

Minutes of Meeting

Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group Meeting on 2nd December, 2016 11.00 AM Leitrim County Council Chambers, Carrick-on-Shannon

Introduction by Chairman

Maurice Buckley (Chair) welcomed the attendees and informed them that Minister Canney would be joining the meeting when he had concluded a separate ministerial engagement.

Minutes of Working Group Meeting of 18th October 2016

The draft minutes of 18th October 2016 were approved.

Correspondence and Matters arising

There were no items of correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Group. Under matters arising, an update was provided on the publication of the progress report of the Interdepartmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group and on the protocols to lower the level on Lough Allen.

Update by Members on the Shannon Flood Risk Work Programme 2016

In relation to delivering the work programme this year, the following additional actions are noted:

- Local Authorities along the Shannon catchment have to 30 November 2016 been approved by the OPW for €2.37m funding for 54 Minor Works projects to address localised flooding in their areas.
- Local Authorities have completed some road improvements works to help mitigate flood damage in the future.
- Waterways Ireland strengthened, repaired and increased the height of embankments along the Blackwater River at Clonlara.

Information on the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region

The Group received a presentation from representatives of Irish Water on the Water Supply Project-Eastern and Midlands Region. The fourth public consultation phase on the Preferred Scheme for a New Water Supply for the Eastern and Midlands Region is currently underway.

This project will represent the first major comprehensive upgrade of 'new source' infrastructure in over 60 years and will meet the domestic and commercial needs of over 40% of Ireland's population into the medium to long term future.

Irish Water offered to provide further information to the members if requested.

New Structures to support the work of the Group

The Group considered a pre-circulated document proposing the introduction of some new structures to progress and inform the work of the Group. The Group agreed with the proposal that the established structures to oversee progress for the Shannon CFRAM Study will link into the Group. The Group also agreed with the proposal that two sub-committees of the Group be established comprising nominees, which need not be at CEO level, from each member organisation and other invited participants as appropriate. The sub-committees would look at A) Work Programme and Measures and B) Communications and Stakeholder Engagement in accordance with agreed Terms of Reference for each sub-committee.

The Group agreed that the main Group at CEO level would meet twice yearly, in March and October, and the two sub-committees would meet as required.

The sub-committees will be chaired by OPW who will also provide secretarial support in the first instance.

2017 Work Programme and short and medium term measures

The Group agreed that a Work Programme and Measures sub-committee should be established to develop a template for development and reporting of the Group's Work Programme and recommend additional beneficial measures to benefit flood risk management on the Shannon catchment.

The Group discussed the Work Programme for 2017 which is to be structured on a thematic basis. The Group also heard an update on the CFRAM Programme.

Preliminary discussions were had on 18th November between some members around additional beneficial short and medium terms measures that could be considered and the Group considered a note of this meeting which would be published on the OPW website.

The Group agreed that a project to examine the removal of "pinch-points" would be carried out in 2017. The Group also agreed to look at initiating a strategic maintenance programme for the River Shannon and it would consider the steps, resources and any impediments, including legal, involved in developing and/or implementing such a programme. The Group acknowledged that any proposed programme may need to be brought to Government for approval and may require legislation.

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Group agreed that a Communications and Stakeholder Engagement sub-committee should be established to develop and implement a robust communication and stakeholder engagement strategy for the work of the Group, including the development of protocols around dealing with queries. The Group discussed attendance at conferences and other events, future engagement with the Waters and Community Office and agreed that the updated FAQ document should be published on the OPW website.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Group would be held in Dublin in March 2017 at a date to be agreed. (This was subsequently set as Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 11a.m. in the Department of the Taoiseach.)

A.O.B.

Minister Canney joined the meeting after the conclusion of a separate ministerial engagement and welcomed the decision made by the Group to consider developing a strategic maintenance programme.

Members of the Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Group (or their representatives) in attendance

Department/Agency	Representative
Office of Public Works	Maurice Buckley, Chairman-designate, Vincent Campbell
Waterways Ireland	Dawn Livingstone
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	Niall Ó Donnchú
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Brian Beckett (in place of Dr. Ciarán Byrne)
Environmental Protection Agency	Frank Clinton (in place of Laura Burke)
Bord na Móna	Gerry Ryan (in place of Mike Quinn)
ESB	Tom Browne (in place of Pat O'Doherty)
Irish Water	Gerry Galvin (in place of Jerry Grant)
City and County Managers Association	Frank Curran, Karl Cashen (in place of Joe McGrath)

Other People in Attendance

Minister of State with Responsibility for the OPW and Flood Relief	Mr. Seán Canney, T.D.
Office of Public Works	Brian Brogan, Nicola Haran, Ciarán Conroy, John Murphy, Mark Adamson
Waterways Ireland	Éanna Rowe
City and County Managers Association	Joseph Gilhooly
Irish Water	Claire Coleman

Apologies: Niall Cussen- Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government

Nicola Haran

20 December 2016