

Minutes of the meeting of the Water Advisory Body Meeting

Thursday 11 June 2020 12pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Video Conferencing

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Miriam McDonald Michelle Minihan

Martin Sisk Tom Collins

Secretariat John McCarthy Neill Dalton

Colin Flood Darren Browne

1. Minutes of Meeting from 22 May 2020

The minutes of the meeting were agreed subject to some minor changes.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no conflict of interest reported.

3. Discussion on Irish Water presentation to WAB

The WAB discussed today's meeting with Irish Water and the Irish Water presentation. The following points were noted by the members:

- Impact of the current drought along with the COVID 19 pandemic on Irish Water's resources and the adequacy of its contingency plan;
- Impact of climate change on future contingency planning;
- Due to the drought the WAB noted Irish Water had in certain instances tankered waters to top up reservoirs;
- The WAB look forward to reviewing Irish Waters revised Strategic Funding Plan when it is completed in August;

- Irish Water have no explicit planned allowance for a second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic;
- The risk to the Greater Dublin Area water supply project was noted; and
- Noted that Irish Water's financial model is different to that of Gas Networks Ireland and ESB Networks.

It was agreed that Irish Water will be invited to a meeting in the Autumn.

4. WAB Quarterly Report No.2 of 2020

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency are working on updating the Key Performance Indicators for the next WAB Quarterly report. The Secretariat confirmed data can be sent to them in sections in order to begin compilation of the report. The WAB agreed to the Chairpersons proposal for him to prepare a foreword for the report. This will acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and this year's drought, noting water is an essential service and Irish Water have put together crisis management procedures. It will also note that recent events have had a significant impact on their expenditure and impacted regulatory matters. The Chairperson will target to have this ready by the end of June. It was also agreed that the associated press release should include a water conservation message which Michelle Minihan will draft.

5. Review of Irish Water Procurement procedures – Update

Irish Water have proposed a two-stage approach consisting of two packages of work. Package 1 can proceed immediately but Irish Water have raised concerns with proceeding with Package 2 in the near future (during 2020). The Body agreed to proceed with Package 1 and engage in further discussions with Irish Water regarding Package 2. The Secretariat will respond to Irish Water on the initiating of Package 1 and engage with Irish Water on how to progress Package 2.

6. Next three meeting dates

The members agreed on the next meeting date of 9 July. It was agreed to move the scheduled meeting for 20 August to 4 September, 11.30am with Irish Water invited to attend at 10:30. The scheduled meeting for 1 October will be diarised for now and to be confirmed nearer the date.

7. Any Other Business

- Enquires have been made with the Department's Water Division with regard to attending the next WAB meeting, 9 July. A formal invitation will be issued following this meeting.
- The WAB has received further queries from a member of the public regarding Irish Water's procurement arrangements. As the WAB does not comment on individual procurement activities, it was agreed that the Secretariat will respond referring to the previous response and forward the query to Irish Water to allow them to respond directly.
- The WAB noted the Irish Independent article which discusses water leakage from the pipe network. The article will be circulated to the WAB by the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat reported increased usage of the WAB website, in particular around the release of the WAB Quarterly Report No.1 of 2020.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
1.	Amendment to Meeting Minutes of 22 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Michelle Minihan comments • Acronym and font changes
2.	Autumn Meeting - Irish Water invite	It was agreed that Irish Water will be invited to a meeting in the Autumn. An invite will be issued by the Secretariat.
3.	WAB Quarterly Report 2 of 2020	The secretariat confirmed they will accept available data from the EPA and CRU in blocks. The Body agreed to the Chairperson's proposal to prepare a foreword for the report by the end of June.
4.	Review of Irish Water Procurement Procedures	The Body agreed to proceed with Package 1 and for the secretariat to engage in further discussions with Irish Water regarding Package 2.
5.	Next Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members agreed on the next meeting date of 9 July; • It was agreed to move the scheduled meeting for 20 August to 4 September, 11.30am; and • The scheduled meeting for 1 October will be held for now and confirmed nearer the time.
6.	Water Section invite to July Meeting	A formal invitation will issue.
8.	Email Query	Agreed that the Secretariat will draft a response and forward the queries to Irish Water for a direct response from them.
9.	The Irish Independent Article	The article will be circulated to the Body by the secretariat.