

# waters & communities


The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office



## Local Authority Waters & Communities Office

REPORT

FEBRUARY 2016 – DECEMBER 2017



Cover image: Dr Connie O'Driscoll, Ecologist and pupils  
from Killeen National School conducting a water experiment.  
Photo by Mick Kane, Community Water Officer.



Local Authority  
Waters & Communities Office  
REPORT  
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## List of acronyms and terms used throughout this document

<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive
<b>RBMP</b>	River Basin Management Plan
<b>PoMs</b>	Programme of Measures
<b>RAA</b>	Recommended Areas for Action
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>IFI</b>	Inland Fisheries Ireland
<b>LAWCO</b>	The Local Authority Waters & Communities Office
<b>DHPLG</b>	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
<b>DECLG</b>	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>KTCC</b>	Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils
<b>CWO</b>	Community Water Officer
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>OHSAS</b>	Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series
<b>CCMA</b>	City and County Management Association
<b>NI</b>	Northern Ireland
<b>NFGWS</b>	National Federation of Group Water Schemes
<b>CFRAMs</b>	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey Ireland



## Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce this report on the establishment and implementation of the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO).

While the period covered by the report pre-dates my involvement with the programme, the outputs of the LAWCO team are significant and form the bedrock on which the LA Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is built. The combination of the communities team and the catchment assessment team within LAWPRO assures an integrated - and consequently more effective – approach to delivery of the local government sector’s obligations to the River Basin Management Plan.

I am confident that this report will be of assistance to those involved in reviewing the role of the LA Waters and Communities Office and to those seeking a model for an innovative approach to tackling similar challenges in other sectors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

---

**Seán Keating,**  
**Director of Services**

## Executive Summary

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an innovative piece of EU legislation, firstly because it organises water governance around river basins (or catchments) instead of administrative boundaries and secondly because it mandates public participation in development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

The WFD was transposed into Irish law by the 2003 EU Water Policy Regulations as amended by the 2014 Regulations. These placed statutory obligations on Local Authorities for regional coordination of public bodies and public and stakeholder engagement, to encourage wide participation in the development and implementation of RBMPs.

In response to these new responsibilities a Local Authority National WFD Office was proposed, which would coordinate and deliver these obligations on behalf of all 31 LA's. To this end, the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) was set up in February 2016, managed jointly by Kilkenny and Tipperary County Council.

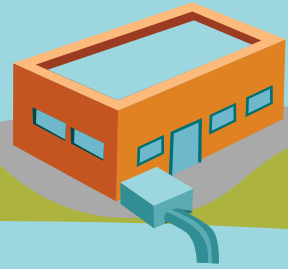
The initial set up phase of LAWCO involved the recruitment of a team of specialist staff and development of a 'roadmap' for the new organisation. This involved identifying stakeholders, setting objectives and developing a vision and a brand. The arrival of the Community Water Officers from September 2016 onwards gave the new office a local presence across the country. Initially, the Community Water Officers work involved networking and engaging with operational staff of the public agencies, and local communities actively involved with their local water bodies.

The draft River Basin Management Plan was launched by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in February 2017 for a six-month public consultation, the Waters & Communities Office was tasked with driving public consultation at the local and regional level. This was delivered through 123 public consultation meetings generating 956 submissions directly to the Waters & Communities Office and a further 938 directly to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This formed a significant part of the work programme for all staff during 2017.

The Waters & Communities Office evolved over the period to which this report relates, from that originally envisaged in the business case. This was necessary as the office moved from the theoretical to the practical and adapted to a rapidly changing working environment. This was evident by increased levels of interest from local communities across the country. Throughout these initial stages there was continual liaison with the DHPLG and EPA to ensure agreement and understanding of workplans at all times.

This report documents the work and achievements of the Waters & Communities Office and its staff from its inception in February 2016 up to December 2017. The RBMP was launched by the Minister in April 2018 and with it a commitment of resources to assist with implementation of targeted measures aimed at improving water quality in prioritised Areas for Action. This resulted in 35 scientists with a range of expertise joining with the Waters & Communities Office and forming the Catchment Assessment Team. Combining both the remits of community engagement and catchment assessment into one team required restructuring to form the Local Authority Waters Programme. This development will be reflected in the 2018 Annual Report.

1



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The 'Local Authority Waters & Communities Office', also known by the acronym 'LAWCO', and usually as the 'Waters & Communities Office', was established in February 2016 in response to statutory obligations placed on the Local Authority sector for implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ireland. The WFD aims to protect and restore healthy water in our rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters for the benefit of people, nature and the economy. This report documents the work of the 'Waters & Communities Office' from its inception in February 2016 to the end of year 2017.



Top (from left): Matt Short, Ray Spain; Bottom (from left): Bernie O'Flaherty, Fran Igoe

## 1.2 The Waters & Communities Office Team

### 1.2.1 SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Waters & Communities Office senior management team for 2016 and 2017 consisted of Matt Shortt, Director of Service, Tipperary County Council, Carol McCarthy, Senior Engineer, Kilkenny County Council, Ray Spain, Coordinator based in Tullamore, Fran Igoe, Coordinator based in Clonmel and Bernie O'Flaherty, Coordinator based in Carrick-on-Shannon.

### 1.2.2 SPECIALIST STAFF

Three specialist staff are employed by the Waters & Communities Office and they are Sheevaun Thompson, Funding Lead; Michael Pollard, IT and Administration; and Alan Walsh, Communications and Marketing Lead, all three are based at Head Office in Clonmel.



From left to right: Alan Walsh, Sheevaun Thompson and Michael Pollard

### 1.2.3 COMMUNITY WATER OFFICERS

The Waters & Communities Office has 12 Community Water Officers based in 12 different locations around the country and they are;

- » **Jimmy Mc Veigh, Donegal**
- » **Karen Kennedy, Carrick-on-Shannon**
- » **Gretta Mc Carron, Carrickmacross**
- » **Mick Kane, Castlebar**
- » **Catherine Seale, Galway**
- » **Basil Mannion, Tullamore**
- » **Aoife McGrath, Navan**
- » **Sinead Hurson, Dublin**
- » **Ann Phelan, Kilkenny**
- » **Kieran Murphy, Cork**
- » **Ruairí Ó Conchuir, Limerick**
- » **Bláithín Ní hÁinín, Tralee**



Figure 1: Community Water Officers and their locations

### 1.3 The Water Framework Directive

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) dated 23rd October 2000 established a framework for community action in the field of water policy. The WFD requires all water bodies to reach at least 'good ecological status' by 2015, or at the latest by 2027.



The WFD organises water management around naturally defined river basins, or catchments rather than traditional administrative boundaries and requires River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Programmes of Measures (PoMs) to be developed in three six-year cycles, see Figure 2. The WFD requires close cooperation between public bodies and active involvement of stakeholders, and the public in the development of RBMPs, as per text of Article 14 as follows:

“

***Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans.***

”

Article 14, Water Framework Directive



Figure 2: River Basin Management Plans six-year cycles

**Note:** Ireland was two years behind most other EU Member States in publishing its 2nd cycle RBMP, due to the impacts of the financial crisis and economic downturn. The 2nd cycle RBMP for Ireland will therefore cover the period 2018-2021.

#### 1.4 Ireland's Water Policy Regulation

The WFD was transposed into Irish law by the 2003 European Communities Water Policy Regulations, amended by the 2014 Regulations. The 2014 Regulations identified the competent authorities in relation to river basin districts as;

- » The Minister;
- » Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- » Local Authorities (LAs).

Who were each assigned specific roles in a new three tier governance structure. The Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was established to advise the Minister on: RBMPs, establishing environmental objectives, and PoMs to achieve those objectives.

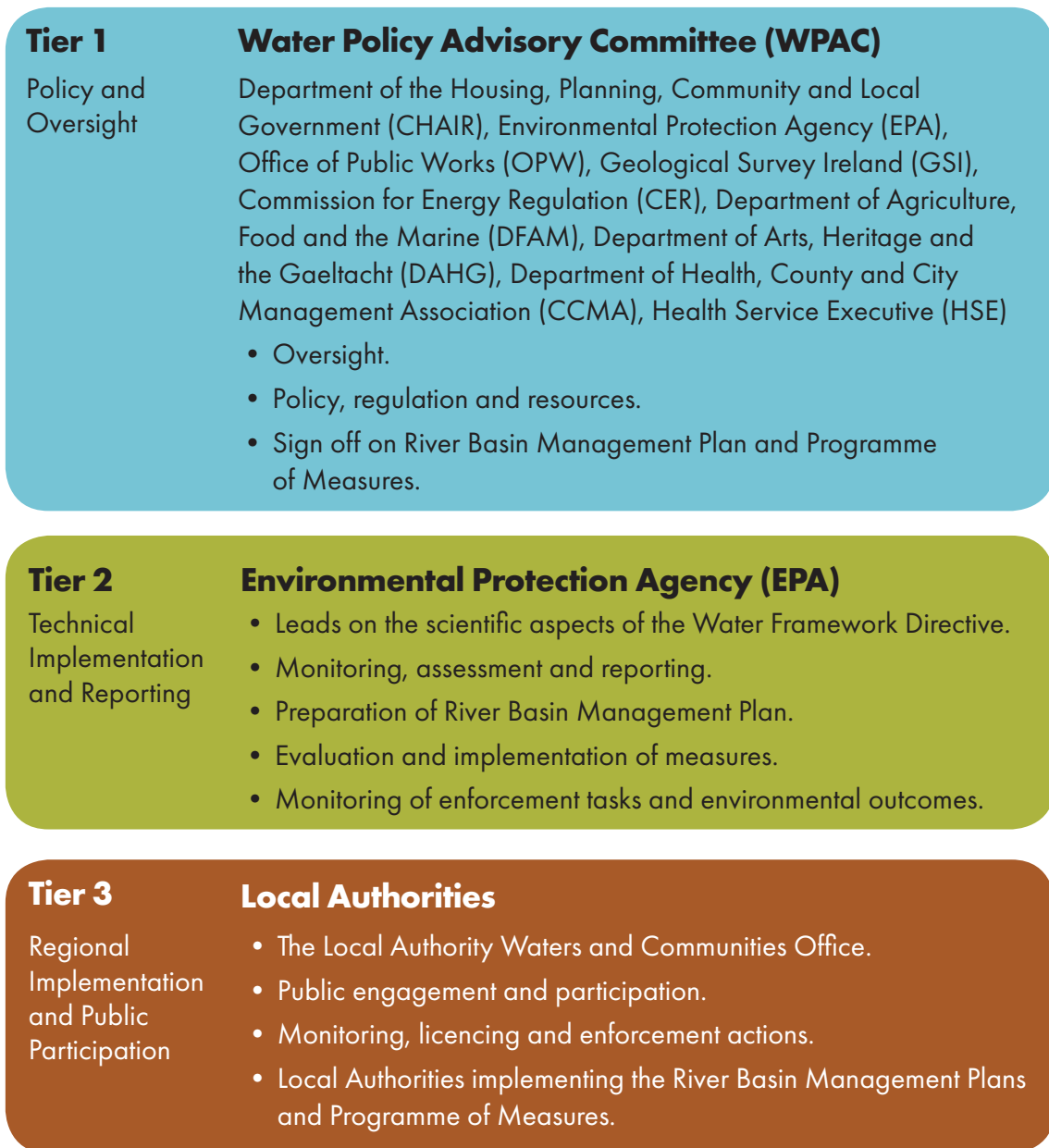


Figure 3: WFD Three Tier Governance Structure

Article 4 of the 2014 Water Policy Regulations places specific obligations on LAs for “Regional coordination, public consultation, the development and implementation of river basin management plans and programmes of measures with respect to their functional areas.”

And Article 9 states that “Local Authorities shall provide support and assistance to the Minister and the EPA in the characterisation of river basin districts, the establishment of environmental objectives, the making of the river basin management plans and in the development of programmes of measures with respect to their functional areas.”

# 2



RIVER BASIN  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN 1ST CYCLE –  
LESSONS LEARNT

Prior to the first cycle RBMPs being published (early 2010) it was recognised that existing governance structures were not adequate to deliver on WFD objectives. Existing structures would need to be strengthened. A chapter was inserted into the RBMPs by the Minister, which gave a commitment to review existing WFD governance. A review of the first cycle RBMPs in 2012 by the European Commission identified gaps in both governance and public participation in Ireland. In response to that review the EU (Water Policy) Regulations, 2014 strengthened WFD implementation in Ireland through the new three-tier governance structure. The following changes were introduced that would impact on the functions of LAs:

- » The establishment of a Water Policy Advisory Committee.
- » The Minister became the competent authority for the making of the RBMP and associated PoM's.
- » Local Authorities for regional coordination and public consultation.
- » Local Authorities to provide support and assistance to the Minister and the EPA in the characterisation of river basin districts.
- » Provision for the Minister to take measures to facilitate regional coordination through the establishment of regional WFD offices.

## 2.1 Local Authorities' Response

In response to the statutory obligations placed on LA's the County and City Management Association (CCMA) made a business case to the then Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) in April 2015 for additional resources for LAs. These additional resources would be necessary to deliver the coordination of WFD activities of public bodies and for promoting greater public participation in river basin management planning. This business case was later split into two separate parts. Firstly; establishment of an office to facilitate public engagement and regional coordination of public bodies. Secondly; extra scientific resources for LAs to assist with new roles in the implementation of the 2nd cycle RBMP.

The business case for the establishment of an office to focus on regional coordination and public engagement was approved by the DECLG in June 2015, paving the way for a new Local Authority National WFD Office on a pilot basis for five years. A competitive bidding process was facilitated by the Project Management Office of the Local Government Management Agency. The joint tender from Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils was the successful bidder and they were appointed to lead a new national shared service on behalf of all 31 Local Authorities. This shared service became known as the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office.



Getting our messages to communities



The business case grouped the tasks for the 'Waters & Communities Office' into three main areas:

1. To support and coordinate the activities of local authorities, public bodies and other stakeholders in the management of Ireland's natural waters.
2. Mobilise community action and public participation in development of RBMPs and engagement in actions to support RBMP objectives.
3. Provide support to the Minister and EPA on all WFD matters.

## 2.2 Establishing the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office

The Local Authority Waters & Communities Office was set up in February 2016. Responsibility for the office lies with the Chief Executives of Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils, with Matt Shortt, Director of Services, Tipperary County Council as project leader (with Sean Keating taking over from March 2018) assisted by Carol McCarthy, Senior Engineer, Kilkenny County Council.

February 2016 saw the appointment of the three Regional Coordinators; Ray Spain, Bernie O'Flaherty and Fran Igoe, and three Specialist Staff: Sheevaun Thompson, Funding Lead; Michael Pollard, IT and Administration; and Alan Walsh, Communications and Marketing Lead. Their roles as defined in the business case is provided in Appendix A and B respectively.

The initial phase of the new office focussed on planning and strategy to develop a roadmap for future work plans and engagement activities. A national recruitment campaign followed to recruit twelve Community Water Officers. These posts were advertised without technical qualification requirements and designed to attract candidates with community and civic minded experience from a wide variety of backgrounds with an environmental interest. This approach was both unique and successful in attracting high calibre candidates with a diverse range of backgrounds, knowledge and experience.

Between September 2016 and February 2017, the twelve Community Water Officers (CWOs) commenced in their roles, based at office locations provided by twelve different LAs, creating a network across the entire country. Once in place the new team of 18 staff undertook an intensive training programme to prepare for the necessary awareness raising of the new office and engagement with communities and agencies in every county and catchment, also linking with relevant agencies in Northern Ireland. The Community Water Officers roles as defined in the business case is provided in Appendix C.



Photo showing an early stage 'Waters & Communities Office' planning meeting

## 2.3 Waters & Communities Office Core Aims

The core aims of the Waters & Communities Office can be grouped into five areas:

- » **Coordination:** Working with Local Authorities and WFD implementing bodies both nationally and across the five agreed regions: Border, Midlands and East, West, Southeast and Southwest to ensure an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and management of the whole water environment. Developing linkages with sectoral interests and encouraging participation in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans and Programme of Measures.
- » **Participation:** Encouraging active public participation in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans. Supporting community action in the protection and management of our natural water resources through local initiatives and projects which align with WFD objectives.
- » **Governance:** Assisting the DHPLG and the EPA in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans and Programme of Measures. Coordinating and supporting networks of public bodies and stakeholders involved in river basin management planning.
- » **Awareness:** Raising awareness and providing public information on water quality management in a clear and meaningful way. Promoting active public participation and knowledge sharing between Local Authorities, public bodies, stakeholders and communities. Promoting community learning by sharing examples of successful projects and best practice.
- » **Innovation:** Continually identifying and delivering new ways of supporting community action in the protection and management of our natural water resources.

### 2.3.1 MISSION AND VISION

**Our Mission:** To support communities and work with public bodies and stakeholders to protect and care for the natural waters of Ireland.

**Our Vision:** The natural waters of Ireland, including rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches and groundwater, are important for ourselves, for wildlife and for our economy. These will be restored, protected and cared for by public bodies, stakeholders and local communities working together, now and into the future.

“

*A catchment isn't just about rivers and lakes, it's also about the communities. Working together we can breathe new life into our waters and our communities.*

”

Jim Wilson  
Moy Catchment Association

3



WATERS &  
COMMUNITIES  
OFFICE –  
GETTING STARTED

Work in the early part of 2016 following establishment of the office included the following:

### 3.1 Local Authority Regional Information Sessions

The first phase of LA engagement by the Waters & Communities Office commenced in February 2016. Regional Information Sessions were held at each of the five LA National Services Regional Training Centres; Ballincollig, Ballycoolin, Castlebar, Roscrea and Stranolar. Senior management and staff from the Environment, Water Services and Community & Enterprise sections of all 31 LAs were invited. The purpose of the information sessions was twofold:

- » **Firstly:** to provide up to date information on the new three-tier WFD governance structure; the proposed characterisation of water bodies by the EPA, with assistance from IFI and LAs; the role of the Waters & Communities Office; and preparations for the development and implementation of the 2nd cycle RBMP and PoMs.
- » **Secondly:** to facilitate discussion on the current challenges facing LAs in delivering WFD obligations.

This resulted in constructive dialogue between management representatives of the different LAs and the Waters & Communities Office. The issues and concerns raised were documented and collated for feedback to the Water Policy Advisory Committee at Tier 1, and to help inform the future direction for the Waters & Communities Office.

### 3.2 IT Systems

The business case proposed that IT for the new office would be facilitated by the various host local authorities around the country. However, this proved unworkable due to lack of capacity in some local authorities, variability in software and protocols between local authorities and security access issues for a dispersed workforce.

A solution was identified and developed by the IT Lead to host required systems in the “cloud”. Although very new technology, it offered an ideal solution to capacity, spatially dispersed access and security at low cost. It also had the advantage of not requiring hard wiring using mobile networks or computer servers and associated maintenance costs.

### 3.3 Back Office Arrangements

Tipperary County Council hosts many of the back-office functions for the Waters & Communities Office including the financial management system (Agresso), which also includes the pay and travel expenses claiming systems. Kilkenny Human Resources department managed the initial recruitment process for the coordinators and specialist staff posts, with Tipperary taking care of the recruitment for the Community Water Officer posts.

On an ongoing basis, Tipperary County Council provides the human resources function and the Waters & Communities Office has adopted Tipperary County Council’s policies in relation to ethics, electronic communications, general health and safety, travel and subsistence, general communications, code of conduct and flexi time.



### 3.4 WFD Sampling Programme

In April of 2016 the EPA sought to introduce new arrangements for the Local Authorities WFD Sampling and Monitoring Programme. The EPA wished to exit the sampling collection and delivery role while continuing the analysis and recording of the samples received. The Waters & Communities Office organised and facilitated a series of regional workshops in May 2016 between the EPA and local authorities to develop and transition to the new programme. The sampling arrangements, which extends to over 23,000 samples annually, entailed significant change for most local authorities with the Waters & Communities Office taking on a leading facilitation role. That change was successfully delivered and continues to operate well.

### 3.5 Business Case for LA Waters Support and Advice Team

It was recognised that additional specialised resources would be required to work alongside the Waters & Communities Office during implementation of the 2nd cycle RBMP. This additional resource would also provide a shared service to the 31 LAs. On behalf of the Local Government Management Agency, the Waters & Communities Office participated as part of a project team on the development of the business case for the establishment of the LA Waters Support and Advice Team. This project team was under the chairmanship of Frank Curran, Chief Executive Leitrim County Council together with Matt Shortt, and Ray Spain as secretary to the group. This included development of a Project Initiation Document, assembling an extended project team, drafting a business case, consultation with CCMA, Local Authorities, EPA and DHPLG, liaison with the LGMA Project Management Office and Public Service and Reform Oversight Group, peer review process and finalisation of business case. This work took place from May 2015 to March 2017. It concluded with the appointment of Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils as shared service providers of the additional resource, to be integrated with the existing Waters & Communities Office.

### 3.6 Communication of New WFD Governance Structures

As part of the communications strategy of the Waters & Communities Office presentations were made to local authority elected members, either through full council meetings or Environmental Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's). This was carried out in the second quarter of 2016. The principle aim of these presentations was to communicate the new WFD Governance Structures that were currently in development, introduce the new Waters & Communities Office and highlight local authority responsibilities under the WFD and Water Policy Regulations.

These engagements also provided an opportunity for the Waters & Communities Office to shift the focus of WFD implementation away from regulatory compliance and towards the provision of multiple benefits for people, the economy and sustainability.

### 3.7 Other Actions

The Waters & Communities Office also participated in a number of other WFD related actions including:

**Celtic Seas Partnership:** This was an EU LIFE+ funded project established by a number of EU Member States to develop planning and environmental guidelines in the marine area, with the Midlands – Eastern Regional Assembly as the Irish lead.

**Public Participation Networks (PPNs):** The Waters & Communities Office liaised with and presented to PPNs as they were being established in each local authority area. It was expected that the PPNs would have been a significant resource for identifying contacts in the environmental and water areas, however a number of issues militated against this. Firstly, less than 3% of organisations registered with the PPN's affiliated with the environmental pillar. Secondly, data protection regulations prevented the sharing of contact details with the Waters & Communities Office.

**Water Quality and Agriculture Inter-Agency Working Group:** The Water & Communities Office, through Ray Spain provided an executive secretariat service to this working group. The Secretary through the group developed and delivered an integrated catchment management component to the local authority farm inspections training course.

**Santry/Naniken Catchment Group:** The Waters & Communities Office assisted Dublin City Council establish this group and deliver a scoping workshop to public agency stakeholders.

**Catchment Assessment:** The Waters & Communities Office in association with the environmental section of Tipperary County Council assisted the EPA in scoping the requirements for best practice guidance for local authorities in the area of catchment (investigative) assessment. This led to the establishment of a working group and development of a catchment assessment guidance manual and training course.

**Catchments Newsletter:** To disseminate information on both technical matters and community engagement the EPA Catchments Unit launched the "Catchments Newsletter" in January of 2016. The Waters & Communities Office through the Communications Lead assist with the content for this quarterly magazine. This magazine is distributed widely through local authorities and the Waters & Communities Office and is used by Community Water Officers to introduce communities to local water quality and river basin management planning.

### 3.8 Pilot River Suir Public Participation Programme

In July 2016, the Office of Public Works (OPW) scheduled six CFRAMs public consultations to present flood risk management options at separate locations across the River Suir catchment. The Waters & Communities Office availed of the opportunity to co-host a complimentary set of public consultations on Water Framework Directive objectives which would provide a wider context to flood management through integrated catchment management. With the agreement of the OPW the Waters & Communities Office held six WFD public meetings at the same locations as the CFRAMS consultations and on the same dates.



On request from the public an additional ten meetings were added to the original six. This resulted in meetings being spread throughout the entire Suir catchment from source to sea and connecting counties Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. The meetings targeted some of the major tributaries and the main freshwater portion of the catchment together with the estuarine (transitional water) and coastal areas. The meetings had good local turnouts with individuals and groups representing many groups and interests from across the catchment.



Ardfinnan Family Funday, 25th September 2016

The experience of the meetings and lessons learnt would later inform the methods used for public consultations on the Draft River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) which took place between April and August 2017. The question asked of local communities during the River Suir public consultations was “What does the River Suir and its tributaries mean to you?”, this would later be adopted for the national DRBMP public consultation.

In response to requests from the local communities the Waters & Communities Office brought an educational element on the River Suir to community events in Ardfinnan Family Funday 2016, Carrick on Suir Clancy Brothers, River Festival 2017 and Waterford Spraoi 2017. To deliver this the ‘River Suir Marquee’ was developed in collaboration with community groups and agencies.



Public meeting at Cahir, Co Tipperary, July 2016



Collaboration between EPA Catchments Unit, Tipperary County Council, LAWOW and others in the River Suir Marquee



The River Suir Marquee

### 3.9 Regional Water and Environment Management Committees

In response to the discussions at the Local Authority Regional Information Sessions, the Waters & Communities Office brought the concerns of Local Authorities to the DHPLG and the EPA. Subsequently, and with the agreement of the CCMA, five Regional Water and Environment Management Committees were established to provide the structure to coordinate WFD implementation on a regional basis. These committees are chaired by a LA Chief Executive with Director of Services from each local authority as members. They met for the first time in September 2016 and the Terms of Reference are include in Appendix D. The Waters & Communities Office provides an executive secretariat function to each of these committees.

The Chair of each regional committee also sits on the WFD National Management Coordination Committee, thereby providing LA management oversight and monitoring of WFD implementation and effectiveness of regional coordination.



“

*An interagency approach is vital, agencies must share resources and knowledge and be flexible, rivers don't observe boundaries.*

”

John Breen, Direct of Services  
Kerry County Council,  
Cahir of South West Regional Water  
and Environment Management

# 4



## DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS 2017

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government published the draft River Basin Management Plan on February 28th, 2017 for a six-month public consultation, which ran up to 31st August.

The Waters & Communities Office was tasked with driving public engagement, participation and consultation with local communities on the development and implementation of the RBMP and the broader Integrated Catchment Management approach.

Learning from the pilot public engagement project on the River Suir the Waters & Communities Office developed an intensive public engagement strategy which included local radio and newspapers, internet and social media platforms. The core of the strategy was to make the consultation relevant to people by asking the question; “What does your local river, lake or beach mean to You?”.

Notification of meetings were advertised on local radio and newspapers, through Local Authority and PPN contacts, Community Water Officer contacts, social media, website, sectoral representative organisations, angling groups, groups with an interest in waters and with locally placed posters. Phone calls were also made to existing contacts as a reminder of upcoming events and to encourage participation.

124 Local consultation meetings were organised and delivered across the country at municipal district level. Meetings were arranged for evening time, typically 7.30pm to facilitate attendance by the public.

#### 4.1 Format of Meetings

Typically, meetings were facilitated by two Community Water Officers. The meetings began with a 20-minute presentation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan and the status of water quality in water bodies in each locality. The meeting was then opened to the floor for attendees to have their say. This provided a platform for open discussion on water issues and interests from a local perspective. Attendees were then encouraged to put forward their issues and concerns as written submissions on the draft plan.

While one Community Water Officer facilitated the meeting and discussion, the other took notes of the issues that were raised. This ensured all issues raised were documented, and the mood and feeling of the meetings were captured.





## 4.2 Outcomes

A total of 956 local submissions were received by the Waters & Communities Office as a result of these public meetings (DHPLG also received 938 submissions directly). These submissions were collated and forwarded to the DHPLG to inform the development of the River Basin Management Plan.

Reports have been prepared on submissions received and notes from meetings which are available at [www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie).

