



LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

Monday 1 November 2021

8.00 To 9.30 pm, Belcarra Community Centre

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	Peter Comer - ASSAP	Chris Huxley
Sam Birch - NPWS	Declan Cooke - IFI	Lynda Huxley
Peter Bowyer	Sean Coyne	Al McDonnell - Cllr
Ray Broughton	Ronan Cusack - IFI	Peter Mitchell - LawPro
Peter Byrne	Philip Doddy	Mary Roache - ASSAP
Tom Byrne	Natalie Duncan - GSI	Pat Stanton
John Campbell - IFI	Joe Flannelly	Simon Vokes - GSI
Tom Carolan - LawPro	Sinead Higgins - NFGWS	
	Teresa Horan	

APOLOGIES : Sarah Blake – GSI Deborah Broughton Norita Clesham – SWMayo Dev Co	Olivia Feeney Pat Gibbons Jean-Pierre Maire Cilian Roden	Catherine O’Reilly Michael Sweeney Deirdre Walsh
--	---	--

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Chair read out the minutes of the October meeting.

Proposed : Ray Broughton

Seconded : Ronan Cusack

Matters Arising

Correction to the October minutes, Sinead Higgins is the Source Water Protection Officer for the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and not Soil Protection Officer.

Chris Huxley gave an update of the Carra LIFE Project and the 1st PMG Meeting

Chris Huxley gave an update on the EU Carra LIFE project. Once the project grant agreement had been approved and signed by the EU and Mayo CoCo (co-ordinating beneficiary), the first meeting of the Project Management Group (PMG) was called by Martin Keating. This first meeting was held on 28th October and chaired by John Condon of Mayo CoCo. Also present were Martin Keating, Martin Donnellan (Coillte), William Cormacan (NPWS) Sarah Blake (GSI), Niall Ryan (Dept. of Agric.), Tom Byrne and Chris Huxley (LCCA).

It was confirmed that following signature of the Grant Agreement, Mayo CoCo has received the first payment of €1,185,000.56 from the EU.

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

Monday 1 November 2021

8.00 To 9.30 pm, Belcarra Community Centre

There will be an on-line Welcome Meeting for all the EU LIFE projects on 4 and 5 November. Martin Keating will be giving a 5 minute presentation on the Carra LIFE project.

Recruitment of the LIFE team, the first post that will be advertised is that of Team Leader. Once this person is in post they will have input into the recruitment of the team. The Admin Officer position will be the next position to be advertised and the GSI Ground Water Officer. GSI are already working on their element of Carra LIFE so are keen to get this person in position asap. Members from the PMG who have experience in recruitment will be on the interview board. The PMG will receive copies of all job descriptions to comment on. HR in Mayo CoCo will be responsible for advertising the positions and it is hoped the Team Leader will be in position by the end of this year.

Communication : MayoCoCo will take the lead on this until the Project Team is in place.

LCCA is now renting office space in Belcarra Community Centre which would be an appropriate base for the Project Team. At the PMG it was offered as a possibility because it is very close to the catchment and also close to Castlebar. Martin Keating has agreed to consider this offer.

The next PMG meeting is scheduled for two weeks time.

LawPro presentation by Peter Mitchell

LawPro Catchment Scientist, Peter Mitchell, gave a presentation to update the LCCA on their work ' Lough Carra Catchment: moving from Assessment to Action'. A copy of the presentation is available on the Lough Carra website at this link <https://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/presentations/>

LawPro have engagement with OPW and had a joint field trip on 8 October 2021 to visit several sites around Lough Carra Catchment and to communicate LawPro findings to OPW. One item of discussion was how to minimise sediment ending up in the lake. They also have engagement with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and with CDM Smith who are the consultants engaged in the Integrated Source Protection Plan (ISP) sharing findings with them.

ASSAP Presentation by Peter Comer

ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme) Advisor with Teagasc, Peter Comer gave a presentation with information on their work programme in the Carra Catchment. A copy of the presentation is available on the Lough Carra website at this link <https://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/presentations/>

Peter and his colleague, Mary Roache, have to cover 13 Priority Areas of Action in Mayo of which the Mask-Carra area is one. There are 400 farmers in the Carra Catchment. The ASSAP work programme in the Carra Catchment has involve Catchment Walks with LawPro, Community & Farmer Meetings, Awareness Programme and Farm Visits/Plans. Referrals from LawPro were addressed. Some of the problems encountered on farms and proposed solutions were highlighted.

Treasurer's Report

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

Monday 1 November 2021

8.00 To 9.30 pm, Belcarra Community Centre

Credit Union current balance : €2,439.00

Bank of Ireland current balance : €179.00

We are expecting the payment of grant funding for 3 projects being funded under the Community Water Development Fund, for approximately €7,000.00. The Treasurer highlighted that the LCCA is in need of funding support to maintain a healthy balance to support projects in the Carra Catchment and for its contribution to the Carra LIFE.

LCCA Office Space

As of today, 1 November, the LCCA has taken up office space in the Belcarra Community Centre. The Directors agreed to take it on an initial basis for 2 months with the aim of extending this so that it can be used by the Carra LIFE project team.

Carra LIFE will be employing an admin person to work two days a week for the LCCA and that person will be based in the Belcarra office. We will offer the office space to the Carra LIFE associated beneficiaries because the location is very suitable being on the boundary of the Carra Catchment, not far from Castlebar and the village has amenities.

Members of the meeting were able to visit the room which is a very spacious and can accommodate at least 4 desks. The initial rent is €200 per month includes desk space for 1 person, heating, lighting, broadband. There is a kitchen area and wc. Should Carra LIFE staff use desk space on a regular basis then the rent will be adjusted slightly to reflect usage. The Community Centre also has an additional meeting room, a hall and kitchen which can be used if needed.

The LCCA has applied for grant funding to cover office rental for November and December. We have also applied for a grant to purchase office computer equipment.

Any Other Business

- a) Al McDonnell mention how encouraging and positive the meeting was. He expressed thanks to the LCCA team and Martin Keating of MayoCoCo for the work done on the Carra LIFE project to date.
- b) The Chair thanked Peter Mitchell and Peter Comer for their informative presentations which identified the scale of the certain problems in the catchment and some of the solutions put in place to remedy them. He added that every positive action is a gain for Lough Carra no matter how small.

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

NEXT MEETING

It was proposed to hold a meeting in December but this has now been cancelled due to the increase in infection rates of Covid-19 and the new Omicron variant. It is hoped that a meeting will be held in January or February.

All meeting minutes and other documents relevant to LCCA can be found on the Lough Carra website
<http://loughcarra.org/catchment-association/>