

Agriculture Water Quality Working Group

Minutes 8th Meeting

Date: 17th November 2023, 9:30 to 10:30

By Webex

Attendance list see Appendix 1

1. Welcome by the Chair and Minutes of the 6th and 7th meetings.

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

Some members expressed concerns that the previous meeting minutes were not a true reflection of the meeting. The Chair confirmed that would be recorded and sought suggested amendments to the previous meeting's minutes.

Action: Suggested changes to the draft minutes of the previous two meetings to be submitted by email to agwatergroup@agriculture.gov.ie promptly.

2. Communication with Farmers

Ted Massey gave an update on the letters that were issuing to farmers to inform them if, based on parcels they declared for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme in 2023, all their land would be at 250, 220 or a mix of 220 and 250 kg max organic N/ha in 2024. Templates for the letters will issue to the Group for their information. A nitrates calculator and a FAQ have been provided on DAFM's website.

Some Group members criticised the timing of the letters. Some said they should have issued sooner, while others felt they should have been delayed until after the Commissioner's visit. The Chair reminded members that the EPA map was published at the end of June and the Implementation Map has been available since early October.

Action: Templates of letters to issue to the Group

Update: Templates sent to the Group after the meeting

3. Upcoming visit of the European Commissioner

The Chair provided an outline of the proposed agenda for the Commissioner's visit. The presentation to be made by DAFM at the meeting with the Group will be circulated to the members on the morning of the Commissioner's visit. Due to limited time, no other presentations will be provided, but members of the Group will be given the opportunity to outline their key points to the Commissioner.

Space will be constrained for the meeting with the Commissioner; Farm Organisations can include one extra representative at a more senior level if they wish. Other organisations to propose a replacement representative if they wish. The Group was requested to confirm attendees by Monday morning.

Action: Names and contact details for those who will attend Thursday's meeting with Commissioner Sinkevičius are to be provided by Monday morning.

4. AOB and date of next meeting.

No AOB points raised. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Appendix 1: Agriculture Water Quality Working Group Attendance List, 17/11/2023

Organisation	Representative in Attendance
IFA	Aine O'Connell
IFA	Paul O'Brien
ICMSA	Denis Drennan
ICMSA	John Enright
MACRA	Derrie Dillon
ICSA	Eddie Punch
Irish Grain Growers	James Kelly
ICOS	Eamonn Farrell
An Forum Uisce	Matt Crowe
Dairygold	Billy Cronin
Tirlán	Matthew Moylan
ACA	Noel Feeney
Acorn Group	Barry Larkin
Teagasc	Edward Burgess
Teagasc	David Wall
LAWPRO	Mags Keegan
Dairy Industry Ireland	Conor Mulvihill
DHLGH	Lisa Egan
DAFM	Bill Callanan
DAFM	Ted Massey
DAFM	Noeleen McDonald

DAFM	Joanne Purcell
Apologies	
DHLGH	Marie Archbold
LAWPRO	Anthony Coleman
EPA	Jenny Deakin