

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION
21 JANUARY 2020 - MEETING MINUTES
PARTRY COMMUNITY CENTRE 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	Olivia Feeney	Al McDonnell
Verena Berard	Joe Flannelly	Peter Mitchell
Ray Broughton	Pat Gibbons	Rachel Quinn
Tom Byrne	Teresa Horan	Sean Roberts
Willian Cormacan	Chris Huxley	Gary Smyth
Séan Coyne	Lynda Huxley	Pat Stanton
Philip Doddy	Brian Kennedy	
APOLOGIES : Deborah Broughton Peter Byrne John Campbell	Peter Comer Ronan Cusack Michael Hegarty Rowan Quinn	Cilian Roden Deirdre Walsh Fiona White

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies. He gave a special welcome to Gary Smyth of the River Moy Trust.

‘Greening of a Lake’ Time-Lapse video

The meeting commenced with a viewing of a time-lapse video made available by Bryan Kennedy entitled ‘Greening of a Lake’. It shows how the water and/or of Lough Carra has become greener since the 1980s to present day. This video can be viewed at the following link

<https://twitter.com/encyonopsis/status/1216124339742965765?s=19>

The presentation incorporating this video with slides showing comparison in 5 year intervals will be placed on www.loughcarra.org

Summary of 2019 Activities by the LCCA

The Secretary gave a visual presentation highlighting, month-by-month, the activities of the LCCA.

This presentation will be put onto www.loughcarra.org under Catchment Association.

Presentation on the Reedbeds of Lough Carra by Chris Huxley

Chris Huxley gave a presentation about the reedbeds of Lough Carra. He explained that Jonathan Shackleton carried out a survey of the lake in the 1975 and a map was drawn with shading to represent the locations of the reed and bulrush beds. Chris repeated this survey in the early 2000s and this demonstrated how the reedbeds have spread.

Chris explained the difference between reeds and bulrushes both of which occur on Lough Carra. The reeds have a tassel seed head and the stems go very blond in winter. The reed beds have increased but the bulrush beds have increased much more and expanded in location. Chris proposed that a fund be sought to repeat the survey and to have Shackleton's map digitised.

Proposed : Chris Huxley

Seconded : Verena Berard

The meeting supported this proposal.

Joe Flannelly mentioned that a company named Malone's digitise maps. Gary Smyth mentioned that at GMT Science week there was a talk regarding using drone for monitoring. It might be possible to use this technology for mapping the extent of the reed beds. Verena Berard added that the Connaught Ulster Alliance are using drones to carry out water quality sampling.

Bryan Kennedy mentioned that they are being used to fly fixed transects for mapping of vegetation so could probably be used for reedbeds. Cilian Roden may have more information on this. Bryan also added that there is a large evidence base building up regarding Lough Carra and there is some underwater footage available.

After some discussion it was agreed that such monitoring would be useful to show the changes in the lake and for funding applications such as LIFE.

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed : Pat Stanton

Seconded : Teresa Horan

Matters Arising

- **Charitable Status**

Chris Huxley reported that he has been unable to make progress on this for medical reasons. It is important that the Association register for Charitable Status because it will open up some funding avenues.

Gary Smyth from the River Moy Trust has kindly offered to help and advise with this process because he already has experience on the process.

Chris Huxley proposed that Gary's offer to assist be accepted.

Proposed : Chris Huxley

Seconded : Sean Coyne

The meeting supported the proposal. Gary will send Lynda documents that can be adapted. He explained that it will take 2-3 months to complete the process. He also explained that organisations can't avail of the tax relief for 2 years after obtaining Charitable Status.

The Chair thanked Gary for his support.

- **Survey of Farmers as a requirement for 2020 LIFE Concept Note Application**

The Summary Report from the EU LIFE 2019 application mentioned that there should be some content relating to farmer attitudes. To meet this requirement for the 2020 application, an anonymous survey of farmers in the Catchment needs to be carried out before May this year. Woodrow SS have put together a survey template.

There are two ways this could be carried out :

- The Farmer Liaison Committee could carry out the survey
- A consultant can be hired to carry out the survey

There are 500-600 farmers in the catchment and at least 10% should be surveyed, the more the better. The survey would be anonymous so no names or personal details will be gathered.

Verena Berard mentioned that such an anonymous farmer survey was carried out for the Kerry Pearl Mussel LIFE project.

Gary Smyth mentioned the Knowledge Transfer event that the Moy Trust held to which farmers were invited. He recommended this process if funding for it becomes available in the future.

The Chair asked the Farmer Liaison Committee if they would look at the survey compiled by Woodrow SS and consider if they could do it. The meeting gave approval for them to go ahead with the survey.

- **Finance**

Credit Union Account :

Tipperary Co Co. travel reimbursement €50.00
Clann Credo loan interest - €87.81
Mayo Co Co Community Env Action Fund €600.00
Cllr Al McDonnell €700.00
Balance €6,035.39

Bank of Ireland Account :

Marl Crusts booklet printing of 50 copies €123.00
Corleys December meeting €175.00
Balance €3,267.00

Combined Total = €9,392.39

The Treasurer highlighted that the LCCA is now in its second year and no member of the group claims expenses and no-one wants to which is commendable and demonstrates commitment.

Pat Gibbons informed the meeting that he has approached Minister Michael Ring's office. He proposed to the meeting that a letter be sent to the Minister requesting some financial support for the LCCA. Approval for this proposal was given by the meeting.

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

Dr Patrick Bresnihan has confirmed that the 'Qualities of Water' exhibition will be officially launched at the Linenhall in Castlebar on 7 February at 2.30pm.

The Lough Carra booklet 'Lough Carra – A Gem Worth Preserving' will be launched in conjunction with the exhibition opening.

The person launching the exhibition and booklet will be confirmed by email when the flyer has been designed and is circulated.

- **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 agreed that :

- the Farmer Liaison sub-committee look at this as a possible source of funding for solar pump or biochar projects.
- Chris Huxley explore this a source of reed bed survey funding
- Lynda Huxley to apply for awareness raising materials e.g. A4 brochure with Carra Catchment map

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/>

- **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

- **The Technical Committee and Education Committee**

The Technical Committee will meet in early February to discuss completion of Feasibility study and 2020 LIFE submission.

The Education Committee will meet once a suitable date has been arranged with secondary school teachers.

- **Climate Lectures**

Olivia Feeney informed the meeting that Mayo County Council is. Hosting Climate lectures in 5 locations.

- **Feburary meeting – AGM**

The date for the February meeting was set for 18th. This will be an AGM as well as monthly meeting.

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

NEXT MEETING

The February 2020 meeting and AGM will take place on Tuesday 18 February at 8pm in Carnacon Community Centre.

All are welcome.