

Minutes/Action Points

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

@ 2 PM on 1st February 2016

OPW HQ, Trim, Co. Meath

Attendance: Clare McGrath (Chairman), Ciarán Byrne, Laura Burke, Pat Gallagher, Pat O'Doherty, Niall O'Donnchú, Eanna Rowe, John Tierney, Mike Quinn, Ed Carroll, Mary Cooke, Eamonn Kelly, Mark Adamson, Brian Brogan, Ciaran Conroy.

Apologies: Dawn Livingstone

Chairman's Introduction and Background

The Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting of the Working Group and set out the background to the establishment of the Group and its Terms of Reference leading to the development of an agreed Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Work Programme by June 2016. The Group will build on the existing work and commitment of all the agencies involved, focussing on ensuring the best possible level of co-ordination between all statutory bodies involved in flood management on the Shannon.

A draft agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting and this was agreed by the Group subject to the insertion of "2016" after the word "Programme" in item 5. It was also agreed that items 4 and 5 would be taken together.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Group agreed by Government were adopted by the Working Group.

Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study

The Chairman pointed to the presentation on the above which was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mark Adamson provided the Working Group with an update on the CFRAM Study. There followed a series of questions and answers. A map was circulated to Members of the Shannon Catchment area and the Working Group agreed that this would constitute the area for the purposes of its work programme. A map of the Shannon Catchment in GIS format and a list of the local authorities included in the catchment would also be made available by the Secretariat.

Audit of roles and responsibilities in relation to flood risk management on the Shannon catchment and Shannon Flood Risk Work Programme 2016

The Government decision agreeing the Terms of Reference for the Group required that the Group develop a Work Programme by 17 March, 2016. A draft template was circulated to Members to consider in the context of capturing the work programmes and roles and responsibilities of the Working Group. Some discussion took place on the draft template and

it was agreed that a revised template taking account of these discussions would be circulated by the Secretariat for completion by Members by Friday 19 February, 2016.

Clarity on Legal Advice

It was agreed by the Group that legal advice necessary to inform the Group on the roles and responsibilities of non-statutory bodies involved in managing flood risk would be sought of the Attorney General's Office (AGO). In this regard, the Secretariat undertook to consult relevant Government Departments and then to request the advices of the AGO.

Working Methods for the Co-ordination Working Group.

The Chairman stated that the Terms of Reference provided authority to request other state agencies to join/attend meetings and invited members to nominate any such bodies. Pat Gallagher requested that a second nominee of the CCMA join future meetings of the Group as a support to the CCMA representative and he undertook to revert to the Secretariat with a nominee in this regard. The Chairman also stated that subject to the agenda other interested state agencies could be invited by the Group to attend future meetings.

It was also explained that the Working Group will provide advice to the Minister of State with Special responsibility for the Office of Public Works, on the work and role of the Group, can be asked to report to the Oireachtas Committees, including the Cabinet Committee for Economic Infrastructure and Climate Change and bring to its attention any policy/legal gaps we identify.

AOB

The Chairman proposed that following the meeting a Press Release be issued and it was agreed by the Working Group that press releases would be issued from time to time as the Group progressed its Work Programme. The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 11AM on 14 March 2016 in Athlone Civic Offices, Westmeath County Council.

A note/map setting out the roles of the Inter-Departmental Flood Policy Group and other committees established for the purposes of CFRAM Programme was requested.

The meeting ended.

Ciaran Conroy,

Secretary to Working Group.

3 February, 2016.