



LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14 June 2022

8.00 To 9.30 pm Partry 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

Antony Baynes	Sean Coyne	Mathew Mackan
Verena Berard	Ronan Cusack - IFI	Al McDonnell - Cllr
Phil Brookes	Philip Doddy	Patrick Murray
Tom Byrne	Kieran Flynn - LIFE	Catherine O'Reilly
John Campbell - IFI	Pat Gibbons	Roy Peirce
Aisling Claffey	Sinead Higgins - NFGWS	Mary Roache - ASSAP
Norita Clesham	Teresa Horan	Sean Roberts
Peter Comer - ASSAP	Jackie Hunt	Michael Sweeney
Declan Cooke - IFI	Chris Huxley	Peter Turner
John Dolan	Lynda Huxley	
APOLOGIES : Peter Bowyer Ray Broughton Peter Byrne Padraig Farrell	Olivia Feeny Joe Flannelly Caoimhe Hickey Jean-Pierre Maire Gerry McHale Peter Mitchell	Cilian Roden

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and apologised for late start. We are generally on time with starting meetings but this was due to unforeseen circumstances. He particularly welcomed John Dolan and Mathew Mackan of Dolan Industries, Aisling Claffey of Grennans and the newly appointed Lough Carra LIFE Project Manager, Kieran Flynn

Minutes of the last meeting

The secretary read out the minutes of the last public meeting held on 22 May 2022.

Proposed : Sean Coyne

Seconded : Antony Baynes

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Introduction by Lough Carra LIFE Project Manager Kieran Flynn

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Kieran thanked the LCCA for inviting him to speak at the meeting. He mentioned how inspiring it was to see such a good turnout for a community driven project. He also mentioned that he is aware of the LCCA's work and fully appreciates the value of Lough Carra.

Appointed to the role of Project Manager of Lough Carra LIFE two weeks ago, he feels privileged to be part of it. He acknowledged the huge amount of work to get to where we are now and is looking forward to the next stage and being involved. He highlighted that he has worked on some similar projects for BWI, NPWS, An Taisce – bog lands and breeding waders – with objectives and reporting into Europe. He also highlighted that he has previously worked as a project manager in the finance industry which involved regulatory compliance – which he believes is similar to the requirements in the EU LIFE project because financial compliance is a major part of any LIFE project. The EU have stringent regulatory controls how money is spent and project actions met.

He acknowledged the work of Woodrow SS and Dr Philip Doddy in putting together the LIFE Project. Kieran highlighted that his role is to ensure delivery of the LIFE Project for MCC and all associated beneficiaries, which includes the LCCA. Lough Carra LIFE has influential project partners with 5 years to deliver on the plan set out and with the aim of that plan becoming something else after the LIFE project ends e.g. what an agri-environmental scheme might look like, a sustainable farming model might look like and community liaison. He acknowledged that although Lough Carra LIFE won't fix all the problems it will endeavour to be a big part of setting something in place.

Although there have been delays there has been a lot of work going on in the background. GSI and LCCA have been doing work and all partners are focused on same goal. The first meeting with the Project's European Monitor was held earlier today and it was very positive. He gave lots of tips and information how to manage project going forward. Progress is being made getting structure to finances and on the admin side and meeting all partners. Kieran has also met with and spoken to other life projects. Mayo has become hot spot of LIFE projects with Carra, Corncarke, Machair and Wild Atlantic Nature. All are recently set up and will provide a valuable support network and source of good practices to learn from.

The next steps involve getting the project office set up properly with lots of work to be done on admin and financial controls. Work on recruiting rest of project team – trying to circumvent some of the delays in going through normal working process. When all the team is in place then a large part of Kieran's work will be establishing the agri-environment scheme. He confirmed that it has been a positive first two weeks and that he is looking forward to rest of project.

Update on Carra LIFE Project by Chris Huxley

Chris started by saying that this is probably the last time he will have to give an update on the LIFE Project because this will hopefully be done by Kieran from the next meeting onwards.

Another meeting of PMG (Project Management Group) was held on 9 June and was the first meeting attended by Kieran Flynn (KF). There was a clear burst of energy in having KF there to get things moving. Recruitment of other project staff needs expediting.

Neil Wilkie, the EU PM (Project Monitor) lives in Leitrim and has great experience of LIFE projects having run and managed one in Scotland. He is also the PM for a large number of projects in Ireland and UK. He was very practical and very supportive and gave positive feedback. As PM he will work directly with KF and reports his findings to the EU HQ. His role as PM is advisory so he is not in charge of our project. He is here to help via KF.

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GSI (Geological Survey Ireland) started work last November and have been preparing for study of the groundwater catchment. They are about to begin dye tracing – non-toxic dye is poured into ground water system to see where it comes out. They have technology to detect dye at parts per billion. It is believed ground water could be coming from as far as 10km outside the known surface water catchment. Today Caoimhe Hickey demonstrated what they are doing to the PMG.

The LIFE Project Office will have an admin and financial office in Mayo CoCo but the bulk of work will be carried out from the LCCA office in Belcarra. The PM and PMG felt it was really important that the main office be located within the community. Since that is now agreed, the next step is to get that office fully equipped and there is a budget in the Life project for that. All associated beneficiary staff have access to that office. Today's meeting with the Project Monitor was held in the Belcarra Community Centre main hall.

The LCCA is waiting for the Community Admin officer position to be advertised – this is a two day a week position. All admin is currently done by Lynda on a voluntary basis and she is anxious to get some of work load taken off her shoulder. One of main roles of this position is to coordinate input in the LIFE project. The LCCA was asked to produce a brief for the design of a Lough Carra LIFE logo. LCCA Director, Peter Byrne has a contact who can carry out the design which we hope will be produced in the next couple of months.

The LCCA is now looking into purchasing or leasing land so that it can carry out one element of its role in the LIFE project i.e. to demonstrate certain land management practices. The LCCA should have received the funds from Mayo CoCo by now so will have to check on this.

Presentation by John Dolan and Mathew Mackan of Dolan Industries

Dolan Industries is a local company based in Ballyglass <http://www.dolanagri.com>

John Dolan and Mathew Mackan of Dolan Industries gave a presentation to explain the new methods and machine technology that their company is using regarding the supply and spreading of chemical fertiliser which reduce emissions. In the latter half of 2020 they overhauled their operation to incorporate technology which up to now has been mostly on tillage based farms and to adapt this for use on grazing land.

They use DAFM approved soil testing and sophisticated GPS so that precise amounts of fertilizer can be applied just in areas of the land that need it. The system is known as Intelligent Soil Management (ISM) and can be used for NPK fertiliser, slurry, digestate and bio solids.

Full details of a presentation they made to The Dáil in 2022 about their technology can be found at the following link:

https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_environment_and_climate_action/submissions/2022/2022-03-31_opening-statement-john-dolan-managing-director-dolan-industries_en.pdf

Presentation by Aisling Claffey of Grennan and Sons

Aisling Claffey gave a presentation on behalf of Grennan and Sons on the Terra Fertiliser PSI 362. You can see Aisling presenting information on this product at

<https://www.facebook.com/JGrennanandsons/videos/aisling-claffey-talks-about-the-terra-fertiliser-range/4387586494632039/>

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Treasurer's Report

Credit Union current balance : €8,152.91

Any Other Business

a) NPWS Ranger

The new ranger for Lough Carra should be in position in the coming weeks.

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 on Tuesday 12 July at 8pm in Carnacon Community Centre.

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