

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION  
10 DECEMBER 2019 - MEETING MINUTES  
CORLEYS ABBEY LOUNGE, BALLINTUBBER 8-9.00PM

Chairperson	Tom Byrne	
Vice-Chairperson	Peter Byrne	
Secretary	Lynda Huxley	
Treasurers	Joe Flannelly and Pat Gibbons	
Technical Advisors	Chris Huxley and Cilian Roden	
tony Baynes	Padraig Farrell	Mick Kane
Verena Berard	Olivia Feeney	Al McDonnell
Peter Byrne	Eugene Finnerty	Pat McHale
Tom Byrne	Joe Flannelly	Emer Morrin
John Campbell	Pat Gibbons	Liam Mulroe
Norita Clesham	Teresa Horan	Pat Stanton
Séan Coyne	Chris Huxley	Deirdre Walsh
Ronan Cusack	Lynda Huxley	Louis Walsh
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Deborah Broughton Ray Broughton William Cormacan Peter Comer Philip Doddy	Natalie Duncan Michael Hegarty Bryan Kennedy Jean-Pierre Maire Peter Mitchell Sean Roberts Rowan Quinn	Gary Smyth John Thornton Michael Sweeney Mick Wade Bernie White Fiona White

## AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He particularly welcomed Mick Kane who has recently left his role as Water Communities Officer to take up position as Director of Achill Outdoor Education Centre. Mick was joining the LCCA for our Christmas meeting because he would like to stay involved with the group.

He also welcomed back Chris Huxley who has been absent from recent meetings following surgery.

Congratulations were given to Eugene Finnerty on his recent wedding.

### Minutes of the last meeting

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

**Proposed : Tony Baynes**

**Seconded : Pat Gibbons**

### Matters Arising

#### a) Catchment Partnerships and Rivers Trust Conference

On 30 November 2019, the inaugural Catchment Partnerships and Rivers Trust Conference took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone. It was jointly organised by LawPro (Local Authority Waters Programme) and The Rivers Trust.

There were participants from around the country. Tom Byrne and Lynda Huxley were representing the LCCA.

There were presentations from groups around the country and information was given about some funding opportunities. It was apparent that the steps the LCCA is taking are on the right track. The presentations should be available on-line via the LawPro website in the near future.

b) **Finance**

**Credit Union Account :**

Balance €6,154.00

**Bank of Ireland Account :**

Balance €3,565.00

**Combined Total = €9,719.00**

c) **TCD Wisdom Project exhibition opening and Launch of Lough Carra booklet**

Dr Patrick Bresnihan informed us that the official opening of the exhibition of the TCD Wisdom project photographs will take place at the Linenhall in Castlebar on 7 February at 2.30pm.

It was proposed that the Lough Carra booklet 'Lough Carra – A Gem Worth Preserving' be launched in conjunction with the exhibition opening. It was also proposed that Martin Keating of Mayo County Council be asked to officially launch the booklet at this event. Both proposals were approved by the meeting.

If anyone has any suggestions for items that could be changed / added to the booklet, please inform the secretary.

Following the launch, the booklet will be handed out to all schools.

d) **The Community Water Development Fund 2020**

The Community Water Development Fund 2020 LawPro grant scheme is now open for applications.

The fund is 'open to all community and voluntary groups who want to get involved in the protection and restoration of clean and healthy waters ..'

Groups can submit more than one application. The meeting approved the agricultural sub-committee to look at this as a possible source of funding for the biochar project. Any other project ideas can be brought to the January 2020 meeting.

The deadline for applications is 7 February at 5pm. The application form and guidelines can be found on the LawPro website <http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund-2020/>

e) **The Marl Crusts of Lough Carra by Dr Philip Doddy**

The Chair presented the booklet 'The Marl Crusts of Lough Carra' to the meeting and gave thanks to Dr Philip Doddy for preparing it.

An initial print run of 50 copies have been funded by the LCCA. They will be used as part of the LCCA's awareness raising programme on the uniqueness of Lough Carra. Copies will be provided to secondary schools in the catchment.

## **Any Other Business**

• **EPA Water Quality Report :**

On 9 December the EPA released their Water Quality Report.

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*“Since the last full assessment, river water quality has got worse, with a net decline of 5.5% (128 water bodies) in the status of river water bodies.*

*We are continuing to see a loss of the pristine (‘best of the best’) river water bodies. There are now just 20 pristine river sites down from over 500 sites in the late 1980s. “*

The full report can be found at the following link.

<https://www.epa.ie/newsandevents/news/name,67351,en.html>

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

As this was the last meeting of the year, the meeting closed with the following :

- An oral presentation about Lough Carra by Tom Byrne as given at the UKILN Conference in October
- Screening of the EPA Lough Carra video, produced by Bryan Kennedy of the EPA for the UKILN Conference in October.
- A few words by Cllr Al McDonnell explaining how he has seen the lake decline since the 1970s and thanking all the agencies and members of the LCCA for their support. He finished with words of praise for how everyone was working together as a team and for the professional advice and support in 2019.
- The Chair thanked the secretary for her work in 2019.
- The Chair concluded by quoting Dr Philip Doddy’s closing paragraph of the ‘Marl Crusts of Lough Carra’ booklet :  
*“Finally, it is important to emphasise how special Lough Carra is, and the rarity of its habitats, biodiversity and beauty. Lough Carra is clearly important to many people, none more so than those who live around its shores and in its catchment, and who drink its water. It is for these people in particular, for their children and the future generations, that Lough Carra should be preserved and treasured.”*
- A visual presentation showing achievements of the group month by month in 2019 was shown whilst refreshments were served.

Photos courtesy of Louis Walsh



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**NEXT MEETING**

The January 2020 meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 January at 8pm in Partry Community Centre.

All are welcome.