

Minute of the 14th Meeting of the National Technical Implementation Group for WFD



19 February 2020



Location: Airfield House, D14

Date: 19 February 2020 **Time:** 10:30-13:00

Chairperson: Mary Gurrie, EPA

All presentations from this meeting are available in [WFD NTIG OneDrive](#) – if you do not have access to this please email p.morris@epa.ie

Email updates: The EPA issue updates on the WFD (Catchments Newsletter, public consultations etc) via email – you can sign up for these updates on the front page of www.catchments.ie
We also do a (very brief!) weekly summary of new stories on catchments.ie which you can sign up for here: <https://www.catchments.ie/would-you-like-a-weekly-summary-of-new-stories-added-to-catchments-ie/>

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Attendance: see Appendix 2.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, introductions and minutes of previous meeting
2. Updates:
 - i. DHPLG (15 minutes)
 - ii. LA Waters Programme and ASSAP: Issues arising (15 minutes)
 - iii. EPA Update (5 minutes)
3. Discussion on a draft protocol and template for bringing forward issues to be progressed (EPA and all – 10 minutes)
4. Focus on links with climate (60 mins)
 - (a) The Local Authority CAROs (David Dodd, Climate Action Regional Coordinator, Dublin Region – 15 mins)
 - (b) Update on climate discussions in the south west region (LAWPRO - 15 mins)
 - (c) Hydrometrics Update (Conor Quinlan 10 Minutes)
 - (d) Relevant research (all – 15 mins)
 - (e) Discussion: towards bringing climate considerations into the river basin management plan (all – 10 mins)
5. Round table (2 mins per participant to raise relevant topics)
6. AOB

1.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were agreed for the NTIG meeting held in December 2019.
2.	<p>Updates: 2nd Cycle Implementation / 3rd Cycle Planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DHPLG (Graham McGovern) - see presentation on OneDrive LAPWRO + ASSAP <p>LAWPRO (Sean Keating)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAWPRO are progressing through the 190 priority areas for action (PAAs). There are 127 desktop assessments, 115 community meetings, 80 ASSAP meetings, and 90 streamside meetings complete. There are 50 plans with referrals to implementing bodies being prepared. A 1-day course on ICM was held for Local Authority staff and was well attended. A Blue Dots visioning workshop was held 5 March which was focussed on branding, public awareness and engagement. The Community Waters Fund has increased from 180k last year to 225k this year and approximately 140-150 applications have been received. The quality of applications seems to have increased. <p>ASSAP (Noel Meehan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASSAP are making steady progress with 1247 farm visits and assessments made, and 80 farmer meetings in 68 PAAs. There has been a very high level of engagement (96%) although this is expected to slip slightly in future because initial contact has been made with existing Teagasc clients. 90% of farmers who engage have agreed to implement measures. 75% of the pressures are from diffuse sources. The main issue is phosphorus reaching watercourses via overland flow on saturated soils and sedimentation which has been found to be a greater issue than expected. There is generally poor implementation of nutrient management plans. Moving drinking water access points and installing stream fencing are among the most challenging measures to implement, with a 50% refusal rate, because of the costs, prospect of a future grant, and/or properties being rented. Where new buffer margins are recommended by ASSAP in a PAA, the area inside the fence remains eligible for the basic payment scheme which is a significant recent change that should help to provide an incentive. The issues around data protection have been resolved but require a legislative amendment so they can be implemented. The focus for the coming months is to concentrate on revisiting farmers to assess whether the measures have been implemented. ASSAP advisors are exchanging knowledge and cross-pollinating with other Teagasc advisors. For example, 160 discussion groups have had ASSAP advisor input and there has been integration and training with the other advisors. EPA (Marie Archbold) - 3rd Cycle Areas for Action - see presentation on OneDrive A new approach to identifying different sorts of areas for action is being proposed which seeks to expand the reach of the river basin management plan to include water work that is being done outside of areas being managed by LAWPRO. It is proposed that these Areas for

	<p>Action would include Areas for Restoration, Areas for Protection, and Areas for Research. The general consensus was that the approach makes sense but it needs to be tweaked slightly to make sure all relevant bodies are included.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Discussion: Draft protocol and template for bringing forward issues – see draft protocol on OneDrive</p> <p>Jenny Deakin presented a draft structured protocol and template for bringing forward and tracking issues being raised at the NTIG. The approach was welcomed and a few key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issues raised need to have a national perspective, rather than be a local issue. • It would be beneficial to go back through previous meetings and bring forward previous issues in the new template. LAWPRO agreed to trial the form. • There was a suggestion that issues to be raised should be discussed at NTIG before they are written up in this format and further escalated. It was confirmed that this is the intention of the process.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Focus on links with climate</p> <p>The Local Authority CAROs (David Dodd, Climate Action Regional Coordinator, Dublin Region – 15 mins) - see presentation on OneDrive</p> <p>David outlined the roles of the CAROs and some possible areas for collaboration. The Group welcomed CARO participation and membership of NTIG. Alan Dunney will represent the CAROs at future NTIG meetings.</p> <p>LA Climate Charter may be helpful but it is ambitious and potentially quite onerous and will require a focus on implementation. The Local Authority targets are to achieve a 40% reduction in GHGs by 2030, and a 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. The Climate action plan will define how emissions should be reduced. The Heads of Climate Action bill Section 15 defines the LA role.</p> <p>Update on climate discussions in the south west region (Fran Igoe, LAWPRO) - see presentation on OneDrive</p> <p>Fran updated the group on discussions on links with climate that have been taking place in the south west. Nature based solutions (or natural water retention measures) are a good example of measures with multiple benefits. The question should be asked whether drainage district schemes are fit for purpose under climate change scenarios? The key thing is to ‘join up the thinking’, which was the number one issue from the public consultation process from the last cycle. IFI’s guidance on planning for watercourses in the urban environment was also referenced.</p> <p>Hydrometrics Update (Conor Quinlan) - see presentation on OneDrive</p> <p>A brief update was given by Conor Quinlan on work underway on abstraction risk assessments and collaboration to consolidate national climate modelling scenarios into one set that is used by everyone so that outcomes can be compared.</p> <p>Relevant research and discussion on bringing climate considerations into the river basin management plan (all)</p> <p>There was brief discussion that further, more in-depth consideration of water climate links would be beneficial. It was also agreed that the messaging should be integrated across the multiple benefits as</p>

