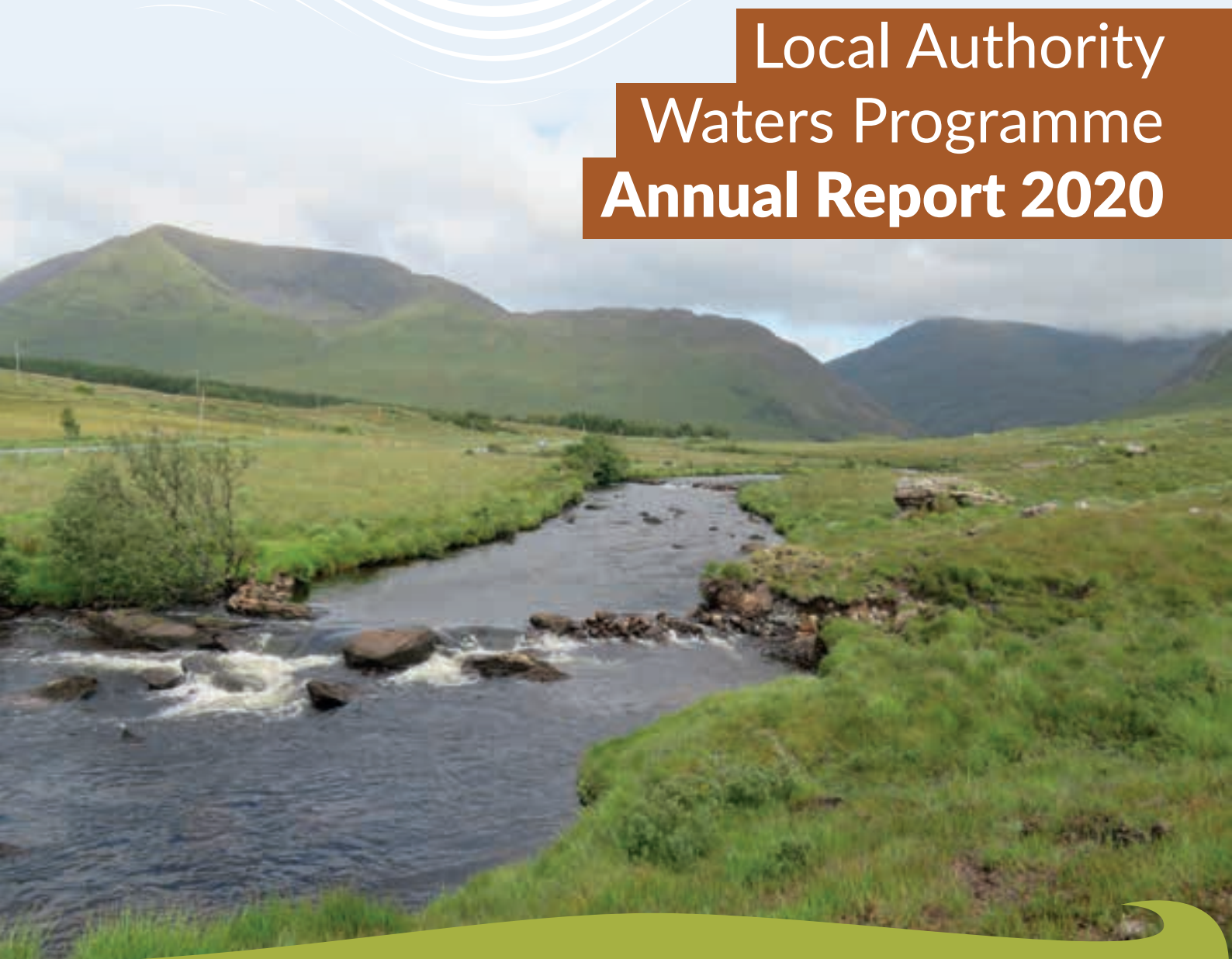




vibrant communities | catchment assessment | healthy waters

Local Authority Waters Programme Annual Report 2020





DIRECTOR OF SERVICES STATEMENT

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is a local government shared service, working with all 31 Local Authorities. LAWPRO coordinates the local authority sector's role in river basin management planning in Ireland and the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. LAWPRO has three core functions: coordination on behalf of local authorities and public bodies, catchment science and management to inform decisions, and community engagement at a local level. Through all aspects of its work, LAWPRO advocates for a healthy water environment to deliver benefits for health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate and local communities. This approach recognises the challenges presented by many crises, including biodiversity loss and climate change.

