

Agriculture Water Quality Working Group

Minutes 5th Meeting

Date: 28th August 2023

2:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

1. Welcome by the Chair and minutes of last Meeting

The Chair (Bill Callanan) opened the meeting by welcoming the various stakeholders.

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Two items were added as AOB points for the meeting (see below).

2. Interim Review of the Nitrates Action Programme-update

Ted Massey gave a brief overview and update on the process for the interim review for the 5th Nitrates Action Programme.

Ted Massey also provided a summary of the main suggestions from the Working Group's previous meeting's Workshop, that is feeding into the Government Department's deliberations regarding the Interim Review. Suggestions and further discussion by the members were within the following three categories:

- I. Improving Awareness and Education
- II. Improving Compliance and Enforcement
- III. Reducing Nutrient Surpluses and Losses

Action: Group's views will continue to be fed into the Government Department's deliberations regarding the Interim Review.

Action: A summary report of the workshop's outputs to be circulated by the Secretariat.

3. Engagement with the European Commission regarding 220 update

The working group were informed that the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, had written to Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius (Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries).

In this letter the Minister sought to explore flexibilities that could be made available in respect to Ireland's current nitrates derogation. This letter was informed by submissions from members of the Group. The Group will be updated when there is more clarity.

4. AOB and date of next meeting

As requested, the chair provided an update on the number of farmers registered with the National Fertiliser Database.

The Secretariat asked members if there was any opposition to a request that the EPA be invited onto the working group as an observer. There was no opposition to this request.

Action: Secretariat to invite an EPA representative to all future meetings, as an observer.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the group was proposed for after the National Ploughing Championships.

Appendix 1: Agriculture Water Quality Working Group Attendance List 28th August 2023

Organisation	Representative in Attendance
IFA	Tadhg Buckley
IFA	Paul O'Brien
ICMSA	Denis Drennan
ICMSA	Alisha Ryan
MACRA	Liam Hanrahan
MACRA	Maria Snell
ICSA	Eddie Punch
Irish Grain Growers	James Kelly
ICOS	Eamonn Farrell
ACORN	Barry Larkin
Carbery	Aoife Healy
Dairygold	Billy Cronin
Tirlán	Matthew Moylan
Teagasc	David Wall
Teagasc	Edward Burgess
DHLGH	Marie Archbold
LAWPRO	Anthony Coleman
LAWPRO	Ruth Hennessy
An Uisce Forum	Matt Crowe
DAFM	Bill Callanan
DAFM	Ted Massey
DAFM	Noeleen McDonald
DAFM	Joanne Purcell
DAFM	Eoghan Heffernan
Apologies	
INHFA	Thomas O'Toole
MACRA	Derry Dillon
Dairy Industry Ireland	Conor Mulvihill
DHLGH	David Flynn
Meat Industry Ireland	Dale Crammond
ACA	Tom Canning