

Minutes/Action Points

Meeting of the Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group

@ 11 AM on 14th March 2016

Athlone Civic Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Members present: Clare McGrath (Chairman), Ciarán Byrne, Laura Burke, Pat Gallagher, Pat O'Doherty, Niall O'Donnchú, Dawn Livingstone, Gerry Galvin, Mike Quinn, Mary Cooke, Colin Ryan, Tony Smyth. Other attendees: Mark Adamson, Brian Brogan, Vincent Hussey, Ciaran Conroy.

Apologies: Joe McGrath

Draft agenda and minutes of last meeting

The draft Agenda for the meeting was adopted. The draft Minutes of the meeting of 1 February, 2016 were agreed.

Matters Arising

The management structures for the CFRAM were circulated in advance of the meeting and the Chairman provided an overview of the structures in place nationally and in respect of the Shannon CFRAM Project. It was agreed that Mr. Joe McGrath, Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council would join the Working Group and represent the CCMA in respect of the lower Shannon local authorities.

Audit of Roles and Responsibilities

Following the last meeting a template was circulated to members to gather the co-ordinated work programme. The Chairman thanked all Group members for their responses. The consolidated returns had been circulated in advance together with a high level summary. Mark Adamson gave a presentation on the main measures included in the Work Programme which was supported by GIS mapping which identified the locations of some of the proposed works and activities. There followed questions and answers on the presentation. Niall O'Donnchú stated that the NPWS would prioritise the development of site specific conservation objectives and conservation plans for relevant designations on the Shannon catchment. The Chairman stated that it was proposed that the Work Programme would be published by the end of the week together with an updated high level summary. To meet that timeline, Group members were asked to provide any further updates on their Work Programme contributions by close of business on Tuesday.

Update on legal advice to inform roles and responsibilities of non-statutory bodies involved in managing flood risk

The OPW had sought legal advice from the Attorney General's Office in relation to the rights and responsibilities of riparian owners to establish what riparian owners, must, could and can do in terms

of managing risk on their land and surrounding areas. The main purpose of seeking the advices was with a view to publishing a guidance document similar to the UK guide – Living on the Edge.

Mary Cooke provided an update to the Group on the advices sought. The Chairman stated that it would be necessary to engage further with the Attorney General's Office on the legal responsibilities of non-statutory bodies and with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Consultations with other Groups

The OPW has had contact from the Irish Farmer's Journal, the National Flood Forum and the Irish Farmers' Association. It was proposed and agreed that an open day would be held in April, 2016 to facilitate meetings with interested parties/groups on the Working Group's Work Programme. Pat Gallagher offered to host the event in the Westmeath County Council offices.

Communications

A number of representations had been received by the Secretariat. It was proposed that general representations would be dealt with by the Secretariat. However, where queries relate to individual Working Group representative organisations they would be forwarded to that organisation for attention and direct response. Where representations cut across a number of the organisations the Secretariat would co-ordinate responses.

The Chairman also proposed and it was agreed that papers from the Group's first meeting, including the Agenda, Minutes, Terms of Reference and Working Methods, CFRAM presentation and other material would be posted to the OPW website - www.opw.ie. Further documentation, including material, when agreed, from the other meetings of the Group will be posted to this site in due course.

The Chairman also proposed and it was agreed that a press release would be issued with the publication of the Group's Work Programme.

Date of next meeting/AOB

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would be convened in Dublin (preferably Wednesday – Friday) in June/July in the context of the publication by OPW of the draft CFRAM plans.

The meeting ended.

Ciaran Conroy,

Secretary to Working Group.

15 March, 2016.