

Agriculture Water Quality Working Group

Minutes 3rd Meeting

Date: 29TH June 2023

2:30pm to 6:15pm

Venue: The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

Attendance: See Appendix I.

1. Welcome and Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair (Bill Callanan) opened the meeting. The draft minutes of the previous meeting were approved with any further comments to be submitted by email to agwatergroup@agriculture.gov.ie by 30th June.

2. Finalisation of Terms of Reference

The revised draft Terms of Reference were distributed in advance of meeting. They were agreed.

3. Water Quality Monitoring Results – presentation by Mary Gurrie, Jenny Deakin and Eva Mockler, EPA

The Chair introduced the topic by advising that the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage had recently received the EPA's report. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine had requested that the report be presented to the Working Group prior to submission to the Commission. The report had not been circulated as it is still being prepared for publication. Once that is done it will be circulated to the Working Group.

The EPA then made their presentation during the course of which they responded to several questions and requests for clarification from the Working Group. The EPA presentation included the following topics: What is water quality; EPA Monitoring and reporting; Current conditions of waters; How pressures on water are assessed; Commission's Interim Water Quality Assessment required under Article 12 of the Commission Implementing Decision and the outcome of that assessment.

Following the discussion the Chair thanked the EPA for attending. He reminded the Group that DAFM had committed to preparing a discussion paper on ways to improve water quality for the next meeting of the Group.

Action: EPA report to be circulated when ready for publication.

Update: EPA report submitted to the Commission, circulated and published 30/06/23.

Action: Discussion paper on improving water quality to be prepared and circulated prior to next meeting of the Working Group.

Update: Discussion paper circulated 17/07/23.

4. AOB and Date of next meeting

No AOB points raised.

The next meeting of the group was proposed for 2 weeks' time. The group will be contacted with a date, time and location for the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agriculture Water Quality Working Group Attendance List, 29th June 2023

Organisation	Representative in Attendance
IFA	Aine O'Connell (apologies from Tadhg Buckley)
IFA	Paul O'Brien
MACRA	Derry Dillon
ICMSA	Denis Drennan
ICMSA	Alisha Ryan
ICSA	Eddie Punch
INHFA	Thomas O'Toole
ICOS	Eamonn Farrell
ACORN Group	Barry Larkin
Meat Industry Ireland	Dale Crammond
Carbery	Liam Bohane
Dairygold	Billy Cronin
Tirlán	Matthew Moylan
Teagasc	Edward Burgess
DHLGH	Marie Archbold
ACA	Tom Canning
LAWPRO	Anthony Coleman

LAWPRO	Ruth Hennessy
LAWPRO	Eoin McAleer
An Forum Uisce	Matt Crowe
DAFM	Bill Callanan
DAFM	Ted Massey
DAFM	Joanne Purcell
EPA	Mary Gurrie
EPA	Jenny Deakin
EPA	Eva Mockler
Apologies	
DAFM	Noeleen McDonald
MACRA	Liam Hanrahan
Dairy Industry Ireland	Conor Mulvihill
DHLGH	David Flynn
Teagasc	David Wall