



LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

4 April 2023

8.00 To 10 pm Partry Community Centre

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

| Present: | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deborah Broughton | Kieran Flynn - LIFE | Lucy Roberts |
| Ray Broughton | Pat Gibbons | Sean Roberts |
| Peter Byrne | Chris Huxley | Mary Roche - ASSAP |
| Tom Byrne | Lynda Huxley | Cilian Roden |
| John Campbell - IFI | Damian Jordan - LIFE | Michael Sweeney |
| Peter Comer - ASSAP | Al McDonnell - Cllr | Benjamin Thebadeau - JCWL |
| Sean Coyne | Peter Mitchell - LawPro | |
| Ronan Cusack - IFI | | |
| Joe Flannelly | | |
| | | |
| APOLOGIES : | Padraig Kelly | |
| Peter Comer | Michael Kingdon | |
| Michael Hegarty | John Thornton | |

AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last public meeting held on 2 February 2023 were circulated by email and it was taken that they have been received and read by all present.

Proposed : Peter Byrne

Seconded : Pat Gibbons

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Lough Carra LIFE Project update by Kieran Flynn, Project Manager

Kieran provided background information on the Lough Carra LIFE project which is an EU programme co-funded by the Associated Beneficiaries and the EU.

Mayo CoCo is the lead agency for Lough Carra LIFE with contributing partners being NPWS, DAFM, Coillte, GSI and LCCA. There will be 43 different project actions over 5 years. All actions will feed into

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

4 April 2023

8.00 To 10 pm Partry Community Centre

After-LIFE highlighting what should be done, impacts and evidence to give guidance on how an After-LIFE programme for Lough Carra should be run in the future.

The Lough Carra LIFE agri-environment scheme is a pilot scheme for around 10% of farmers in the area. A farm plan will be produced for each farmer in the scheme. The scheme will be flexible and take into consideration the Acres scheme and take into consideration restrictions around double funding. There will be monitoring of those farms in the scheme to show impacts, if any.

The project sought expressions of interest for the agri-environment scheme and publicised this widely. Approximately 80 expressions of interest were received. In order to work out the rationale behind the selection of farms, the Project Team spent time with representatives from LawPro, Dept of Agric, EPA etc. This resulted in the selection of 3 key project areas where the project team can monitor impacts. Clusters of farms were selected to ensure the greatest positive impact from the scheme and maps were used to identify the clusters and define priority areas, as below:

1. Carnacon lakes - whole of Annies, Moorehall north of Carnacon. Lots of water coming into the lakes from those areas.
2. Northern part Ballintubber extended to whole of the stream.
3. Portroyal peninsula – whole area.

Thirty-four farms in the above areas have been selected for the 1st tranche. The Project Team would have liked to include the Cloondaver stream but there were not enough expressions of interest from landowners. However, there is hope that this can be included in 2024.

Derrinrush Peninsula had good interest from farmers but the monitoring of this area would be difficult because there is no stream. However, the team is considering how it could be monitored through diffuse water flow so that it can be included in the future.

The 2nd Tranche for the agri-scheme will be in 2024. The agri-environment officer, Siobhan Ward, is currently putting together the farm plans for the 1st Tranche. 33 monitoring points have been established on the whole of Annies, the whole of Cloondaver, Roxboro Stream and Burriscarra streams. There will be monitoring every month for duration of the project through water chemistry, kick samples, vegetation monitoring etc. There will also be more specialist monitoring which will go to tender via e-tenders.

- Groundwater officer, Pdraig Kelly, is working in the catchment doing field work
- Coillte plans biodiversity and rhododendron management, bat roost
- OPW –reviewing drain management.
- Invasive species control –how to control Greylag by NPWS

Important date – 15 May official project launch. Waited until all parts of the project were up and running to go ahead with the official launch. It is expected that Minisers Noonan and Hackett will officially launch the project. In the afternoon there will be an open event attended by all project partners – stalls, talks open to everyone.

Finally, the new project brochure was received today – copies freely available.

LCCA Agricultural sub-committee news by J. Flannelly

The new Acres scheme is in place and is over-subscribed 46,000 applicants but all have been accepted into the scheme.

