

Present :

Tom Byrne (Chair)
Lynda Huxley (Secretary)
Peter Byrne (Vice-Chair)
Joe Flannelly (Treasurer)
Pat Gibbons (Vice-Treasurer)
Chris Huxley (Technical Advisor)

Apologies : Cilian Roden (Technical Advisor)

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LIFE Project application report

Chris Huxley gave a report on the LIFE project application.

He confirmed that Dr Philip Doddy of Woodrow Sustainable Solutions had done an excellent job on the Concept Note. Several meetings relating to the Concept Note preparation were held by Zoom which were limited to some members of the Technical Group and invited guests from Mayo CoCo and NPWS and Department of Agriculture.

There have been several financial commitments made to support the LIFE application budget :

- NPWS has given a commitment to €30,000 a year over 5 years
- Mayo Co Co the same as NPWS.
- Jack Nolan of the Department of Agriculture was invited to attend Zoom meetings by William Cormacan of NPWS. Dept of Agriculture have made a commitment of €100,000 euros over 5 years.
- € 4,000 per year for 5 years from the LCCA.

The Concept Note was submitted on time and there is a feeling of optimism.

The outcome will not be known for several months. Mayo CoCo are the lead agency. Martin Keating and Padraig Philbin took part in Zoom meetings. Aine O’Connor of NPWS has also made a significant commitment of €10-20,000 a year towards monitoring on Lough Carra.

Cilian Roden had sent an observation via the Secretary that the LCCA should be giving some consideration to a Plan B should the LIFE application not be successful. Chris Huxley added that the Feasibility Study will very valuable in the event of a Plan B being needed. Furthermore, once the LCCA has Charitable Status this will open up greater possibilities of looking for funding to support projects.

Charitable Status

Chris Huxley gave a report on the Charitable status application which was submitted to the Charities Regulator on 3 July. Gary Smyth of the Moy Trust helped with the process by providing guides that we could use and adapt. We are awaiting a response to our application.

We had to provide figures on gross income. The LCCA, in a 12 month period, had an income of €37,002 and expenditure of €38,999 most of this was due to the Leader funding.

At the end of 2020, the LCCA has to submit audited accounts as a Registered Charity. Therefore, we will need to provide a record of incoming and outgoing amounts which can be submitted to an accountant so that he can prepare the audited accounts. An accountant has been identified in Ballinrobe who will be able to prepare the audited accounts for €500 plus VAT.

Leader Grant and Clann Credo

Lynda Huxley confirmed that the Clann Credo loan, relating to the Leader grant for the LCCA feasibility study and LIFE Concept note, had now been repaid in full.

The closing of this loan account was delayed by a few months because of :

- 1) Covid-19 resulting in people at the South West Mayo Development Co. offices working from home which slowed down the authorisation process for issuing final payment to Clann Credo
- 2) Spot-Inspection of the contract with South West Mayo by the Department of Agriculture which also delayed authorisation to issue final payment to Clann Credo. We passed the inspection without any issues.

Clann Credo agreed to waive the final interest payment in support of the LCCA and the above unforeseen delays in making final payment.

A copy of the Feasibility Study was provided to the South West Mayo Development Co. and the consultants, Woodrow SS, were paid in full.

There has been good feedback on the Feasibility study produced with the Leader Grant funding.

It was agreed that a batch of copies should be printed for distribution. Chris Huxley will contact Mayo CoCo and NPWS to ask for their support with this.

Insurance

The insurance taken out in 2019 to cover public events has not been renewed for 2020 because we are not carrying out any public events at the moment due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Any Other Business

Public Meetings

It was agreed that these should be put on hold at the moment under the current climate of Covid-19 restrictions.

LawPro Scientific Team

Chris Huxley will contact Bernie White of LawPro to ask if they can provide LCCA with a report on their work so far.

Additional Committee members

Sean Coyne and Tony Baynes to be invited to come to next Director’s meeting. Sean was elected as a Director at the AGM in February and Tony Baynes agreed to act as Health and Safety Officer as a requirement of the Charitable Status application.

Water Framework Directive – River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) public consultation

RBMP consultation submission has been prepared by Olivia Feeney on behalf of the LCCA. The Directors were given a copy of the draft for the comments. The unanimously recommended that it be approved and submitted by Olivia on behalf of the LCCA. The final submission document will be circulated with the LCCA mailing list for their info.

EcoEye

Eco Eye are interested in doing a feature on Lough Carra for their environmental programme on RTE. They have been in touch with the Chair and will be contacting Chris Huxley in the coming week.

Solar Water Pump System

Joe Flannelly reported that the Solar Water Pump system installed last year had failed but the part had been replaced free of charge by SPS. Ronan Cusack will to arrange for the part to be fitted.

Reedbeds Dying

Chris Huxley reported that it has been noticed that the reedbeds are dying back in some locations. The rest of the committee confirmed that they had also noticed this. Aine O’Connor of NPWS is very concerned about this development and may be commissioning some research into the cause(s) of this. Research carried out on other lakes with this problem have linked it to nutrient enrichment.

The meeting closed with the committee members extending their deepest sympathies to Tom Byrne on the recent passing of his brother, Cartha, and father, John (JK). It was acknowledged that both were absolute gentlemen and will be a great loss to the community and be sadly missed.

NEXT MEETING

The Director’s meeting is scheduled for 28 August at 8pm in Partry National School. If you have any points you’d like raised please email Lynda Huxley on loughcarraca@gmail.com

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION
30 JULY 2020 – DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
PARTRY NATIONAL SCHOOL 8-9.30PM