

Roland Gowran (Housing)

From: Graham McGovern (Housing)
Sent: Thursday 14 July 2022 18:01
To: Roland Gowran (Housing)
Cc: David Flynn (Housing); Aisling Glynn (Housing); Michael McBride (Housing)
Subject: FW: WFD Governance Structures

Roland,

See below from the EPA in relation to the governance structure for the next plan.

Graham.

From: Eimear Cotter <E.Cotter@epa.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 6 July 2022 10:00
To: David Flynn (Housing) <David.Flynn@housing.gov.ie>; Graham McGovern (Housing) <Graham.McGovern@housing.gov.ie>
Cc: Mary Gurrie <m.gurrie@epa.ie>
Subject: WFD Governance Structures

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David, Graham

It's good to have the opportunity to discuss the WFD Governance Structures and here is some input from the EPA. We welcome the discussion on the structures to ensure that they are operating optimally and to address the recommendation of the IPA Research Report. While some of the measures set out in the two-pager may improve communication between the governance tiers, the EPA would question whether these actions will fundamentally change the operation of NCMC and WPAC to enable them to become more effective. We would suggest a deeper review and discussion of the structures with the key stakeholders is required to ensure they are fit for purpose in the 3rd cycle.

In relation to WPAC, and as discussed at the meeting on 30/6, this Committee could offer more in terms of advice to the Minister. Currently, it functions primarily as an information sharing forum and as a result it is quite a passive Committee. We would suggest revisiting the Terms of Reference for the Committee to ensure that the Committee and its members have a clear understanding of what is required of it – is it an advisory/decision-making/consultative committee? We'd agree that an Forum Uisce, a stakeholder Forum, remains a separate entity to WPAC. We would also suggest that meetings should be held in-person to encourage discussion and engagement. Associated papers should be circulated in advance to allow time for deliberation and a meaningful discussion at the meeting and verbal updates should be kept to a minimum. To support this, the establishment of a secretariat in DHLGH is important in terms of setting the agenda, circulating papers and overseeing implementation, monitoring and reporting of the RBMP which has been a gap in the second cycle.

Our view is that neither the regional management committees nor the NCMC are currently operating as set out in the 2nd cycle RBMP. While they can vary between each region, the Regional Management Committees operate primarily as information updates from LAWPRO to the Directors of Service and are not, as such, focussed on tracking of measures at regional or local level. While it is essential to keep the Directors informed and involved, the committees are not operating as envisaged and a different approach may be necessary for 3rd cycle implementation.

Consideration could be given to enhancing the role of LAWPRO in this regard - acting for and coordinating with the individual local authorities and other implementing bodies and providing the linkage between local, regional and national measures.

Similarly the NCMC is not currently operating as an active management committee as envisaged in the RBMP and Terms of Reference. It is essential for the successful role out and implementation of the proposed integrated Catchment Management Plans that there is clarity about roles and responsibilities throughout the tiers and in particular with respect to the Local Authorities. If LAWPRO are given an enhanced role with respect to implementation at regional level the NCMC might then most usefully consist of the Department, EPA, LAWPRO and the CCMA to track and oversee national implementation. In any case the purpose and operation of the NCMC merits further consideration.

Happy to discuss our comments and observations further and I look forward to further discussion on the governance structures.

Best wishes

Eimear

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From: Housing Water Advisory Unit <wau@housing.gov.ie>

Sent: Friday 1 July 2022 16:38

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Cc: Brenda Kelly <Brenda.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>; caroline.anderson@fisheriesireland.ie

Subject: WPAC actions and papers from 30/06/2022

Good afternoon,

Please see the actions arising from yesterday's WPAC meeting below. You will also find attached the IPA's report on Water Governance and Irish Water's presentation slides on the Pathway to Waste Water Compliance.

Actions:

- DHLGH to circulate the IPA's report on Water Governance to the members.
- DHLGH to engage directly with the CCMA on the proposed changes to the governance structures.
- Members to submit any initial comments they may have on the revised governance structures circulated in advance of the meeting.
- Irish Water to consider including projects that are also due to start during the next cycle in the Pathway to Waste Water Compliance document.
- While DHLGH will be engaging with various stakeholders on the content of the final plan, if members have any specific concerns or comments, please let us know.
- The next meeting to be a single item agenda, to discuss the final River Basin Management Plan.

Regards,
Mick

Michael McBride
Water Advisory Unit

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