

MEETING MINUTES
LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)
 Tuesday 11 December 2018
 8.00 To 9.00 pm, Corley's, Ballintubber

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	Kevin Coyne	Chris Huxley
Verena Berard	Sean Coyne	Lynda Huxley
Peter Byrne	Ronan Cusack	Mick Kane
Tom Byrne	Ailbhe Douglas	Al McDonnell
John Campbell	Jim Fahey	Pat McHale
Norita Clesham	Marie Farrell	Peter Mitchell
Peter Comer	Padraig Farrell	Tim Quinn
John Corbett	Olivia Feeny	Sean Roberts
William Cormacan	Pat Gibbons	Alan Stephens
Anna Coyne	Arielle Hesse	Jim White
APOLOGIES : Deborah Broughton Ray Broughton Philip Doddy Joe Flannelly	Peter Heaps Brian Kennedy Michael Hegarty Gareth Lloyd	Michael Sweeney John Thornton Deirdre Walsh Bernie White Fiona White

AGENDA ITEM
<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and started by reading an extract from the poignant last page of the new Christmas book 'Blitzen's Best Christmas by local lady Claire O'Malley "Mrs Claus was delighted with her gift 'Thank you Santa for my gift, thank you for remembering Pure, Clear Water from Lough Carra. How wonderful!"</p>
<p>Presentation by Mick Kane, Water Communities Officer</p> <p>Community engagement project held at the Glore Mill in Kiltimagh</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information about a workshop held at the Glore Mill on 10 November 2018 'How do I enhance or restore my local river?' 2) The course was an initiative of the River Moy Trust 3) It was Leader Funded and presented by ecologist Karina Dingerkus 4) The aim was to provide Local Community Groups and Clubs with guidelines on the process to follow when seeking to enhance or improve access to a local river or lake. 5) There were presentations by the relevant agencies 6) The Guidelines have been designed to get everyone working together to protect their environment and give a step-by-step approach 7) The 30 page Guidelines will be published on the Moy Trust webpage. <p>A copy of Mick's presentation can be found on the http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/</p>

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	<p>LawCo Community Water Development Fund for 2019 Mick also mentioned that the LAWCO Community Water Development Fund for 2019 will be open for applications in December with an application deadline of end February.</p> <p>LawCo Regional Operations Committee Meeting There will be a meeting of the LawCo Regional Operations Committee on 9 January in the offices of Roscommon County Council. All relevant agencies will be present at this meeting. A slot of 30 minutes has been made available for the LCCA to give a presentation on history and progress of the Association. Tom Byrne, Chris Huxley and Al McDonnell will attend this meeting with Mick Kane and make a joint presentation on behalf of the group.</p> <p>LawSat Public Meeting Mick informed the meeting that the LawSat Public Meeting dates and locations will probably be as follows but these have to be confirmed :</p> <p>Tuesday 19 February – Ballintubber Community Centre Wednesday 20 February – Tourmakeady Community Centre</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p>
	<p>The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 November 2018.</p> <p>Proposed : Al McDonnell Seconded : Pat Gibbons</p> <p>Requested amendments to November minutes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norita Clesham highlighted an amendment to 2c) of the November meetings. The first sentence should read “Norita Clesham confirmed that the Evaluation Committee had recommended for approval the LCCA application....”. She clarified that it’s the LCDC that approve projects. • Bryan Kennedy of the EPA requested that the text of point 2e) of the November meeting minutes be amended as below. Bryan had sent his apologies for the December meeting so the Chair read out the proposed text as below : <p style="margin-left: 40px;">“In response to a request during the meeting from Al McDonnell, Bryan Kennedy addressed the meeting. He confirmed that he had read all of the meeting minutes of the Lough Carra group when circulated, but owing to work commitments during summer was not always in a position to attend regular meetings of the L. Carra Catchment Association. He also confirmed that the EPA has an open data policy so there was no need to consider requests for data through FOI. It would suffice to call into their office in Castlebar at any time, or to submit a request through the EPA enquiries office. Bryan clarified that hydrometric monitoring and chemical assessment of Lough Carra inflows was additional project work and not part of the regular Surface Water Monitoring Program for the WFD. He said that while the chemical data was important, it was only one part of the puzzle and that all data and information would need to be interpreted in combination. He said he had given an update to Al McDonnell and Lynda and Chris Huxley at the time of their visit to EPA Castlebar. He advised that two additional monitoring stations were also established for biological assessment in the catchment in 2018, on foot of a request for additional monitoring by Mayo Co Co. He noted that there may be some improvement or no change generally in the biological quality of the inflowing</p>