2020 was a year which saw many sectors of the economy severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite significant disruption during this time, the essential work of LAWPRO continued, including local catchment assessments, funding to communities, support for projects during National Heritage Week, and virtual meetings with public bodies, stakeholders, and local communities. I would like to thank all our staff, and the countless others, who have helped us fulfil our obligations during a challenging year.

Towards the end of 2020, I took over as Director of Services for LAWPRO following the retirement of Seán Keating and look forward to working on the programme with all involved as we move towards the 3rd Cycle of river basin management planning.

I am delighted to present this fourth annual report on the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), and the second with both the Communities Team and the Catchments Team in place. This report presents some highlights from the work of LAWPRO in 2020 as a local authority shared service in water quality management and is an acknowledgement of the dedication and commitment of all staff and management.

Karl Cashen
Director of Services

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Introduction

This report presents the goals, objectives, and achievements of the LAWPRO team of 60 staff across a five-regional structure: Border, Midlands and Eastern, South East, South West and West.

This is the fourth annual report on the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and presents highlights from LAWPROs work with communities and within catchments in 2020. The work showcases the continued efforts of the programme working in collaboration with local authorities, state agencies, local communities and others.



1 About LAWPRO

LAWPRO is a Local Authority (LA) shared service, operating nationwide on behalf of all 31 local authorities, with Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils having responsibility for oversight of the programme. LAWPRO's 60 specialist staff work out of 13 different LA centres across five regions, delivering three core strategic objectives for water quality management in Ireland:

1. Coordination of water quality activities by State actors, Local Authorities, and stakeholders.
2. Community engagement and support for local projects and initiatives.
3. Catchment science and local catchment assessments.

The European Union Water Framework Directive places statutory obligations on Member States for the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). This is enacted in Irish law by the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 as amended, which places responsibilities on local authorities for 'regional coordination, public consultation, the development and implementation of river basin management plans and programmes of measures.' LAWPRO is a key initiative, set up by the local authority sector and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to these responsibilities.



Map showing the five local authority regions for water and environment management



Water samples.
Credit: LAWPRO.



2 Strategic Direction



Lake and ruins Three Castle Head, County Cork

LAWPRO is part of a 'new approach' to water management in Ireland that seeks collaboration and close cooperation between local authorities, public bodies and stakeholders in the development and implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 (RBMP).

The RBMP's overall aim is to protect or improve water quality back to good or high status in Ireland's rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters. Achieving that aim requires the active involvement of local authorities and other public bodies, water users and local communities through:

- community engagement, which aims to create a broader understanding of the issues affecting local water bodies and to identify local groups interested in taking action to protect and improve their local water environment.
- the development of Catchment Science and Management, a concept which integrates all decision making within a catchment to protect and improve waters and ensure the right measure is implemented in the right place.

In establishing LAWPRO, a vision statement was created to provide a clear and concise direction for staff and stakeholders. After much consideration, the following was agreed.

LAWPRO's Vision

The natural waters of Ireland, including rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters are recognised for their importance and value for ourselves, for wildlife and for our economy. These waters will be protected, restored and cared for by local authorities, public bodies, stakeholders and communities working together.

LAWPRO's Mission

To engage and support communities, and work with local authorities, public bodies and stakeholders to protect and care for the natural waters of Ireland.

LAWPRO has several roles and responsibilities, which led to its establishment. These have grown as the RBMP process has developed and evolved and at a strategic level now include the following, outlined in Figure 1.

LAWPRO uses a Logical Framework, an analytical process to support project planning, and Management, to develop its annual work plan. It sets goals and targets in a logical sequence through a systems-based process of Actions, Rationale, Methods and Outcomes. It also assesses the risk of not achieving the desired outcomes and requires a process of continuous analysis and review.

The result is a detailed matrix of strategic objectives and primary results, ongoing activities, and specific actions to achieve desired results. All with key performance indicators and criteria for measuring outputs and outcomes for a year.

