

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION
19 NOVEMBER 2019 - MEETING MINUTES
CUSHLOUGH BAY CENTRE 8-9.30PM

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	Philip Doddy	Micheál O Cinneide
Peter Byrne	Joe Flannelly	Pat Stanton
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Warren Turner
John Campbell	Lynda Huxley	Deirdre Walsh
Paul Connolly	Al McDonnell	
Ronan Cusack	Peter Mitchell	
APOLOGIES : Patrick Bresnihan Deborah Broughton William Cormacan Eugene Finnerty Teresa Horan	Chris Huxley Bryan Kennedy Jean-Pierre Maire Emer Morin Susan Pryce	Sean Roberts Michael Sweeney Bernie White Fiona White

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was given to Warren Turner of Turner Printing Longford and thanks given to him for bringing the new Lough Carra booklet to the meeting and for offering such a favourable printing rate.

LawPro Update by Catchment Scientist Peter Mitchell

The meeting opened with a presentation by Peter Mitchell, Catchment Scientist on the LawPro team (Local Authority Waters Programme) with an update on the fieldwork carried out in the Lough Carra catchment by the LawPro Catchment Assessment team.

Lough Carra was selected as a Priority Area for Action (Lough Mask and Lough Carra) based on priorities in the River Basin Management Plan and evidence from the Water Framework Directive. Lough Carra is a unique habitat in Europe due to charaphyte community and it is an important drinking water source.

There are two river bodies whose status is at review and they are known as 'Annie's 10' and Cloondaver. The team are due to receive a water quality report from the EPA catchments unit.

The LawPro team have carried out site visits in the catchment and have carried out various types of water sampling. The first site visits were in April and return visits were carried out in September. They were also taken out on the lake by Chris Huxley in his boat to look at various locations.

In Annie's river no mayfly or other insect life sensitive to water quality were found. This will need to be investigated further. At Rocksborough the water was brown and the amount of dissolved oxygen was low. Dissolved oxygen is an essential factor and if it is too high or too low this can harm aquatic life and affect water quality.

The GSI (Geological Survey of Ireland) have been sharing their findings on the mapping of karst features in the catchment with the LawPro team to help build up a picture of the movement of water in and throughout the catchment.

Questions :

Q) Have team noticed any difference in water quality during the slurry spreading season.

A) The team have only done one chemistry sampling so don't have the full picture but will be building on the information in 2020.

Q) What happens to the data once fieldwork is complete?

A) All data will be published and available to the public.

Q) The information given this evening was very comprehensive and confirms the disturbing observations that people have made. It's good to know the team are out there doing the fieldwork. Will there be any remedial action once fieldwork is complete.

A) Mitigation measures will be recommended.

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed : Paul Connolly

Seconded : Al McDonnell

Matters Arising

a) Lough Carra Booklet

The booklet has been printed by Turner Printing and was presented to the meeting. The Chair thanked Warren Turner for delivering the copies personally and for his support.

The meeting was informed that a grant of €1,200.00 has been received from Mayo Co Co through the Community Environment Action Fund 2019 to officially launch the booklet and produce a promotional banner. The Chair asked the Secretary if she could organise a launch event.

b) Update on BioChar - proposed trial project

Joe Flannelly updated the meeting on progress with the proposed BioChar project.

A 14 page document on this project proposal has been prepared to be delivered to the relevant government bodies. The document presents the background and objectives. Two areas proposed for the trial are the Ballintubber stream and Brownstown river. Mick Kane, the outgoing Water Communities Officer, has offered to present this proposal to the relevant authorities.

The Chair thanked Joe and everyone involved in this project for their work .

c) Finance

Credit Union Account :

Balance €3,565.00

Bank of Ireland Account :

Balance €6,154.00

Combined Total = €9,719.00

d) LCCA Nomination to the Mayo Co Co Strategic Policy Committees

The Chair and Secretary attended the elections which were held in Breaffy House. Our candidate, Verena Berard, came second and will take up a position should the successful nominee stand down at any time.

e) **Life Project**

The Technical Working Group is meeting on Thursday 21 November with Will Woodrow to discuss how the remaining consultancy period will be used.

The Chair read out an extract of an email from William Cormacan, NPWS, who is a member of the Technical Working group, to Will Woodrow and his team following news that Concept Note not successful :

"I understand that there may be disappointment, but I think that you and your team should be commended for all the work put into the Concept Note. It was a wonderful achievement to have scored so competitively, especially considering the short lead in time since your appointment. I have reviewed the feedback, which is very constructive. It is easy to see where we can improve by 10% to get us over the line next year. I believe that we in the NPWS will be able to provide greater input in relation to improvements to the SPA (including predator control) and positive conservation measures for bats. Also, I hope that we will have a fulltime Ecologist working in the Region next year, who will be available to provide technical advice when drafting the Concept Note. Also next year, I expect that the Coillte Bioclass Plans will be available as well as a draft of the Moorehall Masterplan, which will all feed into the 2020 application. I would also expect that ourselves and Mayo CoCo will be in a better position next year to support the bid. I think it is all good and positive, and I hope we will meet shortly to review."

Joe Flannelly informed the meeting that Woodrow Sustainable Solutions have recently received the 2019 Sligo Chamber Award of Excellence sponsored by the Sligo Local Enterprise Office.

Any Other Business

- **Mick Kane :** Mick has recently left his post as Water Communities Officer to take up position as Director of Achill Outdoor Education Centre. The meeting supported the Chair's proposal that a letter of thanks be sent to Mick on behalf of the LCCA. Mick has informed the Chair that he would like to stay involved with the Education Sub-committee.
- **TCD Wisdom Project :** Dr Patrick Bresnihan has sent a message via the Secretary asking that the meeting be informed that the exhibition of the TCD Wisdom project photographs will take place at the Linenhall in Castlebar with the opening taking place on 7 February. More details to follow in January.
- **Corrib Beo :** Micheál O Cinneide informed the meeting that their Life Concept Note was not successful and they have not yet decided if they will submit again in 2020. The group are working with Galway Education Centre on a sustainability module with Transition Year students and would be happy to share details of this module once it is finalised.

The Chair added that, with the support of Paul Connolly of the National Group Water Schemes, and following on from the support of the 'All About Water' programme that was delivered to all national schools in the catchment, the LCCA now has an awareness programme going into Secondary Schools

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

NEXT MEETING

The December meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 December at 8pm in Corley's Abbey Lounge in Ballintubber.

The evening will be a social occasion by way of thanks for the support given to the LCCA over the past year. There will be Christmas refreshments, a showing of the new EPA Lough Carra video, a few words from the Chair etc. All are welcome.