

**26th MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS  
COMMISSION**

**held on  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2004  
at  
ARMAGH CITY HOTEL**

**Present**

**Board**

Peter Savage (Chairperson)  
Lord Cooke of Islandreagh (Vice Chair)  
Tarlach O'Crosain  
Jack Allen  
Andrew Ward  
Pat Griffin  
Dick Blakiston-Houston  
Frank Feely

**Loughs Agency**

Derick Anderson (CE)  
Paddy Boylan  
John Pollock  
Arthur Niven

**1. Apologies**

Siobhan Logue, Joseph Martin, Jacqui McConville

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes were agreed subject to the one amendment at point 10 Angling Events 2005:- "The Board gave its approval to proceed with expenditure up to £20k"

Proposed Jack Allen  
Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

**3. Reserved Minutes**

There are no reserved minutes full minutes to be published.

**4. Matters Arising**

Paddy Boylan to provide the Board with a Summary Paper on the Genetics Programme.

## **5. CEO Report**

A, The Board were provided with copies of the “Proposals By the British and Irish Governments for a Comprehensive Agreement” and were asked to note Annex B paras 5 and 6.

B, The Board were provided with a progress report on the Interpretive Centre. Visitor figures up by 33% on 2003 with an increasing number of Tourist Visitors. The Board noted the teacher’s industrial action had an impact on the visiting school groups.

C, The Board raised their concern that there had been no further movement on the purchase of the site for the Carlingford HQ and instructed the CEO to follow up with the NSMC Secretariat and Sponsor Departments.

D, Arthur Niven Development Assistant gave an update on the electrofishing results for 2004 and comparison with results from 2002 & 3

## **6. Finance Update**

The Board were advised that the Financial Statements for 2001, 2002 and 2003 have been signed off by the C&AG. The accounts for the 2004 year end are on target and it is anticipated that the draft accounts will be forwarded to both Sponsor Depts and the NIAO by the mid March. The Board were also provided with copies of the cash flow and summaries of the Budget expenditure by cost centre and the DRC expenditure.

## **7. Annual Reports 2001 & 2002**

The Board were advised that the draft reports have been submitted to both Sponsor Departments for comment. The date for return of comments is by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005. An IP paper will then be prepared for Ministerial approval of both the Financial Statements and the Annual Reports. The Board are also asked to forward their comments to John Pollock by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

## **8. Legislation**

CEO gave a report on the progress to date and detailed some of the outstanding issues. He is very please with progress being made and noted the effort being made by both Sponsor Depts. He reported that a draft bill will be available by the end of January 05 followed by a public consultation period of 12 weeks.

## **9. Response to Dr Summers NASF Letter**

The Board discussed the draft response and gave their approval to proceed on this basis.

## **10. Interreg Application Update**

**Carlingford RIB** now over 80% complete and funding received from Interreg with final sea trials/delivery targeted for the end of January 2005 balance to be paid by the Agency on completion.

**Auto-Telemetry Buoys** have been delivered on time and will be deployed early in 2005. 100% funding received from Interreg.

**Coded Wire Tagging/Detection Units** have been delivered on time and will be used for the 2005 smolt run. 100% funding has been received from Interreg.

**Omagh Weir** to date €155k has been spent on the construction however the work has been delayed by the weather and high water conditions. The deadline for drawing down further Interreg Funds was 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and work is not expected to restart until the end of January. The Board gave its approval for the Agency to spend a further £75k to complete its part of the project with the remainder of the expenditure to be paid by Omagh District Council.

Proposed Tarlach O'Crosain  
Seconded Pat Griffin

**Wetlands** – this project was abandoned due to the tight time schedules and difficulties with planning and delivery dates.

## **11. Business Plan Report on 2004**

The Board were provided with a report detailing the Agency's 2004 business targets and noted the progress to date. The Board were advised that this will form a template for the 2004 annual report.

## **12. Shellfish Update / Code of Practice / Implementation Plan**

The Board were provided with the draft code of practice as supplied by the Foyle Oyster Sub committee following discussions between the committee and the Agency throughout the summer. The Board were very encouraged

with this progress and were advised that a meeting with the Foyle mussel growers had been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> December.

CEO reported that the Sponsor Departments had given their approval to the Implementation Plan for Lough Foyle and consultation should proceed with additional options in tandem with the consultation on the Bill. It was also suggested that an independent Consultant should carry out this consultation and an estimate of costs to be provided for the Board at their next meeting.

### **13. Digital Aerial Photography**

Paddy Boylan gave an update on the Digital Aerial Photography Project and progress to date. The Board gave their approval for Paddy to visit the River Eden Trust who are developing the software with a view to investigating the potential for the development for the Foyle Area.

Proposed Tarlach O'Crosain  
Seconded Peter Savage

### **14. AOB**

The Board agreed the need for a sub committee to be formed to look at the PR of the Agency and how it promotes its image and communicates information to its customers and stakeholders. John Pollock to circulate a note asking for nominations and the membership to be agreed at the next Board meeting.

### **15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Date and venue to be agreed (Mid Feb 2005)