	far as possible: there is little mention at present for example about water quality in the climate adaptation documentation. It was noted that the Peace plus programme, which is the successor to the Interreg programme could be a useful source of funding for cross border activities in this area. A future meeting might focus on relevant research.
5.	Roundtable – see Appendix One
6.	AOB On the 28 th of February a film is due to air on PFAS contamination in drinking waters. PFAS is an emerging contaminant of interest and it may generate some media interest.

Appendix 1: roundtable discussion

Time for roundtable was brief due to length of climate discussions; as a result only key updates were shared with the group.

- NIEA – The SWMI consultation document has been published. NIEA are continuing to try to prepare the river basin management plan(s) and decide how to set objectives.
- MI – Trac monitoring on behalf of the EPA is ongoing.
- NFGWS – There are a lot of synergies with the source protection work being carried out by the Group Water Scheme sector. Two new climate action and biodiversity officers have been employed and are working on developing framework documents.
- Waterways Ireland – WI are working through the heavily modified waterbody designation process with EPA.
- IW – IW put out a call for additional members for the steering group for their pilot source protection project. The IW national water resources plan is due to be published in April.
- Forest Service – the Forest Service has a new scheme for the creation of native woodlands on public land called the Neighbourwoods Scheme.

Appendix 2: NTIG membership and attendance list – Spring 2020

Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies	Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies	Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies
Deirdre MacGabhann	ABP	x		Stephen Fennell	EPA	x		Noreen Mc Cleery	NIEA / DAERA		x
Anne Marie O'Connor	ABP		x	Jenny Deakin	EPA	x		Richard Gray	NIEA / DAERA		x
Mike Murphy	BIM		x	Marie Archbold	EPA	x		Deirdre Quinn	NIEA / DAERA		x
Joanne Gaffney	BIM	x		Patrick Morrissey	EPA	x		Oonagh McCann	NIEA / DAERA		x
Catherine Butler	BIM		x	Kevin Collins	FS		x	Joanne Livingstone	NIEA / DAERA	x	
Brian O Loan	BIM		x	Ken Bucke	FS	x		Silke Hartmann	NIEA / DAERA	x	
Alan Dunney	CAROs		x	Monica Lee	GSI	x		Mark Adamson	OPW	x	
Deborah Meghan	Coillte	x		Martin Cormican	HSE		x	Wolfram Schluter	OPW		x
Philip O' Dea	Coillte		x	Cathal Gallagher	IFI	x		Peter McGoary	SFPA	x	
Aoife Crowe	CER		x	Serena Keane	Irish Water	x		Pat Murphy	Teagasc;	x	
Jack Nolan	DAFM		x	Niall Horgan	Irish Water		x	Noel Meehan	Teagasc	x	
Bernard Harris	DAFM		x	Claire Colman	Irish Water	x		Billy O Keeffe	TII	x	
Dymphna Kehoe	DAFM	x						Paula Treacy	WI		x
Clare Casey	DAFM		x	Ray Spain	LAWPRO		x				
Colin Byrne	DHPLG		x	Bernie O Flaherty	LAWPRO	x		Guests			
Donal Grant	DHPLG		x	Fran Igoe	LAWPRO	x		David Dodd	CAROs	x	
Graham McGovern	DHPLG	x		Carol McCarthy	LAWPRO	x		Conor Quinlan	EPA	x	
Imelda Averill CCMA	DCC		x	Sean Keating	LAWPRO	x		David Flynn	DHPLG	x	
Mary Gurrie	EPA	x		Margaret Keegan	LAWPRO		x	Doireann McDonnell	WI	x	
Eva Mockler	EPA	x		Ruth Hennessy	LAWPRO		x	Robert Wilkes	EPA	x	
Anthony Mannix	EPA		x	Maeve Ryan	LAWPRO		x				
Paddy Morris	EPA	x		Bernie White	LAWPRO	x					
Matt Craig	EPA	x		Martina Smith	LAWPRO		x				
Noel Byrne	EPA	x		Evin McGovern	MI	x					
Karen Creed	EPA		x	Ciaran O' Keeffe	NPWS		x				
Suzanne Wylde	EPA	x		Barry Deane	NFGWS	x					
Shane O' Boyle	EPA		x	Tim Irwin	NIEA / DAERA		x				