

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Tuesday 15 January 2019  
 8.00 To 9.00 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	Anna Coyne	Mick Kane
Verena Berard	Sean Coyne	Al McDonnell
Patrick Bresnihan	Ronan Cusack	Peter Mitchell
Deborah Broughton	Ailbhe Douglas	Richard Murphy
Ray Broughton	Jim Fahey	Brian Reidy
Peter Byrne	Padraig Farrell	Sean Roberts
Tom Byrne	Olivia Feeny	Melissa Shaw-Smith
John Campbell	Joe Flannelly	Sally Shaw-Smith
Norita Clesham	Pat Gibbons	Michael Sweeney
Paul Connolly	Chris Huxley	Fiona White
Peter Corbett	Lynda Huxley	
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> William Cormacan Kevin Coyne Marie Farrell	Michael Hegarty Bryan Kennedy Tom Quinn Deirdre Walsh	Larry Walsh

### AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.

He also welcomed Paul Connolly, Regional Co-ordinator for the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS), to his first Association meeting.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Chair read out the minutes of the December 2018 meeting.

**Proposed : Pat Gibbons**  
**Seconded : Tony Baynes**

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **a) Leader Funding**

The contract with Leader has been signed by Chairman, Tom Byrne, on behalf of the LCCA.

Woodrow Sustainable Solutions (Woodrow SS) was the successful consulting company to bid for the work and will be carrying out the feasibility study for the LCCA. They will be starting work before the end of the month.

Woodrow SS are based in Ballisodare and have a suitably qualified team. Tom Byrne, Chris and Lynda Huxley had a provisional meeting with Will Woodrow, the Director, on 14 January and letters of agreement were

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exchanged. Will Woodrow will attend the February or March meeting of the LCCA to make a presentation to the meeting.

It is proposed that Woodrow will liaise and report directly to the LCCA Technical Working Group as the work progresses. Approval for this proposal was agreed by all present at the meeting.

**b) Visit to Kerry Life Project**

It was agreed at a previous meeting that once the Leader project was approved, and the consultant appointed, that representatives of the LCCA would visit the Kerry Life Project to meet Team Leader, Richard O'Callaghan. One of the main objectives of the visit is to learn how this project has been so successful in getting buy-in from the farming community.

Richard O'Callaghan has suggested the following dates for the visit : 5, 6, 13 or 14 February.  
The preferred date is 6 February.

The meeting will be held on 6 February starting at 1pm. Location is Kerry Life Project Office, Glencar Community Centre, Shanacashel, Glencar. Starting. There will be presentation at the office followed by at least one site visit.

Names put forward for the Kerry visit are : Tom Byrne, Chris Huxley, Lynda Huxley, Will Woodrow, Verena Berard, Anna Coyne .

This visit is open to any interested individuals from the LCCA. Please inform Tom Byrne or Lynda Huxley before 6 February if you would plan to attend.

**c) Funding and Bank Account**

Total in the Credit Union account to date : €3,646.75

**d) LawCo Regional Operations Meeting**

A LawCo Regional Operations Meeting was held in Roscommon on 9 January 2019. This is a meeting of all relevant agencies from counties Roscommon, Mayo and Galway.

As arranged by Mick Kane, Tom Byrne and Chris Huxley gave a joint presentation on Lough Carra and the history/activities of the LCCA. Al McDonnell was unable to go the meeting and sent his apologies.

Mick reported that the presentation made by Tom and Chris was extremely well received. John Condon, Senior Executive Officer of Mayo County Council who was present at the Regional Operations Meeting, told Al McDonnell that he was very proud of the quality of presentation made by Tom and Chris.

**e) Media coverage of LCCA**

Sean Coyne reported that he has made contact with Tom Gillespie of the Connaught Telegraph. Tom sent apologies for tonight's meeting but he will attend future meetings and will report on the positive progress being made by the LCCA.

Al McDonnell has agreed to be spokesperson on the local radio.

**f) Legal Status**

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Chris Huxley confirmed that the documentation is now ready for signature by the Committee. He will arrange a meeting of the Committee members to sign. The documents will then be submitted to the Companies Register.

Chris confirmed that signatories have a limited liability of €1. He also confirmed that the template used for the Legal Status document was supplied by the Rivers Trust and has been used by the Moy Trust. He confirmed that it is not necessary to have a CEO but the Articles of Association provide for that if required.