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	<p>tributaries. Bryan confirmed that results of the river biological assessment will be available through the EPA website in early 2019 once it had been validated.”</p> <p>Both amendments were approved by all present.</p>
2.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) <u>Leader Funding Application</u></p> <p>Norita Clesham gave an update on the LCCA project application. She confirmed that the Mayo LCDC LAG meeting had been held earlier today chaired by Al McDonnell and they had approved the LCCA project application. She added that the project was well received by the Committee and rated it very highly. The funding approved is €27,353.97.</p> <p>The Chair said that this was excellent news and thanked Norita for her guidance and assistance in the application process.</p> <p>Norita acknowledged all the work done by the group in taking this initiative to address local needs. The next steps in the process are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contract will be drawn up for LCCA and LCDC Chairs to sign.- The successful tender company can be engaged once the contract has been signed. <p>Al McDonnell informed the meeting that there is still funding available for rural environmental projects and applications in this area would be welcomed. This funding will run until 2020.</p> <p>b) <u>Public Talks event</u></p> <p>Lynda Huxley gave a short presentation to the meeting on behalf of the public talks sub-committee.</p> <p>The group had met and had a detailed discussion about the public talks timing and schedule. They were concerned that talks in February could be premature and that they would be of greater benefit to hold them at a later date.</p> <p>It was highlighted that LawSat would be holding public meetings in February and this should also be taken into consideration as the LCCA would not want to conflict with public attendance at those meeting.</p> <p>The sub-committee asked that this meeting make a decision on whether to a) go ahead with meeting in February or b) Wait until after the LawSat meetings and also the completion of the Leader funded study mentioned above.</p> <p>At the request of the Chair there was a show of hands with the following result :</p> <p>Wait = 15 and Go Ahead = 8</p> <p>Consequently, it was decided to await further developments before pursuing this activity.</p> <p>c) <u>Funding and Bank Account</u></p> <p>No change since the October meeting. Total in the Credit Union account to date : €3,648.75 The Tax Clearance certificate from Revenue has been received.</p> <p>d) <u>Newspaper reporting on LCCA</u></p>

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	<p>There was a discussion regarding the problems of pollution and how this has been reported in the papers.</p> <p>It was proposed by Pat Gibbons that a PR person/team should be formed and relevant 'positive' information about the group and its initiatives be sent for publication in the local papers.</p> <p>The Chair added that the school 'Streamscapes' initiative is a good positive example of the group's plans as is the Leader funded project. Information provided to schools reaches not only the children but their families. Water and human health are closely linked and anything we can do to improve water quality will have positive implications for those living in the catchment.</p> <p>No negative information should go forward from this group as all objectives and aims were about positivity. Information about the positive work the LCCA is doing should reach the local papers as this would help inform the inhabitants of the catchment.</p> <p>Publicising the recent allocation of the Leader funding and how this will be used would get some 'good news' into the public domain and raise awareness about work of LCCA. Sean Coyne offered to contact Tom Gillespie of the Connaught Telegraph. Al McDonnell offered to do a radio interview on the funding once the contract had been signed.</p> <p>e) Legal Status</p> <p>Chris Huxley confirmed he is following up on completing this process. Legal Status is not required for the Leader project but it will be required for a LIFE project application.</p> <p>Draft Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association have been drawn up. These are required to register as a Company Limited by Guarantee.</p> <p>Permission was sought to approach a solicitor to complete the Companies Register form since their stamp of approval is required. The fee for this would not be significant.</p> <p>Proposed : Sean Coyne Seconded : Tony Baynes</p> <p>The Legal Status sub-committee would meet in the coming weeks to sign the Co. Ltd by Guarantee documents, this would give the signatories a responsibility of just €1 each.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Catchments.ie</p> <p>Olivia Feeney mentioned that she and Ailbhe Douglas would be available at the end of meeting to show those interested how to access information on www.catchments.ie</p> <p>b) Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>Olivia Feeney informed the meeting that she has registered the LCCA with the Mayo PPN. The Chairman's email has been registered as the contact for communications from the PPN. The PPN is the main link through which local authorities connect with community, voluntary and environment groups. Further information can be found on their website https://mayoppn.net</p> <p>c) Recent Publications</p> <p>There are two recent publications linked to Lough Carra :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) "Blitzen's Best Christmas" written by Claire O'Malley and Illustrated by David Bog. Available from local newsagents and book shops

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	<p>2) “The Carra Days” a book of poetry written by John Ennis relating to time spent at Ballinacorney college and visiting Lough Carra. John has donated proceeds from sales of the book to Belcarra Community Council and the book is available directly from them.</p> <p>d) Ear to the Ground</p> <p>Tony Baynes mentioned that RTÉ’s ‘Ear to the Ground’ recently featured two projects mentioned at Lough Carra meetings :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rory Harrington on Integrated Wetlands - Donal Sheehan on the BRIDE project
	<p>The Chair asked for blanket approval for all decisions and discussions from the meeting. There was full approval from the floor.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mick Kane for supporting the refreshments and thanked everyone for attending the meetings and supporting the LCCA since its formation. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
	<p>The Next Meeting will be held in Carnacon Community Centre on <u>TUESDAY 15 January 2019</u> starting at 8pm sharp.</p> <p>All meeting minutes can be found on the Lough Carra website http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/</p>