## 4.3 Work Schedule

As mentioned, the Draft River Basin Management Plan was launched on the 28th February 2017, at this time the last of the Community Water Officers were also taking up their posts. This presented a very tight timeframe for training and to develop and deliver a comprehensive public consultation and engagement programme, placing significant demands on staff.

Each meeting required development of a bespoke presentation focused on local waters, development and delivery of a local communications plan, identification of local stakeholders and actors, and identification and preparation of suitable venues. After the meetings, submissions had to be collated, meeting notes transcribed and follow-ups to local issues conducted as required.

These meetings also proved a useful first introduction to community groups in the area and were very valuable in establishing contacts and developing networks.

## 4.4 Local Authority Briefing Sessions

During April 2017, briefing sessions for local authority personnel were held in each of the five regional training centres. Local authority staff from environment, planning, community and enterprise were invited. DHPLG and Waters & Community Coordinators presented at these sessions and discussion was encouraged. Information gathered was presented to the National Coordination and Management Committee and used by DHPLG to inform the River Basin Management Plan.

As part of this process a standard template presentation was developed to be used by local authority staff to present to their own elected members, staff and policy committees.





5



# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

## 5.1 Boots on the Ground

The community water officers actively engaged with local communities and groups across the country during 2016 and 2017. Continually raising awareness of local water bodies and building capacity for community action in water quality management. These activities ranged from; introductory meetings with groups, to schools' engagements, to assisting and advising on community led activities. A table of these activities is provided in Appendix H.



Catherine Seale and group of Ladybirds

## 5.2 Rivers Trusts

In 2016 a number of Rivers Trusts were in existence in Ireland and based on the experience of the Rivers Trusts activity in the UK, the Waters & Communities Office and DHPLG identified this model of community participation in water management as an example of best practice. The Waters & Communities Office sought and secured funding from DHPLG to engage, on a part-time basis, the services of Mark Horton, All Ireland Rivers Trust Director with additional support from the UK-based Rivers Trust organisation.

In his 2017 report, Mark Horton, advised that there had been a noticeable rise in interest from groups across Ireland on the formation of Rivers Trusts. This is being driven by the activities of Community Water Officers. Activity during 2016 and 2017 focused on assisting groups in identifying core sectoral interests, building interest in forming a trust with cross-sectoral foundations and then supporting emerging rivers trusts through the administrative process of forming a trust as a legal entity.

As of the end of 2017, there were six rivers trusts in Ireland, plus two cross-border trusts based in Northern Ireland, all at various stages of legal entity development.

- » River Blackwater Catchment Trust (cross-border (NI-based))
- » Erne Rivers Trust (cross-border (NI-based))
- » Blackwater Rivers Trust (Munster)
- » Inishowen Rivers Trust (cross-border)
- » Maigne Rivers Trust
- » Nore Rivers Trust (previously Nore Suir Rivers Trust)
- » Slaney Rivers Trust
- » Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust



In addition, two further prospective rivers trusts are beginning the process of formal establishment:

- » Bandon Rivers Trust
- » River Moy Trust

Interest in forming rivers trusts has emerged in a further seven catchments:



- » River Boyne
- » River Fane/Dundalk Bay Rivers
- » River Finn (Donegal/Tyrone)
- » Galway Bay Rivers
- » Rivers Oweneagh and Owentocher (Donegal)
- » River Lee and East Cork
- » River Vartry and East Wicklow

In addition to the advice and guidance provided through The Rivers Trust, the Waters & Communities Office has also provided financial assistance and support to existing and emerging Rivers Trusts. Examples include:

Start up grants were provided to:

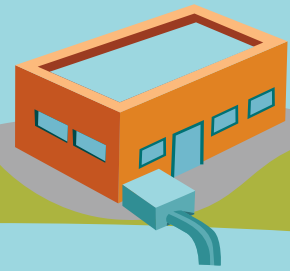
- » Maigne Rivers Trust
- » Inishwoen Rivers Trust
- » Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust

Support for events and activities included:

- » Moy Expo and Launch by the Moy Catchment Association
- » *Who's Who on Inishowen Rivers?* and *Slow the Flow* events
- » River Blackwater Catchment Trust Networking Event
- » Cloughaneely Angling Association: Preparation of a Catchment Management Plan
- » The Future of Galway's Waterways
- » Instream Works in R Deel by the Boyne Anglers
- » Thomastown Community River Trust: Open Water Engagement – Outdoor Classroom
- » Dodder Action Group conference
- » SuirCan Community Forum awareness initiative
- » Clonmel Workmens Boatclub River Suir exhibition – Clonmel Library

### 5.3 LEADER

- » The LEADER programme (2014-2020) offers substantial opportunities in terms of public engagement in the Water Framework Directive and the production of tangible outcomes (e.g., improved water quality and associated habitats). In Ireland, a budget of €250 million in grant aid is being provided to support rural communities and local businesses.
- » The LEADER Programme is administered at a local level by 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs) who operate on administrative or county boundaries and are made up of local representatives from the community, public and private sector. Each LAG is responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their geographical area. Projects must be aligned with the priorities of the Local Development Strategy (LDS); a 5-year plan that was developed by the LAG, in conjunction with the rural community, to support the sustainable development of the area. LEADER is administered in most LAGs by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). Grant aid is provided to projects under nine sub-themes, eight of which have some relevance to water. The three sub-themes under Theme 3 (Rural Environment) are of particular relevance (Protection and sustainable use of water resources; local biodiversity and renewable energy). Approximately €13m is available to communities under the water and biodiversity sub-themes offering significant potential resourcing for locally led community projects focusing on natural water management. In addition, the implementing bodies (rural development companies that administer LEADER on the ground) have a broad sectoral reach within the communities they serve providing a network where shared water objectives can be advanced on the ground. For example, during the RBMP (2010-2021) a number of Implementing bodies supported the Waters & Communities Office at the Town Hall meetings during the public consultation process.
- » In 2016 the Waters & Communities Office met with the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) and regional ILDN committees to discuss areas of common ground and strategies and supports regarding the WFD and planned RBMP consultations. Since then the Waters & Communities Office through the CWOs have been supporting communities in the development of sustainable water and biodiversity projects. Through this process, continued liaison with the Implementing bodies and the Department of Rural and Community Development a greater understanding has evolved on the potential and constraints facing communities in accessing the LEADER programme in the context of water management.
- » More generally Partnerships and Rural Development Companies were identified as having a proven track record in delivering a range of community outreach programmes and engagement. With some rural development companies, such as IRD Duhallow and Ballyhoura Development already active in the environmental area it was considered that this was a good model to promote and foster. The Waters & Communities Office are currently assisting LEADER companies to develop catchment visioning initiatives in Kilkenny, Kerry, Limerick and Cork.



COORDINATION

## 6.1 Northern Ireland

### CROSS BORDER NETWORKING

The border with Northern Ireland is crossed by several natural water bodies and catchments. These connect communities and agencies on both sides of the border and provide opportunities for collaborative projects through funding streams such as Interreg, Peace and Co-operation NI, covering a range of social, economic and environmental themes. The Waters & Communities Office supported these relationships and work with public bodies in cross border initiatives.

Examples of border region Interreg funded projects include:

- » **Source to Tap**, € 5.3m project which seeks to pilot sustainable solutions to pollution of drinking water sources in the Erne and Derg Led by NI Water, partners include Irish Water, AFBI, UU, EBR, and The Rivers Trust.
- » **Catchment Care**, €13.9m project which seeks to improve water quality in cross border catchments – the Arney, Finn and Blackwater. Led by Donegal County Council, partners include: AFBI, UU, GSI BGS, ABC Borough Council, Loughs Agency and IFI.
- » **CANN (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) Project** led by Newry Mourne District Council, has been awarded €7m to help protect endangered species and restore natural habitats through delivery of 25 Conservation Action Plans.

The contacts, collaborations and learnings arising from these projects will assist in the wider challenges of managing cross border catchments in the context of implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, especially in the following cross border Recommended Areas for Action:

- » Lough Melvin and Drowes;
- » River Finn;
- » Castletown;
- » Kilroosky Lough Cluster;
- » Mountain Water.

“

**Member States shall ensure that a river basin covering the territory of more than one Member State is assigned to an international river basin district.**

”

Article 3 WFD (EC, 2000)





Discussions with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, who regularly attend the Border Regional Operational Committee, provide opportunities to share information and experience and maximise benefits across shared water bodies.

In 2016 and 2017, the Waters & Communities Office supported and participated in the following cross-border activities:

- » Northern Ireland Future Partnerships Conference hosted by DAERA.
- » Aquacross Lough Erne Workshop, Castle Archdale Co Fermanagh.
- » Heritage Week and Water Heritage Day in Newry Mourne District Council Area.
- » Dundalk Bay Rivers Project – creating a community Vision for the rivers flowing into Dundalk Bay involves communities in south Armagh.
- » Shared Waters Shared Landscapes tourism publications with Newry Mourne DC, Monaghan County Council and the Waters & Communities Office was funded by DAHG's Cooperation with NI fund.
- » Meetings and collaboration with the Loughs Agency at their visitor centre in Derry.
- » The Loughs Agency, Waterways Ireland and NIEA staff have been invited to attend the Border Regional Operational Committee meetings.
- » Support for the Formation of Rivers Trusts in Ireland Workshop in Co Down in July 2016.
- » Lough Melvin *Who's Who?* Event with cross border interest groups.
- » Met with the Loughs Agency regarding management of the River Finn.
- » Strabane and Lifford Environmental Action Plan (SLEAP) Peace IV Project with Derry Strabane District Council.
- » Meetings with Erne Rivers Trust (cross-border trust involved in Source to Tap Project).
- » Assisting cross-border Rivers Trusts; the River Blackwater Catchment Trust with an application under Local Agenda 21 (schools River Watch Project) and the Inishowen Rivers Trust *Who's Who?* event.



## 6.2 Regional WFD Operational Committees

Following on from the inter-agency collaboration which took place at the catchment characterisation process a need was identified by the Waters & Communities Office for a similar forum to continue this engagement. With the approval of the Regional Water and Environment Management Committees it was decided to establish five Regional WFD Operational Committees.

The Waters & Communities Office approached all agencies with a stake in the WFD seeking their participation in this committee process. These committees provide a forum to enhance interagency networking, develop relationships and identify opportunities to work together to help achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. The committees first met in August 2017 and their terms of reference are included in Appendix E.

The Waters & Communities Office leads and provides executive secretarial service to the committees while they are chaired by a Director of Services from the Regional Management Committees. The committees meet four to six times per year and include representatives from 23 different agencies engaged in the implementation of River Basin Management Plan.

*(This role is shared with Catchment Assessment Team, following their establishment in 2018)*

Membership includes staff from the following organisations:



Wexford County Council logo on behalf of all 31 local authorities



An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine





## 6.3 Characterisation Programme

### 6.3.1 CATCHMENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

From March through to July 2017 the Waters & Communities Office organised and facilitated seven catchment assessment workshops. At these workshops staff from over 20 public bodies and organisations shared detailed scientific and technical knowledge on the characteristics and local pressures on water bodies within each catchment. Attendees included Local Authorities (staff and senior management), the Waters & Communities Office, EPA, Irish Water, IFI, Forestry Service, Coillte, NPWS, Teagasc, DHPLG, GSI, NFGWS, DAFM, Marine Institute, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Waterways Ireland, ESB, the Loughs Agency, EU LIFE Projects and Local Development Companies. The OPW also provided information directly where relevant.

These workshops, which lasted up to four days, provided a forum for public bodies to review and discuss the EPA and LA evidence on each catchment and input from their own areas of expertise, thus allowing for the capture of expert local knowledge to prioritise 'Areas for Action' on specific water bodies.

### 6.3.2 AREAS FOR ACTION

The list of priority Areas for Action were presented to Elected Members of Local Authorities and put on public display. All feedback received was reviewed in the first instance by LA scientific staff and then brought forward to the Regional Operational Committees where any additions/amendments to the list of priority Areas for Action were considered and recommendations then forwarded to the EPA for checking against the selection criteria.

The final list of priority Areas for Action was agreed at each of the five Regional Water and Environment Management Committees.



Public Information Display – Areas for Action

## 6.4 Working Groups and Steering Committees

Staff from the Waters & communities Office sit on a number of working groups and steering committees with a connection to water quality management and delivery of WFD objectives. The role of Waters & Communities Staff in sitting on these groups and committees is twofold. Firstly, to ensure the voice of the general public is heard, and secondly, to promote coordination and collaboration. Waters & Communities Office Staff have specialist expertise which they also bring to the discussions. The following is a list of such groups and committees:

- » **National Pesticides in Drinking Water Action Group:** A multi-stakeholder group, led by DAFM and focussing on actions to address the issue of pesticide exceedances in drinking water.
- » **National Technical Implementation Group:** Led by the EPA is an interagency group focusing on implementation of the WFD, ensuring coordination actions amongst stakeholders and tracking actions to address barriers, ensure effectiveness and for reporting purposes.
- » **DETECT:** EPA funded research Project led by AFBI, which aims to disentangle multiple stressors on the ecology of water bodies.
- » **EUTROSED:** EPA funded research project led by Trinity College examining eutrophication hotspots resulting from biogeochemical transformations and bioavailability of phosphorus in the fluvial suspended sediment of geologically contrasting agricultural catchments.
- » **SMARTER\_BufferZ (Specific Management And Robust Targeting of Riparian Buffer Zones):** EPA funded research project led by Teagasc will evaluate the effectiveness of targeted riparian management measures to maintain and enhance water quality in Irish rivers.
- » **Taxonomy and Phylogeography of Irish Arctic Char research project:** Led by Queens University Belfast, which aims to more fully describe the genetic and morphological relationships and patterns of the threatened fish species in Ireland.
- » **CFRAMS Progress Group(s):** A multi-agency group led by OPW. Members are kept informed of progress in relation to various Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.
- » **Investigative Assessment Working Group:** Led by EPA Catchment Management Unit, this group has developed methodologies for carrying out catchment investigations to determine what are the significant water quality issues with a view towards developing and identifying the most feasible mitigation measures.
- » **Source to Tap External Advisory Group:** The Source to Tap led by NI Water is a cross border Interreg funded project involving community outreach and measures to protect drinking water sources in Lough Derg and the Erne River catchment.



- » **Our Water Our Communities Steering Group:** Led by DkIT and funded through the Rural Water Programme. The project aims to build, measure and sustain community engagement in the development and delivery of strategies for drinking water source protection.
- » **Irish Forum on Natural Capital:** The Irish Forum on Natural Capital (IFNC) brings together a diverse range of organisations and individuals from academic, public, private and NGO sectors who are interested in the development and application of the natural capital agenda in Ireland.
- » **NIECE working group for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems engagement:** The working group was set up to promote exchange of information, shared learning, consistency of approach, and joint initiatives in implementing the public engagement strand for implementing the National Inspection Plan.
- » **RBMP Measure Working Group:** This group led by DHPLG sought to develop policy measures to be include in the RBMP.
- » **National Coordination and Management Committee:** This committee is led by DHPLG and was set up to embed the partnership approach to river basin planning and actively manage implementation of the Programme of Measures. The committee oversees regional work programmes and reports on progress to Ministerial Water Policy Advisory Committee.
- » **Water Policy Advisory Committee:** A high-level committee which provides advice to the Minister on policy direction and the implementation of the WFD in Ireland.
- » **Environmental Services National Training Group:** This is a steering committee which looks at existing training and identifies new training requirements for local authorities in the environmental area.

#### 6.4.1 WATER QUALITY AND AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The purpose of the working group is to provide a forum for member agencies to interact with policy, strategy and implementation of policy in relation to the interface of Water Quality and Agriculture; to facilitate regular exchange of information and knowledge between members; to discuss and develop a common understanding of issues and to seek synergies, collaboration and consistency between individual organisational functions and their objectives.

The Waters & Communities Office provide an executive secretariat service to this working group, driving agenda's, convening meetings and forums, transmitting data between DAFM, DHPLG, EPA and Local Authorities.

The working group also has a role in training, having developed the agricultural inspection course available through the Environmental Services National Training Group and continues to make amendments to its content and focus.

## 6.5 A UK-Ireland Knowledge Exchange

### **Making the most of our waters – A UK-Ireland Knowledge exchange.**

The Waters & Communities Office organised a two-day workshop in May 2016 to explore the potential role of Rural Development Companies and Urban Partnerships in water management and how we can manage our community water resources into the future.

The workshop facilitated knowledge exchange and learning from two UK initiatives; the LIFE+ WaterLIFE project ([waterlife.org.uk](http://waterlife.org.uk)) and the Catchment-Based Approach ([www.catchmentbasedapproach.org](http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org)) two closely aligned initiatives to drive collaborative water management. By looking at the UK and Irish experience in community-based water management, the workshop focussed on how to develop water-based projects, potential issues and how community groups can maximize the water potential of their area. Improved water quality and habitats underpin water-based ecotourism and communities also depend on these for a good quality of life. The workshop presented some examples to highlight potential roadblocks to good projects and how practical solutions can be achieved through a partnership approach, delivering better water management for everyone.



Site visit at IRD Duhallow

The overall objective was to explore and demonstrate ways that Rural Development Companies can become more than just funders by taking proactive roles in strategic planning, animation of and coordinators of stakeholders with an interest in sustainable water management in Ireland.

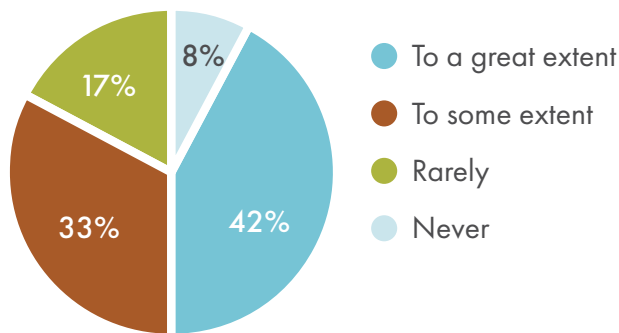


Between 40-50 delegates attended the two-day event from a range of public organisations from both the public and third sector including: The Waters & Communities Office, IRD Duhallow, Rural Development Companies and Urban Partnerships, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, World Wildlife Federation, The Rivers Trust, Cork County Council as well as many representatives from LEADER-funded projects.

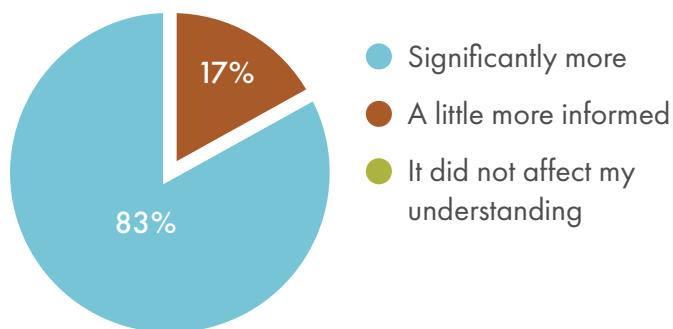
Delegates were asked to complete a short feedback form to measure to extent to which the learnings and successes from WaterLIFE had increased their understanding of the UK catchment management experience. 83% of respondents were significantly more informed about the catchment-based approach and collaboratively delivery (and its impact) after the workshop.

Figure 4: Survey questions

**Do you currently work with other organisations to deliver improvements to the water environment?**



**Are you more informed about the catchment-based approach and its impact?**







7

INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
SYSTEMS AND  
OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATION



The business case proposed that IT for the new office would be facilitated through local authority IT staff in host Councils. However, this proved unworkable due to lack of capacity in some local authorities, variability in software and protocols between local authorities and security access issues for a dispersed workforce.

A solution was identified and developed by the IT Lead to host required systems in the “cloud”. Although very new technology, it offered an ideal solution to capacity, spatially dispersed access and security at low cost. It also had the advantage of not requiring hard wiring through the use of mobile networks or computer servers and associated maintenance costs.

Using mobile hardware and cloud technologies the Waters & Communities Office has setup and continues to deliver a suitable solution which encompasses Communications, File Sharing and Intranet, GIS, Web Design, Back Office and Remote Support.

## 7.1 Office Administration

Support for the network of Regional Coordinators and Community Water Officers is provided from the ‘Head Office’ in Clonmel Co Tipperary. From here the three Specialist Staff provide ongoing support in addition to their principle functions, in the following areas:

Procurement	HR Functions
Website maintenance	Time management and annual Leave
Convening public and team meetings	Recoupment claims to DHPLG
Performance Management Development System	Office accommodation in host LA’s
Health and Safety	Team training
Travel and expenses claim system	Development of policies and procedures
Office accommodation nationwide	Team support

Setting up and managing an office with multiple locations nationwide requires proactive communications and IT systems. In start-up phase, above tasks were very time consuming, often impinging on the principle work function of support staff and coordinators. Although substantially complete work in these areas is an ongoing function and clerical support to be taken on in 2018 will help ease the burden.

## 7.2 Health, Safety and Welfare at Work

The health and wellbeing of staff in the Waters & Communities Office is paramount. Managing staff that are dispersed geographically requires special consideration. The set-up phase of the Waters & Communities Office provided such a challenge, but this was addressed, requiring a process of constant refinement. A Health and Safety Working Group made up of staff from each the Waters & Communities Office regions and KTCC met regularly to discuss issues of concern and to develop policies and standard operating procedures. The Waters & Communities Office arranges the required specific training and puts in place appropriate procedures for its staff, while working towards requirements for OHSAS 18001 accreditation.



# COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

From the outset, communications have been central to every aspect of the Waters & Communities Office. Delivering messaging and communications that are effective, meaningful and relevant to our target audiences is a priority. In this way we continually raise awareness of our role and purpose. A core message centres on the multiple benefits of a good water quality for human health, nature and local economies.

A communications strategy was developed to provide guidance and support for staff. It is important that, regardless of who we are speaking to, what they are interested in and how we are engaging with them, we remain relevant and align ourselves to the interests and needs of individuals and communities in their interaction with water.

### Marketing

The Waters & Communities Office logo and branding was designed to represent the different aspects of a healthy water environment. The ethos of the office is represented in the tagline “Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities”. The logo and branding are included in all our activities, engagements and publications, thereby helping to promote the Waters & Communities Office at every opportunity. A range of marketing tools and assets were developed for this purpose and these have helped establish the office within the public sphere. Raising the profile of the office and the Community Water Officers within the public sector was an early stage objective.

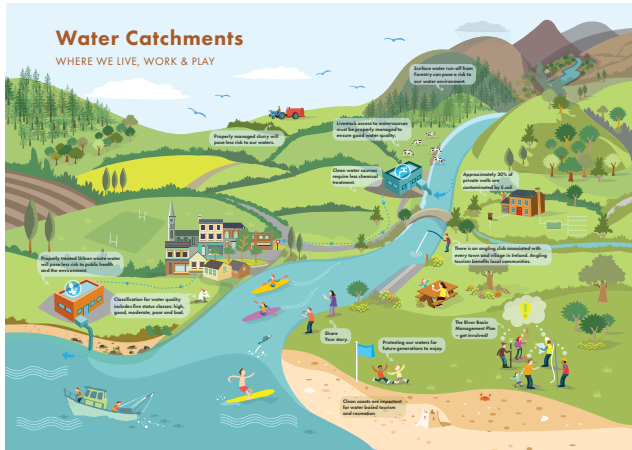
The Community Water Officers have been at the fore of public engagement on water quality. It has thus been necessary to have communications and marketing activities that are planned, reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis. An internal Communications Working Group with memberships across the organisation provides an effective forum for this.

## 8.1 Branding and Information Leaflets

The Waters & Communities Office developed a new brand and identity to help establish it in the sphere of water quality management and make the office easily recognisable by public bodies, stakeholders, communities and the public.

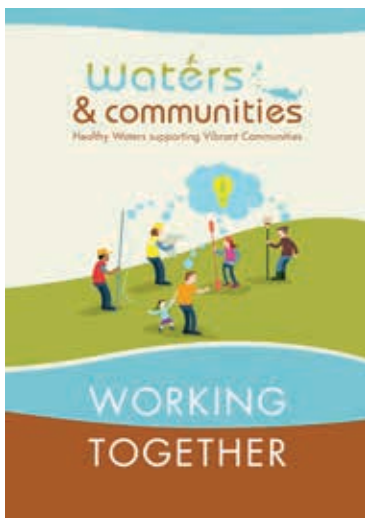


The office logo and associated branding were developed through a process of consensus within the team and consultation with a number of key stakeholders. This logo represents different elements of the water environment with a tagline of ‘Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities’. This ensures an identity for the Waters & Communities Office that is easily recognisable across a range of communications and awareness raising tools including websites, social media profiles, email signatures, PowerPoint presentation slides, headed business paper, printed publications, infographics, leaflets, brochures, pop-up stands, branded personal protective equipment etc. These include:



**Water Catchments, where we live work and play:** an infographic to develop awareness of the concept of a catchment and how human activities connect with the water environment.

**Get Involved:** a community information leaflet on the collaborative approach for the development of the 2nd Cycle RBMP and introducing the Waters & Communities Office.



**Working Together:** a Local Authority and public body information booklet on the collaborative approach for the development of the 2nd Cycle RBMP and introducing Integrated Catchment Management and LA and public body networking.

**Pull Up Banners:** designed to build awareness of the Waters & Communities Office by providing a visible presence at public meetings and events.





## 8.2 [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)

The Waters & Communities Office collaborated with the EPA and DHPLG in the development of [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie), this website shares science and stories about Ireland’s water catchments, and people’s connections to their local waters. Catchments.ie is a valuable communications tool for Community Water Officers who use it to provide information on water quality in specific water bodies and catchments. The website was launched at the EPA Water Conference 2016.

The Catchments Newsletter delivers up-to-date science and research on water quality and biodiversity, and shares stories about what has worked for communities involved with water all around Ireland. The Catchments Newsletter is disseminated by the Waters & Communities Office at meetings and events, in public buildings such as libraries and to LAs, agencies and communities. Both the Catchments Newsletter and Catchments.ie website provide access to science in a way that is accessible to a wide audience.

## 8.3 Website

The business case required the development of a website. This was developed, and content uploaded in house, by the IT Lead. Following discussions with the EPA whom were proposing the development of their own Catchments.ie website it was decided that this would become the main interactive website covering the work of the EPA Catchment’s Unit and the Waters & Communities Office. The website of the Waters & Communities Office would be retained as a portal with mainly static content where visitors would be directed to the Catchments.ie website for detailed information.



**The Waters & Communities Office Website:** [www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie). This website provides information on the Water & Communities Office and updates on events and initiatives.



## 8.4 Facebook and Twitter

Social media has been utilised to maximise engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals, community groups and public bodies. The benefits of social media engagement for the Waters & Communities Office include:

- » building and maintaining relationships through regular and sustained communications;
- » supporting and acknowledging the work of community groups and organisations;
- » promoting the work of Community Water officers;
- » sharing of accurate and reliable information;
- » publicising upcoming water related events and activities;
- » keeping up to date with public opinion;
- » keeping up to date with relevant research and reports.

The Waters & Communities Offices has maintained a presence across two main social media platforms, namely: Facebook Twitter



<https://www.facebook.com/watersandcommunities/>

The Waters & Communities Office's Facebook page has been used to promote content generated by the Community Water Officers through their 'on the ground' engagements with communities and at various events, and to share relevant posts from stakeholders. Through the Facebook page regular contact has been maintained with various public, private and community groups, for example Inland Fisheries Ireland, Public Participation Networks and Tidy Towns committees, across the entire country.



<https://twitter.com/WatersProgramme>

The @LawcoWaterNews (updated to @watersprogramme in late 2018) Twitter account has been used to regularly deliver Water & Communities Office messaging, information and updates Content generated through the activities of Community Water Officers and at events can quickly be delivered to target audiences through twitter. Media releases and information from government organisation at European, national and local levels, state agencies and academia can be accessed and shared, thereby providing our network of stakeholders with up to date research, news and information on water quality management in Ireland and further afield.

