

**36th MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS
COMMISSION**

Tuesday 30th May 2006 @ 11am

At

Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford

Present

Board

Peter Savage (Chairperson)

Jacqui McConville

Dick Blakiston-Houston

Jack Allen

Tarlach O'Crosain

Siobhan Logue

Pat Griffin

Andrew Ward

Frank Feely

Loughs Agency

Derick Anderson CEO

John Pollock

1. Apologies

Joseph Martin

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed

Proposed Jack Allen

Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

3. Reserved Minutes

Proposed Jack Allen

Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

4. Matters Arising

None

5. CEO Report

Salmon

The CE reported on the counter figures to date and are regularly updated on the Agency's web site. The new counter at Omagh which was Interreg

funded will be operational shortly as soon as the availability of a power source is resolved. Also the Corrick counter is still under repair following the damage caused by vandalism. Enforcement and protection patrols continue with some major seizures by the crews including a car used for transporting illegally caught fish.

The Board were also provided with a table of angling events ranging from the Angling fair to taster session for junior and female anglers. The Board were also advised that the Agency's work with the Youth Justice Agency is continuing. They asked that their thanks be conveyed to Lionel Knobbs for all his hard work and dedication.

Aquaculture

Shellfish growth trials have commenced and the results will be used to populate the SMILE carrying capacity model. CEFAS initiated the baseline study of Lough Foyle which will report in September. A meeting of the SMAC committee is planned for 17th July to discuss allocation of seed mussel.

Riverwatch

The Board were informed of the latest projects Gillian Simpson and her team are involved in and they were also updated on the throughput into the visitors centre to date which is 10% up on the previous year – on target. (papers provided)

6. Legislation

The Board were given a brief update on the Bill and were advised of the legal opinion that had to be sought regarding the Agency's Development Role. They were also advised that the process is nearing the consultation stage and the Board would be given a briefing by both Departments. prior to the full consultation .

7. Pay Retrospection

The Board were advised of correspondence received from the DARD which contradicts the views of the Agency and agreed that legal advice should be sought before responding.

8. Recruitment

The Board were advised that the advertisements for the five senior posts were in the press and the initial sifting would be carried out by the recruitment consultants with no Agency involvement. The Consultants would be carrying out the initial interviews and the CEO and Board would

be involved only at the final interview stage. CEO to contact Board members to check their availability when dates of interview are known.

9. Finance Update

The Board were provided with background papers on the Agency's Income and Expenditure to date and also the budget profile for the remainder of the financial year. They also agreed that there were too many unknown variables to consider any in year surrender and agreed that this should be reviewed again in September/October when outstanding issues were more clearer for example the Carlingford Office, Recruitment of the Directors and the Revised Foyle and Carlingford Bill and the Survey Vessel.

The Board were also advised that the tender process for the Banking Services was now complete and the Northern Bank were successful. They gave their approval to proceed with the transfer to the new accounts and asked that this be carried out as soon as possible.

Proposed Peter Savage
Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

The Board were notified of two attempted frauds (documents provided) Sponsor Departments, Audit Office and both the Garda Síochána and PSNI have been informed. The Board will be advised of the outcome of the investigations.

10. Status Reports

The Board discussed the status reports system which the Agency now uses to monitor and report on the health of the rivers in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments. They were advised that these would be regularly updated and form the basis of discussion with the clubs & fishery owners. The action points to then be prioritised and conservation and protection schemes to be developed and business cases to be prepared for schemes that will provide the best value for money. The public will be able to view the status reports on the web site and this will replace a lot of the data currently reported on in the annual reports.

11. 2005 Annual Report

The Board considered the content of the draft report and agreed that the 2006 format should change to a review of the year only and remove all the scientific information as the data is already provided in the status reports.

Proposed Tarlach O'Crosain
Seconded Siobhan Logue

12. 2007 Licence Fees

The Board agreed that the 2007 licence fees should be increased by the rate of inflation 2.2% and this increase was still in line with the licence harmonisation with the FCB who are using the same rate.

Proposed Jacqui McConville
Seconded Pat Griffin

13. Vehicles

The Board in line with the Agency's vehicle policy considered the business cases for two new vehicles one for the newly regraded deputy coxswain who also acts as Agency H&S representative and the other for the use of the staff in the Riverwatch/Outreach programmes. They gave their approval to proceed.

Proposed Jacqui McConville
Seconded Andrew Ward

14. AOB

Letter to Joint Secretaries

The Board were advised that the letter issued to the Joint Secretaries regarding the role of the Agency and the various EU directive was currently being considered but initial thoughts were that this fell outside of care and maintenance.

Carlingford office Economic Appraisal

The Board were advised that the amended Economic Appraisal was nearing completion and will be forwarded to both sponsor departments for their consideration. The Board registered their concern regarding the outline planning permission running out and asked that this be relayed onto the Depts. The board to be kept informed on progress

Survey Vessel Economic Appraisal

The Board were advised that the tender for the consultancy to prepare the economic Appraisal was being evaluated and the appointment of the successful tenderer would be made as soon as possible. The Board to be kept informed on progress.

Carlingford J24 Yacht Race

The Board considered the request from the Carlingford Yacht Club. They agreed that the previous year was a great success with excellent coverage in the press and gave their approval to provide financial support of £2K to help with the berthage/marina costs.

Proposed Jack Allen
Seconded Siobhan Logue

Celtic European Festival of the Sea / Foyle days

The Board were advised that the programme of events was well underway and were provided with the itinerary which covers the period 22nd May to 4th June.

Fun on the Foyle Festival

The Board considered the request for funding for a proposal to run a community festival on the banks of the Foyle. They gave their approval to proceed up to a maximum of £5k and asked that Gillian Simpson liaise with the organisers to ensure that the programme of events is compatible with the responsibilities of the Agency and that Riverwatch should be included.

Proposed Tarlach O'Crosain
Seconded Siobhan Logue

15. Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 30th August 2006 @ Prehen