) Legal Status With information received from the GeoPark office, the Rivers Trust, Moy Trust and Carra/Mask Federation, the Legal Status working group now have the documentation necessary to apply for Legal Status. This will not be an expensive process as a template provided by the Rivers Trust can be used for the application. The registration fee is around €150.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Legal Status Working group</p> <p>c) Kerry Life Project Richard O'Callaghan of the Kerry LIFE Project is able to meet a delegation from the LCCA at their offices in Glencarr, Co Kerry. The LIFE Project bid was put together by Richard O'Callaghan and Declan Little of Woodlands Ireland and Richard is now the manager of the project. He will explain how the project was put together and how it operates, especially how they liaise with the local farmers. The date for the meeting is 10 October.</p> <p>The following put their names forward for the delegation, any other members can attend if they contact the secretary :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verena Berard - Tom Byrne - Chris Huxley - Lynda Huxley - Bernie White <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Chris Huxley</p>

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d) Public Talks

A Public Talks event will be organised for February 2019. This will be in collaboration with GMT and other groups/agencies e.g. Moy Trust, Dept of Agriculture, Teagasc etc. The talks will be on themes as listed in August minutes.

e) Education

Mick Kane is hoping to get funding to run a 'pilot' education programme. He mentioned that there is an existing water education programme for primary schools called "All About Water".

Mick is liaising with the Chair to set up this 'pilot' since Tom has links with local schools. The Chair added that if a pilot programme can be established which fits into the school curriculum then this would cover a lot of the science programme and be welcomed by teachers.

Action : Mick Kane and Tom Byrne

f) Visit to Biocore

Thanks were given to Olivia Feeney for organising the visit to the BioCore Biogas plant in Ballaghaderreen on 6 September. 8 members of LCCA attended. Chris Huxley gave a brief summary of the visit :

The visit was useful and interesting but did not necessarily give all the answers the LCCA are looking for with regards to establishing a bio-digester to receive slurry from the catchment and get back fertiliser pellets to spread on the land.

The Biocore facility is a state of the art biodigester plant which takes sludge from Mayo County Council's waste water treatment facilities as well as used food oil and some slurry. At the moment the gas from the digester is burned off and the remaining sludge is spread on agricultural land in Roscommon and Leitrim.

The facility does not currently use the gas to generate electricity to sell to the grid because the rate being paid is not 'attractive' enough and there is currently no 'tariff' to give an additional incentive. They do, however, plan to sell gas to the grid in the not too distant future.

It was very useful to visit the plant, however, it was apparent that for the Lough Carra catchment it would be necessary to look into other types of smaller scale plants. This is something that the consultant would look at during the feasibility study if the LCCA is successful in getting Leader funding.

Questions :

There was a question on how much reduction in nutrients is there in the remaining sludge that is left over at the end of the digestion. Olivia responded that there is a 20% reduction. She also added that a tariff for selling to the grid is due to be introduced and if this is set at 9c per kilowatt hour then this would be enough to make it financially viable.

g) Heritage Week

Lynda Huxley reported that the Heritage Week events held under the Lough Carra Catchment Association were well attended. Both events were supported by LawCo and the Heritage Officer of Mayo County Council. Thanks were given to Tom Quinn for allowing access to the Doon Peninsula and to the Rural Social Scheme for preparing the path around Doon before the event.

h) Funding and Bank Account

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	<p>Total in the account to date : €1,834.75</p> <p>It was proposed that €100 petty cash be provided to the secretary to use for small outgoings.</p> <p>Proposed : Joe Flannelly Seconded : Al McDonnell</p> <p>i) Contact with farming groups</p> <p>At the August meeting Joe Flannelly, Pat Gibbons, Olivia Feeney and Verena Berard agreed to work together to make contact with farming groups.</p> <p>Verena gave apologies that due to study commitments she would have to withdraw her name from this particular working group.</p> <p>Joe Flannelly reported that contact had been made with various farmers and farming groups in the catchment. He reported that there were some consistent comments that arose from the discussions with the farmers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- They don't want to be dictated to or co-erced- They don't want too much bureaucracy- They are interested in collaborating with the Association but have to see a benefit- They don't want to be the cause of any pollution in Lough Carra <p>Pat Gibbons met over 14 farmers. They are all aware of the existence of the Association and are willing to support it. There was no negativity expressed towards the Association.</p> <p>They also learned that there is a Teagasc supported catchment plan in the area of Roundfort/Hollymount which farmers have supported and they get detailed free nutrient management plan and free soil sampling. This area is not in the Carra catchment but could be a source of information for a future talk for farmers.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Joe and Pat for carrying out this contact with the farmers and it was very positive to learn that they are interested and supportive of the LCCA's work</p>
3.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Approval for Decisions Made at the Meeting</p> <p>The Chair asked for approval from the meeting for all discussions and decisions made during the meeting. There was full approval from the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed : Sean Coyne Seconded : Padraig Farrell</p>
7.	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
	<p>The Next Meeting will be held in the back room at Corley's Pub in Ballintubber – across the road from Ballintubber Abbey.</p> <p>TUESDAY 9 September 2018 starting at 8pm sharp.</p>