In addition, Instagram and Youtube have been utilised to a lesser extent, however these will be developed further in the coming year.

### Television

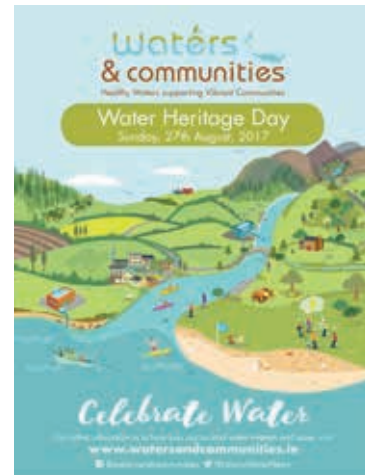
The Waters & Communities Office contributed to the environmental TV series *Eco Eye* on invasive species etc.

## 8.5 Heritage Week

### **Water Heritage Day: a national celebration of water**

National Heritage Week is held over the last week of August each year and is coordinated by The Heritage Council. The aim is to raise awareness and provide education on our natural, built and cultural heritage, thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation.

The Waters & Communities Office approached the Heritage Council to provide a focus on water heritage and designate the last day of the week as “Water Heritage Day”.



Water Heritage Day took place on Sunday 27th August 2017. Water Heritage Day provided an opportunity to focus on water heritage with water activities and events held across the entire country. Community Water Officers in collaboration with Heritage Officers worked with local community groups to organise and support events to ‘Celebrate Water’. These events provided an opportunity for young and old to explore and learn about their local water catchments – springs, holy wells, rivers, lakes and coasts.

Some of the events supported by Community Water Officers included: nature walks along rivers, lakes and coastlines; river exploration safaris; river family fun days; heritage walks and talks about canals; catchment bus tours from source to sea; photography exhibitions; visits to community wetlands; farm biodiversity walks; boating trips and seafood festivals.

A list of activities and events supported by LAWCO and Community Water Officers is included in Appendix H. These events were supported and publicised by the Heritage Council as part of Heritage Week.



Left to right: Michael Parsons, Minister Humphreys, Alan Walsh, Sheevaun Thompson, Michael Starrett and Karen Kennedy



## 8.6 Mission and Vision

At the end of 2016 the Waters & Communities Office developed a Vision and Mission statement which also included a set of core messages. This was developed to provide a clear direction and focus for staff and explain to communities and stakeholders the objectives of the Waters & Communities Office.

**Our Mission:** To support communities and work with public bodies and stakeholders to protect and care for the natural waters of Ireland.

**Our Vision:** The natural waters of Ireland, including rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches and groundwater, are important for ourselves, for wildlife and for our economy. These will be restored, protected and cared for by public bodies, stakeholders and local communities working together, now and into the future.



Storytelling about water engages young and old alike

### Vision Statement Development

1. That communities will become more involved in the care of their local rivers, streams and lakes.
2. Local communities reconnecting with their natural waters.
3. Through our work Local communities will become the custodians of their local water environment.
4. Local communities with the help of water agencies will reconnect with their rivers, streams and lakes, together keeping them clean for the benefit of people and wildlife.
5. Healthy waters will support vibrant communities.
6. Imagine our rivers running free, from source to sea, free from contamination and physical damage, providing clean water supplies, supporting industry and jobs, alive with diverse wildlife, providing 'blue spaces' for recreation, enriching both body and soul. Imagine people getting together to 'adopt a stream', linking with other communities to care for their river catchment, actively supported by government agencies.

### Mission Statement Development

1. To animate and facilitate communities in the management of our natural waters.
2. To reconnect communities with their natural waters and to promote networking and sharing of good ideas and actions.
3. To inform, to increase awareness and to build capacity for public participation in the Water Framework Directive.
4. To communicate our messages and to start new conversations around the water environment.

*continued*



## Core Messages

1. Discover the wonders of your local river.
2. Find out what issues are affecting your local water bodies.
3. Discover your water catchment.
4. A catchment is a specific geographical area that connects land, water and people from the mountains, through the lowlands to the sea.
5. We need to understand the different elements within a catchment; water, land, and human activities, for the benefit of present and future generations.
6. Healthy waters will support vibrant communities.
7. By working together, we will achieve more. (source Donal Daly, EPA).
8. Rivers impact positively on people's lives.
9. People have positive connections with rivers, lakes and the sea.
10. Interacting with a healthy water environment benefits health and wellbeing.
11. Local communities, public bodies and NGO's working together will make a difference.
12. Local knowledge together with scientific evidence will create a better understanding of our streams, rivers and lakes.



9

FUNDING

## 9.1 Funding

The necessity of public funding for water related projects was to the forefront of the agenda when the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office was established. The office provides a point of contact for community groups and local and public authorities who wish to fund community water initiatives.

The office has assisted in the preparation of grant applications submitted under the European Innovation Partnership to the Department Agriculture, Food and the Marine; the Fisheries Local Area Development Scheme under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; the development of EU LIFE projects funded by the European Commission under the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and several applications under the Rural Environment LEADER Programme 2014-2020 operated locally by 29 Local Action Groups.

A reference guide of funding supports available is updated on a bimonthly basis setting out water related funding opportunities and open calls to community groups and other relevant bodies. Information on available funding streams has been presented at the EPA Annual Water Conference; River Trust Workshops held in IRD Duhallow Development Company; Killyleagh, Co Down and Snatry/Naniken Catchment River Restoration Workshop and at various Public Participation Networks Plenary sessions and funding resource workshops during 2016 and 2017.

Through extensive public engagement it became evident that community groups have a keen interest in their local water bodies. It was identified that capacity building, assistance with grant applications, identifying funding and match funding sources was not enough to support community groups. Available funding was insufficient and limited in the context of the WFD objectives. Feedback from public meetings indicated that community groups were already engaged in positive water initiatives and would require dedicated WFD funding support to make further progress. As a result, it was felt that Community Water Officers needed access to a fund to support community led water projects.

During 2017, a business case for the establishment of an annual Community Water Development Fund to assist with the implementation of the 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This proposal was for a dedicated fund that communities and catchment partnerships could access to help deliver water quality objectives. This fund would also enhance the public engagement work of the Community Water Officers, as it would be administered by the Waters & Communities Office.

A desktop study of funding sources (for example the Heritage Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Local Agenda 21, LEADER) open to local communities in the Republic of Ireland was carried out. This showed that these funding streams were insufficient and did not specifically target water quality and WFD objectives.



Whilst there are sub theme addressing “Sustainable Use of Water Resources” and Protection and improvement of Biodiversity” under each Local Development Strategy, the allocation per Local Action Group area varies considerably and there are also issues around ease of accessibility of LEADER funding for community groups. The Waters & Communities Office will continue to work with the Local Partnerships to direct LEADER spending towards meeting WFD objectives.

A dedicated Community Water Development Fund to support active community participation in delivering WFD objectives has since materialised.

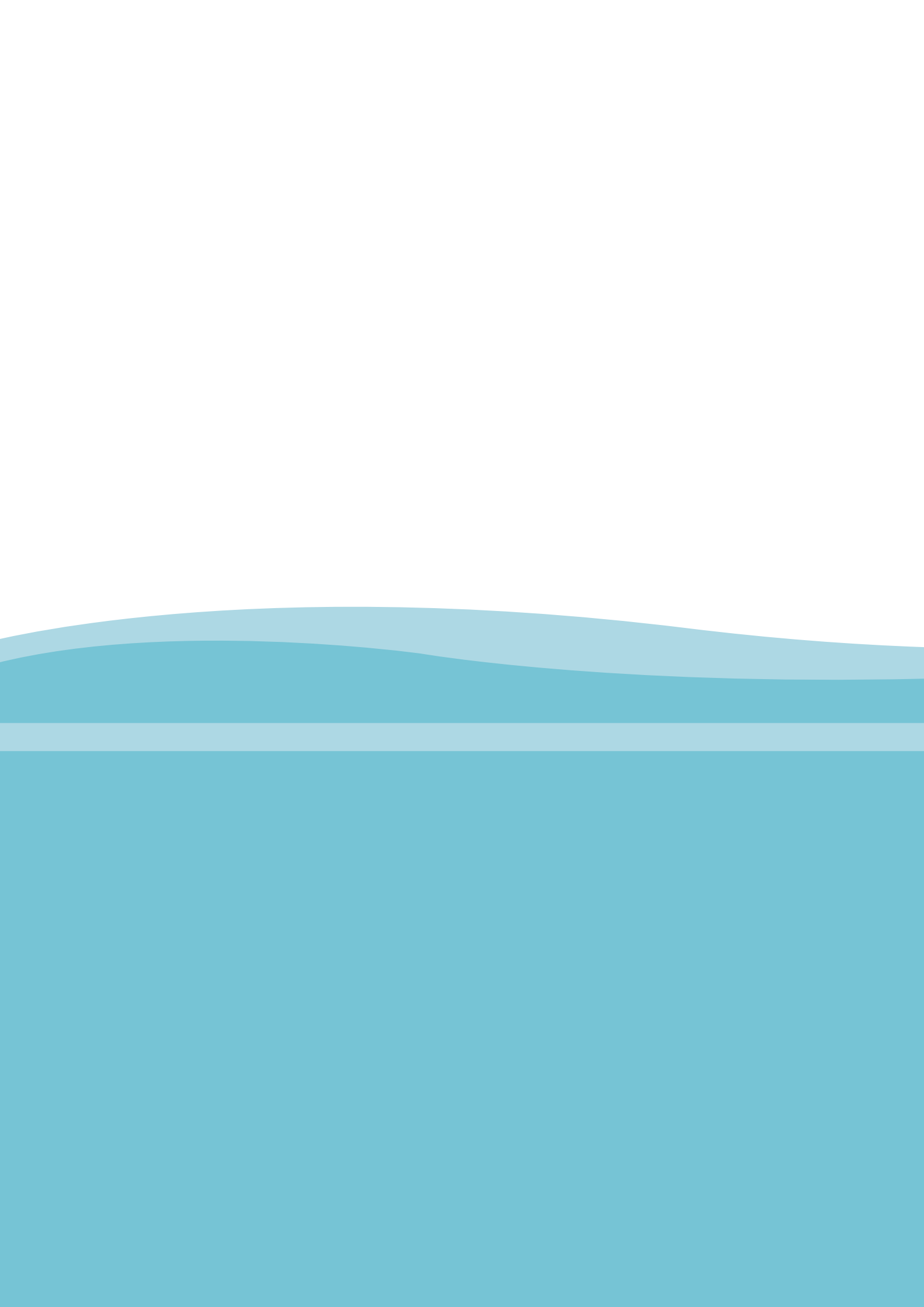
## 9.2 Waters & Communities Tidy Towns Special Award

The ‘Waters & Communities’ Tidy Towns special award is a collaboration between the Waters & Communities Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Waterways Ireland. The award recognises communities that are taking positive steps to raise awareness and appreciation of value of their local rivers, lakes, streams, canals and coastal areas.

It aims to encourage communities to get more involved with their local water bodies by helping to preserve, promote and fully utilise their local natural heritage. Community groups who have shown an appreciation for their water environment and water heritage are encouraged to apply.



The overall winner of the award for 2017 was Emyvale Tidy Towns group from County Monaghan. They were invited to the prestigious Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony in September 2017 where they were presented with prizemoney of €2,000 and a bespoke birdbox by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Deputy Michael Ring, TD. All other winners and runner ups were invited to Regional Awards ceremonies held in each region to be presented with their prizemoney. After receiving almost 60 entries from across Ireland in the inaugural year of the Award in 2017, it is set to run again in 2018.



# 10



AN  
FÓRAM  
UISCE

WATER FORUM/  
AN FÓRAM UISCE

The Water Forum was established in April 2017 to provide a platform for public and stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021) and discussion on all matters relating to water as an environmental, social and economic resource. The Forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to debate and analyse a range of issues regarding water quality, rural water concerns, issues affecting customers of Irish Water and the implementation of the WFD.

The Forum currently consists of 26 members representing organisations and sectors interested in water quality including consumer groups, Irish Water customers, community groups, River Trusts, user groups such as fishing and water sports, sectors such as the agricultural and industry, the community and voluntary sector, the environmental sector and organisations representing rural Ireland and the group water scheme sector.

Sharon Kennedy provides the secretariat to the forum and funding is directed and administered through the Waters & Communities Office.

Note: this will change in 2018 when the forum is expected to establish its own administrative structure.

11



MEET THE  
COMMUNITY  
WATER OFFICERS



**Gretta McCarron**

*Community Water Officer Louth, Monaghan, Cavan*

Since graduating in Earth Sciences, Gretta has worked primarily in environmental education. She taught children to record water quality in their local streams in the Vital signs project and developed Discover Primary Science programmes for the Ballybay Wetlands Centre. Training teachers to survey nature with school children was an important part of her work at the OPAL project at Queen’s University, Belfast. Gretta enjoys gardening and hill walking.



**Jimmy McVeigh**

*Community Water Officer, Donegal*

Jimmy has worked as a marine wildlife guide and has experience of delivering community-led environmental management projects. Jimmy also has a wealth of experience and skills in environmental education, having worked on the Green Schools; Clean Coasts and Blue Flag Programmes previously. Jimmy holds an Honours Degree in Zoology and has completed PG Diploma in Integrated Coastal Management. Jimmy’s interests include boats, islands, mountains, climbing, wildlife, sea fishing and cycling.



**Karen Kennedy**

*Community Water Officer, Leitrim, West Cavan, Longford*

Karen has experience of working in industry, rural development and higher education. She is very interested in sustainable community development and lifelong learning and has been an active volunteer for many years. Karen holds a BSc in Environmental Science and Technology, a Post Graduate Diploma in Education for Sustainability, and a MSc in Rural Development.



**Aoife McGrath**

*Community Water Officer, Meath and Kildare*

Aoife has extensive community development experience and has worked previously on the LEADER programme in County Meath. Aoife also has experience in Planning and Development and has previously project managed Irish Water’s First Fix Scheme. Aoife enjoys playing team sports – especially ladies soccer. Aoife is also an avid outdoor pursuits enthusiast and loves partaking in adrenaline-filled activities – skydiving in particular!



### **Mick Kane**

*Community Water Officer, Mayo and Roscommon (Mid and North)*

Mick has worked in the community sector for many years with a focus on recreation and tourism. He has also worked in the outdoor education sector for several years and is a keen surfer, hill walker and paddler. He is actively involved with community led projects locally and has a passion for wildlife and for protecting Ireland's natural environment. Mick lives on beautiful Achill Island with his wife and four children, all of which share his love of the outdoors and nature.



### **Catherine Seale**

*Community Water Officer, Galway and Roscommon (South)*

From Woodlawn in East Galway, Catherine was from an early age fascinated with nature. Indeed, a National School teacher once remarked that her most likely future profession was as a beach comber. Catherine has worked in the area of community engagement since 2009. Firstly, as an education guide at Ballycroy National Park, Co Mayo and more recently as a PhD researcher with The Open University and Teagasc in Athenry, Co Galway.



### **Basil Mannion**

*Community Water Officer, Offaly, Westmeath and Laois*

Basil has previously worked for Offaly and Westmeath Local Authorities and Bord na Móna Environmental Ltd. Basil has experience in all aspects of Environment (Water and Waste Management in particular), Planning (Domestic Wastewater Treatment) and Municipal Waste Water Services. Basil has a BSc in Environmental Science and Post Graduate Diplomas in Environmental Engineering and Energy Management. Basil is very active in his local GAA community and enjoys cycling, running and many other outdoors activities.



### **Sinéad Hurson**

*Community Water Officer, Dublin and Wicklow*

Sinéad has been working within the Environment Sector in the areas of Water Quality, Pollution and Waste Management for over nine years. She has worked in Monaghan County Council, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and most recently with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). She holds a BSc in Analytical Science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Protection.



**Bláithín Ní Ainín**

*Community Water Officer, Kerry*

Bláithín has been involved with catchment management in Australia, working with regional communities to develop regional catchment and waterway strategies. She has also conducted research on the effects of nutrient enrichment on Irish lakes and overgrazing on streams. She has a PhD in Freshwater Ecology and a Masters in Environmental Science. Bláithín loves being outdoors, hiking, running, swimming and surfing (badly).



**Ruairí Ó Conchúir**

*Community Water Officer, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary (North)*

Ruairí has worked for more than 25 years in agriculture, conservation and community-based natural resource management. He holds an MSc and a range of postgraduate qualifications. Having spent a decade in Africa, working mostly in land reform and conservation farming, he returned to Ireland in 2001. Since then he has worked largely in conservation, including five years with BurrenLIFE – Farming for Conservation in the Burren and five and a half years managing MulkearLIFE, an EU funded LIFE project focused on integrated catchment management on the Lower Shannon SAC. He lives in the Burren, has a keen interest in environmental education and is a Leave No Trace advanced trainer.



**Ann Phelan**

*Community Water Officer, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford*

Ann was previously a public representative at both local and national level. Her role involved rural economic development and community. She has a wealth of experience in water services, planning, community development, communications, heritage and conservation. Ann chaired the National Rural Water Services Committee and worked in conjunction with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. Ann is based in Kilkenny County Council and covers the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford.



**Kieran Murphy**

*Community Water Officer, Cork*

Kieran was previously project scientist on the IRD Duhallow LIFE Project in north Cork. This provided Kieran with years of experience in Special Area of Conservation and river catchment management, ecological surveys (including Freshwater Pearl Mussel), habitat restoration and public engagement. Kieran holds a BSc in Wildlife Biology.



## 11.1 Training

As part of the establishment of the office and intensive training programme was developed and provided which included:

- » Catchment Management;
- » Small Stream Risk Score;
- » Stakeholder engagement;
- » National WFD priorities;
- » SWaN structure and collaboration;
- » Integrated Catchment Management;
- » Community Engagement Strategy and engagement with representative organisations;
- » Engagement in the wider water sector, Change Management, Stakeholder Analysis;
- » Rivers Trust;
- » Drainage – best practice;
- » Irelands Water Quality;
- » River Basin Management Plan;
- » Communications.

As well as the above, training in relation to local government procedures was provided in respect to:

- » Performance Management Development System;
- » Ethics;
- » Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures;
- » Manual Handling;
- » Local Government Structures;
- » Health and Safety;
- » Community Engagement Strategy and engagement with representative organisations;
- » Engagement in the wider water sector, Change Management, Stakeholder Analysis;
- » HR policies and procedures.

Team meetings are held every month and always contain a training/learning element. This can be delivered by staff from local authorities, management, the Community Water Officers themselves based on their experience and work to date or invited speakers from relevant sectors.

## 11.2 Role

The CWOs role is primarily to support community involvement in the protection and management of water quality at the local level. The first priority for Community Water Officers was to identify communities and organisations with an interest in waters. This was done by consulting with local authority personnel, browsing the web, discussion with Public Participation Networks, browsing newspapers, Heritage officers, tidy town networks, social media and developing local contacts. Each group identified were then contacted to introduce the Waters & Communities Office and to develop and establish a relationship. This work is ongoing with some existing groups now only coming to light and new groups forming.

Groups were encouraged to take an interest in their local waters, by presenting information about their local waters and its quality with a long term view to having communities take on an “ownership” role in the local waters.

The Twelve Community Water Officers (CWOs) operate from different local authority centres and are a visible point of contact for members of the public and community groups interested in finding out more about their local water body or in developing initiatives or projects connected with local rivers, lakes and coastal areas.

The CWOs work alongside staff from the various LAs and public bodies and link with existing structures such as Public Participation Networks, LEADER groups/partnerships, Tidy Towns Committees and community groups to raise awareness around water quality and support for existing community action in related areas.

Several educational and networking events have been organised by local communities and supported by CWOs across the country such as: *Networking for Nature*, *A Tidy Towns Event*, *Who’s Who?* (showcasing the public agencies and organisations involved in water management in a specific catchment) and Catchment Visioning events.

CWOs are instrumental in supporting the establishment of rivers trusts and Catchment Associations in many parts of the country. These groups are important for facilitating local action and promoting stewardship of streams, rivers, lakes and coastal areas by facilitating knowledge and information sharing that can complement the work of public bodies and help deliver a whole catchment focus.



A training programme visit by the Waters & Communities Office to Cabragh Wetlands, Thurles, Co Tipperary in 2017


“  
***The Water Framework Directive emphasises active public involvement in its implementation, and the Department wanted to move beyond formal public consultation processes to create meaningful public engagement.***  
”

Cian Ó Lionáin, Principal,  
Water Quality Section, Department  
of Housing, Planning and Local Government

A stylized landscape illustration. The top half of the image is a solid olive green background. In the middle, there are two layers of light blue, rounded shapes representing hills or water. The number '12' is printed in a large, dark grey, sans-serif font, with the top of the '2' overlapping the top of the light blue shapes.

12

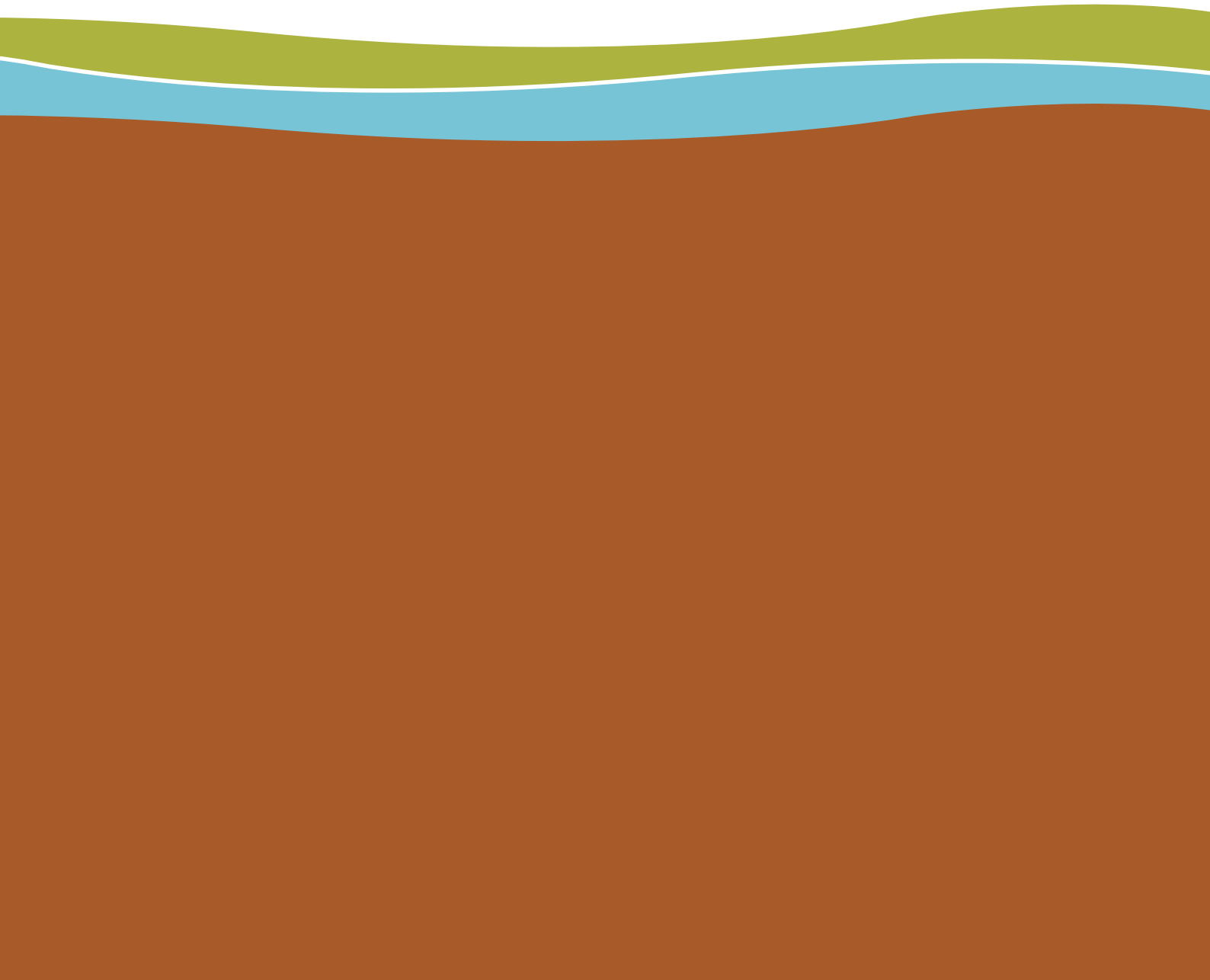
REGIONAL  
COORDINATORS



The Local Authority response to WFD objectives is being delivered through the existing five Regional Water and Environment Management Committees, supported by five new Regional Interagency Operational Committees. The Regional Coordinators act as secretariat to these regional structures, promoting coordination and collaboration between LAs and public bodies. The Regional Coordinators raise awareness of the WFD and river basin management planning within LA management, staff and elected members, focussing on the multiple social and economic benefits to be gained from a healthy water environment and promoting cross sectional cooperation within LAs in areas connected with Waters & Communities.

The Regional Coordinators provide direction for the Community Water Officers at the regional level and coordinate this across the five regions. Successful implementation of the WFD is dependent on effective networking and collaboration between LAs, public bodies and stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels, the Regional Coordinators aim to build and strengthen these networks to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaborations.

# APPENDICES





## Appendix A: Role of Regional Coordinators as Defined in the Business Case

At SEO/SE or equivalent grade, they will work as a team, each responsible for delivering an annual work programme in a regional authority area. They will divide responsibility on key tasks and issues such as liaison with Northern Ireland, agriculture, industry, planning, etc, to avoid duplication of effort and develop specific expertise. Their role will include:

### WFD Coordinator

Actively promote inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder participation, and facilitate learning and dissemination of best practice in implementation of WFD RBMP measures.

#### SKILL SETS:

- » Ability to influence decision makers.
- » In-depth knowledge of the WFD and water resource management.
- » Good communication and presentation skills.
- » Demonstrate innovative thinking and capacity to manage change.
- » To be a team leader.

#### TASKS INCLUDE:

- » Oversee engagement with LCDCs, PPNs, implementation groups and stakeholder networks.
- » Through developing networks, promote knowledge sharing and coordination in RBMP management with public authorities, sectoral interests and community groups.
- » Coordinate/Undertake statutorily required public consultation in development of the RBMPs and POMs.
- » Identify and promote opportunities for collaboration and joint actions between stakeholders.
- » Identify and promote catchment and locally-based projects to enhance and protect water quality.
- » Seek engagement with other environmental programmes which may impact on water.
- » Proactive liaison with regulatory bodies and networks.
- » Work collaboratively with EPA and LAs.
- » Assist in coordination local authority actions and resources.
- » Work collaboratively with local authority Community Development officers, Environmental Awareness Officers and Heritage Officers.



- » Engage with local authority members and SPC members.
- » Identify opportunities for shared service initiatives.
- » Facilitate and lead on national local authority implementation networks.
- » Work with DAFM to identify and implement targeted measures to improve and protect water quality under the Rural Development Programme.
- » Manage WFD Office staff and budgets.
- » Develop responses to new challenges.
- » Maintain flexible and adaptable structures.
- » Provide WFD expertise and overview.
- » Liaison with Irish Water and National Federation of Group Water Schemes.
- » Liaison with OPW flood (CFRAM) studies projects.
- » Develop information, education and technical knowledge with stakeholders.
- » Ensure 2-way communications through the proposed tiers of governance.
- » Facilitate social learning.
- » Seek linkages with similar focus groups and agencies (nationally and internationally).
- » Prepare and implement annual work programme.
- » Manage staff and budgets.
- » Establish linkages with national and regional groupings.
- » Work collaboratively with other stakeholders and seek opportunities for joint actions.
- » Assist in developing understanding of water resources management within local authority and public authority senior management.
- » Assist in integration of water resource management into national, regional and local plans and programmes.
- » Provide expertise in water resource management for the local authority sector.
- » Work with local authorities to develop annual WFD implementation plans.
- » Coordinate local authority WFD implementation in conjunction with the CCMA, DHPLG and the WPAC.
- » Develop and manage a public participation programme.
- » Assist in development of training programmes in water resource management.

