



Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body

Tuesday 21 September 2021, 2pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Video Conferencing

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Miriam McDonald Michelle Minihan

Dónal Purcell Martin Sisk

Secretariat Claire Gavin Neill Dalton

Colin Flood Darren Browne

In accordance with the requirement in paragraph 4.9 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, two meetings per annum are to be held without the Secretariat present. Prior to the beginning of the main meeting, a short meeting of the Board was held in the absence of the Secretariat to discuss any matters deemed relevant. The Secretariat rejoined the meeting when requested by the Chair and were requested to seek advice from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage State Boards Division if the Self-Assessment Evaluation Questionnaire is relevant to an entity such as the WAB.

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of meeting - 31 August 2021

The Board agreed the minutes of this meeting subject to editorial amendments and these will be published on the WAB website.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

5. Customer Survey Update

This item was considered by the board ahead of other agenda items. The Board held a discussion on the most relevant issues and locations for the customer survey. The following four, subject to board approval which will be sought by email after the meeting were agreed:

- Water Discolouration – Dundalk, County Louth;
- Mains Replacement works - Killyconnigan, Monaghan town, County Monaghan.
- Do Not Consume notice – Shannon/Six mile bridge, County Clare and;
- Boil Water Notice - White Gate, County Cork

The Environmental Protection Agency will provide a map of the areas effected in the identified locations. The Secretariat will provide the contractor with these locations and issues to develop the draft questionnaire.

3. Progress of Report No.3 of 2021.

The Secretariat are progressing with the report. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities data has been received and material from the Environmental Protection Agency was expected. The Urban Wastewater in 2020 report may not be available as expected for this report but the Water Quality 2020 (Lakes and Rivers) report will be included in the Quarter 3 report if published in time for the WAB reports release. As per Agenda item 7 below, the Board agreed to include commentary about the incidents in Ballymore Eustace and Gorey in the forthcoming Quarterly Report 3 of 2021. A draft report will be circulated once all material has been received.

4. Consider Report 4 of 2021

As previously agreed, the data cut-off point for the WAB Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2021 is 15 November 2021. Following the release of the Irish Water Performance Assessment Framework 2020-2024, this decision will revise some metrics used in the WAB Quarterly reports. The Board agreed to invite a representative of the Commission for Regulation of

Utilities to present on this report at the next meeting of the WAB in order to consider these revised metrics. If the Urban Wastewater in 2020 report is not released in time for Quarterly Report 3, it will feature in Quarterly Report 4 2021. The new system of charges for non-domestic water users is due to go live and may also feature in the report.

6. Confirm next three meeting dates

Forthcoming meeting agreed dates are:

- 13 October at 2pm
- 9 November at 2.30pm
- 9 December at 2.30pm

7. Any Other Business

Incidents in Ballymore Eustace and Gorey:

The Board discussed the recent events in Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare and in Gorey, County Wexford. They agreed that the Board will comment about the incidents in the forthcoming Quarterly Report 3 of 2021. Michelle Minihan will draft an entry for the report.

Dónal Purcell noted that Professor Tom Collins is stepping down from An Fóram Uisce. The WAB members noted the good work he has done in his time at An Fóram Uisce.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
N/A	Corporate governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will seek advice from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage State Boards Division if the Self-Assessment Evaluation Questionnaire is relevant to an entity such as the WAB.
1.	Main meeting minutes – 31 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed subject to amendments. Will be published on the website
5.	Customer Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board discussed the specific issues and locations for the customer survey. Approval will be sought by email following the meeting. The Environmental Protection Agency will provide a map of the areas effected in the identified locations.
3.	Progress of Report No.3 of 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inclusion of the commentary on the Urban Wastewater in 2020 report and the Water Quality 2020 (Lakes and Rivers) report is to be determined if published in time. The Board agreed to comment about the incidents in Ballymore Eustace and Gorey. A draft report will be circulated once all material has been received.
4.	Quarterly Report 4 of 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board agreed to invite a representative of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities to present at the next meeting of the WAB on the recently published Irish Water Performance Assessment

		Framework 2020-2024
6.	Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed new meeting dates
7.	AOB: Incidents in Ballymore Eustace and Gorey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed to comment about the incidents in Ballymore Eustace and Gorey in WAB quarterly report No.3 of 2021