The number of Eco Schemes for farmers will increase going forward. If not in enviro agri schemes, farmers will still have to take part in Eco Schemes. Farmers can get advice from Teagasc and by going onto the website www.agfood.ie

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

4 April 2023

8.00 To 10 pm Partry Community Centre

There is a new subsidy for applying lime – it improves the health of the soil. Dept of agriculture website has more information on this.

Regarding the Super Soil product – still trying to find out how effective this is. A lot of people are using it. Ballinrobe Racecourse using it and plan to continue using it. You can find more information on www.supersoil.ie

Treasurer's Report

Credit Union balance is €9,798.32

Bank of Ireland balance is €131,347.90 - ring fenced for land purchase/lease for the LCCA contribution to Lough Carra LIFE

Joyce Country Western Lakes update by Benjamin Thébaudeau

The JCWL is supported by Udaràs na Gaeltachta, CDS, GSI, Galway CoCo, Mayo CoCo, Fáilte Ireland and is part of Project Ireland 2040.

The JCWL has a team of staff. The Geopark Manager is Michael Hegarty, the Geologist is Benjamin Thébaudeau, Trish Walsh represents GeoEnterprise, Meadh Seoighe represents Udaràs na Gaeltachta and Gearóid Ó Fátharta represents CDS Teo.

A Unesco Global Geopark is equivalent to Unesco World Heritage Site but has no planning restrictions. All about sustainable regional economic & social development. The JCWL is the 1st in Connacht whilst there are 3 in Munster, 2 in Ulster and 1 in Leinster.

The JCWL will showcase the region highlighting the culture and language and promoting jobs and business growth. There is an education programme. The project has a website where you can learn about the different aspects. <https://joycecountrygeoparkproject.ie/en/>

For the project's next steps, Unesco requires a well-defined and effective structure which the current team is working on. It also needs a management and marketing plan and sufficient staff with relevant expertise. In mid-2023, Unesco will be assessing the project so far and the outcome of this assessment will be known in 2024. The JCWL operates as a de-facto Geopark until status is granted.

LCCA Update

The LCCA has two major roles in the Lough Carra LIFE project:

- 1) acquisition of land for purposes of demo
- 2) involvement in public awareness, education

The LCCA is close to making an offer on lakeshore land of 9 acres. It has been valued and the LCCA will put in an offer in the near future, subject to Directors approval.

LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)

Reg. Charity No. 20206138

MEETING MINUTES

4 April 2023

8.00 To 10 pm Partry Community Centre

NPWS is in the process of acquiring a 67 acre farm near Moorehall and LCCA will be using that land in partnership with NPWS for various activities. A positive meeting was held with NPWS senior staff following which the LCCA has drawn up a concept plan and ideas for management of the land.

There are five major points: 1) sensitive riparian management 2) demonstration of how intensive land can be reverted to multi-species/wildflower rich natural pasture 3) nature trail for education and awareness of bog, farm and lakeshore. It is hoped that an MOU with NPWS will be signed in the near future.

Constructed wetland for septic tank:

- The septic tank project is being worked on and there is an agreement with a landowner. However, the project does need planning permission. Kieran Flynn and Damian Jordan are working with Mayo CoCo and with consultants on design of the project. The LCCA were hoping that the constructed wetland with septic tank would be set up for this growing season but it is now looking like work will be done in the winter time.

LCCA input for Education and Awareness: Damian Jordan is working on the first draft of a leaflet about septic tanks – including how to install constructed wetland. Chris and Tom attended the annual Rivers Trust conference in March and gave a joint presentation on how the LCCA managed to help secure the EU funding for the Lough Carra LIFE project.

One other aspect of the LCCA's contribution to the LIFE Project is voluntary labour. In the summer the LCCA may need volunteers to help with monitoring e.g. collecting samples. So those on the LCCA mailing list will be informed of volunteer requirements and will be able to express interest in getting involved.

The Chair sought general approval from all present on the above. There was blanket approval from the floor.

Any Other Business

The Chair thanked all speakers and everyone for attending.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 8pm in Belcarra Community Centre.

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