## Appendix B: Support Staff Roles

At SEE/AO or equivalent grade, they have a distinct role within a multi-functional remit. These staff will provide key services that cannot be provided by the Coordinators and Community Water Officers due to the technical expertise required. Specific needs identified are expertise in accessing funding and managing funding requests and reporting to funders; data management including spatial analysis of information to inform the operational activities of the CWOs and to provide regional and national level input to WFD characterisation and River Basin Management Plan development activities; and expertise in communications, education, marketing and public relations. In addition to the roles outlined below, they will provide a research function and a “head office” contact point.

- » **Funding lead:** This falls into two areas, EU funding (InterReg, LIFE+, ESIF) and local funding through Pobal, LEADER, RDP, and other environmental funding schemes. This is a full-time role to assist local authorities, public authorities and community groups leverage funding for water resources management. They would also provide advice to communities on how to raise their own matching funding. (An integral key element of engaging communities is funding and without this expertise the Community Water Officers will be severely limited in what they can achieve.)
- » **Marketing and Communications lead:** A full-time role to develop national, regional and local level (“This is My River”) education and awareness programmes using traditional media such as websites, print and radio, and social media forums such as FaceBook, Twitter and blogs. This person would be given a significant role in developing a nationwide “Healthy Catchments” programme and liaison/coordinating with environmental NGOs with similar aims and programmes (An Taisce, SWAN, Angling Ireland, etc).
- » **IT and office functions:** This person will be a multi-functional manager and a vital member of the overall team. The role includes
  - Database development, management and reporting.
  - Water Resource Management analysis using GIS tools (and provision of GIS expertise to communities and local authorities without same).
  - Develop and maintain Website (and assisting communities in this regard).
  - Maintain system to record WFD implementation actions by LANWFDO.
  - Maintain LANWFDO IT equipment.
  - Financial management and maintain audit trail for funding claims.
  - File management and administration (cloud-based).



## Appendix C: CWO's – Their Roles as Defined in the Business Case

At assistant professional officer grade (equivalent to AE), their primary role is to engage with communities and individual sectors of society at local level.

They will actively promote inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder participation. They will facilitate learning and dissemination of best practice in the implementation of RBMP measures and they will implement an annual RBMP coordination and implementation plan agreed between all stakeholders.

Tasks would include:

- » To mobilise public participation and action in protecting our natural waters.
- » Develop local capacity to participate in management of our natural waters.
- » Assist communities in planning of RBMP local implementation actions.
- » Facilitate and assist communities in development of local programmes of measures.
- » Participate in water quality related activities and be an advocate for “water”.
- » Develop linkages with various sectors of society such as agriculture, industry, chambers of commerce, environmental NGO's, etc.
- » Assist in developing and implementation of a programme of proactive public liaison.
- » Develop communication and networks with NGOs.
- » Organise River Walks in conjunction with local groups.
- » Provide resources for schools and teachers.
- » Assist NGO's with identifying funding resources.
- » Assist NGO's with preparation of local water action plans.
- » Prepare and distribute newsletters.
- » Engage proactively with news media.
- » Assist in setup of River Trusts and water related NGOs and liaise with same.
- » Be an Ambassador for water quality at public events.
- » Develop and facilitate participatory events e.g. citizen science initiatives.
- » Liaise and collaborate with local authority Environmental Awareness Officers, Heritage Officers and local community enterprise officers.
- » Engage proactively with local authority Public Participation Networks/Community Engagement Networks.

## Appendix D: Regional Water and Environment Management Committees – Terms of Reference

### Terms of Reference for the Midlands and East Regional Water and Environment Management Committee

#### 1. Purpose of Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to facilitate regular exchange of information and knowledge between the various agencies and local authorities involved in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other environmental functions in the midland and eastern region of Ireland. It will be a forum for discussing and collaborating on technical and management issues.

It will oversee activities including cross-cutting issues relating to WFD water matters across the full range of water, environmental and land-use planning areas.

#### 2. Committee Members

- » Directors of Services Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Wicklow, Kildare, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath and Longford Councils.
- » Regional Co-ordinator, Local Authority Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO).
- » EPA Office of Evidence and Assessment.
- » EPA Laboratory Dublin.
- » Other organisations and agencies maybe invited as required.

#### 3. Committee Operation

**Chairperson:** Rotated at two yearly intervals between Local Authority Chief Executives starting with Dublin City Council.

**Secretariat:** Local Authority Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO).

- » The Committee will meet at least two times and up to six times per year depending on workload.
- » Sub-groups may be formed for specific programme areas as required.
- » The Committee will annually review its terms of reference and objectives.
- » The Committee may adopt separate terms of reference for specific issues as it sees fit.
- » The Committee may invite other agencies to become permanent or temporary members of the Committee.



#### 4. Terms of Reference and Objectives

The Committee will:

- i. Oversee the development of WFD work programmes for the region and monitor their implementation.
- ii. Collaborate with WFD Tier 1 and Tier 2 management groups to facilitate all three governance tiers working together in a coordinated manner to bring consistency of approach to implementation and monitoring by LA's/EPA.
- iii. Report to the LA national WFD committee, National Implementation Group and where appropriate, the Water Policy Advisory Committee.
- iv. Seek continuity and consistency of WFD implementation across all local authorities and with other stakeholders.
- v. Develop framework for coordination of WFD implementation measures across the region.
- vi. Monitor WFD implementation in the region.
- vii. Lead on change for new WFD implementation and management methodologies in local authorities.
- viii. Be a conduit for engaging relevant stakeholders in WFD water matters.
- ix. Advise on the means of communication of the WFD public participation programme.
- x. Facilitate communication and networking among stakeholders.
- xi. Provide advice and recommendations on suitability of WFD measures at local and regional levels.
- xii. Explore opportunities for joint actions and sharing of resources between local authorities.
- xiii. Nominate representative(s) to the LA's National WFD Committee. (This will normally be the chair of this committee)
- xiv. Discuss and make recommendations on any other WFD issues which the Committee deems relevant.
- xv. Pursue efficient and value for money opportunities.

These terms of reference with respect to WFD and river basin management shall be submitted to the LA National WFD Committee and the Water Policy Advisory Committee for approval.

This is a live document and subject to change.

Adopted 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

## Appendix E: Regional WFD Operational Committees – Terms of Reference

**Chair:** DOS from Regional WEMC Meet approximately four to six times per year – as required

**Membership:**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Local Authorities         | 13. National Parks and Wildlife        |
| 2. Inland Fisheries Ireland  | 14. Regional Authorities               |
| 3. Waterways Ireland         | 15. Irish Water                        |
| 4. Office of Public Works    | 16. Geological Survey of Ireland       |
| 5. Teagasc                   | 17. LAWCO                              |
| 6. Coillte                   | 18.                                    |
| 7. Department of Agriculture | 19. ESB (Shannon and Liffey)           |
| 8. EPA (regional office)     | 20. Bord Iascaigh Mhara                |
| 9. Bord Na Mona              | 21. Sea Fisheries Protection Authority |
| 10. Heritage Council         | 22. Forestry Service                   |
| 11. Failte Ireland           | 23. NFGWS                              |
| 12. Marine Institute         | 24. <i>Others as required</i>          |

**Role**

1. **Community engagement – liaison on cross cutting issues**
  - a. *Group Water Schemes*
  - b. *Angling Groups*
  - c. *Etc.*
2. **Liaison with PA’s at operational level**
  - a. *Develop regional annual work programme*
  - b. *Identify areas for collaborative action*
  - c. *Prepare annual implementation report (track progress)*
3. **Developing and collaborating on multi-agency programmes**
4. **Delivery of RBMP/POM’s in cross boundary/cross agency areas**
5. **Coordination of education and awareness programme**
6. **Collaboration with Irish Water**
7. **Work with “New Regional Resource”**
8. **Sharing knowledge and experience**
  - a. *Develop best practice*
  - b. *Training*
9. **Liaise with EPA on ongoing characterisation**
10. **Record POMs implementation**
  - a. *Liaison with Drainage Committees*
11. **Coordinating WFD sampling programme**
12. **Data Sharing**



## Appendix F: Examples of Community Water Officers Work

### *Who's Who on the Inishowen Rivers? – Connecting Communities*

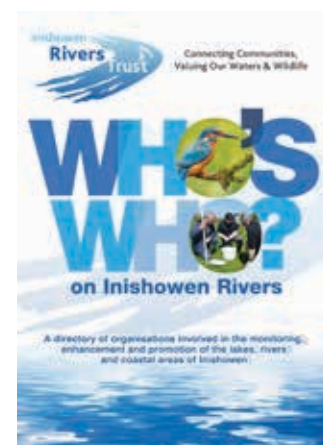
The Inishowen Rivers Trust (IRT), in collaboration with the Waters & Communities Office and the Rivers Trust, ran a special event in An Grianán Hotel in Burt, Co Donegal. Everyone from the local community was invited to participate in this event – landowners, farmers, anglers, foresters, walkers, painters, environmentalists, bird watchers, cyclists – the object of the event was to meet, share and learn about the natural waters of the Inishowen.

Communities across Inishowen and beyond had the opportunity to meet other groups and agencies involved in the monitoring, promotion and enhancement of Inishowen waters. Statutory agencies were on hand to meet the public and provide information on the role of their organisation and responsibility to the lakes, rivers and coastal areas of Inishowen.

Over 20 organisations with a role in monitoring, enhancing and promoting our waters were in attendance these included: An Taisce, BirdWatch Ireland, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Coillte, Dept of Agriculture, Donegal Angling Tourism Alliance, Donegal County Council, Donegal Tourism, EPA, Forest Service, IDP, Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association, Inishowen Tourism, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Loughs Agency, National Parks and Wildlife Service, OPW, Rural Recreation Officer, Teagasc, Waters & Communities Office, The Rivers Trust.

The event was very well attended by various interest groups and individuals from anglers to artists and fishermen to farmers. There were presentations given on the work of Rivers Trusts, the value of our water environment, catchment management and on the role of the Rivers Trust. There was a visioning exercise undertaken to collect the views, hopes and aspirations, of those in attendance, for the natural waters of the Inishowen. Feedback from the *Who's Who?* event has been positive and those in attendance appreciated the work of the Trust in organising a very inclusive cross-sectoral meeting.

The Waters & Communities Office funded the event, assisting with event organisation, and in the compilation of a *Who's Who on Inishowen Rivers?* booklet for distribution to the community. The booklet can be downloaded from: <https://www.catchments.ie/download/whos-inishowen-rivers/>.



*Who's Who* event with agencies and participants

## A Vision for Dundalk Bay Catchment

A collaborative effort involving the Waters & Communities Office, Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Rivers Trust and the Dundalk Bay catchment communities to develop a 'vision' for the future of the rivers and coastline of the Dundalk Bay catchment.

Eight community meetings were held across the catchment using the RIPPLE method for public engagement as developed by the Ballinderry Rivers Trust. This generated conversations amongst participants and opportunities to share their memories of their local waterways. These memories and shared stories provided inspiration for the groups 'visions' for their local catchment and coastline.

A total of 139 people contributed to the vision and out of that 84 said they would like to be involved in the delivery of the *Vision for Dundalk Bay Catchment*. Mark Horton, Alec Rolston, Bernie O'Flaherty and Gretta McCarron collated the vision and actions from each meeting into a coherent overall draft vision for the catchment, which was later ratified by consensus at a meeting in Carrickmacross. The community vision for Dundalk Bay Catchment is as follows:

- » Protect and improve the water quality of our rivers, lakes and coastal waters.
- » Protect and improve habitats and biodiversity of our aquatic ecosystems and adjacent areas.
- » Learn more about our water environment and the role we can play in its protection and improvement.
- » A water management environment and community that is more resilient to climate change.
- » Sustainable recreation and tourism along our waterways that provides benefits for the community, environment and local economy.

The next steps is to prioritise the vision's actions and identify actions that are easily achievable and those that will take some time to achieve. In this way a draft plan will be developed for the delivery of the vision. Information on delivery mechanisms will be promoted as a guide for individuals and groups to champion the vision actions into the future. To further support the delivery of the vision's actions a networking *Who's Who?* event will be organised, to bring together all water stakeholders in the catchment and the local communities to share knowledge and build relationships.



Kingscourt meeting



Vision actions by category: Although the focus was on water quality 44% of actions are related to recreation and awareness. This would support the notion that a wider engagement may be required (with tradition sports, tourism, education groups) to deliver water quality actions within communities.

### Networking for Nature – Tidy Towns Event Carrick-on-Shannon

Over sixty people representing Tidy Towns groups from Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford and Sligo attended a Networking for Nature event on the 11 March 2017 in Carrick-on-Shannon. The event was jointly organised by Leitrim County Council and the Waters & Communities Office. The aim was to bring people together in the Region to share experiences and learn how communities can protect and enhance their local waters and include potential activities in their local Tidy Towns plans.

Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services with Leitrim County Council welcomed and commended the Tidy Towns on the excellent work they do in their communities. Pdraig Mc Shera (Area Engineer) and Carmel Coll (Environmental Awareness Officer) highlighted the Local Authority resources available to support Tidy Towns Groups with their efforts.

Meanwhile Bernie O’Flaherty and Karen Kennedy, from the Waters & Communities Office, spoke about the value of our water catchments and the importance of reconnecting with our rivers and lakes as they offer important opportunities for health and wellbeing. They also gave practical examples of how community groups can get involved in protecting their local water environment and encouraged people to attend upcoming meetings on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland to have their say on the proposed measures to protect and improve our natural waters for the next four years.

The day provided lots of opportunity for interaction and there was plenty of note taking for eager groups wishing to increase their marks! Guest speakers included Emer Brennan from Monaghan Tidy Towns Network who encouraged groups to go and visit other Tidy Towns as their network had benefited from a recent visit to Letterkenny.





Bernie O’Flaherty presents on LAWCO at Networking for Nature

Billy Flynn Ecologist and Tidy Towns Adjudicator highlighted some interesting case studies and stressed “the importance of access to waterways”.

Also on hand to offer support and advice were Leitrim Development Company, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, The Organic Centre and BirdWatch Leitrim. The day finished with a biodiversity walk and talk along the boardwalk at the River Shannon led by Billy Flynn in glorious sunshine

### **Cuan Beo; Reconnecting the Land and the Sea in the Counties of Clare and Galway**

Growing concerns about the decline of water quality in South Galway Bay and the consequences for the quality of life in local rural villages motivated the local community and businesses to come together to form a local community group called ‘Cuan Beo’. The group was established with the support of FLAG WEST as a not-for-profit company with a mission of improving the quality of life, environment, economy and heritage around Galway Bay and to help develop local resources in a sustainable way. It has taken inspiration from organisations such as Burren Beo, which has had significant impact on land management in the Burren region of South Galway and North Clare. According to Diarmuid Kelly, Chairman of Cuan Beo, ‘our aim is to raise awareness of those living in the catchment of Galway Bay, and indeed those governing it, that life quality and water quality are inextricably linked’.



Cuan Beo has set about organising educational, heritage and resource management events to highlight the importance of protecting water quality and the marine natural resource. Rather than establish new events and festivals linked to the sea, Cuan Beo supported existing local events such as Crinniú na mBád in Kinvara and the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival. As the Crinniú na mBád Festival coincided with National Heritage Week and Water Heritage Day, Cuan Beo, with funding from the Waters & Communities Office, organised a presentation by Prof Noel Wilkins on the Heritage of the Native Oyster in Galway Bay followed by a Questions and Answers session with the popular local author. They also organised In advance of the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival, a Native Oyster Workshop 2017 (NOW17) which brought together Native Oyster Fishermen from the eight remaining oyster fisheries in Ireland with the relevant Government agencies responsible for their management and protection. The NOW17 event concluded with the official launch of Cuan Beo, by Cllr Eileen Mannion Caothairlaoch of County Galway. This launch was also attended by Minister of State, Seán Kyne TD and local elected representatives Ann Rabbit TD and Councillors Martina Kinnane and Peter Feeney.

Looking forward, Cuan Beo intends to build its membership, knowledge and capacity to support the sustainable development of resources in the coastal communities of South Galway and North Clare.



Cuan Beo Committee



Galway Hookers

### The Moy Catchment Association

Communities from across the River Moy catchment came together in November 2016 in efforts to start a conversation – a conversation about conservation – on protecting one of the great natural resources in the north west, the River Moy. From this meeting the Moy Catchment Association was formed, made up of all the fishing clubs and private waters owners in the Moy Catchment Area. They subsequently established a committee with aims and objectives and a created a mission statement:

*The Moy Catchment Association represents clubs, fishery owners and anglers who have an interest in improving the ecology, fisheries and wildlife of the Moy catchment area. With a commitment to working in partnership with the Moy Valley communities, stakeholders, government agencies at both national and local level, and all others who have an interest in improving the ecology of the area for fisheries and for wildlife.*

Several events took place throughout 2017 including community awareness days and youth fishing workshops. The next step for the group was to look to progress into a Rivers Trust.

Mount Falcon Estate in Ballina played host to a historic event organised by the Moy Catchment Association on 29th November 2017 called 'The Moy Trust Expo', this brought together community groups and government agencies to present on the process to date and the benefits of forming a river trust. Involving local communities in this way breeds success by creating awareness and education at the catchment scale.



MCA Youth Fishing Workshop

The event was opened by Councillor Michael Smyth who spoke positively about the council's role and its commitment to the success of this local catchment initiative. The M.C.A chairperson Jim Wilson then gave some background on how the Expo event came about. He was followed by Ray Spain, Regional Coordinator with the Waters & Communities Office who outlined their role in supporting communities to take a greater role in managing water quality through an ethos of healthy waters and vibrant communities.

The Keynote address was by Mark Horton, All-Ireland director of the Rivers trust who spoke of the positive impact trusts are having for both the water environment and local communities with examples throughout Ireland and the UK.

Jim Wilson rounded off the talks by thanking everyone for attending and asked people to mingle, network and put forward ideas for suitable projects as well as nominating their willingness to join the trust.

Community Waters Officer Mick Kane is working closely with the trust to develop a programme of activities and projects for 2018. Several funding applications been submitted with a focus on the positive effects of catchment management in the North West region.



Moy Catchment Association group photo



## Willow Park Community Group Athlone, River AI Clean-up and Regeneration Project

The River AI is a tributary of the mighty River Shannon and on its journey the AI flows through the Willow Park Housing Estate in Athlone, Co Westmeath. The local community in Willow Park have come together in recent months to organise several river clean-ups along the AI. The aim of these clean-ups is twofold, firstly to tidy up the area and increase the amenity value of the river for the local community, and secondly to raise awareness of the wildlife and heritage to be found around Willow Park and in the wider Athlone area. Members of the 'Willow Park Community Group', 'Friends of the River AI' and Basil Mannion of the 'Waters & Communities Office' have been joined each Saturday for the clean-ups by volunteers from amongst the local community.

This Willow Park Community initiative aims to raise awareness of this problem and reduce occurrences, eventually eliminating fly-tipping and dumping all together from the area, it hoped this will be encouraged through increased local pride and community stewardship of the River AI by the local community and stakeholders. Basil Mannion, Community Water Officer for Westmeath is providing support and assistance to the Willow Park residents in their efforts and believes there are opportunities for this river clean-up to provide a model that can be delivered in other locations for revitalising a river in an urban setting. Funding for this initiative is being sought through the Anti-Dumping and littering Fund Second Phase, from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

The Stakeholders in this case being the Willow Park Community Group, Willow Park residents, Westmeath County Council, Councillor Tom Farrell, Inland Fisheries Ireland, OPW, EPA Catchments unit, Irish Wildlife Trust, Athlone Municipal Council, local business people, local angling groups and Athlone Institute of Technology.



Community Clean Up River AI



Skip full of rubbish taken from river

## The Dodder Gathering 2017

The Waters & Communities Office, Dublin City Council's Parks and Landscape Services and Water Framework Directive Office along with Dodder Action community group, hosted the Inaugural Dodder Gathering at the Hive in Herbert Park over a weekend in April 2017. The 3-day event brought together over 400 people from the catchment to enjoy activities on the river and exchange knowledge and ideas on its current and future management.



Sineád Hurson engaging the next generation

On Friday, pupils from local primary and secondary schools participated in a range of scientific learning activities and a "Bioblitz challenge" focusing on the River Dodder.

On Saturday morning, a networking summit was held with representatives from approximately 20 local community groups from the Dodder catchment. This summit consisted of presentations from Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Inland Fisheries, EPA, the Waters & Communities Office and NPWS. Participants then took part in a Café-style discussion regarding the river, what it means to them, what concerns they had and what actions needed to be carried out to promote and protect the river.

In the afternoon, there were interactive displays on wildlife, from the Herpetological Society of Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland, INVAS Biosecurity, An Taisce, Clean Coast, Coastwatch Ireland, The Irish Wildlife Trust and DCC's Biodiversity/Biosphere roadshow.

The family fun day on the Sunday, was a great success with activities such as pond dipping, face painting, wildlife displays, river insect identification, fly casting demonstrations, angling lessons and historic and wildlife walks. There was also an opportunity for people to submit their views on the draft River Basin Management Plan.

This inaugural Dodder Gathering is the start of a collective and collaborative approach between communities and agencies in the management of the river Dodder. The involvement of the Waters & Communities Office in the organisation and management of this event ensured that groups and speakers from throughout the wider catchment were invited.



Primary school students were presented with their Dodder Defender Certificates by Councillor Patrick Costello, on behalf of the Lord Mayor in September 2017 for having taken part in this event earlier in the year and having demonstrated that they will defend the river for future generations thereby encouraging a love of science, culture and environmental action.



## Celebrating Community Success in Ashbourne

Great strides have been made in Ashbourne, County Meath to improve the Broadmeadow River. In 2017, the community galvanised themselves to form a Broadmeadow River Action Group to help tackle litter pollution and diffuse urban pollution on the River. During its first year, the voluntary group have achieved some commendable results. From organising multiple river clean-up days; to being awarded a €7,000 grant under the Anti-Dumping Initiative; to hosting a memorable Family Fun Day to mark Water Heritage Day – the Ashbourne community are helping to restore the Broadmeadow to its former glory.



In collaboration with Meath County Council the community received grant-aid to combat illegal dumping along the River. The grant-aid was used to purchase clean-up equipment; commission before and after drone footage of illegal-dumping sites; install fencing and signage; as well as to roll out education and awareness raising initiatives. The grant-aid provided a major boost to the Broadmeadow River Action Group and will greatly assist them to continue their clean-up efforts for a long time to come.

Working with the Waters & Communities Office, the community are steadfast in their goals for 2018. Major plans are afoot to continue the regular clean-up days; as well as organising more family fun days; and working with the IFI to roll out its “Something Fishy” Education programme to the local schools. It is hoped the education programme will raise awareness of the River among the student-population in the town as well as combatting illegal dumping along the River.

2017 has been a year of remarkable success for the newly formed Broadmeadow River Action Group – congratulations to all the local volunteers involved. 2018 looks set to be an even more commendable year.

## Citizen Science Small Coastal Streams Monitoring Programme

The project was funded by the South-East Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and was led by Wexford County Council, Coastwatch and the Waters & Communities Office. Particular mention must be paid to Mairead Shoare, Agricultural Scientist with Wexford County Council for her huge effort with this project.

Members of the local community were trained in citizen science by Dr Ken Whelan, Dr Fran Igoe and Karin Dubsy to assess the quality of small coastal streams and gather baseline data using methods derived from the WFD parameters. Small coastal streams are often too small to be included in national water quality monitoring programmes. Over 20 volunteers/'stream-watchers' took part in various stages of this project. Thirteen coastal streams were monitored across the Counties of Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford and Dublin, five of these were in Bannow Bay, Co Wexford.



The concept of bioindicators was very new to most volunteers and they got really engaged with the fish and macro-invertebrates. Some wanted to develop their identification skills and learn how they could improve fish habitat and get involved in stream restoration. Fish obstacles were common, and not something the volunteers had thought about previously. One new seagrass (*zostera*) bed was discovered. Seagrass is a water quality indicator under the WFD. Invasive species became a topic of concern.



There were mixed opinions on the sources of pressures, including agricultural, industrial and domestic waste-water. Volunteers were really interested in the nitrate testing.

The engagement element of this project was a huge success, however there is more work to do regarding the data that is being collected with regard to how it can be used to inform investigative assessments and enforcement activities in priority catchments.

### Community Dialogue on the Inny and Cumberagh River Catchments, Co Kerry

On a cold, wet evening in December 2017 more than 60 local people attended the Dromid Community Centre on the Iveagh Peninsula in South Kerry to listen to speakers from the Waters & Communities Office, Forest Service, South Kerry Development Partnership, Teagasc, Met Éireann and Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust. The central theme of the night was the declining water quality within these river catchments, how this can be tackled, and what opportunities there are within existing or upcoming schemes. The evening came about after Eoin Ryan approached the Waters & Communities Office to organise it, after hearing about the confronting nationwide decline in water quality with the publication of the EPA's *Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2015* report (Autumn 2017).



Bláithín Ní Ainín, Community Water Officer for Co Kerry, presented information on the changes in the water quality of the river systems and talked about pathways from which pollution sources can enter waterways. Ciarán Nugent of the Forest Service described the Native Woodland Scheme and where it could be used by farmers. An overview of the upcoming Locally Led Scheme for the Conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and the LEADER funding calls was given by Joe McCrohan of South Kerry Development Partnership. Kevin O’Sullivan of Teagasc gave a presentation on water quality regulations and good farm practices. There was great discussion after the presentation of Charles Gillman from Met Éireann who talked about the status of climate change in Ireland and showed the changing temperatures projected for the planet in the coming decades. Eleanor Turner of the Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust talked about the aims of the Trust and their plans for monitoring the small streams.



There was lively debate at the end of the evening. The difficult conditions under which people are working, particularly farmers, was highlighted by several participants. Several people endorsed the view that everyone working together will best solve the issues with water quality. It was emphasized by participants that looking at only the physical issues of the rivers is not enough, that the tourism, cultural history, social and health aspect of the catchments need also be considered as well as education and that a meaningful relationship between the community and the public authorities would be very valuable. A follow-up event focussing on the community’s views is being planned for Spring 2018.



Bláithín Ní Ainín speaking at the Inny and Cumberagh River Catchments event

## A Local Champion on the River Funshion

The first meeting to discuss the River Funshion took place in November 2016. Organised by local champion, David Lee, and the Waters & Communities Office, the meeting was attended by an eager crowd of over 60 people to hear about the history of the river and its future. Those who attended include public representatives, Tidy Towns committees, community councils, angling groups, gun clubs, and state agencies including EPA and



NPWS. After hearing the Waters & Communities Office can support initiatives to improve the status of the rivers in the Funshion catchment, it was decided to form a committee that could work with the Community Water Officer with a view of seeing these improvements come to pass.

Along with the committee, made up of members from the many communities in the catchment,

an advisory group was also formed. This group consists of staff from Cork County Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland, local elected officials, Cork Environmental Forum, the Waters & Communities Office, David Lee and Catchment Committee Chair, David Coughlin. This group meets four times a year to discuss the issues brought forward by the Catchment committee.

