



News Update Sent by Email to the LCCA
mailing list on 19 February 2021

Dear Friends of Lough Carra

Thank you to everyone who has contacted the various Committee members of the LCCA with offers of support since the airing of the EcoEye programme in January. If you missed the programme you can find it on the RTE Player.

1) LIFE Application

The full LIFE application was submitted around midday on Wednesday which was several hours before the deadline - a trojan effort by the team at Woodrow SS (Philip, Aoife, Will and Sharon) having prepared a 155 page document. The consultants, WoodrowSS prepared the application under contract to Mayo Co Co who are the Co-ordinating Beneficiary. This full application is based on the Concept Note and Feasibility study organised by the LCCA in 2019/2020. You can find a copy of the LCCA LIFE Feasibility Study 'Charting a Bright Future for Lough Carra on the Lough Carra Website <http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/life-project/>

There has apparently been excellent support from all the associated beneficiaries and partners and stakeholders. The Project Title is 'Improving ecosystem resilience and reducing nutrient pollution in Lough Carra, one of Europe's premier SAC marl lakes' and the Total Project Budget is close to €5 million with request for EU financial contribution of close to €3 million. If approved, expected start date is 6/09/2021 and expected end date 04/09/2026 with plans for continuing the project after LIFE.

As mentioned, the Project Lead as Co-ordinating Beneficiary is Mayo County Council with Associated Beneficiaries (who will receive funds from the project) being :

- Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine (DAFM)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Lough Carra Catchment Association (LCCA)
- Coillte (State Forestry Agency)

In addition there are the following Partners who do not receive funds from the project but who co-ordinate their activities with the project, under the supervision of Mayo CoCo :

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Local Authorities Waters Programme (LawPro)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT)
- Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority)
- National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS)

There is no date provided for response from the EU for the current application, but Woodrow believe it will be before June. The response will go to Mayo Co Co as the co-ordinating beneficiary.

Whilst there is no guarantee that the application will be successful we sincerely hope, for the sake of this very unique and special lake, that it will be. We will let you know as soon as we have any news.

2) Grant Applications

Three grant applications were submitted by LCCA under the LawPro Community Water Development Fund grant call for 2021.

Two were for Education Projects with the schools in the catchment 1) €5,170 continuation of the All About Water programme with pond dipping in situ on Lough Carra led by an ecologist 2) €2,100 for Tree Planting project with each pupil being given a native tree to plant at home along with information pack based on National Federation of Group Water Scheme leaflets/stickers for the 'I've planted a tree and my garden is pesticide free' project.

The third project is for €7,659.30 for more Solar Water Pumps systems to be set up on suitable farms in the catchment. The Solar Pump project allows for cattle to drink safely without having to enter a watercourse. It is a solar powered unit which not only pumps water to a trough but can supply power to an electric fence to prevent cattle entering the watercourse/lake. The recent RTE EcoEye production demonstrated how one of these systems is working in the Carra Catchment.

If you know any farmer in the catchment who would like to be considered for this pump project, installed and fully commissioned on their property, please ask them to email loughcarraca@gmail.com

3) Charities Regulator

Chris Huxley is still dealing with the Charities Regulator which has been a very long and frustrating process. We hope to be in the final steps of this process.

4) Companies Registry Office

The LCCA is a Company Ltd by Guarantee and in line with requirements by the Companies Registry Office we have submitted the annual return and accounts.

5) Finances

LCCA has recently received €1,000 from the Water Communities Office as the annual support grant for the association. In addition, €2,443.00 was received as payment of the 2020 Water Communities Grant for the Solar Pump project. The Treasurer, Joe Flannelly has confirmed that the balance in the Credit Union Account as of 18 February is €9,927.91. The Bank of Ireland account balance is unchanged at €170.50. Total is €10,098.41.

At the September 2019 LCCA meeting, on advice of the Water Communities Officer, it was agreed that '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'.

6) LCCA Youtube Channel

We will be adding videos to the Lough Carra Catchment Association Youtube Channel over the coming weeks https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTgl_J7tw44_CmLFLVV_FWA
You can find copies of meeting minutes and other documents relating to Lough Carra on www.loughcarra.org

As soon as the Covid restrictions allow we will resume our monthly meetings. Thank you once again for your support.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from the LCCA please let us know by return email and we will remove you from the list.

Best regards Lynda Huxley
Secretary LCCA