

Minutes of the WAB Meeting

Friday 7 June 2019 13.30

Venue: East Room, Custom House, Dublin 1

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Sharon Kennedy

Miriam McDonald

Darragh Page

Martin Sisk

Secretariat Neill Dalton

Colin Flood

1. Minutes of last meetings and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2019 were presented and agreed by the members.

2. Declaration of any conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest from the members.

3. Conflict of interest declaration – for discussion

The Conflict of Interest Declaration was agreed and signed by all members.

Separately, the Secretariat confirmed the Oversight and Adaption Agreement which was circulated to the members on 17 May 2019 can be signed by the WAB chair and countersigned by the sections Principal Officer when they are appointed.

4. Website development

It was agreed that the WAB website would get a soft launch ahead of the publishing of the 1st WAB report. Some final changes were agreed to the layout and colour scheme of the website and these changes will be communicated with the website developers ahead of the soft launch.

5. Draft 2: 1st WAB Report

The Board and Secretariat agreed several changes to the layout and format of the draft of the 1st WAB Report. Some of the key changes agreed were –

- Removal of all acronyms, except “WAB” for the Water Advisory Body.

- A decision was made to exclude footnotes and instead use the technical boxes.
- Replace the colour scheme in the technical boxes to make it easier to read.
- In the interest of using plain English, do not use “first fix” as a phrase, unless specifically explaining its meaning.

In terms of progressing the next draft of the Report for consideration the following was agreed –

- CRU to rewrite 2.1.1 Leakage as IW & CRU have agreed a new definition for leakage.
- CRU check with IW if they can provide data on “water saved per quarter in megalitres” to make a new graph on page 9.
- EPA to provide updated graphs and detailed description of reasons EPA add supplies to RAL.
- CRU to review the “brief explanation” paragraph on page 20 and supply WAB with the international benchmark for mains replacement rate
- CRU to review the text from page 29-35.
- The board will work on the executive summary by email.

The Board will review the third draft in advance of the next WAB meeting on 10 July 2019.

6. Any Other Business

The EPA nominated member confirmed he will invite his replacement to attend the next WAB meeting.

The members discussed how the WAB will respond to media queries. They agreed to issue written responses where possible and not to reply to queries until reports have been circulated to the appropriate Oireachtas Committee.

Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed as 10 July 2019, Conference Room, Custom House, Dublin 1 at 13:30pm. The Secretariat have invited Irish Water to attend.