The Catchment committee is working well with many people living and working along the Funshion and its tributaries. Landowners have agreed to have trees planted along the rivers in a bid to stabilise their banks. Glanworth Scouts were very keen to lend a hand in any way they could to improve the biodiversity along the Funshion. Their leader Arthur Wilson agreed to build and install nest boxes for dippers and artificial otter holts near the historic Glanworth Mill. Building and installing can raise awareness among communities of the wonderful ecology of a river. With the animal homes ready to be installed, awareness days are planned for 2018.

With the inclusion of two Recommended Areas for Action within the catchment, 2018 provides a great opportunity for the Funshion Catchment Committee and the relevant agencies to work together to improve the status of the Funshion and its tributaries.



David Lee and Kieran Murphy



## Crayfish Plague Outbreak – A Multi-agency and Community Response

An outbreak Crayfish Plague was confirmed on the River Suir in January 2017. The Crayfish Plague is a type of mould that kills Crayfish on contact. This poses a serious threat to our native White-clawed Crayfish, which are the only species of Crayfish naturally occurring in Ireland. Ireland's rivers and lakes are important habitats for White-clawed Crayfish as many European populations have been wiped out by the Crayfish plague and competing non-native crayfish.

The River Suir is one of the most important river catchments in Ireland for White-clawed Crayfish and is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The recent outbreak of Crayfish Plague is a serious threat to the survival of the species in the entire River Suir catchment, a total kill of the White-clawed Crayfish population is expected which will have major consequences for the ecology of the river.

The seriousness of the situation required a multi-agency local response to try and contain the outbreak. The Waters & Communities Office assisted Tipperary County Council staff to assemble an emergency meeting that included staff from: Tipperary County Council, Waterford County Council, IFI, NPWS and from local community groups and water users including representative of Canoeing Ireland.



Crayfish Plague signage along the River Suir

In response a temporary voluntary ban was put in place asking users to prevent movement to different parts of the catchment. In addition, users were urged to observe the 'Check, Clean and Dry' protocol once they leave the river and before using it again. This means that all wet gear (boats, clothing and equipment) should be checked for any silt or mud, plant material or animals before being cleaned and finally dried. Disinfectant or hot water (over 40 degrees Celsius) should be used to clean all equipment and this should be followed by a 24-hour drying period.

The community groups responded with great support and helped erect warning signs at all access and egress points and other prominent locations along the River Suir. Outbreaks have been confirmed in other catchments and the situation is being monitored closely by NPWS, IFI and Local Authorities.

## Appendix G: Heritage Week Activities 19-27 August 2017 supported by Community Water Officers

County	Event description	Date and location	Detail of LAWCO support if any time and/or €	Was activity advertised in HC publication or website or in local Heritage Officers publication?
Galway	Woodlawn Heritage Group Archaeology Walk and Talk	22nd August, 6.30pm-8.30pm Killaan Cross, Golden Mile, Woodlawn N.S.	Catherine Seale assisting in the walk – main leader is local heritage expert	Heritage Council website
Galway	Crinniú na mBád, Kinvara – historical lecture on the Native Oyster	20th of August (Time - TBC)	LAWCO supporting and Catherine Seale will be in attendance	To be registered
Galway	Loughrea Tidy Town	22nd August 11.00am	Children's talk on the Birds of Loughrea Lake	To be advertised on HC Website
Roscommon	Suck Valley Development Cooperative, Castlecoote Tidy Towns River Walk	27th August, 3.00pm-5.00pm Castlecoote Village beside old phone box Co. Roscommon	Catherine Seale leading river Suck walk	Heritage Council website
Roscommon (Lough Allen)	Farming for Nature	26th August 11.00am-1.00pm	Nature walk around the farm with Michael Bell. Karen Kennedy Support with pond dipping	Heritage Council website
Mayo	Reconnecting with local waters	27th August, 3.00pm-4.00pm Glore Mill Art Centre in Kiltimagh	Mick Kane, speaker	Heritage Council website
Mayo	A Walk on the Edge	27th August, 10:30am-1.00pm Mulranny Environmental Centre	Mick Kane, support	Heritage Council website
Clare	Water, Life of Lisdoonvarna	19th August, 11.00am-1.00pm Spa Wells, Lisdoonvarna Co. Clare	Ruairí Ó Conchúir, speaker	Heritage Council website
Carlow	River Safaries on River Barrow; Photographic Expo of River Barrow Heritage		Ann Phelan, support Athur Keppel	Heritage Council website



County	Event description	Date and location	Detail of LAWCO support if any time and/or €	Was activity advertised in HC publication or website or in local Heritage Officers publication?
Kilkenny	Interactive river biodiversity walk children's author Shane Casey	Sunday, 27th August, 2.00pm	Ann Phelan, support	Heritage Council website
Kerry	Guided Riverside Walk in Listowel	Sunday, 20th August 3.00pm-4.00pm	Bláithín Ní Ainín, support	Heritage Council website
Kerry	Guided Walk on natural and cultural heritage of the Maharees	Saturday, 26th August 2.00pm-4.00pm	Bláithín Ní Ainín, support (publicity)	Heritage Council website
Kerry	Whale watching Valentia Island and Clogher Head	Saturday, 26th August	Bláithín Ní Ainín, support (publicity)	Heritage Council website
Kerry	<i>Feithidí is Fionnuisce</i> Com an Lochaigh, West Kerry (Irish Language event)	Sunday, 27th August	Bláithín Ní Ainín, Kick sampling and bug identification demonstration	Pending
Kerry	Outdoor bog lab Kerry Head event – coastal ecology	Sunday, 27th August	Bláithín Ní Ainín, support in run up	Heritage Council website
Waterford	Curraghmore Estate walk and talk on Pearl mussel Mark Hosford	Sunday, 27th August, 2.30pm	Ann Phelan, support	Heritage Council website
Westmeath	Kilbeggan Funday by the Brosna in association with Waters & Communities Office	Sunday, 27th August 12.00pm-2.30pm	Basil Mannion	Registered with Heritage Council
Longford	Walk with the Big Boats, The Royal Canal, between Keenagh and Richmond Harbour	Saturday, 19th August 11.00am-6.00pm	Heritage Boat Association Karen Kennedy Support	Heritage Council website WI website
Donegal	Living Rivers – Bugs, Beasts and Bats on the River Leenan	Monday, 21st August 6.00pm-8.00pm Ramelton	Local Nature Guide Aengus Kennedy (Talk and Equipment) €€ Jimmy McVeigh, CWO	<a href="#">HC website</a> <a href="#">Nature North West</a> Contact Lists Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide
Donegal	Living Rivers – <i>From Source to Sea Go with the Flow on the River Eske</i>	Wednesday, 23rd August 6.00pm-8.30pm Donegal Town	Local Nature Guide Aengus Kennedy (Talk and Equipment), Bus Hire €€ Jimmy McVeigh, CWO	<a href="#">Heritage Council website</a> <a href="#">Nature North West</a> Contact Lists <a href="#">Eventbrite link</a> for bus bookings; Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide

County	Event description	Date and location	Detail of LAWCO support if any time and/or €	Was activity advertised in HC publication or website or in local Heritage Officers publication?
Donegal	Wells and Springs of East Inishowen	Sunday, 27th August 12.00pm-3.00pm	The Inishowen Rivers Trust will take participants on an exploration of four wells in East Inishowen – the tour will be facilitated by local heritage expert Neil McGrory – supported by LAWCO	Heritage Council website
Leitrim	Carrick's Water Heritage Day	Sunday, 27th August 2.00pm- 5.00pm	Guided nature walk with Michael Bell – Karen Kennedy, support	Heritage Council website
Sligo	Nature, Water and Poetry	Sunday, 27th August 12.00pm-1.00pm	Guided biodiversity walk with Michael Bell – Karen Kennedy, support	Heritage Council website
Monaghan	Ballybay Wetlands Teddy Bear Picnic	Sunday, 27th August 11.00am-1.00pm	Gretta McCarron, nature walk	Registered with Heritage Council
Louth	<i>Our Community Our Water</i> project launch	Sunday, 27th August 2.00-5.00pm	Gretta McCarron, support	Registered with Heritage Council
Armagh	Wild Wednesday Running Water Forkhill River	Wednesday, 23rd August 10.00-12.00pm	Gretta McCarron, water bug ID and nature walk	Registered with Heritage Council
Armagh	Wild Wednesday Calm Waters Lough Cashel	Wednesday, 23rd August 1.00-3.00pm	Gretta McCarron, water bug ID and nature walk	Registered with Heritage Council
Cork	Ask the Insects	Sunday, 27th August 10.00am-1.00pm Douglas, Cork	Kieran Murphy, demonstration	Heritage Council website
South Dublin	Guided bird & photography looped walk on the River Dodder, Tallaght	Saturday, 19th August Time TBC	Guided walk by Oran O'Sullivan and Michael Finn LAWCO support funding SH in attendance	Registered with Heritage Council TBC
Wicklow	River Derry guided walk Tinahely	27th August, Tomnafinnoge Woods Carpark 2.00-4.00pm	Guided walk by Sarah Rubalcava LAWCO support funding	Registered with Heritage Council
DCC	Kilmainham Inchicore Arts Festival (water event part of this) anglers also in attendance	Sunday, 27th August 2.00-4.00pm Inchicore	Supported by Kilmainham Inchicore Network – SH in attendance, kick sample and ID	



County	Event description	Date and location	Detail of LAWCO support if any time and/or €	Was activity advertised in HC publication or website or in local Heritage Officers publication?
Kildare (Athy)	Athy Waterways Nature Walk	Sunday, 27th August 12.00pm-2.00pm	Aoife McGrath, support & LAWCO grant for biodiversity expert	Registered with Heritage Council
Meath (Ashbourne)	Broadmeadow River Family Fun Day	27th August 12.00pm-4.00pm	Aoife McGrath support	Registered with Heritage Council
Clare (Shannon)	Community Wetlands Planning Event	Saturday, 26th August 2.00pm-5.00pm	Ruairi Ó Conchúir, Féidhlim Harty and Dúchas na Sionna	Registered with Heritage Council
Limerick (Annacotty)	Exploring Bio-diversity on the Mulkear River	Sunday, 27th August 10.00am-12.00pm	Ruairi Ó Conchúir & Séan Hartigan (Living Limerick)	Registered with Heritage Council
Fore Co Westmeath	FORE Community Pilgrim Group – FORE Bioblitz and Heritage Day	Wednesday, 23rd August 2.30pm	Basil Mannion	Registered
Kilbeggan Co Westmeath	Fun Day on the Brosna	Sunday, 27th August 12.00pm-2:30pm	Renew Kilbeggan Action Group and Basil Mannion	Registered with Heritage Council
Portlaoise Tidy Towns	Portlaoise and the River Triogue	Thursday, 24th August, 7.00pm	Tidy Towns and Basil Mannion	Registered with the Heritage Council
Streamstown Co Westmeath	Streamstown Water Heritage	Sunday, 27th August	Basil Mannion	To be confirmed
Tipperary Town	River Ara Walk and biodiversity fun	Sunday, 27th August	€300 to Tipperary Tidy Towns to organise	Local Heritage Officer
Dualla Show, Tipperary	LAWCO information stand	Sunday, 27th August	Sheevaun Thompson	Local Heritage Officer
Energy in Agriculture Event – Gurteen College, Tipperary	LAWCO information stand	Tuesday, 22nd August	Sheevaun Thompson	Local Heritage Officer
Bansha Show	LAWCO information stand	Wednesday, 23rd August	Michael Pollard	Local Heritage Officer
Iverk Show, Piltown, Kilkenny	LAWCO information stand	Saturday, 26th August	Michael Pollard	Local Heritage Officer
Cavan	Nature walk and talk to celebrate water with the Tidy Towns group	Sunday, 27th August St. Mary's Church, Swanlinbar, Cavan	Heritage in Schools expert Heather Bothwell	Church bulletin, PPN and Heritage Council website

## Appendix H: Tables – Community Engagement and Support

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
1.	Carlow	Booley Bay	Expand Your Horizons Teagasc event	Local farmers	Developing farming contacts and promotion of our waters	Agriculture
2.	Carlow	River Barrow	Engagement with citizens	2no. citizens	Re: pollution in the River Burren – sewerage	Citizens
3.	Carlow	River Barrow	Engagement with citizens	Interested citizens	Discussion re: water quality issues along the River Barrow	Citizens
4.	Carlow	River Barrow	Judging River Barrow Awards	Community groups local to River Barrow	Judging River Barrow Awards – all community groups along the River Barrow from Athy down to New Ross	Community
5.	Carlow	River Nore	Engagement with Blackstairs Community Group	Members of Blackstairs Community Group	Promotion of ongoing Community Water scheme and uplands project	Community
6.	Carlow	River Burren	Engagement with Friends of the River Burren	Friends of the River Barrow	Promotion Community engagement in management of waters.	Environmental
7.	Carlow	River Barrow	Engagement with Carlow County Council	Carlow County Council	Development of programme on Balsam Bashing and discussion on current work on fish pass	Local Authority
8.	Carlow	River Nore	Strategic Policy Committee Engagement	Environmental SPC from Carlow County Council	Discussed issues along the River Barrow/ River Burren etc.	Local Authority
9.	Carlow	River Barrow	Engagement with Leighlinbridge Tidy Towns Committee	Tidy Towns Committee	Promoting community engagement in the management of waters	Tidy Towns
10.	Carlow	River Barrow	Carlow Tourism	Presentation to Carlow Tourism	Introduction and informative presentation re: LAWCO	Tourism
11.	Carlow and Kilkenny	River Nore and Barrow	Engagement with Graiguenamagh, Bagenalstown and Carlow Rowing Clubs	Members of all rowing clubs	Help and support clubs re: funding applications	Amenity Recreation
12.	Carlow and Kilkenny	River Nore, River Barrow and tributaries	Engagement with Go with the Flow Canoe Club and Pure Adventures	Canoe club members and project team	Help and support re: funding applications	Amenity Recreation
13.	Carlow/ Kilkenny	Barrow Valley	Engagement with Barrow Valley Community Development Committee	Members of Barrow Valley Community Development Committee	Identifying funding streams to progress and establish new biodiversity projects for new Outdoor Activities Hub	Community
14.	Cavan	Erne	Public Participation Network presentation	PPN Network	PPN engagement	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
15.	Cavan	Erne	Meeting with Development Association	Swanlinbar Development Association	Community meeting	Community
16.	Cavan	Erne	Teagasc meeting	Teagasc, community	Stand at event	Event
17.	Cavan	Erne	Cavan Monaghan Science Festival Water for Wellness presentation	Cavan ICA	Education and awareness-raising	Event
18.	Cavan	Erne	PPN Networking event in Cavan	Community groups	Presentation	PPN
19.	Cavan	Erne 36	One hour water workshop with Transition Year students at St Patrick's College Cavan; <i>Paddles Up</i> Programme Cavan Sports Partnership	Cavan Sports Partnership	25 students participated in the workshop	Schools
20.	Cavan	Erne	St Patrick's College	Waterways Ireland	Presentation to <i>Paddles Up</i> class	Schools
21.	Cavan	Erne	Bailieborough School	School activity EcoUnesco club	Schools engagement	Schools
22.	Cavan	Erne	Bailieborough School	Presentation	Schools engagement	Schools
23.	Clare	Miltown Malboy	Presentation to Clare Coastwatch re: coastal streams, WQ and biodiversity	LAWCO, An Taisce, Coastwatch, CCC and local community	Introduction to LAWCO and local environmental networking	Coastal
24.	Clare	Kilmacrevy Beach	Community beach clean-up	LAWCO and local community	Community beach clean-up and networking	Coastal
25.	Clare	Clare Coast	Meeting re: coastal protection works, citizen science project	LAWCO and FLAGs representatives for Clare	Introduction to LAWCO and FLAGs networking	Coastal
26.	Clare	Shannon	Engagement with Wetlands Restoration Team and presentation to Men's Shed	LAWCO, Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project and Men's Shed	Opportunity for information sharing and development of project	Community
27.	Clare	East Burren Complex	Tubber Community Meeting	LAWCO and local community	Introduction to LAWCO and networking	Community
28.	Clare	Countywide	Display stand at <i>Expand Your Horizons</i> Teagasc event NRN and NUIG	LAWCO, Teagasc, IFI, LEADER, Citizens Advice and other displays	Opportunity to meet with Teagasc, IFI members and raise LAWCO profile	Event
29.	Clare	Shannon/Galway Bay	Engagement with Burren Programme – Farming for Conservation	LAWCO and BFFC (Dr Brendan Dunford)	Introduction to LAWCO and networking	Agriculture

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
30.	Clare	Inagh	Review of Japanese Knotweed stands on Inagh/Ballymacraven	LAWCO	Opportunity to review stands of Japanese Knotweed following community treatment programme	IAS
31.	Clare	Coastal Areas	LAWCO presentations and engagements with Clare County Council re: biodiversity considerations	LAWCO and Clare County Council	Introduction to LAWCO and networking regarding future cooperation work	Local Authority
32.	Clare	Fergus	Walkover survey – Newmarket-on-Fergus	LAWCO and CWO	Review of work completed/to be undertaken	Local Authority
33.	Clare	Fergus/Shannon	Presentation to AGM of Clare Federation of GWS	LAWCO, LA and National Federation of GWS	Introduction to LAWCO and networking	Community
34.	Clare	Fergus/Shannon	Meeting Clare PPN Coordinator	LAWCO and local community	Introduction to LAWCO and networking	PPN
35.	Clare	Fergus/Shannon	Meeting Clare PPN Environmental Pillar	LAWCO and local community representatives, environmental representatives	Introduction to LAWCO and local environmental networking	PPN
36.	Clare	Shannon	CBS NS – presentation to 80 students as part of EU Erasmus programme	LAWCO and school	Approx. 80 students learned about LAWCO, freshwater biodiversity and water quality	Schools
37.	Clare	Aille	LAWCO presentations and engagements on ICM training programme	LAWCO and Clare County Council and with NUJIG and Burren GeoPark	Introduction to LAWCO and networking regarding future cooperation work	Third-level
38.	Clare	Fergus/Shannon	Presentation to Ennis Tidy Town, Ennis Biodiversity Group Re; Fergus River	LAWCO, LA and local community representatives, environmental representatives	Introduction to LAWCO and local environmental networking	Tidy Towns
39.	Clare	Shannon	Community workshop, LAWCO presentation to 40+ Tidy Town groups, local community groups in Clare	LAWCO, LA Heritage Officer and Tidy Towns, BirdWatch Ireland and community groups	Opportunity to meet with Tidy Towns members and promote LAWCO, future collaboration projects	Tidy Towns
40.	Clare	Aille	Lisdoonvarna Tidy Town/Transition Town	LAWCO and local community	Introduction to LAWCO and review of options for Aille River	Tidy Towns
41.	Clare	Fergus	Attend Burren visioning event, Kilfenora	Minister Creed, Department of Agriculture, LAWCO, BFFC, Teagasc, and local community	Networking/information sharing with various communities	Visioning
42.	Clare and Tipperary	Shannon	Review of options for Scarriff Riverside Park	LAWCO and local community	Review of options for Scarriff Riverside Park	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
43.	Cork	Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay	Clean Coast	East Cork Communities	LAWCO introduced with upcoming dRBMP consultation	Agency
44.	Cork	Allow	Soft Engineering Workshop	IFI, Kerry County Council, LAWCO, IRD Duhallow	Facilitated field trip with IRD Duhallow for Kerry IFI and Kerry County Council staff to learn about soft engineering solutions to bank erosion at two farms	Agency
45.	Cork	Dunmanus, Bantry, Kenmare	Clean Coast event	Schull community and an Taisce's Clean Coast	Introduced LAWCO and upcoming dRBMP consultations – Clean Coast presented survey results	Coastal
46.	Cork	Shannon Estuary South	Opening access to stream in park	Charleville TT	Advised group on how they could make the stream in the park an amenity and informed them about the new Maigue RT	Community
47.	Cork	Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay	World Water Day	Bia Gleann na Laoi, Anglers, CEF	Visited Inchigeelagh Primary School, boat tour of Lough Allua, evening information session (including upcoming dRBMP consultations)	Event
48.	Cork	Blackwater	Cork Older People's Council Celebration, Mallow	Cork Older People's Council/ local community	Exhibition stands	Event
49.	Cork	All	Cork Summer Show	Cork County Council tent, open to public	Displayed macroinvertebrates and LAWCO literature	Event
50.	Cork	Lee (Cork)	World Water Day, Ballingearry National School and Inchigeelagh, Co Cork	National school students during the day and Cork Environmental Forum in the evening (Fred La Haya)	Engagement with cross section of local community	Event
51.	Cork	Bandon-Ilen	Tree Week – farm visit	Cork Environmental Forum, Skibbereen community	Site visit to observe sheep farming in tandem with tree planting	Agriculture
52.	Cork	All	PPN events – Skibbereen, Mallow, Cork	Cork PPN member	Exhibition stands including LAWCO stand	PPN
53.	Cork	Dulhallow	Promotion of office and project examples	LAWCO (with colleagues from Mid-West), IFI, IRD Duhallow and farmer	Review of measures on the Allow River including soft engineering options	Project
54.	Cork	All	TY Get Up and Go competition	TY classes across Cork	Judged environmental entry	Schools
55.	Cork	Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay	Scoil Barra Naofa, Monkstown	Primary school classes	Presentations to classes and fieldtrip with 5th Class to local stream to demonstrate kick sampling and macroinvertebrates	Schools

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
56.	Cork	Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay	Ballincollig TT	Ballincollig TT	Introduction to LAWCO and advice on projects that Ballincollig TT could get involved in	Tidy Towns
57.	Cork	Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay	Douglas TT	Douglas TT and SECAD	Involvement in Douglas TT biodiversity plan	Tidy Towns
58.	Cork	Bandon	Bandon Rivers Trust meeting	Bandon anglers, community members, Mark Horton	Meeting to see if there was an interest in starting a rivers trust. Mark Horton presented. LAWCO was introduced, as was upcoming dRBMP consultation	Trust
59.	Cork	Bandon-Ilen	Bandon Rivers Trust		Met with members of Bandon Rivers Trust board to discuss RAA	Trust
60.	Cross-border	Cross-border	Northern Ireland Environment Agency Water Management Unit Stakeholder Conference	All agencies and users with an interest in management of waters in Northern Ireland	Networking and knowledge sharing	Agency
61.	Cross-border	Foyle	Meeting with PEACE Programme Environmental Project promoters to discuss community engagement in the Foyle Area	Derry Strabane District Council	LAWCO included on Project Steering Group	Cross-border
62.	Cross-border	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Showcase event at Shared Landscapes project	Newry Mourne Council, MCC	Stand at event	Event
63.	Donegal	All	Information exchange and introductory meeting with Inland Fisheries Ireland North West Management and staff	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Discussion of projects and water management issues in the North-West Fisheries District	Agency
64.	Donegal	Foyle	Presented at Expand Your Horizons Teagasc event in Ballybofey	Teagasc	Promotion of LAWCO to agriculture stakeholders	Agency
65.	Donegal	All	Meeting between Loughs Agency, LAWCO and Stranorlar Municipal District Councillors	Loughs Agency, Elected Representatives	Proposed Integrated Catchment Management Approach to management of River Finn in collaboration with all agencies	Agency
66.	Donegal	All	Donegal Integrated Coastal Management Committee Meeting	Donegal County Council's Coastal Officer; County Vet; Coastguard; Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Reps.; Piers and Harbours Engineer; Tourism, Planning and Environment Sections of Donegal County Council	Participation in Coastal Management Forum in Co Donegal	Coastal

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
67.	Donegal	All	Clean Coasts meeting	Clean Coasts (Donegal)	Working together	Coastal
68.	Donegal	Foyle	Meeting with local community development group to discuss Trusk Lough	Local Community	Discussion on projects to develop Trusk Lough	Community
69.	Donegal	Donagh/Moville, Foyle and Swilly	Who's Who on Inishowen Rivers?	Inishowen Rivers Trust and Rivers Trusts	Cross sectoral and agency event promoting working together and providing information to the public on water quality management	Event
70.	Donegal		Presentation to Donegal Water Services staff	Donegal County Council	Promotion of the River Basin Management Plan and new water management governance structures	Local Authority
71.	Donegal	Donagh/Moville, Foyle and Swilly	Presentation to Inishowen Municipal District Councillors	Donegal County Council	Introduction to LAWCO and promotion of Inishowen Rivers Trust	Local Authority
72.	Donegal	All	Presentation to Donegal County Council Water Capital and Environment Section staff	Donegal County Council	Promotion of the RBMP and new water management governance structures	Local Authority
73.	Donegal	All	Bioremediation to manage runoff from agriculture, mining and landfills	Event hosted by Donegal County Council	Info provided to attendees	Local Authority
74.	Donegal	Donegal Bay North	Donegal Municipal District Meeting	Donegal County Council	Promotion of the RBMP and new water management governance structures	Local Authority
75.	Donegal	Gweebarra/Sheephaven	Meeting with Donegal County Council Lab and Local Community to discuss local wastewater treatment	Donegal County Council and Local Community	Highlighting wastewater issues in small settlements and info about septic tank inspections in Co Donegal	Local Authority
76.	Donegal	All	Meeting with Donegal Local Development Company LEADER staff	Donegal Local Development Company	Discussion on roll-out of biodiversity and water quality funding in the county – submission of EOI for river restoration training	LEADER
77.	Donegal	All	Donegal Environment Showcase	Public Participation and Donegal Environmental Groups	Distribution of promotional materials and talk given on Water Quality Management	PPN
78.	Donegal	Gweebarra/Sheephaven	Meeting with Cloughaneely Anglers, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and Donegal County Council to discuss bank protection works	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Donegal County Council, Anglers and local councillor	Bank restoration and access project initiated	Project

