



DRAFT - Nitrates Expert Group

Via Webex

23 February 2021

In attendance

Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Donal Grant (Chair)

Colin Byrne

Nicola Gray

Dymphna Kehoe

Clare Casey

EPA

Jenny Deakin

Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Jack Nolan

Bernard Harris

Teagasc

David Wall

1. Update from previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting on 20th January 2021 was circulated to the group, along with the agenda prior to the meeting. The Chair discussed the actions of last meeting, and all were discussed and closed out.

2. Public Consultation update

DAFM reviewed the submissions and updated the group on the general content and tone. The main comments were captured and grouped into general themes. These submissions will shape the format and content of the 2nd public submission document.

The group discussed scheduling engagements with a number of stakeholders, particularly eNGO's. DHLGH to draft a schedule of meetings and report back to the group at the next meeting.

Following an additional discussion on soiled water Teagasc agreed to circulate recent research on soiled water usage.

3. Letter to Teagasc from DAFM & DHLGH

Draft letter is currently with DHLGH for signing off by Assistant Secretary. Teagasc can expect to receive it from both Departments in the coming days. Teagasc are expected to review the letter and may revert with clarifications. DAFM have also written to Teagasc in relation to an assessment of the Schedule of tables in the GAP Regs.

4. Discussions with European Commission & next Committee meeting

The group agreed that the meeting went well with the European Commission. The actions still need to be followed up by DHLGH.

The next Nitrates Committee meeting is on March 11th and we have asked to be included on the agenda. It was agreed that DHLGH will give the introductions followed by the EPA presenting on water quality trends. The EPA will circulate the presentation slides to the group by the middle of next week for review. DHLGH will confirm with DG Env. what time will be allocated for the presentation. The group also agreed to use the next meeting on 9th March as a dry run for the presentation. It was agreed that the presentation will be submitted to DG Env. by 5th March.

5. SEA/AA

The SEA/AA RFT is published on eTenders, with a final date of 18th March for submissions. DHLGH hopes to get contact signed within 3 or 4 weeks. Contractor will need to sit in on some expert group meetings.

6. Next Step

Minutes to be circulate ASAP. Next meeting on Tuesday, February 9th 2021 via WebEx.

7. AOB