

Minutes of Meeting

Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group meeting

July 12th, 2016

52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Opening Comments

Ms. McGrath welcomed Minister of State Seán Canney T.D. and thanked the Members for their ongoing work and co-ordination. Minister Canney welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Group and reiterated the importance of the Group's work. He highlighted the importance of the CFRAM process to set out the plan to address and inform Government investment to manage flood risk. He emphasised the importance of the current Major and Minor Works Schemes that are addressing flooding problems and the work he is leading to streamline the procurement processes.

Draft Minutes of Meetings

The draft minutes of the meeting with the IFA on 5th May 2016 were agreed. The minutes of the meeting of the Group on 14th March 2016 were agreed with an amendment. There were no matters arising.

Work Programme Update

A tour de table was undertaken and each Member gave an update of their organisation's work in managing flood risk.

Flood Risk Management Plans Presentation

Mr. Adamson gave a detailed presentation of the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans from the Shannon CFRAM Study area. He highlighted that the Draft Plans were to be published on 15th July for public consultation. He outlined the process and work involved in developing the draft Plans including the extensive liaison with other bodies, communities and the public. He emphasised the Draft Plans set out outline design for feasible measures that can address flood risk.

Each Member of the Group agreed to consider their organisation's role to implement the FRMPs, including any policy or legislative change that may be required. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would discuss the detail of these Draft Plans and the response by each organisation to their implementation.

The Minister thanked the Group for outlining in a succinct manner the work being undertaken to help manage flood risk and the Plans to inform future management. The Minister led a discussion to highlight the areas being undertaken by organisations in response to the lessons from the floods in Winter 2015/2016. It was agreed to develop a document to set out these areas of work and that would also answer some commonly asked questions by people and communities in relation to the State sector's response to managing flood risk on the Shannon.

In relation to a specific request by the Minister to lowering lake levels prior to the Winter, Ms. McGrath while noting the current evidence of its impact, highlighted that if lowering the levels on canals was cost-neutral then it should be considered.

Inter-Departmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group

Mr. Brogan gave an update on the position of the drafting of the Inter-departmental report.

Guidance for Non Statutory Owners

Mr. Brogan updated the Group on the process and preparation by a range of Government Departments with advice from the Attorney General Office, of guidance for non-statutory landowners to manage water courses on or near their lands. Mr. Ó Donnchú emphasised the importance of publishing this advice as soon as possible.

Open Days/Communication

Members were updated on the outcome from the three Open Days and that the details are available on the OPW website.

It was agreed to publish on the OPW website papers from previous meetings.

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

Clare McGrath, Chairman	Office of Public Works	Karl Cashen (in place of Joe McGrath)	Tipperary County Council
Tony Smyth	Office of Public Works	Barry Kehoe (in place of Pat Gallagher)	Westmeath County Council
Niall Ó Donnchú	Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	Gerry Galvin (in place of Jerry Grant)	Irish Water
Greg Forde (in place of Dr. Ciarán Byrne)	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Dawn Livingstone	Waterways Ireland
Laura Burke	Environmental Protection Agency	Tom Browne (in place of Pat O'Doherty)	ESB
Gerry Ryan (in place of Mike Quinn)	Bord na Móna	Colin Ryan	Department of Environment, Community & Local Government

Other People in Attendance

Mr. Sean Canney T.D.	Minister of State with Responsibility for the OPW and Flood Relief
Brian Brogan	Office of Public Works
Vincent Campbell	Office of Public Works
Mark Adamson	Office of Public Works
Niall Cussen	Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Colette Davis	Office of Public Works
Conall Mac Michael (in place of Ciarán Conroy)	Office of Public Works
Michael Collins	Office of Public Works

Conall Mac Michael
8 August 2016