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
79.	Donegal	All	Meeting with Rural Recreation Officer	Inga Bokke, Donegal County Council	Awareness of access issues and recreation programmes in Donegal	Education
80.	Donegal	Sligo Bay and Drowes/Gweebarra/Sheephaven	Wainfest Aqua Explorer Workshops	Donegal County Council Library Section	Workshops delivered to school's groups in Donegal on Catchment Science and <i>What Lives in Your Rivers and Seas</i>	Schools
81.	Donegal	Donagh/Moville, Foyle and Swilly	Meeting with Inishowen Rivers Trust Board Members	Inishowen Rivers Trust	Progressing <i>Who's Who?</i> event and support of Rivers Trust	Trust
82.	Donegal	Donagh/Moville, Foyle and Swilly	Presentation to public on River Basin Management Plan and Integrated Catchment Management for the Inishowen Rivers Trust	General public, anglers, Inishowen Rivers Trust and Loughs Agency	Promotion of the River Basin Management Plan and Integrated Catchment Management	Trust
83.	Donegal	Gweebarra/Sheephaven	Owenea Catchment Partnership Meeting	Inland Fisheries Ireland and Rivers Trust	Discussion on formation of a Catchment Group to promote sustainable management of the Owenea and Owentocker Rivers	Trust
84.	Donegal	Donagh/Moville, Foyle and Swilly	Meeting with Inishowen Rivers Trust	Inishowen Rivers Trust	Update on Water Management Initiatives nationally and the work of the Inishowen Rivers Trust	Trust
85.	Donegal	Swilly	Meeting with Milford and District Anglers	Rural recreation Officer	Discussion of possible access project	Users
86.	Donegal	Foyle	Trusk Lough Meeting	Donegal County Council, Loughs Agency and Local Community	Information given to Local Community on potential of Trusk Lough as a fishing destination and possible infrastructure improvements	Users
87.	Dublin	National	Presentation to International Association of Hydrogeologists Ireland	Researchers and practitioners	Promotion of office and project examples	Academics
88.	Dublin	National	Meeting with An Taisce, Green Schools and Clean Coasts Management	An Taisce	Information exchange and possible environment education project	Education
89.	Dublin	Holy Wells	Community Support – Loving Sisters, National Holy Wells Day	Community group	Initial introduction and information sharing on LAWCO and upcoming events	Community
90.	Dublin	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Meeting with Dublin Partnership Companies	Partnership staff	Opportunity to engage with LCDC's and future collaboration on projects	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
91.	Dublin	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Dodder Action Weekend (3 days)	Dodder Anglers, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council, DCC, NGO's, community representatives, schools	Water Awareness at Dodder Action weekend	Community
92.	Dublin	Liffey and Dublin Bay	TallaghtFest 2017	Community representatives	Water Awareness raising at Community Festival	Festival
93.	Dublin	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Attended launch of Heritage Week at Iveagh House, Dublin	Minister, Heritage Council, Heritage Officers, community groups	Opportunity to promote Water Heritage Day with the Heritage Council	Heritage
94.	Dublin	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Riparian Trial Walk on the Mayne River Dublin Connects Culture – Art Project	Dublin City Council staff, landscape architect and local artist	Potential collaboration for project with local school Belmayne Educate Together	Schools
95.	Dublin – DCC, SDCC and DLR	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Community Support – collection of information for Streamscapes publication	All stakeholders of Dodder with whom links have been established contacted	Streamscapes publication in early Spring	Community
96.	Dublin – DCC, SDCC and DLR	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Dodder Defenders Certificate presentation	DCC, LAWCO, Cllr Costello, pupils from four national schools across the three LA's	Presentation to all primary school pupils who partook in Dodder Gathering. Display in Civic Offices	Schools
97.	Dublin/DLR	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Presentation with DunLaoghaire/Rathdown County Council to members of residents' association	Elected members and community	Opportunity to meet with members and promote LAWCO future collaboration projects	Local Authority
98.	Dublin/DLR	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Meeting with DunLaoghaire/Rathdown County Council Public Participation Network	Communities	Information and awareness raising	PPN
99.	Dublin/DLR County Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Community Support Contact with Johnston Residents	Local residents	Information sent re: funding and email forwarded to Parks Department DunLaoghaire/Rathdown County Council	Local Authority
100.	Dublin/Fingal	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Attended Howth and Sutton Community Council meeting	Community members	Opportunity to meet with members and promote LAWCO	Community
101.	Dublin/Fingal	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Display stand at Fingal Public Participation Network Plenary meeting	PPN members, Fisheries Local Action Groups, etc	Opportunity to meet with member groups of Fingal PPN and other display holders	PPN
102.	Dublin and Kildare	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Liffey Valley Blueway Feasibility Study (F.S.) Meeting	Oitium Leisure Consultancy	LAWCO involvement in proposed Liffey Blueway Feasibility Study	Health/Tourism

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
103.	Dublin (County)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Display stand at Expand Your Horizons – Teagasc	Teagasc, LEADER, Citizen Advice and other display holders	Opportunity to meet with Teagasc members in Dublin area and raise LAWCO profile	Agriculture
104.	Dublin (County)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Meeting with Dublin LEADER	LEADER	Opportunity to develop and progress potential water projects in the rural Dublin area	LEADER
105.	Dublin (County)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Meeting with four Dublin Public Participation Network Administrators	PPN staff	Opportunity for information sharing and future collaboration	PPN
106.	Dublin (County)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Tidy Towns Special Awards Ceremony		Promotion of award and the LAWCO office	Tidy Towns
107.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Collaborative display stand with IFI and Dublin Angling Initiative at TallaghtFest	Local stakeholders, IFI, DAI, LAWCO, TCC	Meeting with local stakeholders. Developing and maintaining good working relationship with other agency staff	Agency
108.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Attended Tallaght Community Council AGM	Tallaght Community Council Committee members and public	Networking with members of Tallaght Community Council	Community
109.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Friends of Camac Clean-Up Day as part of funding awarded	LAWCO, Clondalkin TT, Friends of Camac, Civil Defence and local stakeholders	30 participants in co-ordinated clean-up of Camac	Community
110.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Friends of Camac	Community group	Proposed Draft Newsletter for Spring and plan of works for 2018	Community
111.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Participation in Looped Guided Walk of the River Dodder and Sean Walshe Park	Community group	Approx. 30 people attended guided walk along the River Dodder	Event
112.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	South Dublin Public Participation Network Pleanary Meeting – LAWCO display stand	South Dublin PPN members	Opportunity to meet with PPN members and promote LAWCO profile	PPN
113.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Education Day in Sean Walsh Park	TCC, LAWCO and historian Christopher Moriarty	Approx. 40 students learned about freshwater insects and local biodiversity and heritage	schools
114.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Education day on Camac with Transition Year students and community group members	Irish Water, friends of Camac, Clondalkin Tidy Towns, local TY students and general public	Outdoor classroom with TY class on the Camac in the morning; outdoor class in the afternoon for the public	Schools
115.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Engagement with Clondalkin Tidy Towns and walk along the Camac River	Local community	Establishing contact after dRMBP meetings with Clondalkin Tidy Towns and local stakeholders	Tidy Towns

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
116.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Community Support Clondalkin Tidy Towns meeting re: funding under Anti-Dumping Initiative	Local community	Funding awarded and plan of works with Friends of Camac	Tidy Towns
117.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Information morning with Lucan Tidy Towns	Lucan Tidy Towns, elected representatives, Irish Water	Opportunity for information sharing, future collaboration and promotion of Tidy Towns Special Awards	Tidy Towns
118.	Dublin (South)	Liffey and Dublin Bay	River Dodder Clean-Up Day in Tallaght	Tallaght Community Council, Dodder Action and other groups	Co-ordinated clean-up on the River Dodder and tributaries	Community
119.	Dublin (South) /DCC/ Kildare	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Stakeholder meeting on Liffey Valley Blueway consultation meeting with Opium Consultants	Stakeholders and Opium Consultants	Identification of stakeholders and share of information	Amenity
120.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Community support – community gardens in Crumlin seeking information	Local community	Information sent re: rainwater harvesting and promotion of LAWCO and RBMP	Community
121.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Meeting re: River Dodder Gathering and preparation work for the event	Dublin City Council, Dodder Action Group	Organisational meeting re: River Dodder Gathering	Event
122.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Display stand at Battle for the Bay, Dollymount Strand	Various groups and agencies	Opportunity to meet local stakeholders and promote LAWCO	Event
123.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Display stand at Rose Festival in St Anne's Park	Local stakeholders	Opportunity to meet local stakeholders and promote LAWCO	Event
124.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	DCC: Water Heritage Day, insects of the canal and angling	Kilmainham Inchicore Network, Bluebell Anglers and area office	Day event where approx. 20 youths learned about freshwater insects and tried fishing	Heritage
125.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Community Support Enquiry re: weeds in the River Liffey	Local community	Information sent re: enquiry and passed to DCC	Local Authority
126.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Muckross College Transition Year students	TY students, Dublin City Council	Potential BT Young Scientist project	Schools
127.	Dublin City Council	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Raheny Tidy Towns meeting and clean-up	Local community and Tidy Towns group	Opportunity to meet with members and promote LAWCO, future collaboration projects	Tidy Towns
128.	Dublin LA's	Liffey and Dublin Bay	Attended and spoke at Dodder Anglers AGM	Dodder Action Group members	Promotion of water quality and RMP objectives	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
129.	Dublin LA's	Liffey and Dublin Bay	River Dodder Gathering – Community and stakeholder Day	All Dublin LA's, Dodder Action Group, Inland Fisheries Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, representatives from 20 community groups, general public	Saturday morning session with guest speakers and Café Style Workshop for community groups. Afternoon information display and stands open to the public	Event
130.	Dublin LA's	Liffey and Dublin Bay	River Dodder Gathering – Educational Day	Dublin City Council, eight schools from across LA areas, Dodder Action, all Dublin LA's	Education day for primary schools in the morning and secondary schools in afternoon, bioblitz and workstations	Schools
131.	East Region	All	Meeting with Inland Fisheries Ireland environmental inspectors for East region	Environmental inspectors for east region IFI	Initial introductions and raise LAWCO profile. Information sharing	Agency
132.	Fermanagh	Erne	Aquacross project meeting	All agencies and users with an interest in management of the Erne System	Cross-sectoral interagency meeting to discuss improved management of the Erne System; networking and promotion of LAWCO	Agency
133.	Galway	All	Contributed to the NEARhealth study. This is a joint study between NUIG, the HSE and the EPA	NUIG	Networking and relationship building	Agency
134.	Galway	Galway Bay North	Gave presentation as part of a Clean Coast Roadshow event in Ceathra Rua, Conamara (approx. 20 attendees)	Clean Coast, Galway Aquarium, BIM, IWDC, Carraroe Tidy Towns	Learning and information exchange, Networking and relationship building,	Coastal
135.	Galway	Galway Bay North	Assisted with a Clean Coast litter pick event in Trá Mhor	Clean Coast, local people	Project delivery, practical habitat management – litter pick	Coastal
136.	Galway	Corrib	Attended meeting to establish a GeoPark with Unesco status in the area	Petersburg OEC, Galway LA, Farming groups, several community groups	Networking event that helped make contacts in the area	Community
137.	Galway		Presentation to the AGM of the Galway Branch of the National Federation of Group Water Schemes	Group Water Scheme Managers and Trustees	Learning and information exchange – Networking and relationship building	Community
138.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Galway Waterways Association	Galway Waterways Association	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Community
139.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Meeting with members of the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival	Clarinbridge Oyster Committee	Event planning	Community
140.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Site visit to oyster farm in Clarinbridge	Oyster farmer who has gone out of business because of siltation issues	Learning and information exchange re: sediment issues	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
141.	Galway	Corrib	Moycullen Ladybirds outing to Ross Lake, Moycullen (approx. 25 attendees)	Moycullen Ladybirds and leaders	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Community
142.	Galway	Lower Shannon	Meeting with Slaughtly Bathing Area Development Group (outside Woodford)	Slaughtly Bathing Area Development Group	Relationship building, knowledge exchange	Community
143.	Galway	Galway Bay	Meeting with Cuan Beo in Kinvara regarding the group making submissions to the dRBP	Cuanbeo	River Basin Submission	Community
144.	Galway	Lower Shannon, Galway Bay South East	Presentation to Kinvara Active Retirement Group	Kinvara Active Retirement Group	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Community
145.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Oughterard Anglers regarding how we might set up a rivers trust on the Owenriff River	Oughterard Anglers Association	Networking and relationship building	Community
146.	Galway	All	Attendance at Atlantic Salmon Trust National Conference	Stakeholders	Networking and promotion of LAWCO	Event
147.	Galway	All	Had a stand at the Teagasc Horizons event in Maam Cross. Spoke to five community groups at this event	Farmers Teagasc, LEADER, Inland Fisheries Ireland and other agencies	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Event
148.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Attended the formal launch of Cuan Beo – this event was attended by councillors and Minister Kyne	Elected representative, Cuanbeo, SPPA, shellfish stakeholders, local authorities	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building, proved environment	Event
149.	Galway	Corrib	Moycullen Parish (various community groups) held a spring clean – this involved a litter pick-up followed by a short talk on the Waters & Communities Office (approx. 80 people participated in the litter pick; approx. 35 waited to hear the talk on the Waters & Communities Office and the WFD)	Moycullen Heritage Group, Moycullen Tidy Towns, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Girl Guides and Ladybird, Moycullen, fishermen residents	Learning and information exchange, practical habitat management, networking and relationship building	Event
150.	Galway	Corrib	Took part in the Irish Wildlife Trust Otter Survey – this event will take place every Wednesday over the summer months in Galway City	Irish Wildlife Trust	Learning and information exchange, Networking and relationship building	Event

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
151.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Attended the Family Day at Clarinbridge Oyster Festival as the winning entries for the Clarin Calendar were on display – also had leaflets and other information on display	General public	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building, improved environment	Event
152.	Galway	All	Assisted and had water quality information at Teagasc's Sheep Open Day in Athenry (approx. 2,000 attendees)	Teagasc	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Agriculture
153.	Galway	Lower Shannon, Galway Bay South East	Sliabh Aughty Farmers Group Public Meeting (approx. 40 attendees)	Farmers, Denis Tuohy agricultural consultant	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Agriculture
154.	Galway	All	Presented at a Teagasc Sheep Knowledge Transfer Event in Maam Cross on Water Quality in the Connemara Area (attended by approx. 180 farmers, members of the public)	Teagasc, farmers	Learning and information exchange, Improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Agriculture
155.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Met with Alan Farrell (EO in Cand E) with members of Cuan Beo and a committee member of the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival regarding how the Waters and Communities Office may be able to help out with community engagement/schools events both at the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival and at Crinniú na mBád in Kinvara	Cuan Beo, Galway County Council, Clarinbridge Oyster Festival	Networking and relationship building, event planning	Festival
156.	Galway	Galway Bay	Volunteered at Seafest	Marine Institute, BIM, Galway County Council	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Festival
157.	Galway	Lower Shannon	Manned a stand and gave a presentation at the Cuan Beo Marquee which was organised as part of the Crinniú na mBád Festival in Kinvara (approx. 500 people visited the stand during the festival)	Cuanbeo, Galway County Council, Cleancoast, general public	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Festival

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
158.	Galway	Lower Shannon, Galway Bay South East	Presentation to the South Galway Flood Relief Committee on the waters of the Burren Lowland and the dRBD (eight people in attendance)	South Galway Flood Relief Committee, Galway County Council, NPWS	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Flooding
159.	Galway	Corrib	Met with Moycullen Heritage Group	Moycullen Heritage Group	Relationship building	Heritage
160.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Moycullen Heritage Group regarding ongoing work with a Parish Spring Clean and catchments talk to be held on the 4th of March	Moycullen Heritage Group	Event planning	Heritage
161.	Galway	Corrib/Upper Shannon	Woodlawn Heritage Group held an official opening of their new nature trail in Woodlawn Woods – there is potential for a future river walk	Woodlawn Heritage Groups, Galway County Council, Coilte, Woolawn residents	Networking and relationship building	Heritage
162.	Galway	Corrib	Participated in a river clean-up on the Gaol River in Galway City which was organised by the Lough Corrib Trout Federation which was held to celebrate Water Heritage Day	Galway Trout and Salmon Anglers	Project delivery, litter clean-up	Heritage
163.	Galway	Corrib	Participated in a botany walk along by the waterways of Galway City – this event was organised by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and the Heritage Council	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Heritage
164.	Galway	Galway Bay	Attended Sea Fisheries breakfast meeting in the Clayton Galway	Various marine stakeholders	Networking and relationship building	Marine
165.	Galway	All	Gave an interview with Connemara Radio on their tourism programme, spoke about water quality and source protection	Connemara Radio	Awareness building	media
166.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Met with Burren Nature Sanctuary	Burren Nature Sanctuary Staff	Relationship building	Networking
167.	Galway	Lower Shannon, Galway Bay South East	Evening walk and talk at Burren Nature Sanctuary in Kinvara (approx. 10 attendees)	General public	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Public

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
168.	Galway	All	Attended and judged the PDST Get-up and Go Transition Year competition. I was a judge on the sustainability aspects of the projects (approx. 80 students and 15 teachers were in attendance)	Transition Year Students	Learning and information exchange, Networking and relationship building	Schools
169.	Galway	Corrib	River walk along by the Clare River with Belmont National School in Milltown village (approx. 35 pupils and five parents)	School students and staff	School awareness programme, learning and information exchange	Schools
170.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Made three presentations at Scoil Mhuire and Kicolgan Educate Together as part of the education and awareness programme of the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival (presentations to circa 170 pupils in total)	School students and staff	School awareness programme	Schools
171.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Assisted with the visit of the overall winner and their class from Lisheenkyle National School on their oyster farm visit to Ballindereen (approx. 35 pupils)	School students and staff	School awareness programme	Schools
172.	Galway	All	Met with lecturer from the Geography Department of NUIG	NUIG Staff	Relationship building	Third-level
173.	Galway	All	Attended the launch of the GMIT Tourism Degree	Various	Networking and relationship building	Third-level
174.	Galway	All	Presentation on the Waters and Communities Office and the WFD to 25 students from the Freshwater and Marine Ecology Degree course in GMIT	Galway Mayo Institute Technology	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Third-level
175.	Galway	Corrib	Attended Travel Lab organised by UCD in Cloosh Wood, Connemara. Event was attended by stakeholders from Coillte, Forestry Service, NPWS and others	Various forestry stakeholders	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building, proved environ	Third-level
176.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Meeting with Athenry and Clarinbridge Tidy Towns regarding the organisation of a River Clarin Schools Photography Competition	Athenry Tidy Towns, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns	Project planning	Tidy Towns

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
177.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Tuam Tidy Towns regarding potential collaborations. Tuam Tidy Towns have installed a rainwater harvesting system and are interested in pursuing further water related projects in the town	Tuam Tidy Towns	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Tidy Towns
178.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Meeting with Athenry and Clarinbridge Tidy Town re: Clarin Calendar Competition	Athenry Tidy Towns, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns	Project delivers, environmental awareness	Tidy Towns
179.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Loughrea Tidy Towns regarding potential for children's activities	Loughrea Tidy Towns	Project planning	Tidy Towns
180.	Galway	Corrib and Upper Shannon	Site visit with Glenamaddy Town and Turlough with Glenamaddy Tidy Towns	Glenamaddy Tidy Towns	Networking and relationship building – Learning and information exchange	Tidy Towns
181.	Galway	Upper Shannon	Attended and assisted with schools event in Loughacalla with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Loughacalla Development Group and Kilconnell Tidy Towns	Kilconnell Tidy Towns, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Loughacalla Anglers Association	Learning and information exchange, Improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Tidy Towns
182.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting about Tuam Town and River Nanny with Tuam Tidy Towns	Tuam Tidy Towns	Networking and relationship building, Project planning	Tidy Towns
183.	Galway	Corrib	Wildlife survey with Glenamaddy Tidy Towns at Glenamaddy Turlough	Glenamaddy Tidy Towns	Wildlife survey, knowledge exchange	Tidy Towns
184.	Galway	Lower Shannon	Visit to Abbey village with GCC Scientist, IFI and Abbey Tidy Towns to plan future work on Abbey River	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Galway County Council, Abbey Tidy Towns	Project planning	Tidy Towns
185.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Headford Anglers, Sustainable Headford and Headford Tidy Towns to see where we could get some projects started (approx. 10 in attendance)	Headford Tidy Towns, Sustainable Headford, Headford Anglers	Networking and relationship building	Tidy Towns
196.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Community action day with Loughrea Tidy Towns, Clean Coast and local transition year students (approx. 60 people took part)	Loughrea Tidy Towns, Galway County Council, Clean Coast, Locals schools	Learning and information exchange, Improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Tidy Towns

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
197.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Glenamaddy Tidy Towns, Rural Recreation Officers for Galway and Roscommon, NPWS and local representatives regarding possibility of walk around the turlough	Glenamaddy Tidy Towns, Glenamaddy Development Cooperative, Galway and Roscommon Recreation Officers, elected representatives, NPWS Galway and Roscommon Recreation Officers	Networking and relationship building, project planning, learning and information exchange	Tidy Towns
198.	Galway	Galway Bay South East	Attended Athenry Craft Fair where the Clarin Calendar Photos were on display	Athenry Tidy Towns	Project delivery	Tidy Towns
199.	Galway	Corrib	Site visit River Corrib and Galway Waterways with local anglers and councillor Frank Fahy	Elected representative, Galway Salmon Anglers	Networking and relationship building – Learning and information exchange	Users
200.	Galway	Corrib	Galway Waterways Association Visioning meeting in the Galway Rowing Club (approx. 90 attendees)	Galway Waterways Association, Other interested stakeholders and individuals	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Users
201.	Galway	Corrib	Visit to the Grange River to view river enhancements work being progressed by Cairde na Chlair, OPW and Inland Fisheries	Cairde na Chlair (Anglers Group on Clar River System)	Learning and information exchange	Users
202.	Galway	Corrib	Oughterard Anglers regarding possible submission to dRBD on the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	Oughterard Anglers Association	River Basin submission	Users
203.	Galway	Corrib	Meeting with Oughterard Anglers regarding the Owenriff	Oughterard Anglers	Relationship building	Users
204.	Galway	All	Presentation on the Waters and Communities Office and the WFD to eight students from the Biodiversity and Land-Use Planning Masters at NUIG (School of Natural Sciences)	NUIG	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Third-level
205.	Galway/ Mayo	All	Attended Teagasc Organic Farm open day in Irishtown, Co Mayo	Teagasc, farmers	Networking and relationship building, learning and information exchange	Agriculture
206.	Kerry	Carra and Blackwater	Kerry LIFE Project Stakeholder Group Meeting, site visit	Forest Service, NPWS, Department of Agriculture, Teagasc, IFI, EPA, UCC, IT Tralee, community members	Interesting information on the project provided	Agency

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
207.	Kerry	Laune, Maine, Dingle Bay	Lough Leane Working Group	IFI, Kerry County Council, Dept of Agriculture and Forest Service, Failte Ireland, Teagasc, EPA, Angling Groups, NPWS	Introduction to LAWCO and dRBMP, Update on water quality results and measures for Lough Leane catchments	Agency
208.	Kerry	All	Forest Service and Teagasc	To look at the use of emergent/native woodland schemes in Kerry for water quality improvement where appropriate	Identified potential pilot project for South Kerry to tie in with Inny/Cummeragh event, and further engagement activities with the community	Agency
209.	Kerry	Brick	Abbeydorney Residents Association	Site visit to look at potential project along the Brick through the village	Suggested wildlife corridor, suggested funding but limited interest from group in pursuing it further	Community
210.	Kerry	All	Volunteer Fair (IT Tralee)	Transition Kerry, Clean Coasts (an Taisce), Fenit Development Association	Informal meeting introducing myself to a number of relevant interested groups. A number of potential projects were discussed	Community
211.	Kerry	Coastal areas	Clean Coasts Roadshow	An Taisce, Tralee Bay Wetland Centre, Kerry County Council, Vinny Hyland, Maharees Conservation Group, Louise Overy, Dingle Aquarium	Presentation introducing LAWCO; afterwards conservation project for Tralee Bay was discussed	Community
212.	Kerry	Lee (Tralee)	Biodiversity Week – Kick Sampling Demonstration	Community members	Great interest but very poor turnout	Community
213.	Kerry	All	Transition Kerry Climate Change Conference	Transition Kerry Members, community groups and NGOs, Kerry County Council staff	Helped facilitate round table discussions on local actions and provided materials for use in packs and available on entry	Community
214.	Kerry		Caherdaniel Japanese Knotweed (JK) Information Day	Caherdaniel Community, IFI, Dark Skies, Wild Derrynane, Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust, Caherdaniel JK Group	Had stand with displays and materials, talking to public about LAWCO	Community
215.	Kerry	Lee (Kerry)	Preparation for River Lee (Kerry) clean-up around Tralee Town	Kerry County Council, Daniel Brosnan and Des Bailey	Initial meeting identifying where and how	Community
216.	Kerry	All	National Tourism Conference	Attended this event	Became aware of relevant tourism projects. Made contact with Tourism and C and E within Kerry County Council	Event

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217.	Kerry	Inny and Cummeragh (Finglasriver Waterville)	An Information Evening on the Inny and Cummeragh River Catchments	General public, Teagasc, Forest Service, Met Eireann, South Kerry Development Partnership, Coillte, Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust, LAWCO	Organised and facilitated public information event for local people on water quality and available schemes, initiatives, River Trust and weather changes (Over 60 people attended)	Event
218.	Kerry	Laune/Maine	Save Our Laune	To initiate contact and identify potential projects	Assisted with identifying potential funding sources for proposed community training on invasive plant control	Funding
219.	Kerry		South Kerry Development Partnership	To initiate contact and identify where we could work together	They attended dRBMP consultations and provided information on LEADER Funding (Rural Environment Theme) at each meeting	Funding
220.	Kerry		Maine and Brown Flesk Anglers	Anglers wish to improve access and prune trees (meeting set up from dRBMP consultation meeting)	River walk planned and provided with details of IFI funding (guidelines and process) and agreed to help them with application	Funding
221.	Kerry		Castlegregory Sea Trout Angling Club	Referred to me by IFI, Anglers concerned about decline in fish and water quality at Lough Gill, meeting and site visit	Discussion with committee, provided them with information on IFI funding call, agreed to help them with application	Funding
222.	Kerry		Castlegregory Sea Trout Angling Club	Follow up meeting to get IFI application in	Application submitted	Funding
223.	Kerry		Caherdaniel Japanese Knotweed Project	Site visit to look at pilot project and proposed project	Good relationship built, follow ups productive	IAS
224.	Kerry	Dingle	Féile Eolaíochta na Gaeltachta	Údarás na Gaeltachta, general public	Gave bi-lingual presentation on LAWCO, water quality and practical measures	Irish
225.	Kerry		Kerry LIFE	To initiate contact and identify where we could work together	LAWCO included as member of stakeholder group, resulting in follow up meetings and events	LIFE
226.	Kerry	Carra and Blackwater	Kerry LIFE visit	Kerry County Council, Galway City and County Council, LAWCO, Kerry LIFE team	Site visits and talks on the Kerry LIFE project, explaining project and measures employed	LIFE
227.	Kerry		PPN Secretariat	PPN Environmental Group Secretariat	Gave presentation introducing LAWCO	PPN
228.	Kerry	Laune	Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association, LAWCO	To assist with design of proposed project on bank erosion and associated permissions	Assistance with design and writing report	Project

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229.	Kerry	Ballynahow Commons (West of Dingle Peninsula)	Comharchumann Dún Chaoin	To discuss project to eliminate Japanese Knotweed from all the streams	They will apply to LEADER for funding and will consider keeping a wildlife corridor (intact riparian zone) after treatment	Project
230.	Kerry	Feale	Lyrecrompane Community Development Association – Erosion of River Walk	LCDA	Supporting a funded project to prevent further erosion of river walk	Project
231.	Kerry	All	Castleisland Community College	Met with TY coordinator about potential project along the Maíne	Generated article for Catchments Newsletter highlighting Water Explorers Award received and will continue to work with us	Schools
232.	Kerry	All	STEM Fair IT Tralee (Science Week)	Environmental NGOs, STEM Businesses, IT Tralee	Had stand with displays and materials, talking to public about LAWCO, water quality and potential projects	Schools
233.	Kerry	All	IT Tralee Wildlife Biology Course	Course director and final year project coordinator	Discussion of potential community-based final year projects	Third-level
234.	Kerry	All	Tidy Towns hosted by Kerry County Council	Kerry County Council, all Kerry's Tidy Towns groups	Presentation introducing LAWCO; made a lot of contacts with different Tidy Town groups	Tidy Towns
235.	Kerry	Cummeragh	Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust (WLRT) smolt release	WLRT	Talked to school children about catchment management prior to smolt release	Trust
236.	Kerry	Laune	Engagement and walkover survey	LAWCO and local angling body	Review of options for bank protection/other work	Agency
237.	Kildare	Liffey and Barrow	NFGWS Kildare and Wicklow AGM	NFGWS, Community representatives	Presentation to NFGWS members	Community
238.	Kildare	Liffey	Meeting with Celbridge Local Resident	Community Activist	Advice re: complaints about River Liffey	Community
239.	Kildare	Liffey	Friends of Rye Water AGM (meeting 2)	Intel, NGO's, UCD, Community representatives	Presentation to AGM – LAWCO Supports	Community
240.	Kildare	River Barrow	World Water Day in St Laurence's National School, Crookstown, Kildare – <i>Insects in Our Rivers</i>	Pupils from St Laurence's National School	Outdoor classroom module (held indoors due to weather) with approx. 40 pupils	Education
241.	Kildare	River Liffey and River Barrow	Kildare – <i>Expand Your Horizons</i> Teagasc seminar series	Teagasc, NGO's, community representatives	LAWCO information stand	Agriculture
242.	Kildare	River Liffey	Meeting with Kildare environmental expert	Environmental expert	Opportunities to work with LAWCO (JuneFest Biodiversity Walk, etc.)	Festival
243.	Kildare	River Liffey	JuneFest 2017 Committee	JuneFest 2017 Committee	Introduction to LAWCO and planning of LAWCO Biodiversity Walk during June Festival	Festival

