

**31st MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH
LIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Held on
Thursday 13th October 2005
At
Silver Birch Hotel Omagh**

Present

Board

Peter Savage Chairperson
Lord Cooke of Islandreagh
Jacqui McConville
Andrew Ward
Jack Allen
Joseph Martin
Frank Feely
Tarlach O'Crosain

Loughs Agency

Derick Anderson CEO
John Pollock

1. Apologies

Siobhan Logue, Dick Blakiston-Houston, Pat Griffin

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed

Proposed Joseph Martin
Seconded Jack Allen

3. Reserved Minutes

None

4. Matters Arising

None

5. CE Report

National Salmon Commission

CE reported that he has been reappointed to the National Salmon Commission and attended their first meeting of the new commission on Tuesday 10th October where he was provided with

the new terms of reference and also the Oireachtas report on Drift Net, Draft net and Angling. CE also reported that he plans to meet with representatives from the Drift Net and Draft netsmen's associations to discuss the terms of reference and the report.

Fish Counters

CE reported on the malicious damage caused to the Fish counters at Sion Mills and Corrick. The PSNI are currently investigating the incident and have obtained fingerprints which they are following up on. Both counters have been insured however there will be no fish counts until they are repaired. Overall fish runs for 2005 have been very good with the River Finn producing the best return yet since the counter was installed.

The Interreg Funded Omagh Weir is now complete with only a few minor snags to rectify. It is hoped that the counter will be operational for the 2006 season.

CEO provided the draft tender document for the River Derg fish counter. The Board gave their approval to proceed with the first phase of the project which is to select consultant engineers to take forward the design, costing, consents etc.

Proposed Joseph Martin
Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

The EEA project (Cohesion Fund) on the Clanrye River in Newry is well under way with various habitat reinstatement works being carried out in partnership with DCAL and the local clubs. A new fish counter is also proposed under this scheme and it is planned to have this operational early in 2006. Business cases are also being prepared for work on the River Deelee, which includes a fish pass, and counter and this will bring into salmon production new habitat not previously accessible. It is also anticipated that the Deelee counter will be operational in 2006.

Shellfisheries

The CEO reported on the Bonamia Workshop held in Moville, which was chaired by Andrew Ward. The workshop proved to be a very good event with excellent talks by representatives from areas that have already been infected by Bonamia and scientific experts. Copies of the guest speakers' talks were provided.

With regard to the SMAC committee the CEO still awaiting reply but has been advised verbally that DCMNR is fully committed. He is also awaiting legal advice on the rollout of the implementation plan and he advised the Board that a Shellfish Sub Committee meeting will be arranged shortly to discuss in more detail.

CEO reported that the Term of Reference for the Baseline Study had been with the Departments and will be going to tender within the next two weeks.

6. Staffing & Grading Review

Jack Allen gave an update on the Audit Committee meeting with BDS and the Board considered the final draft BDS report. The Board gave their approval to proceed with the proposed revised structure and grading of certain posts and were advised that the report would be taken to the next stage which was a facilitation meeting where Sponsor Departments and Finance Department approval would be sought following the necessary approvals an IP Paper will be drafted seeking Ministerial approval. It was also confirmed that the Corporate Services Manager should have Finance experience as part of the job specification.

Proposed Jack Allen
Seconded Frank Feely

7. PR /Communications Strategy Tender

Jack Allen advised the Board that he had chaired the assessment panel for the PR tender which was facilitated by Central Procurement Directorate. Following a series of clarification interviews "Stakeholder Communications" was deemed successful and he recommended to the Board that they should be engaged as per the terms of reference. The Board gave their approval to proceed as recommended.

Proposed Jack Allen
Seconded Joseph Martin

8. Celtic Maritime Festival

Following the Board's request for further information regarding the purchase of mobile floating pontoons they were provided with

more detailed costs for purchase and also for hire. It was agreed that the purchase of 60m of pontoon would be more cost effective and could be made available for the Carlingford Area or in the Foyle if future events were to be arranged. The costs for purchase, delivery and misc moorings £30K. The Board also considered the request to fund two tall ships which would link in with the “Riverwatch” programme and day sails could be used for prizes for schools or community groups. Seamus Bovaird NWRD to negotiate a price for the Artimas to call at Carlingford at the end of the festival week. The Loughs Agency’s profile would benefit greatly from the participation in this event and the Board gave their approval to proceed and provide total funding up to £65k. They also asked that the Agency ensure all paperwork relating to tenders be copied and held on file also insurance cover to be checked out.

Proposed Peter Savage
Seconded Frank Feely

9. AOB

a, Carlingford Regional Office

The Board were advised that the Business case for the Regional Office in Carlingford was nearing completion and early estimates would suggest that the cost would be in the region of £1.5m. The CEO advised the Board that full green book appraisals would be required and the project may be eligible for EU funding.

b, H2O – Riverwatch

The Board considered the proposals to introduce fish tanks into Riverwatch which would both help with the interactivity and be a visual attraction to all age groups. The proposals were split into two stages and the Board agreed that option 2 was a large scale project and may attract EU funding and that as an interim approach they gave their approval to proceed with the tender process for option 1 (4 small fish tanks built into each pod up to a maximum of £50k. The Board also asked that before any work is carried the original building architect should be contacted for advice.

Proposed Frank Feely
Seconded Joseph Martin

c, Advisory Forum IP

The Board were advised that the Draft IP paper for the recruitment of the Advisory Forum has been circulated to Sponsor Departments and following Minister's approval it is hoped that recruitment would commence as soon as possible.

d, Audit Committee

The Board were advised that an Audit committee was to be arranged shortly members to be advised of possible dates.

e, Risk Management Policy

The Board considered the Draft Risk Management Policy and gave their approval.

Proposed Jack Allen
Seconded Peter Savage

f, Board IT

The Board requested that the IT needs of the Board be costed as part of improving communications and reducing administration, postage and photocopying costs. Costs and suggestions to be brought to the next Board meeting.

g, Survey Vessel

The CEO advised the Board that a business case was nearing completion for the provision of survey vessel with an estimated cost is in the region of €500k. The final draft business case will be submitted to the Board when complete.

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th November 2005 in Carlingford venue to be arranged.