

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	Eugene Finnerty	Chris Huxley
Verena Berard	Joe Flannelly	Lynda Huxley
Deborah Broughton	Pat Gibbons	Mick Kane
Ray Broughton	Teresa Horan	Michael Kingdon
Tom Byrne	Walter Hughes	Al McDonnell
John Campbell		Rachel Quinn
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Peter Byrne Sean Coyne Philip Doddy Olivia Feeney	Michael Hegarty Bryan Kennedy Kristie Leydon Peter Mitchell Susan Pryce	Lorna Roberts Cilian Roden Michael Sweeney Fiona White Will Woodrow

## AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Presentation of the Lough Carra Booklet**

The meeting started with Lynda Huxley presenting the final version of the Lough Carra booklet. The booklet is now at the Turners Printing and a proof will be supplied next week followed by printing in October.

Lynda suggested that the LCCA apply for a Local Agenda 21 grant to get funding for an official launch of the booklet. Venue could be GMIT and there could be a couple of relevant presentations followed by light refreshments. Launching the booklet would highlight the activities of the LCCA.

Proposed : Sean Roberts  
Seconded : Verena Berard

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

The Chair read out the minutes of the August 2019 meeting.

**Proposed : Teresa Horan**  
**Seconded : Ray Broughton**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **a) Update on BioChar potential project**

Joe Flannelly updated the meeting on the potential BioChar project as discussed at the July meeting. He explained that there doesn't appear to be much experience of using BioChar to filter streams in Ireland. Joe has been pursuing this as a potential trial project for the Lough Carra Catchment.

The IFI are willing to identify a stream that would be suitable for the trial. The relevant state agencies such as OPW and NPWS would have to be consulted and give their approval for the trial. Mick Kane added that the agencies would have to identify what screening is required prior to the trial commencing on the selected stream.

Olivia Feeney has offered facilities for testing the stream water before and after the trial.

Chris Huxley mentioned that since OPW are currently clearing Annie's river and that they go down to the level of the marl bed and pile the dredging on the river bank, they may be very interested in getting involved in this trial to see if it can mitigate the effects of the drainage works as any flush of nutrients would be intercepted. It was agreed that it would be hugely beneficial to get OPW involved in this trial project.

The Chair confirmed that getting started with a small trial project involving the state agencies was the best way to proceed. He also requested that if there was going to be any cost to the Association that this should be brought to the meeting for approval.

#### **b) LIFE Project update**

Chris Huxley gave an update on the LIFE project :

- The consultants Woodrow SS have completed the major output of the LIFE Concept Note
- The project contract had the additional requirement that the consultants would put together a body of information that would be used for a full LIFE application should the Concept Note be accepted by the EU.
- A copy of Woodrow's progress report that was supplied to the Technical Working Group can be emailed to anyone that would like a copy.
- The LCCA now have to pay Woodrow's first invoice which is 50% of the consultancy fee.
- If the Concept Note is accepted and we have to submit a full application, this will require an additional 3-4 months work to carry out 3-4 months. Funding will need to be sought to cover this extra work but we are optimistic this could be found.

#### **c) Finance**

Credit Union Account €2,914.00  
Bank of Ireland Account €1,350.00

In addition to this the following payments have been received or are expected :

Carra Mask Angling Federation €300  
Castlebar Anglers €250  
Water Communities Officer €500  
River Basin Grant Funding €1,500 (an application for this fund will be submitted by 13 September)  
Booklet Grant draw down €1,000

It was noted that adequate funds are required in the Credit Union Account to pay for the LCCA 10% contribution to the consultants fee for the LIFE Feasibility Study and to pay the interest for the Clann Credo loan to cover the 90% of the consultants fee until the Leader Grant can be drawn down on completion of the project.

It was also agreed, on the advice of Water Communities Officer, Mick Kane, that the LCCA should aim to maintain a balance of around €8,000.00 to show a strong and stable financial position for future project grant applications.

### **Any Other Business**

- **Agricultural Sub-Committee** : Joe Flannelly informed the meeting that they will be meeting with Will Woodrow on Will's request.

- **LCCA Nomination to the Mayo Co Co Strategic Policy Committees :** The Chair informed the meeting that the LCCA has received a request to put forward a nomination for the Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee. The Chair felt that the perfect person to represent the LCCA would be Verena Berard whose area of PhD study means that she is well placed to act on our behalf.

**Proposed :** Tom Byrne

**Seconded :** Al McDonnell /Teresa Horan

Verena agreed to be nominated to represent the LCCA.

- **Items of Interest :**
  - A Newspaper article was brought to our attention by Dr Cilian Roden “Phosphate Fertiliser ‘crisis’ threatens world food supply’. A copy of the article will be circulated with the meeting minutes.
  - The Burren Winterage will be held from 24-27 October 2019 <https://www.burrenwinterage.com> This event has a very interesting programme and is highly recommended. Verena Berard is attending and will report back to the November meeting.
  - Climate Fest Mayo is being held on Saturday 28 September at GMIT in Castlebar from 10am to 4pm. See Climate Fest Mayo on Eventbrite or Facebook.

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

**The October Meeting will be held on TUESDAY 22 October 2019 starting at 8pm sharp in a venue confirmed in week of before.**

All meeting minutes and other documents relevant to LCCA can be found on the Lough Carra website <http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/>