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244.	Kildare	River Liffey	JuneFest 2017 LAWCO Biodiversity Walk – organisers meeting	JuneFest 2017 Committee	Biodiversity River Walk Event planning	Festival
245.	Kildare	River Liffey	JuneFest 2017 LAWCO Biodiversity Walk – organisers meeting	JuneFest 2017 Committee	Biodiversity River Walk Event – Hand S planning	Festival
246.	Kildare	River Liffey	JuneFest 2017 LAWCO Biodiversity Walk – organisers meeting	JuneFest 2017 Committee	Biodiversity River Walk Event – Hand S planning	Festival
247.	Kildare	River Liffey	JuneFest 2017 LAWCO Biodiversity Walk Event	Community representatives (x50)	LAWCO Biodiversity Walk along River Liffey (as part of JuneFest 2017)	Festival
248.	Kildare	River Liffey	Friends of Rye Water AGM (meeting 2)	Intel, NGO's, UCD, community representatives	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: ongoing Intel-supported projects on Rye Water River	Industry
249.	Kildare	River Liffey	Maynooth Tidy Towns Biodiversity Plan	NGO's, Kildare LA, Community representatives, Maynooth TT	Maynooth Biodiversity Plan community consultation	Local Authority
250.	Kildare	River Barrow	St Laurence's National School Education Day	Primary schools (4th Class)	Education Day for 4th Class pupils (kick sampling)	Schools
251.	Kildare	River Liffey	Newbridge Tidy Towns	Newbridge Tidy Towns	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: Liffey Linear Park	Tidy Towns
252.	Kildare	River Barrow	Athy Tidy Towns Committee	Athy Tidy Towns, Kildare LA	Introduction to LAWCO and LAWCO potential projects	Tidy Towns
253.	Kildare	River Barrow	Athy Tidy Towns Committee (meeting 2)	Athy Tidy Towns, Kildare LA	Heritage Week Event Planning meeting	Tidy Towns
254.	Kildare	River Barrow	Athy waterways stakeholders	Athy Tidy Towns, Kildare LA, waterways users	Presentation to stakeholders – Introduction to LAWCO and LAWCO supports	Tidy Towns
255.	Kildare	River Liffey	Newbridge Canoe Club	Newbridge Canoe Club	Introduction to LAWCO	User
256.	Kildare	Royal Canal	Kilcock National Junior Canoe Polo Competition	Canoe Clubs nationwide, elected representatives	LAWCO support at community day	Users
257.	Kildare	River Barrow	River Greise anglers meeting	River Greise anglers	Introduction to LAWCO and LAWCO supports	Users
258.	Kildare	CFRAMS public consultation	OPW, LA's, NGO's	Public consultation meeting	Introduction to LAWCO	Agency
259.	Kildare	Rathangan Tidy Towns	Rathangan Tidy Towns, Heritage Committee	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: river walk along the River Slate	Introduction to LAWCO	Tidy Towns

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260.	Kildare and Meath	Liffey and Barrow, Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	EPA, Eastern Region Characterisation Workshop (four days)	East Region LA's, EPA, NGO's	EPA Catchment Characterisation Workshop	Agency
261.	Kilkenny	River Barrow	Engagement with National Parks and Wildlife	National Parks and Wildlife	Drummond Bog Project – assistance with sourcing funding	Agency
262.	Kilkenny	River Barrow	Heritage Council Uplands Forum	Members of Uplands Heritage Forum	Workshop to develop strategy	Agency
263.	Kilkenny	River Barrow and Wexford Estuary	Engagement with Kilkenny Local Enterprise Office	Staff of LEO	Re: possible funding/finance for local groups	Agency
264.	Kilkenny	River Barrow, River Nore	Engagement with Kilkenny branch of Irish Farmers Association	Members of Kilkenny branch of Irish Farmers Association	Presentation around water issues and Smart Farming Project	Agriculture
265.	Kilkenny	Belle Lake	Engagement with Kings River Community Group	Local community group	Development of Kings River Project	Community
266.	Kilkenny	All	Engagement with Environmental Pillar of Public Participation Network	Community members of PPN	Made a presentation to assist them in making a submission to draft River Basin Management Plan	Community
267.	Kilkenny	River Barrow, River Nore	River clean-up in Graiguenamanagh	Rowing and regatta committee members, general public and Plastic Patrol	River clean-up	Community
268.	Kilkenny	River Barrow	Engagement with Nore Trust	Members of Trust	Reenergising and capacity building of lapsed trust	community
269.	Kilkenny	River Barrow and River Nore	Working group for Town and Village Renewal Scheme in Kilkenny	Committee members	Advising community groups on project development with respect to water elements	community
270.	Kilkenny	River Nore	Green Schools event	Local schools and An Taisce Water Forum	Green Schools event	Community
271.	Kilkenny	River Nore	Presentation to Group Water Schemes	GWS members	Informative presentation re: LAWCO	Community
272.	Kilkenny	River Barrow and River Nore	Engagement with Goresbridge Development Company	Goresbridge Development Company, Waterways Ireland	Develop River Side Park	Development Company
273.	Kilkenny	All	Judging TY projects in Springhill Hotel	Students from local schools	Judging TY projects re: biodiversity and water quality on behalf of Kilkenny County Council	Education

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
274.	Kilkenny	River Nore	Thomastown River Festival	Thomastown Weir Trust, general public and local clubs	Set up stand at night time event – took part in sampling with the schools and participated in the outdoor classroom and secured funding	Event
275.	Kilkenny	All	Training Kilkenny County Council	LA staff	Providing training on River Basin Management Plan and Integrated Catchment Management	Local Authority
276.	Kilkenny	Barrow Valley	Heritage Council Engagement	Heritage Council and LA heritage officers	Working group for Upland Projects, developing community contacts and WFD promotion	Local Authority
277.	Kilkenny	River Sow	Engagement with Strategic Policy Committee of Kilkenny County Council and Public Participation Network Environmental Committee	Members of PPN and SPC	Reviewing Draft River Basin Management Plan and identifying funding options for communities	Local Authority
278.	Kilkenny	River Barrow and River Nore	Engagement with LEADER and River Nore Vision Project	Local LEADER Company and community groups	Development of a River Nore Vision Project	LEADER
279.	Kilkenny	River Barrow	Engagement with Kilkenny LEADER	Members of Nore Vision Trust and Kilkenny LEADER	Participating on working group to establish catchment management plan	LEADER
280.	Kilkenny	River Slaney, tributaries and harbour	KCLR Radio interview	KCLR Radio	Radio interview re: river clean-up's in area	Media
281.	Kilkenny	All	Engagement with Teagasc	EPA and Teagasc advisors	Discussion on draft River Basin Management Plan	Teagasc
282.	Kilkenny	River Nore	Graiguenamanagh Woodlands Project	Graigue Tidy Towns	Buffer zone with tributaries flowing into River Barrow	Tidy Towns
283.	Kilkenny	River Barrow	Tidy Towns event	Kilkenny County Council and Public Participation Network	Presented to Community and Tidy Towns groups in Kilkenny on water quality and work of LAWCO	Tidy Towns
284.	Kilkenny and Carlow	River Slaney, tributaries and coast	River Fly citizen science initiative	Environmental consultant	Scoping development of River Fly citizen science proposal – next step to meet with IFI to develop a project and identify funding	Agency
285.	Kilkenny and Carlow	River Barrow	Engagement with Barrow Valley Development Committee	Barrow Valley Development Committee	Provision of support and highlighting possible projects	Community
286.	Kilkenny and Carlow	River Barrow	Graiguenamanagh Regatta Festival	Pubic Event	Introduction to LAWCO	Community

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
287.	Laois	River Nore	Meeting with Irish Fisheries officer and local Estate Owner re: river bank restoration work	Irish Fisheries Office, Viscount De Vesey – Estate Owner	Meeting to discuss options for restoration of segment of Nore River bank	Agency
288.	Laois	River Nore	Project meeting to progress the Erkina Blueway project in Laois	Project meeting with Laois County Council Engineering and Planning representatives, Woodenbridge Paddlers Group, NPWS Inspector, Laois Partnership	Opportunity to consider NPWS inputs and considerations into the Erkina Blueway project	Amenity
289.	Laois	River Nore	Cullahill GWS Nitrates Reduction Project	NFGWS and Cullahill GWS	Provided assistance/advice to GWS	Community
290.	Laois	River Nore	Laois Partnership Information meeting	Laois Partnership Staff	Putting natural waters of Laois on the community groups agenda	Community
291.	Laois	River Nore	Erkina Blueway Project	Woodenbridge Paddlers, Laois County Council, Laois Partnership, Andy Dunne environmental consultants, NPWS, IFI	Establishment of project team to develop Erkina Blueway	Community
292.	Laois	River Barrow	Information Briefing to Clonslee Community Group	Clonslee Community Group	Helped development of a strategy to promote water focus	Community
293.	Laois	River Barrow	Killeshin Community Group	Laois County Council, Killeshin Community Development Group	Opportunity to explore project to raise awareness of Killeshin reservoir, waterfall and trail in Killeshin Park	Community
294.	Laois	All	Presidential launch of Community Wetlands Forum Strategic Plan in Abbeyleix	President Michael D. Higgins, LAWCO, agencies and various community groups	LAWCO display stand, networking, information sharing on LAWCO including with President Michael D. Higgins	event
295.	Laois	River Nore	Expand Your Horizons Teagasc workshop for farmers	Teagasc representatives, farmers, State agencies, NGO's	Developed linkages with Teagasc representatives in Laois and with the farming community	Agriculture
296.	Laois	River Nore	Laois IFA information seminar	Community and farming people from all over Laois	Putting natural waters of Laois on the farming community agenda	Agriculture
297.	Laois	River Nore	Laois Heritage Forum	Community leaders from Laois	Putting natural waters of Laois on the farming community agenda	Heritage
298.	Laois		Engagement in Killeshin Water Park	Community Group, Laois County Council	Promotion of possible joint project in Killeshin Water Park	Local Authority

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
299.	Laois	River Nore	Nore Vision collaboration between Laois, Kilkenny and Tipperary examining how communities can input their ideas for a shared vision of the Nore Catchment	Multi-agency input, cross-community inputs, NGO input	Examining all the possible ways in which the Nore Catchment can be improved in a sustainable way	Project
300.	Laois	River Nore	Abbeyleix Tidy Towns Group – Stream Remediation Project	Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	Developed a recommendation report for the remediation of a stream in Abbeyleix which is a tributary of the River Nore.	Tidy Towns
301.	Laois	River Nore	Portlaoise and the River Triogue	Local business people, Tidy Towns Group, Community Groups, Laois County Council	Project on restoration of the River Triogue in Portlaoise	Tidy Towns
302.	Leitrim	Erne 36	Who's Who? in the Lough Melvin Catchment	Organised by Karen Kennedy and Jimmy McVeigh, general public, LAWCO, Leitrim County Council, EPA Catchments Unit, Inland Fisheries Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Teagasc, Coillte, Leitrim Development Company, Education Through Recreation (local educational business), University of Ulster and IT Sligo	Opportunity for local people, community groups and public agencies to meet and share knowledge and experience on the range of activities and research occurring across the Melvin catchment	Event
303.	Leitrim	All	Presentation to Leitrim Organic Farmers Co-op AGM	Karen Kennedy	Introduce LAWCO activities and potential areas to collaborate	Agriculture
304.	Leitrim	Sligo Bay and Drowes 35	Two day Streamscape Engagement Project for the River Bonet	Organised by Karen Kennedy with Streamscape staff, supported by LAWCO and Leitrim County Council LA21 fund, participants included St Mary's National School Ardvarney, Drumlease National School, Dromahair Development Association, Tidy Towns, Dromahair Anglers' Association	60 school children and 3 teachers/principals involved in schools' workshops	Schools

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
305.	Leitrim	Upper Shannon 26C However open to Tidy Towns groups in Leitrim, Sligo, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan	Tidy Towns event – Networking for Nature, full day event including biodiversity walk and talk along the River Shannon	Organised by Karen Kennedy and Leitrim County Council Environmental Awareness Officer, supported by Bernie O’Flaherty; the following agencies were present and had a stand highlighting supports available for Tidy Towns groups: Leitrim Development Company, IFI, Waterways Ireland, The Organic Centre, BirdWatch Leitrim	Capacity building within Tidy Towns sector, press releases in local media, article in Catchments, ie. follow up engagements with Tidy Towns groups regarding water protection/enhancement (over 60 people attended)	Tidy Towns
306.	Leitrim	Upper Shannon 26C	Lough Rynn Regatta 2017 – Rowing Ireland	Organised by Connacht Branch of Rowing Ireland, Karen Kennedy took a stand at the event	Opportunity to network with rowers from all over Ireland	Users
307.	Leitrim	Sligo Bay and Drowes	Meeting with Rossinver Angling Syndicate	Angling	Discussion of Citizen Science Project and water quality management of Melvin Catchment	Users
308.	Leitrim and Sligo		Presentation to Group Water Schemes AGMs in Leitrim and Sligo	Karen Kennedy and NFGWS Development Officer	Introduction to LAWCO and highlight opportunities to collaborate	Community
309.	Limerick	Shannon	Meeting with Limerick Kayak club re: multi-use access point on Shannon	LAWCO and Limerick Kayak Club	Mapping of options for multi-use access point below Castleconnell	Community
310.	Limerick	Shannon	Meeting Castleconnell anglers/conservation group re: training	LAWCO, local community representatives	Opportunity to plan possible training on SSRA	Community
311.	Limerick	Various	LAWCO presentations to AGM of Limerick Federation of GWS	LAWCO and NFGWS and Limerick Federation GWS	Introduction to LAWCO and networking regarding future cooperation work	Community
312.	Limerick	Shannon	EIP meeting	ICCC, LAWCO, EPA and Teagasc, Co-ops, etc	Meeting re: EIP Maigue Catchment	Project
313.	Limerick	Shannon	Mulkear EIP meeting in Cappamore	LAWCO, IFA and local farmers	Meeting re: EIP Mulkear Catchment	Project
314.	Limerick	Shannon	EIP meeting in Pallasgreen	LAWCO, IFA, anglers and local farmers	Meeting re: EIP Mulkear Catchment	Project
315.	Limerick	Shannon	EIP meeting	ICCC, LAWCO, EPA, IFI, IFA and various stakeholders	EIP on the Maigue Catchment meeting with farming representatives	Project

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
316.	Limerick	Mulkear	Meeting IFA Pallasgreen and site visits re: European Innovation Partnership (EIP)	LAWCO and IFA	Initial engagement re: planning of EIP	Project
317.	Limerick	Shannon	Presentation to local community in Askeaton on the flora/fauna of the Shannon Estuary/River Maigue	LAWCO and Tidy Towns, bird watch and community groups	Opportunity to meet with members and promote LAWCO, future collaboration projects	Tidy Towns
318.	Limerick	Maigue	Maigue River Trusts public meeting	LAWCO, Maigue RT, IFI, EPA and various community representatives	Introduction to LAWCO and support to Maigue River Trust	Trust
319.	Limerick/ Tipperary	Lower Shannon – Mulkear	Mulkear Catchment Association – EIP application	Various stakeholders (up to 28) on the Mulkear who have come together to develop and EIP	EIP Application and Promotion of LAWCO and project examples of farming and water quality	Project
320.	Longford	All	Presentation to Longford Public Participation Networking	PPN coordinator and members	Introduce LAWCO and potential ways to link (approx. 50 people present)	PPN
321.	Longford	Upper Shannon – 26F	Meeting with Environmental Manager of Roadbridge Contractors at Center Parcs, Ballymahon, Co Longford	IFI, Roadbridge	Discuss potential community engagement projects (water and biodiversity) for the Ballymahon area	Project
322.	Louth	Big River	Vision for Dundalk Bay Rivers	Community, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Heritage Officer, Tidy towns, Cooley farmers, elected members	Draft vision for Cooley	Community
323.	Louth	Dee, Glyde, Fane	SPICE project meeting	Dundalk Institute of Technology, Group Water Schemes	Planning work plan	Education
324.	Louth	Big River	Meeting with Cooley upland farmers	National Parks and Wildlife, Louth County Council, farmers	Preparation for EIP application	Agriculture
325.	Louth	Big River	Working with Cooley Upland farmers to submit EIP application for the sensitive removal of bracken and gorse from their commonage lands on the Cooley Peninsula	Farmers	Preparation of project proposal	Agriculture
326.	Louth	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Dunleer Tidy towns meeting	Tidy Towns, LA		Tidy Towns
327.	Louth	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Development of Dundalk Bay Vision	Rivers Trust, Dundalk IT, LAWCO	Introduction to LAWCO	Project

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
328.	Mayo	Lannagh	Pollinator Plan Workshop	National Parks and Wildlife Service, heritage officer, Mayo County Council, Public Participation Network	Event to raise awareness of the Pollinator Plan and how communities can better plan their environment	Agency
329.	Mayo	Keel Beach, Achill	Cleaner Coasts Blue Flag County Council event	An Taisce, Keel Community Group	Community beach clean	Coastal
330.	Mayo	Dugort Strand	Guided walk along the SAC at Dugort	SWMDC (LEADER) and Dugort Development Committee	Awareness event on water quality and County Council lunch on new coastal trail	Coastal
331.	Mayo	Keel Beach	Keel Beach clean-up	An Taisce, Keel Community Group, Mayo County Council	Community engagement event with 50 bags collected.	Coastal
332.	Mayo	All catchments in Mayo	Presentation to National Federation of Group Water Scheme annual meeting	National Federation of Group Water Scheme	Many projects came out of this meeting including a Source Protection LEADER application	Community
333.	Mayo	Moy	Meeting re: Glore Biodiversity Centre for Freshwater Ecology	Glore Mill Centre	Good event to help develop possible linkages with the Mills activities and Water Framework Directive objectives	Community
334.	Mayo	River Dalgan	Presentation to Ballyhaunis Environment Committee	Ballyhaunis Environment Group, Augustin Abbey	Presentation on the DRBP but specific to River Dalgan	Community
335.	Mayo	Ballinrobe	River Robe Ballinrobe community clean-up	County Council WCO, Mayo County Council, Ballinrobe Tidy Towns	Major river clean with 50 tonnes removed	Community
336.	Mayo	Erriff Clew Bay	Mayo environmental staff team building day	Mayo County Council	Networking and awareness-raising	Local Authority
337.	Mayo	Bunahowna	River walk with LLEAS group	LLEAS (LEADER), Mayo County Council	Survey of the Bunahowna River to look at possible projects for locally-led application	LEADER
338.	Mayo	Killaturley GWS Swinford	Source protection application to LEADER for the GWS	National Federation of Group Water Scheme/LEADER	Project to apply for a source protection project for the GWS	LEADER
339.	Mayo	Westport	Public Participation Network Workshop	Public Participation Network, LEADER, Mayo County Council	Funding event for communities	LEADER
340.	Mayo	All	Meeting with Mayo NE LEADER to look at funding and support through SICAP Programme	Mayo NE LEADER, Moy Trust, Mayo County Council (LCDC)	Meeting to establish the various funding streams within the LEADER and SICAP programmes in relation to water quality and protection	LEADER

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
341.	Mayo		Meeting with Fisheries Local Action Groups (West) coordinator	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Information provided to Fisheries Local Action Groups (West) and discussion of possible projects	Marine
342.	Mayo	All	Stand at National Federation of Group Water Scheme National Conference	National Federation of Group Water Scheme	Great awareness-raising event with Minister Murphy present	Community
343.	Mayo	Erriff Clew Bay	Killeen National Ecology Project	Killeen National School, Dr Connie O'Driscoll	Ongoing project to examine the water quality on the river – great interaction from the students and a developing a connection with their local waters	Schools
344.	Mayo	Lough Carra	US Ecology Students presentation and tour of the Lough	Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Carra Anglers	Awareness event to highlight the value of this unique waterbody and its habitats	Third-level
345.	Mayo	All	Meeting with GMIT Outdoor course	Galway Mayo Institute of Technology	Meeting to develop project around mapping invasive species and develop best practice for biosecurity	Third-level
346.	Mayo	River Moy	River Moy clean-up	Ballina Tidy Towns, Moy Search and Rescue	One of many clean-ups on the River Moy – the project brings together the communities along the River Moy	Tidy Towns
347.	Mayo	River Robe	Guided river walk in Ballinrobe	Ballinrobe Tidy Towns	Community river walk to look at possible problem areas before community clean-up	Tidy Towns
348.	Mayo	River Deel	Stand at Crosmolina Tidy Towns fête event	Crossmolina Tidy Towns	Annual riverside garden fête – promotional activity and lots of contacts made on the day	Tidy Towns
349.	Mayo	Rosbeg Westport Quay	Engagement with community group to look at coastal awareness campaign	Westport Tidy Towns, Mayo County Council	Pilot project to highlight the biodiversity of the bay area	Tidy Towns
350.	Mayo	Erriff Clew Bay	Wild Rivers trust meeting	Mayo County Council, Wild Rivers Trust	Meeting to establish working group to look at proposed Owenmore Wild Rivers Site	Trust
351.	Mayo	All	Expo in Mount Falcon	County Council WCO, IFI, IFA, Mayo County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Teagasc, ICA, Rivers Trust, etc	Awareness-raising event focussed on water bodies within the catchment and beyond (over 200 present)	Trust
352.	Mayo	Moy	Meeting to establish the Moy Catchment Association and Moy Trust	Mayo County Council, all angling groups in the Moy Catchment	Good event that moved the Moy Catchment Association towards establishing a Trust	Trust

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353.	Mayo	Moy	Moy Association Expo	NGO's, community representatives, Mayo LA, business owners	Support to colleague for Moy Association Expo	Trust
354.	Mayo/Westport	All	National Tidy Towns Conference	All agencies and Tidy Towns groups	Networking event which brought agencies and stakeholders together	Tidy Towns
355.	Mayo/Galway	Corrib/Mask	Meeting with Headford Sustainability Committee	Headford Sustainability Group, local authorities	First meeting with group to start looking at possible projects in the area	Project
356.	Meath	Boyne	National Parks and Wildlife	NPWS East Ranger	Introduction to LAWCO	Agency
357.	Meath	Boyne	OPW meeting	OPW representative (East region)	Introduction to LAWCO	Agency
358.	Meath	Boyne	Navan Community – Ramparts River Walk site visit	Navan Anglers, business owners, NGO's, elected representatives, community representatives	Project advice re: walkway along River Boyne at Navan Ramparts	Amenity
359.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland meeting	NGO	Introduction to LAWCO	Community
360.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Laytown-Bettystown Beach Management Committee (meeting 2)	Elected representatives, Meath LA, Community representatives, NGO's	Second meeting of committee and review of draft Beach Management Plan	Community
361.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Sonairte Ecology Centre meeting	Sonairte manager	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: amenity use of River Nanny	Community
362.	Meath	Boyne	Rosnaree Community – Newgrange River Walk site visit	Rosnaree community representatives	Project advice re: walkway along River Boyne	Community
363.	Meath	Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	Meath County Development Plan Review	Meath LA, NGO's, community representatives	Public consultation on draft CDP	Local Authority
364.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Laytown-Bettystown Beach Management Committee (meeting 1)	Elected representatives, Meath LA, community representatives, NGO's	Inaugural meeting of committee and review of draft beach management plan	Local Authority
365.	Meath	Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	Meath LEADER information night	Meath Partnership, elected representatives, Meath LA, community representatives, NGO's	Launch of LEADER programme in Meath information night	LEADER
366.	Meath	Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	Meath LEADER	Meath Partnership	Potential water-related projects	LEADER

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
367.	Meath	Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	Meath PPN Open Day	NGO's, community representatives, PPN members, Meath LA	PPN Open Day, LAWCO information stand	PPN
368.	Meath	Boyne and Nanny-Delvin	An Taisce, Irish Water Green Schools Water Forum Day	NGO, Irish Water, schools, Meath LA	Water Forum Green Schools, County Meath	Schools
369.	Meath	Boyne	Dunboyne Scouts meeting	Dunboyne Scouts representatives	Project advice re: amenity use of the River Boyne	Scouts
370.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Ashbourne Tidy Towns AGM	Ashbourne Tidy Towns	Presentation at AGM, LAWCO supports	Tidy Towns
371.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Broadmeadow river clean-up	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, community representatives	River clean-up day	Tidy Towns
372.	Meath	Boyne	Kells Local Heroes	Kells Tidy Towns, local businesses	Project advice re: walkway along River Blackwater	Tidy Towns
373.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Friends of the Broadmeadow	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Ross Macklin environment expert	Anti-dumping €7,000 grant award, planning meeting	Tidy Towns
374.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Heritage Day Event Planning	Ashbourne Tidy Towns	Heritage Week event planning meeting	Tidy Towns
375.	Meath	Nanny-Delvin	Meeting with Minister Regina Doherty	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Minister Regina Doherty	Ashbourne initiatives – ministerial support meeting	Tidy Towns
376.	Meath	Boyne	Joint Boyne Council meeting – river trust formation	Boyne anglers, Boyne Council, Rivers Trust coordinator	Meeting to discuss potential for formation of Boyne River Trust	Trust
377.	Meath	Boyne	Boyne Association	Angling groups along the River Boyne (x17), business owners	First meeting to establish Boyne Association presentation from LAWCO and Rivers Trust Coordinator	Trust
378.	Meath	Boyne	Boyne Association	Angling groups along the River Boyne (x17), business owners	Second meeting of newly established Boyne Association	Trust
379.	Meath	Boyne	Longwood Anglers AGM	Longwood Anglers	Presentation to AGM – LAWCO supports	Users
380.	Meath	Boyne	Navan Anglers AGM	Navan Anglers	Presentation at AGM – LAWCO supports	Users
381.	Meath	Boyne	Meath Volunteer Centre	NGO	Introduction to LAWCO	Voluntary
382.	Meath	Meath LEADER	Meath Partnership	Introduction meeting to LAWCO	Introduction to LAWCO	LEADER

