



# LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 12 July 2022

8.00 To 9.30 pm Carnacon Community Centre

Chairperson	Tom Byrne
Vice-Chairperson	Peter Byrne
Secretary	Lynda Huxley
Treasurers	Joe Flannelly and Pat Gibbons
Technical Advisors	Chris Huxley, Cilian Roden, Philip Doddy

<b>Antony Baynes</b>	Declan Cooke - IFI	Lynda Huxley
Peter Byrne	Joe Flannelly	Al McDonnell - Cllr
Phil Brookes	Kieran Flynn – Lough Carra LIFE	Darren McGann
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Mary Roache - ASSAP
John Campbell - IFI	Teresa Horan	
Norita Clesham - SWMDC	Walter Hughes	
Peter Comer - ASSAP	Chris Huxley	
<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Ray Broughton Deborah Broughton William Cormacan, NPWS	Philip Doddy Olivia Feeney Michael Sweeney	

### AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and thanked Carnacon Community Centre for the use of the venue.

#### Minutes of the last meeting

The secretary read out the minutes of the last public meeting held on 14 June 2022 in Partry Community Centre.

Proposed : Al McDonnell

Seconded : Pat Gibbons

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### Update on Lough Carra LIFE by Project Manager Kieran Flynn

##### Recruitment:

Community Admin(support for LCCA) and Ground Water Officer positions have been advertised. Details are on the Mayo CoCo website and published in the local newspapers. Closing date for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> August and it is hoped that someone will be in the positions within 3 months.

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Project Admin Officer and Surface Water Officer. The decision has been made to offer these positions internally from existing staff/panels within Mayo CoCo. Discussions are ongoing but hope to have staff in place next month.

Farm advisors. It has been decided to put these to e-tender to speed-up the recruitment process. The tender specs are prepared and getting input on them. Hope to have finalised and ready to offer in next few weeks.

First payment to LCCA. This still hasn't been made. All paperwork is prepared. He will find out tomorrow when payment can be expected.

EU Monitor meeting. Initial feedback from the EU Monitor is good. He has emailed his official response and wants there to be progress with getting proper financial controls, project deadlines etc. but overall his response was very positive. He was specifically impressed with support from local community and the LCCA because he doesn't always see that level of support and sees this as a positive. The EU LIFE office wanted documentation, policies and procedures etc. Hope that for next meeting will have made significant progress.

Project office in Belcarra. Discussed procurement of furniture which seems straightforward and have list of requirements and providers. Now looking for the best offer on price as part of procurement process. IT is same with procurement of laptops. Significant progress is expected soon.

Website. Specs have been drawn up. Will go to external provider to do website for LIFE project. This will be sent out to interested parties and will make decision trying to get best value for money.

Agri-environment scheme. Plan is to get a working group together for a day to include: NPWS, Teagasc, Dept of Agriculture and LCCA. This will be a unique scheme as no other scheme is set up in an area like the Carra Catchment. Expect the first meeting to be in September.

Survey work – monitoring. This should be done at beginning, middle and end of the project. In discussions with Philip Doddy and Cilian about timing for aquatic monitoring.

Dr Samuel Browett Waterford IT has been in contact regarding carrying out a PhD research project on Mink and Otter on Lough Carra. The team will be visiting later in July to discuss.

### Discussion:

- Important to get working on the agri-scheme because it's a critical time for the new Common Agricultural Policy is being put into place. Anyone entering agricultural schemes can't get paid twice on same measure.
- Need to be conscious of the Waters for LIFE Project. Kieran will be talking to Anne Goggin who will be working on Waters for LIFE Project. They are working mostly on rivers but are ahead of us on their project set up.
- The potential advantages of the Mink/Otter research is DNA analysis on animal droppings which identifies individuals. In broad terms Mink are an invasive so could give guidance on best way to control. Otter one of the protected species in the Carra catchment and so this research feeds into biodiversity projects.
- NPWS contribution to the LIFE Project is control of invasive species. Pdraig Farrell is working on this and has so far found a good presence of Otter, that Mink numbers are now very low. Pine Marten good population.
- The GSI (Geological Survey Ireland) team have been very active and have started the dye tracing.
- Logo – LCCA have identified a designer who will design on a voluntary basis. The design brief has gone off for sample designs.

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### **Presentation by Dr Cilian Roden ‘Trouble in Wexford, Lady’s Island lake and it’s problem with too much nitrogen and phosphorus’**

Cilian gave a presentation on Lady’s Island Lake in Co. Wexford which he has been doing research on. It is a lake which is in serious trouble because it has become eutrophic due to excess nutrients coming into the lake from surrounding farm land. Cilian felt that telling the story of his research on this lake would be of interest given the declining water quality of Lough Carra.

#### Discussion:

Al McDonnell thanked Cilian for the quality of presentation – informative and interesting but disturbing. Model can be used in many water courses in Ireland, after heavy rainfall and flood levels nutrients get washed into the lakes including Lough Carra where, in Spring and Summer we can notice a deterioration in water quality after flooding. Cilian’s presentation was interesting and raises the issue that over application of fertiliser leads to it being washed away and so wasted.

In response to the question on how he see the future of Lough Carra, Cilian responded that he feels there is everything to fight for. Peter Bowyer’s research has so far shown that the middle basin is isolated by shallow area, so there is little water transfer. The lower basin and Annie’s river are in a very worrying condition. Carra has fair amount of resilience but do we really want to find out how far we can take it before it flips and then into pea soup!?

### **Treasurer’s Report**

#### **Credit Union current balance : €7,952.91**

Office rent of €200 per month being paid. €50 cash found in car park at Partry after last meeting – no-one has claimed it so it has been lodged into the CU account.

### **Any Other Business**

#### Solar Pumps

John Campbell of IFI highlighted that an area on the Ballintubber stream needs fencing off and a solar pump water system installed. It was agreed that this could be facilitated through the Water Communities Grant. Joe Flannelly will liaise with John to get this sorted out.

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

### **NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held in August at Partry Community Centre (n.b. subsequently cancelled.)**

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