

**127th MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH
LIGHTS COMMISSION**

Thursday 21st October 2021 at 5.30pm

Via Teleconference

Attendees

Present

Laurence Arbuckle (Chairman)
Andrew Duncan (Vice Chairman)
Danny Kennedy
Fiona Walsh
Heather Mackey
Patrick Gibbons
Phil Mahon

In Attendance - Loughs Agency

Sharon McMahan – Designated Officer
Laura McCready (Minutes)

Non Attendance

Alastair Patterson
Allan Ewart
Ian McCrea
Terry McWilliams

Private Time for Board Members

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

1. Apologies

Michael McCormick

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 Vice Chairman
Seconded Phil Mahon

4. Reserved Minutes

The reserved minutes from the previous meeting were agreed by all.

Proposed Vice Chairman
Seconded Phil Mahon

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. CEO Progress Report

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with a comprehensive overview of current significant issues, strategic updates and governance and accountability updates from the Designated Officer.

COVID-19

Designated Officer advised the Board that the Agency continues to implement government guidelines throughout its workforce. She confirmed that the Senior Management Team has reviewed the new NI Civil Service and Labour Relations Agency's Hybrid Working Policies, however given the increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths a date for return to office has not yet been agreed.

RESERVED

RESERVED

Danny Kennedy joined the meeting at 5.45pm. Chairman welcomed Danny to his first Board Meeting since his appointment in July 2021. Designated Officer also welcomed Danny to the meeting.

Strategic Reviews

Designated Officer advised that she recently welcomed a presentation on the outcomes of the Review of Angling and Fisheries Development to date. She added that the Board should expect an overview of this and the other strategic reviews at the December Board Meeting.

RESERVED

Climate Change Strategy

Designated Officer advised that the Head of Science (HoS), appointed in April 2021, is continuing to work on the above. She added that the HoS and her team are also working on a Review of Science, therefore external assistance has also been agreed on this project to ensure the Agency's Climate Action Plan is complete as soon as possible.

Wet Woods

Designated Officer advised that the above project has proved very successful to date. She added that there are now 4 wet woods complete as well as a promotional video.

Designated Officer advised that she is due to meet with Woodland Trust in November 2021 to discuss future projects, in the Agency's Carlingford catchment.

RESERVED

RESERVED

Risk Management Policy

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with the updated Risk Management Policy for their approval. Designated Officer advised that this Policy was also provided to the Board in June 2021, however the approval of same was overlooked.

Proposed Fiona Walsh

Seconded Phil Mahon

Designated Officer advised that the Board is also required to set the risk appetite. Patrick Gibbons advised that it may be best if this was set by the new Audit and Risk Committee. Designated Officer advised

that risk appetite, albeit overseen and recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee, is set by the Board.

Patrick suggested that the risk appetite remain as is until the formation of the new Audit and Risk Committee, and if the Committee determines that it should change, they should then recommend same to the Board. Fiona Walsh agreed with this course of action.

Chairman asked if this can be deferred until the new Board and Audit and Risk Committee commence. Designated Officer advised that the risk appetite has been set previously therefore she is content for it to remain as is, with agreement being sought in the New Year.

Draft Business Plan 2022

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with a copy of the above for their approval.

Proposed Patrick Gibbons
Seconded Vice Chairman

7. Meenbog Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with an updated paper from the Director of Conservation and Protection in relation to the above together with a Draft Restoration Plan.

RESERVED

Heather Mackey left the Board Meeting at 6.40pm.

8. Finance Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with a Budget Report up to the end of September 2021. Designated Officer advised Board Members that as they are aware the Agency was unsuccessful in the June Monitoring Round, however it has been successful in the October Monitoring Round.

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Designated Officer advised that following some confusion in relation to the October Monitoring Round, Board Members will note an

increase in the Agency's budget projections for 2022 in the Draft 2022 Business Plan.

Danny Kennedy left the Board Meeting at 6.45pm.

9. Risk Register Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with the individual Directors' Operational Risk Registers and overall Corporate Risk Register for information.

There were no questions or comments in relation to the above.

10. Performance Framework Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with copies of the Performance Framework templates as completed by Directors, for their information.

There were no questions or comments in relation to the above.

11. Audit and Risk Committee Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with the minutes of the previous Audit and Risk Committee Meeting which took place on 15th September 2021.

Chairman advised that he found the minutes very useful, particularly as the Board has been unable to meet as often as required this year. Patrick Gibbons advised that he has stepped down as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. He added that there are now 2 Board Members and 1 co-opted Member remaining, as the 2 further Members remain inactive.

Patrick advised that he is unsure if the Board would like to appoint a Member to the Committee and also appoint a Chair at this time. He added that the next Audit and Risk Committee Meeting is due to take place on 7th December 2021.

Chairman wished to thank Patrick for his thorough diligence during his period on the Audit and Risk Committee.

Fiona Walsh also wished to thank Patrick for his due diligence and humour throughout his term as Chair.

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Financial Memorandum

Designated Officer advised that she has been asked to sign off on the new Financial Memorandum. She added that she has asked for a clean copy of same which she will send to the Board for their consideration and approval prior to her sign off.

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12. External Funding Update

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with an update on the SeaMonitor, CatchmentCARE and SWELL projects for their information.

Designated Officer advised that she had met with Marine Institute the previous week in relation to potential partnership projects beyond SeaMonitor and potential funding opportunities for such projects. Designated Officer advised that the Agency is hosting the Annual Meeting of the European Tracking Network from 1st – 3rd February 2022, with up to 70 attendees from across Europe. She added that she will provide the Board with the proposal for this conference.

She added that in mid-June 2022 there is a joint projects conference in Belfast with SeaMonitor, COMPASS and MarPAMM attending. Finally in November 2022 there will be a SeaMonitor Conference in Derry with over 100 invitees / delegates and international guest speakers to celebrate the results of the SeaMonitor Project and discuss future work.

Fiona Walsh congratulated the Agency in relation to the above. She advised that although the Agency is small and is tied down by numerous layers of governance, it always exceeds itself in the most strategic events.

13. Press Releases

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with a copy of press releases published since the previous Board Meeting and a

copy of recent press clippings from the media in relation to the Agency for their information.

Chairman welcomed this information. He advised that procurement of a managed service is working out extremely well for the Agency. He added that this is what the Board has wanted for a number of year and it has finally come to fruition.

Designated Officer agreed that the managed service is one of the best things that the Board has helped drive. She added that she is meeting with Gray's communications later in the week to discuss the Agency's climate change piece.

14. AOB

Review of Development

Chairman reminded those Board Members who have not yet completed the questionnaire for the above review to do so as soon as possible.

15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th December 2021. Venue to be considered in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

Item No	Action	Responsible	Expected Delivery Date
6	RESERVED	Designated Officer	ASAP
6	RESERVED	Chairman	ASAP
7	RESERVED	Designated Officer	ASAP
12	Provide Board with European Tracking Network proposal.	Designated Officer	ASAP