

# 115<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 11am

NSMC Offices, Armagh

## Attendees

### Present

Phil Mahon (Acting Chair)  
Alastair Patterson  
Fiona Walsh  
Heather Mackey  
Michael McCormick  
Patrick Gibbons  
Terry McWilliams

### In Attendance - Loughs Agency

Sharon McMahon – Designated Officer  
Laura McCready (Minutes)

### Private Time for Board Members

The Board did not avail of private time before the Board Meeting commenced.

## 1. Apologies

Andrew Duncan (Vice Chairman)  
Allan Ewart  
Ian McCrea

## 2. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest with any agenda items.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed Patrick Gibbons  
Seconded Phil Mahon (Acting Chair)

#### **4. Reserved Minutes**

There were no reserved matters from minutes of the 114<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

#### **6. CEO Report**

##### Governance

Designated Officer advised the Board that the Agency's 2018 Annual Report and Accounts were signed off by both Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG'S) offices on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Designated Officer advised that the Agency has received the Draft 2018 Report to those Charged with Governance from Northern Ireland Audit Office. She added that the Report proposed that both C&AG's will certify the 2018 Financial Statements with an unqualified audit opinion, without modification.

Designated Officer advised that the Agency received an overall satisfactory opinion for 2018/19, following an Internal Audit. She added that Members of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) noted the 27 recommendations that were identified during the audit at its recent meeting, a number of which are outside of the Agency's control, and are due to the ongoing suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Patrick Gibbons, Chairman of the ARC advised that the Committee challenged Internal Audit and asked that going forward the recommendations be more specific, as many of those noted were minor and not of significant concern.

##### Human Resources

RESERVED

##### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Year of the Salmon Event

Designated Officer thanked Heather Mackey for her assistance during the above event, and the Board Members who attended the very successful event. She also thanked Joe Mahon for comparing the event so professionally.

Acting Chair reported that it was a fantastic event, and this was apparent from the moment she arrived at Headquarters. Heather Mackey also praised the event and staff for their professionalism throughout.

### Engagements

Designated Officer advised that she attended the DAERA Engagement Seminar with Arm's Length Bodies in CAFRE on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

RESERVED

## **7. Strategic Plan**

Board Members were provided with the Draft Strategic Plan, together with a number of reports relating to same.

Following a lengthy discussion Alastair Patterson suggested that it may be prudent to set time aside at the next Board Meeting, scheduled to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019, to discuss the Draft Strategic Plan. This will give Members more time to digest the content of the Plan.

Proposed Alastair Patterson  
Seconded Michael McCormick

## **8. Directors' Reports**

The Acting Chair advised the Board that Members were provided with the Directors' Reports, and asked if Members have any questions, or issues, they wish to raise with the Designated Officer.

Terry McWilliams asked if there has been any further correspondence in relation to the trestles in Lough Foyle. Designated Officer advised that there hasn't, however this issue is discussed with Sponsor Department officials, Ministers and indeed the Taoiseach, at every opportunity.

## **9. Finance Update**

Board Members were provided with a Budget Report and an update on Capital Projects up to the end of May 2019, prior to the Board

Meeting. Patrick Gibbons advised that the reports were discussed in detail at the recent ARC Meeting.

Designated Officer highlighted that the Agency has received approval for an advance of £330,000 from SEUPB in relation to the SeaMonitor Project, to alleviate pressure on the Agency's core funds.

## **10. Risk Register Update**

Board Members were provided with the Corporate Risk Register and the individual Director's Operational Risk Registers for information. They were also provided with a copy of the revised Risk Management Policy for approval.

Proposed Patrick Gibbons  
Seconded Phil Mahon (Acting Chair)

## **11. Outturn Against Targets**

Board Members were provided with copies of the most up to date Outturn Against Targets for their information.

Designated Officer advised that she recently met with the Vice Chairman and the Acting Chair in relation to the issues raised by the ARC regarding capital projects. Following this the Vice Chairman has asked for a separate meeting to be scheduled with Directors to discuss the progress of their capital spend for 2019. She added that going forward a meeting will be scheduled for Directors to present their 2020 capital projects, and this will be followed by Directors attending 1 Board Meeting per year, to provide the Board with an update on same.

## **12. Audit and Risk Committee Update**

Board Members were provided with a copy of the minutes of the February and March 2019 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) Meetings for information.

Patrick Gibbons, Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee provided Members with a verbal update of issues discussed during the previous ARC Meetings. He also advised that there was a

suggestion to hold Board Meetings and ARC Meetings on the same day, however this has not been officially adopted as yet.

### **13. Monitoring Vessel**

Board Members were provided with a copy of the Monitoring Vessel Business Case that Barry Fox recently issued to Sponsor Departments.

Following an extensive discussion Board Members asked for a work plan to be provided to the Board, detailing the work currently being carried out by industry vessels, the work that cannot currently be carried out by these vessels, and details of running and staffing costs for a replacement vessel.

### **14. Strule Trust**

Designated Officer advised that the Strule Trust has rejected the first draft of the Partnership Agreement. She added that the Agency recently met with its solicitor, who confirmed that no changes are legally required to the Agreement. Patrick Gibbons advised that the ARC agreed that the Agency cannot move on its position, as it is the regulatory authority.

Terry McWilliams advised that the Board must, at this time, make a final stand on the issue. He advised that he would propose that the Strule Trust either accepts the Agreement, or the Agency will dissolve the Partnership.

Proposed Terry McWilliams  
Seconded Patrick Gibbons

### **15. External Funding Update**

The Board was provided with an update on the CatchmentCARE, SeaMonitor and SWELL Projects prior to the meeting for information.

### **16. Omagh Office**

Designated Officer advised the Board that a paper was prepared to be presented to Board today, however the Vice Chairman asked for further information before the paper was issued. She added that the

Board will be consulted following further instruction from the Vice Chairman.

### **17. Branding and Publicity Guidelines**

Board Members were provided with the above, following a request at a recent Board Meeting. Heather Mackey asked for this item to be held to the next meeting to allow her to review this in detail.

### **18. AOB**

There were no items of AOB.

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

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 11am in NSMC, Armagh.

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Expected Delivery Date</b>
13	Work plan for replacement vessel to be drafted.	Barry Fox	04.09.19
17	Branding paper to be shelved until the next Board Meeting.	Laura McCready	04.09.19
18	Board Members to be provided with the 2017 WFD Fish Classification Report.	Designated Officer	ASAP