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383.	Meath	CFRAMS public consultation	OPW, LA's, NGO's	Public consultation meeting	Introduction to LAWCO	Agency
384.	Meath	Meath TUS Scheme	Meath TUS Coordinator	Introduction to LAWCO	Introduction to LAWCO	Agency
385.	Meath	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Friends of the Broadmeadow	Ashbourne Tidy Towns	Introduction to LAWCO and working with CWO POA	Introduction to LAWCO	Tidy Towns
386.	Meath	Athboy Tidy Towns	Athboy Tidy Towns	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: Community Park adjacent to the Athboy River	Introduction to LAWCO	Tidy Towns
387.	Meath	Kells Local Heroes	Kells Tidy Towns, Local Businesses	Introduction to LAWCO and project advice re: walkway along Blackwater River	Introduction to LAWCO	Tidy Towns
388.	Meath	Meath PPN Environment Pillar meeting	LA, NGO's, Community Groups	Presentation to Environment Pillar, introduction to LAWCO	Introduction to LAWCO	PPN
389.	Meath	Ashbourne Tidy Towns, Friends of the Broadmeadow	Ashbourne Tidy Towns	Project advice re: Riverbank Linear Park proposal	Introduction to LAWCO	Tidy Towns
390.	Meath and Louth	Boyne	Dundalk Bay Catchment Meeting with Rivers Trust Coordinator	Rivers Trust, NGO's, Community representatives	Dundalk Bay Visioning Workshop	Trust
391.	Mid-West region	Shannon	Meeting re: FLAGS projects in Mid-West with FLAGS coordinator	LAWCO (with Bláithín Ní Aínin) and BIM	Introduction to work of LAWCO and information sharing on FLAGS	Coastal
392.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Presentation to Network	Louth and Monaghan Group Water Scheme network	Introduction to LAWCO	Community
393.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Vision for Dundalk Bay Rivers	Community, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Rivers Trust	Community meeting	Community
394.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Cavan Monaghan Science Festival	Irish Countrywomen's Association	Water for Wellness presentation	Community
395.	Monaghan	Newry, Fane, Glyde and Dee 06	Support for Carrickmacross and Castleblaney Shared Vision for Dundalk Bay Rivers event	Mark Horton, Gretta McCarron, Bernie O'Flaherty, Jimmy McVeigh, Karen Kennedy	Opportunity to learn about the RIPPLE methodology and how it is used to promote community engagement	Dundalk Bay Vision

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396.	Monaghan	Dundalk Bay	Visioning Meeting Carrickmacross	Local Community	Dundalk Bay Visioning	Dundalk Bay Vision
397.	Monaghan	Dundalk Bay	Visioning Meeting Castleblaney	Local Community	Dundalk Bay Visioning	Dundalk Bay Vision
398.	Monaghan	Dee Glyde and Fane	St Daigh's School	School activity		Education
399.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Whos Who? event	LA's, Inland Fisheries Ireland, EPA, Collaborative Action for the Nature Network, RBCT, Tidy Towns, anglers, Dundalk Institute of Technology	Visiting projects working in the Catchment	Event
400.	Monaghan	Dee Glyde and Fane	Cavan Monaghan Science Festival Invasive species presentation	LA, Collaborative Action for the Nature Network, community	Schools and community engagement	Event
401.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Cavan Monaghan Science Festival, Water for Wellness presentation	Monaghan town library	Schools and community engagement	Event
402.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Presentation to Monaghan IFA	Farmers	Farmer engagement	Agriculture
403.	Monaghan	Erne	Community Consultation	LA, RPS consultants, farmers	Catchment-based management plan	Agriculture
404.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Supported River Blackwater Catchment Trust submit an EIP for the protection of the high status mountain water and curlew nesting sites	Blackwater River Trust	Preparation of project proposal	Agriculture
405.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Worked with River Blackwater Catchment Trust to submit a biodiversity training programme to LEADER	Blackwater River Trust	Preparation of project proposal	Agriculture
406.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Monaghan Greenway	Monaghan County Council	Planning for Greenway	Local Authority
407.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Sliabh Beagh Consultation for Collaborative Action for the Nature Network project	Monaghan County Council, Collaborative Action for the Nature Network	Input into plan	Local Authority
408.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Presentation to Monaghan Public Participation Network	PPN coordinator	Introductory meeting	PPN
409.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	PPN Networking event in Castleblaney	Community groups	Community engagement	PPN
410.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Blackstaff National School	School activity	Schools engagement	Schools

No	County	Catchment	Initiative/event/project name	Who was involved?	Outcomes/comments	Societal Sector
411.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	GSI water works interactive event	Schools, communities	Schools engagement	Schools
412.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Glaslough Entente florale prep	Tidy Towns, Monaghan County Council	Preparation for adjudication	Tidy Towns
413.	Monaghan	Neagh Bann	Meeting with Tidy Town re: biodiversity projects	National Parks and Wildlife Service, LA, Greenway and Tidy Towns	Engagement and networking	Tidy Towns
414.	Monaghan	Dee, Glyde and Fane	Meeting with Monaghan GWS network	Presentation	Introduction to LAWCO	
415.	National	National	EPA Integrated Catchment Modelling Workshop	EPA, Academics, LA's, NGO's	Integrated Catchment Modelling seminar	Agency
416.	National	Waterford Estuary and Harbour	National Engagement re: crayfish plague	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and EPA	National Engagement regarding confirmed outbreak of crayfish plague and biosecurity plan. Notifying all clubs and organisations of the crayfish plague. Developing and erecting signage	Agency
417.	National	National	Teagasc Agri-environmental Conference in Tullamore, Co Offaly	Various agri-environmental stakeholders	Learning and information exchange, Improved environmental Awareness, Networking and relationship building	Agriculture
418.	National	National	Attended a MoreFish Stakeholder Meeting (freshwater aquaculture) in AIT – DAFM funded	Various freshwater fish farm stakeholders, local authorities	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Agriculture
419.	National	National	Heritage Council Meeting with Uplands Partnerships	LAWCO, Heritage Council and various community bodies	Networking opportunity and information sharing with uplands partnerships	Heritage
420.	National	National	Attended National Public Participation Network Meeting of coordinators Custom House	All PPN coordinators	Opportunity for information sharing and future collaboration nationally	PPN
421.	National	National	BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2017 (RDS)	Schools, NGO's	Investigating potentially relevant water-related projects	Schools
422.	National	National	Field Studies Council (FSC) Higher Education Talk	FSC, third-level education sector representatives	FSC seminar on outdoor learning programmes run in Ireland	Third-Level

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423.	National	National	Attended the IFI Trout Conference in Hodson Bay, Athlone	IFI	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building, improved environ, improved environmental awareness	Users
424.	National	Workshop on Septic Tanks	NFGWS, LA's, NGO's, community groups	NFGWS information day on septic tanks	Introduction to LAWCO	Training
425.	National	Celtic Seas Partnership (two days)	NGO's, LA's, academics	End of the project sharing what the Celtic Seas Partnership has achieved	Introduction to LAWCO	Conference
426.	National	Environment and Health Conference, Our Environment, Our Health, Our Wellbeing	EPA, HSE, LA's, NGO's, academics	Promoting a greater awareness of the impact of environmental quality on human health	Introduction to LAWCO	Conference
427.	Nationwide	Nationwide	Catchment Management Networking Meeting, Athlone	Agencire, practitioners	Opportunity to meet with EPA and LA staff	Agency
428.	Nationwide	Nationwide	Meeting with An Taisce Dublin	An Taisce	Initial formal meeting with senior management, opportunity to raise LAWCO profile, information sharing and potential collaboration	Environmental
429.	Nationwide	Nationwide	BT Young Scientist	Schools	Contact made with Primary School Bray, funding information forwarded	Event
430.	Offaly	Lower Shannon	Meeting with Clara Community Group re: Brosna	Clara Community Group, Clara Heritage, Environmental Group	Meeting with Clara Community Group to explore options for the River Brosna through Clara	Community
431.	Offaly	Lower Shannon	Biodiversity Action Day in Pollagh	Pollagh Tidy Village Group	Raise awareness of Biodiversity in Pollagh	Event
432.	Offaly	Barrow	River Figile and Clonbullogue Awareness Day – Find Out About the Figile	Flynn Furney environmental consultants, St Patrick's National School Clonbullogue, Tús staff	Awareness day on the Figile river, talks on importance of our natural waters and a talk on the Figile River. - Also outdoor walk and talk along the River with Kicksampling and bug identification with the children	Event
433.	Offaly	Lower Shannon	Clara River Brosna Awareness Project	Clara Community Action Group, Offaly Heritage Officer, Local Businesses	Project to raise awareness of the River Brosna and its water heritage in Clara town	Heritage

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434.	Offaly	Shannon	Offaly Public Private Partnership plenary session	Community Groups from all over Offaly	Putting natural waters of Offaly on the community groups agenda	PPN
435.	Offaly	Shannon	Offaly PPN Network Event	Community groups in Offaly, Offaly County Council	Opportunity to meet with and influence Offaly community groups	PPN
436.	Offaly	Shannon	Meeting with Scouting Ireland Development Officer	Scouting Ireland	Exploring opportunities for synergy between LAWCO and Scouting Ireland	Scouts
437.	Offaly	Barrow	Meeting with Clonbullogue Tidy Village Group	Clonbullogue Tidy Village coordinator	Opportunities to explore community interaction with the River Figite as it flows through the Clonbullogue community	Tidy Towns
438.	Offaly	Tullamore River	Exploratory meeting on feasibility project for Tullamore and Tullamore River	Offaly County Council Environment, Heritage, Planning Staff, external consultants, Tullamore Tidy Towns	Examining what can be done to improve the interaction between Tullamore Town and the Tullamore River which flows through it	Tidy Towns
439.	Offaly	Grand Canal	Grand Canal Biodiversity Tidy Towns Training with Irish Wildlife Trust	Irish Wildlife Trust, Offaly LA	Tidy Towns Biodiversity Training	Tidy Towns
440.	Offaly	Lower Shannon	River walk with Silver River Anglers Group	Silver River Anglers Group	River walk to explore opportunities for instream improvements	Users
441.	Roscommon	North Roscommon Group Water Schemes	Meeting to look at awareness campaign to look at Group Water Schemes in Karst Regions	County Council WCO, National Federation of Group Water Scheme, Roscommon County Council, GSI	Early stage of proposed project to develop a programme for the North Roscommon Karst Region Schemes	Agency
442.	Roscommon	All	Presentation to the AGM of the Roscommon Branch of the National Federation of Group Water Schemes	Group Water Scheme Managers and Trustees	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Community
443.	Roscommon	All	Attended a presentation on the NFGWS and GSI Dye Tracing Project in Elphin – this event was attended by the staff from the GSI, the NFGWS and groups water scheme trustees and managers. It included a site visit to the source of Polecat Springs (potential for a group projects between the GSI, NFGWS, Roscommon County Council and the Waters and Communities Office)	GSI, NFGWS, Roscommon County Council	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Community

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444.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Stakeholder workshop on the Irish goat, curlew and church/medieval heritage of Lough Ree in Athlone	Various stakeholders and groups with an interest in Lough Ree	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Community
445.	Roscommon		Presentation to the Roscommon Branch of BirdWatch Ireland (18 in attendance)	Roscommon BirdWatch	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Community
446.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Official bridge opening with exhibition of maps, photos and drawings of the Ballygalda Canal Bridge at Correal, Co Roscommon	Ballygalda Canal, local community, elected representatives, Roscommon heritage officer	Networking and relationship building	Community
447.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Meeting with Cathy from Suck Valley Way Visitor Centre in Athleague	Suck Valley Development Cooperative	Ongoing engagement and collaboration	Community
448.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Site visit with Suck Valley Development Cooperative on the Glinsk-Ballymoe section of the Suck Valley Way	Suck Valley Development Cooperative	Networking and relationship building	Community
449.	Roscommon	Suck	Pairc na Hean walk	Roscommon County Council, two local schools, Roscommon Tidy Towns, Minister Denis Naughton, National Parks and Wildlife Service, BirdWatch Ireland	Networking and awareness-raising event for wetland in an urban area	Event
450.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Organised and jointly facilitated a nature walk with the Heritage Office of Roscommon County Council – this event was supported by Roscommon Tidy Towns (approx. 45 people attended including 18 pupils from the local Gael school)	Roscommon County Council, National Parks and Wildlife, Roscommon Tidy Towns, BirdWatch Roscommon	Learning and information exchange, environmental awareness	Event
451.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Attended a meeting organised by the IFA which was exploring the possibility of HNV farming schemes for land along by Lough Ree	Farmers, IFA REPS, Sligo IT Lecturer	Learning and information exchange - networking and relationship building	Agriculture
452.	Roscommon	All	Had a stand at the Teagasc Horizons event in Roscommon Town – spoke to both IFI and Teagasc staff at this event	Farmers, Teagasc, LEADER companies, Inland Fisheries Ireland	Networking and relationship building	Agriculture

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453.	Roscommon	All	Assisted and had water quality information at Teagasc, Roscommon County Council and Irish Water public meeting on pesticide prevention in drinking water which was held in Frenchpark (approx. 80 attendees)	Teagasc, Roscommon County Council, Irish Water, Farmers	Learning and information exchange, Improved environmental Awareness,	Agriculture
454.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Suck Valley Way, Castlecoote Tidy Towns and the Water & Communities Office held a walk along by the River Suck Callows as part of Water Heritage day for Heritage Week	Castlecoote Tidy Towns, Suck Valley Development Cooperative	Learning and information exchange, limproved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Heritage
455.	Roscommon		Attended a PPN meeting in Four Mile House	Various Community Groups, Roscommon County Council, Roscommon Leadership Partnership	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	PPN
456.	Roscommon	Suck	Four Mile House School engagement	Local school	Awareness raising around the use and protection of water within the catchment	Schools
457.	Roscommon	Suck	Clooncah Primary School engagement	Local school	The talk aimed to raise awareness around the use and protection of water within the catchment	Schools
458.	Roscommon	Castlecoote National School	National School Presentation and river walk	Castlecoote National School	Good event with interaction from the students and teachers	Schools
459.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	In conjunction with MK, a catchment presentation was give to 111 children from Four Mile House School	School students and staff	School awareness programme, learning and information exchange	Schools
460.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Myself and Mick Kane undertook a school visit to Cloncagh National School, near Strokestown (27 students and 3 teachers were present)	School students and staff	School awareness programme	Schools
461.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Schools visit to Rahara National School to speak about local turlough and water quality in general (approx. 20 students in attendance)	School students and staff	School awareness programme	Schools
462.	Roscommon		ESAI flooding debate in Athlone Institute of Technology	Various	Learning and information exchange, networking and relationship building	Third-level

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463.	Roscommon		Meeting with Killeevan Tidy Towns regarding the organisation of a rainwater harvesting presentation on the 13th of March		Event planning	Tidy Towns
464.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Presentation on rainwater harvesting to 25 members of the public in Killeevan Community Hall – T, the WFD and the Waters & Communities Office	Killeevan Tidy Towns, Killeevan Community Council	Learning and information exchange, improved environmental awareness, networking and relationship building	Tidy Towns
465.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Visit to St Bridget's Holy Well in Killeevan	Killeevan Tidy Towns	Project planning	Tidy Towns
466.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Wildlife survey along the river in Killeevan Community Field and raising of Green Flag at local National School	Killeevan Tidy Towns	Wildlife survey, project delivery	Tidy Towns
467.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Meeting with Roscommon Tidy Towns re: the River Jiggy	Roscommon Tidy Towns	Learning and information exchange	Tidy Towns
468.	Roscommon	Upper Shannon	Site visit with NPWS Ranger and Castlecoote Tidy Towns and Councillor regarding development of signage for the wintering birds on the Suck Callows.	NPWS, Castlecoote Tidy Towns	Project planning	Tidy Towns
469.	Sligo		Participated in Teagasc Horizon Seminars Longford, Sligo and Leitrim	Karen Kennedy	Opportunity to introduce LAWCO to agriculture network locally	Agriculture
470.	Sligo		National Public Participation Network Conference			PPN
471.	Sligo	Sligo Bay and Drowes 35	Guest speaker for IT Sligo post graduate diploma students – Water resources module	On request from lecturer in Environmental Science Department (approx. 18 students and three lecturers)	Awareness of LAWCO, RBMP, examples of catchments protection activities and workshop with students	Third-level
472.	South East Region	River Barrow	Engagement with Regional Officer National Parks and Wildlife	NPWS staff	Developing relationship with both and discussing ongoing projects	Agency
473.	South East Region	John's River	Engagement with PPN's, Waterford Institute of Technology, Local Authorities, Carlow Institute of Technology	Public Participation Network's, Waterford Institute of Technology, Local Authorities, Carlow Institute of Technology	Identification of possible waters projects and progression of same	PPN
474.	South East Region	River Nore	Tidy Towns training event	Workshops with Tidy Towns	Introduction to LAWCO and promotion of waters	Tidy Towns
475.	Tipperary	Kings River	Plenary Session of Public Participation Network	PPN, Tidy Towns Groups and Community groups	Promotion of LAWCO objectives	PPN

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476.	Tipperary	Shannon/Suir	Walkover survey of Borrisleigh Stream with local community representatives	LAWCO and local community	Identification of issues of concern/pressures	Community
477.	Tipperary	Suir	Local community meeting re: plans on Borrisleigh Stream	LAWCO and local community	Introduction to LAWCO, issues identified and future plans	Community
478.	Tipperary	Shannon	Community river walk, assessment, kick sampling	Various community groups around Cloughjordan	LAWCO networking, information sharing	Community
479.	Tipperary	Shannon/Suir	LAWCO presentation, engagement with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership re: development of draft proposals	LAWCO and NTLIP	Introduction to LAWCO and networking regarding future cooperation work, joint project, etc	LEADER
480.	Tipperary	Lower Shannon	Presentation to AGM of Tipperary Federation of GWS	LAWCO and LA and National Federation of GWS	Introduction to LAWCO and networking	Community
481.	Tipperary	Shannon/Suir	LAWCO presentation, engagement with Tipperary PPN Coordinator	LAWCO and Tipperary PPN	Introduction to LAWCO and networking regarding future cooperation work/joint project, etc	PPN
482.	Tipperary		Kilruane Wetlands Project	LAWCO, local communities and landowners	Introduction to work of LAWCO and progress local LEADER project re: wetlands	Project
483.	Tipperary	Suir	Planning meeting with Ara Catchment Friendly Farming Association for EIP Application	Various farming stakeholders on the Upper Ara	Development of Operational Group for EIP application	Project
484.	Tipperary	Suir	Meeting with Ara Catchment Friendly Farming Association – EIP application	Various farming stakeholders on the Upper Ara in ICM	EIP Application and Promotion of LAWCO and farming and water quality	Project
485.	Tipperary/ Clare	Shannon	Attend and present at very large public meeting (anglers) on stock survey on Lough Derg	Local community, anglers, third-level bodies, LAWCO, IFI	Opportunity to engage with anglers and public consultation of the dRBMP	Community
486.	Tipperary/ Clare	Suir/Lough Derg	Engagement with SWARE Project incl. representatives from TCC, LAWCO, IFI and external consultants	LAWCO, Tipp CC and various stage bodies	Networking opportunity and information sharing	Local Authority
487.	Waterford	River Clodiagh	Engagement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Working with them to develop and coordinate projects	Agency
488.	Waterford		Engagement in Johnstown Castle with Heritage Council	Members of Heritage Council	Launch of <i>Living History of Local Rivers</i>	Agency

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489.	Waterford	River Barrow	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Field Trip – Curraghmore Estate	Waterford County and City Council, Teagasc, Curraghmore Estate Manager and Stream Scapes	Field trip to evaluate establishment of a freshwater pearl mussel breeding project	Agency
490.	Waterford		Waterford Spraoi Festival	Public Event	Erected stand at the Spraoi Festival – engaged the public re: water quality and biodiversity issues	Community
491.	Waterford		Engagement with Belle Lake Trust	Members of Trust	Assisting in development of management plan for Belle Lake Trust	Environmental
492.	Waterford	River Barrow and tributaries	John's River clean-up	Waterford City and County Council with John's River Group	Clean-up of John's River which flows through centre of Waterford and has major problems with litter and pollution	Local Authority
493.	Waterford	Uplands	Anne Valley Wetlands Project	Developers of project	Ongoing research and insight into constructed wetlands	Research
494.	Waterford		Engagement with third-level education professor		To establish linkages on Water Quality Projects – inform of submission process on draft River Basin Management Plan	Research
495.	Waterford	River Barrow	Visit to Bunmahon Tidy Towns		Consulting with re: development of slip way	Tidy Towns
496.	Westmeath	Shannon	Meeting with Inland Fisheries Ireland Officer	Inland Fisheries Ireland staff	Arrange for cooperation between IFI staff and Waters & Communities on projects like the River AI	Agency
497.	Westmeath	Shannon	Information briefing to Willow Park Community Group on how to restore the River AI in Athlone	Willow Park Community Group	Developed a project strategy to remediate the River AI in Athlone	Community
498.	Westmeath	Shannon Upper and Lower	Baltrasna Boreen Biodiversity Project	Baltrasna Community Group, Westmeath County Council	Bring a water focus to the community actions	Community
499.	Westmeath	Shannon	Meeting with Willow Park Community Group, local activists, Gardai in relation to restoring the River AI in Willow Park	Willow Park Community Group, Gardai Community Officers, local activists	Opportunity to raise awareness and educate the community as to the importance of the River AI in their community	Community
500.	Westmeath	Shannon	Community clean-up, removal of waste from Willow Park section of River AI	Willow Park Community Group	River AI Clean up in Willow Park with Pilot Project on urban River restoration to follow	Community

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501.	Westmeath	Shannon	Set up of Athlone Canal Heritage Group	Athlone Tidy Towns, local angling groups, local boaters local hotelier, Athlone Heritage Group, local councillors	A committee established to examine the opportunities surrounding the Athlone Canal which links the Shannon from North of Athlone to South of Athlone	Community
502.	Westmeath	Upper Shannon	Assisted Streete Community Group with plan to improve community interaction with River Deel and other small streams in the locality	Members of community group	Working together with Streete Community Group to bring more focus to local waters	Community
503.	Westmeath	Upper Shannon	Multyfarnham and River Gaine Awareness Day	Multyfarnham Tidy Towns, IFI, NPWS, Westmeath County Council, Flynn Furney environment consultants, Food Wise Ireland	Open day and information sessions on the importance of the River Gaine to Multyfarnham; liaison with farmers, villagers, anglers etc	Event
504.	Westmeath	Upper Shannon	Fore Water Heritage Waters and Communities Awareness Day	Fore Community Group, Fore Heritage Group, St Feichin's National School	Water Awareness Day in Fore Village	Event
505.	Westmeath	Shannon	River AI clean-up and restoration project	River AI clean-up and restoration project with Willow Park Community Group and local Councillors, IFI, Athlone Institute of Technology	Pilot project to remove all dumped waste material from river, recycle appropriately, restore and revitalise river, improve biodiversity; raise awareness and educate community	Event
506.	Westmeath	Shannon	County Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018-2023 briefing Athlone Library	Westmeath Heritage Office and Local Authority, Westmeath Heritage Groups	Briefing on Westmeath Heritage Plan and importance of our water heritage	Heritage
507.	Westmeath	Upper and Lower Shannon	Westmeath Public Private Partnership Plenary session	Community Groups from all over Westmeath	Putting natural waters of Westmeath on the community groups agenda	PPN
508.	Westmeath	Shannon	Meeting with Author Paul Clemence in relation to his upcoming book on the River Shannon and the communities surrounding it	Paul Clemence, author	Providing research assistance to author based on Waters & Communities knowledge/experiences	Research
509.	Westmeath	Shannon Upper 26E	Pollinator plan, Wild natural meadow percolation area, nesting boxes talk at Ard na Grath National School	School children, staff, local councillor Tom Farrell	Assisted school with natural wild meadow percolation area, pollinator plan development	Schools

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510.	Westmeath	Shannon	Athlone's biodiversity	Athlone Tidy Towns, Athlone Town Council	Biodiversity seminar event – promotion of local natural waters	Tidy Towns
511.	Westmeath	Shannon Lower	Streamstown Tidy Village Community Group project on local streams	Streamstown Tidy Village Group, Streamstown Foroige Group, Westmeath Environment Awareness Officer	Project on Streamstown water heritage and local streams	Tidy Towns
512.	Westmeath	Boyne	Meeting with Raharney Tidy Village group	Raharney Tidy Village group	Opportunity to explore community interaction with the River Deel and the Raharney community	Tidy Towns
513.	Westmeath	Shannon Lower	Presentation to group on benefits of organic herbicide and pesticide use – Foroige Project	Streamstown Tidy Village Group, Streamstown Foroige Group	Presented to Foroige group in relation to benefits to natural waters of organic pesticide/herbicide use.	Tidy Towns
514.	Wexford	Barrow Estuary harbour and tributaries	Tillage Farmers Engagement	Farmers	Waters awareness-raising and promotion of community involvement.	Agriculture
515.	Wexford	Duncannon and Bannow Bay	Meeting with Coastwatch and local community members	Coastwatch and local communities	Surveying Honeycomb Reef in area and establishing levels of pollution	Coastal
516.	Wexford	Coastal areas	Engagement with Wexford Sea Scouts	Wexford Sea Scouts	Working with Sea Scouts to highlight importance of water quality and biodiversity projects	Community
517.	Wexford	River Barrow and Uplands	Launch of Coastwatch Survey	Wexford County Council, Coastwatch Ireland, community groups and Austrian Ambassador	Launch of Coastwatch survey – citizens science project	Environmental, Community, LA
518.	Wexford	River Barrow, Burren and tributaries	Engagement Local Farmer	Local farmer	Farmer expressed interest to become local champion – to have positive effect on water quality on River Sow and improve fish habitat	Agriculture
519.	Wexford	River Burren	Engagement Wexford County Council	Engagement with Environmental Section of LA	Ongoing training on small stream assessments – discussion on possible development of EIP project	Local Authority
520.	Wexford	River Slaney, tributaries and harbour	Development of European Innovation Partnership Project	Wexford County Council	Participating with staff in development of EIP project – Blue Flags	Local Authority

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521.	Wexford	All	Engagement Wexford County Council	Wexford County Council, IFA, Glanbia, Teagasc	Assisting with development of EIP Project – Blue Flags and Citizens Science	Local Authority
522.	Wexford	Coastal areas	Dunbrody Launch-Wexford Trails	Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils, LEADER and Wexford Trails	Promoting River Basin Management Plan objectives	Local Authority
523.	Wexford	River Barrow	Engagement with Teagasc in Gorey	Coastwatch, Teagasc and Community Group	Assessment of small streams in the area	Teagasc, Environment Agency
524.	Wicklow	Avoca/Vartry	Annamoe Fisheries Open Day with IFI – insect identification and introduction to angling	IFI, LAWCO, scout groups and local students	Outdoor classroom looking at freshwater insects and fishing (28 youths took part)	Agency
525.	Wicklow	Avoca/Vartry	Attended and participated Inland Fisheries Ireland Something Fishy Workshop Rathdrum Co Wicklow	School pupils, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Dublin City Council staff	Pupils from local school partook in outdoor classroom – developed good working relationship with other agency staff	Agency
526.	Wicklow	Avoca/Vartry	Community Support Enquiry from Roundwood District Community Council	Community Council	Initial contact and proposed meeting with community group	Community
527.	Wicklow	All	Expand Your Horizons Teagasc display stand	Teagasc, LAWCO, LEADER, Citizen Advice, Inland Fisheries Ireland and other display holders	Opportunity to meet with Teagasc members in Wicklow area and raise LAWCO profile and that of RBMP	Agriculture
528.	Wicklow	All	Meeting with Wicklow Partnership LEADER	LEADER	Opportunity to develop and progress potential water projects in the Wicklow area	LEADER
529.	Wicklow	Avoca/Vartry	Community support – discussions with LEADER on potential water project	LEADER, local community	Potential project on the Vartry River	LEADER
530.	Wicklow	Slaney and Wexford Harbour	Presentation at NFGWS county federation meeting	National Federation of Group Water Schemes	Opportunity to meet with NFGWS members in Wicklow area and raise LAWCO profile	Community
531.	Wicklow	Avoca/Vartry	Green Schools Seminar Day – LAWCO interactive display stand in conjunction with Wicklow County Council	Wicklow County Council, An Taisce, Rediscovery Centre Ballymun, Pedal a Smoothie, Dr Cara Augustenborg	34 Green School Committee members attended day (Secondary Schools) from throughout Co Wicklow	Schools