Paul Connolly confirmed that if you have funds of less than €10 million then don't have to have audited accounts.

Chris added that once have Legal Status can apply for Charitable status. The LCCA can use the experience of the Moy Trust when we get to this stage.

**g) Education**

Tom Byrne proposed that the LCCA produce a small booklet, similar to the A6 Swift Booklet (copy shown to meeting). Copies of this type of booklet can be handed out to all school children. However, need to obtain funding to produce it.

Paul Connolly mentioned that the National Federation of Group Water Schemes produce an education booklet for schools 'All About Water'. This is aimed at Primary Schools and is available for €2 per copy. It's possible that the local Group Water Schemes may agree to pay for copies on behalf of LCCA. He added that revisiting schools every 3 years is valuable as it captures new cohorts of students.

Tom Byrne suggested that could use both booklets could be used as the A6 booklet would be specifically about Lough Carra.

Ronan Cusack mentioned that Inland Fisheries also run a school education programme called 'Something Fishy' where they take fish specimens to schools.

Tom Byrne added that if LCCA can come up with an education programme that ticks the boxes for curriculum requirement then it would be welcomed by local schools. He also mentioned the value of the Streamscapes Educational programme where the children are taken out to do field work.

Verena Berard highlighted that 'place-based education' gives a local context and helps raise awareness.

Fiona White mentioned that she started something along these lines with Breaffy NS. This involve a visit to Moorehall and the lake. She is now being approached by other schools which shows that there is an interest in such place-based education programmes.

It was agreed that an Education Sub-committee be set up to work out an education programme and look at funding through the LawCo Community Development Fund.

The following persons put their names forward :

Verena Berard, Tom Byrne, John Campbell (IFI), Paul Connolly (NFGWS), Ronan Cusack (IFI), Mick Kane (LawCo), Al McDonnell, Sally Shaw-Smith, Fiona White - GMIT

The first meeting will be held at Tom Byrne's house on Tuesday 29 January at 8pm.

**Any Other Business**

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**a) Additional Funding**

Lynda Huxley suggested that the LCCA should look at ways of getting some additional funding to ensure the bank account is topped up.

Lynda suggested applying for Tesco Community funds and offered to do this at Ballinrobe and Castlebar. Olive Feeney suggested doing a bucket collection and said she would look into obtaining a permit and getting volunteers.

Joe Flannelly mentioned that local angling club AGMs will be held in the coming months and they may be able to allocate some further funding support for LCCA.

**b) Ear to the Ground**

In December Tony Baynes had mentioned that RTE's 'Ear to the Ground' recently featured two projects mentioned at Lough Carra meetings :

- Rory Harrington on Integrated Wetlands
- Donal Sheehan on the BRIDE project

Lynda Huxley has ordered copies of these programmes from RTE for viewing at future meetings.

**c) Desludging of Septic Tanks**

Paul Connolly mentioned that the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) has run 2 pilot projects of septic tank desludging led by local group schemes. This was done on a community engagement basis. A pamphlet was produced and a zone of contribution identified. It was a huge task but had a take up of 70-80%. There was a group discount offered. The EPA was one of the lead authorities. A report has been produced.

Chris Huxley responded that this was very useful to know and he will ask the consultants, Woodrow, to contact Paul directly for more details. The LCCA Technical group had highlighted two activities regarding septic tanks with one being raising awareness and the other voluntary desludging.

**d) LawSat Information Evenings**

The Lough Mask event will be held on 18 February at 7.30pm in Tourmakeady Community Centre  
The Lough Carra event will be held on 19 February at 7.30pm in Carnacon Community Centre

They will be advertised in the local newspapers, on [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) and through the PPN

**e) Farming for Nature**

Brian Reidy mentioned that there is a very interesting video on the Farming for Nature website "Farming for Nature By The Farmers" <https://www.farmingfornature.ie>

**f) Location for February Meeting**

It was suggested that the February be held in Ballinrobe or Partry. Michael Sweeney offered to find out if the Parish Centre in Ballinrobe would be available.

The Chair asked for blanket approval for all decisions and discussions from the meeting. There was full approval from the floor.

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**NEXT MEETING**

**The Next Meeting will be held in Partry Community Centre  
on TUESDAY 12 February 2019 starting at 8pm sharp.**

All meeting minutes can be found on the Lough Carra website <http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/>