The six principal headings from LAWPRO's work plan for 2020 are provided below:

Objectives	Rationale		Methods	Outcomes
Governance and Leadership Drivers of effective governance for WFD implementation in Ireland	Support the DHLGH and EPA in meeting national obligations for better water quality and implementation of the WFD. Internal governance of the LAWPRO programme.		LAWPRO as conduits for information flow within the River Basin Management Plan Governance Structure. Attendances at relevant regional and national meetings and committees. Leading on the identification of issues and development of guidance. Effective internal senior & operational management committees.	Linking bottom-up concerns to top-down governance. Giving communities a voice in high-level decision making. Ongoing management and development of the programme.
Coordination Supporting governance structures for water quality management and promoting cooperation and knowledge transfer between actors	Local Authorities, State agencies, and public bodies working together for better water quality. Delivering multiple benefits for water, biodiversity, climate action, and local communities.		Regional Management and Operational Structures. Collaborations and knowledge sharing. Supporting local implementation of measures and actions for water quality.	Greater Knowledge transfer. Shared vision and goals. Common purpose to achieve goals. Coordinated approach to implementation of RBMP.
Community Involvement Supporting communities and stakeholders to participate in caring for local waterbodies	Bottom-up approach, involving communities and water users in conversations and actions to achieve water quality goals. Better understanding of local issues and concerns.		Local engagements, meetings, and events. Consultations and two-way dialogue. Listening to local communities. Promoting the value of good water quality. Administration and oversight of the Community Water Development Fund.	Community-led water related initiatives and projects. Giving communities a voice in water quality matters. Community resilience and capacity to take local action.
Catchment Science Catchment Management and Science in Priority Areas for Action	Leading the way with innovative catchment science. Identification of issues affecting water quality. Guidance for LA staff, relevant agencies, and stakeholders to find solutions to problems identified.		Desk studies and Local Catchment Assessments. Community Information Meetings. Referrals and tracking of implementation. Identification of gaps in POMs through field assessment. Development of catchment science methodologies.	Detailed assessment in PAAs. Stakeholder and community engagement. Wider understanding of the issues and solutions at multiple scales.
Innovation Continuous learning from experience, evolving, and changing our approach, as necessary	Pioneering catchment science and community engagement and consultation. Allowing in-house expertise to develop		Building on experiences to date. Networking to share knowledge. Harnessing new ideas and developments.	LAWPRO as leaders in catchment science and community engagement in the LA sector. Knowledge transfer across LA sector.
Communications and Awareness Recognising the significant role LAWPRO has in communicating water policy and science to stakeholders and communities.	Delivering engaging and accessible public information on water policy and science. Advocating for water quality/ RBMP objectives at local and regional levels, nationwide. Increasing water literacy to build capacity for actions within communities. Promoting LAWPRO as a reliable and trusted actor in water quality management		Clear and meaningful messaging grounded in evidence. Local engagements with communities. Collaboration and cooperation with partner organisations and stakeholders. LAWPRO mission and values delivered through management and staff. Optimising use of traditional and new media to reach target audiences.	Increased understanding of water quality issues, and challenges. Clear understanding of LAWPRO values, purpose, and goals. Continual growth in public participation and support for RBMP development and implementation. Effective collaboration in pursuit of RBMP objectives. A network of community groups actively involved in caring for local waterbodies.

Figure 1 – LAWPRO strategic objectives



3 LAWPRO Structure and Governance

LAWPRO has grown from 18 staff in 2016, with the establishment of the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO), to a current resource of 60 staff, following the expansion of the programme in 2018 with the addition of the Catchment Assessment Team.

The senior management team comprises of a Director of Service, three Regional Coordinators and a Catchment Team Lead. This team is responsible for the strategic direction and overall programme delivery.

Office administration is a central function for the management and operation of the LAWPRO programme and is based in Head Office, Ballingarrane, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

3.1 Senior Management

LAWPRO has a senior management of five, comprising a Director of Service and four Co-ordinators/Managers at Senior Engineer/Scientist grade.

Name	Role
Sean Keating (Retired December 2020) Karl Cashen (November 2020)	Director of Service
Carol McCarthy	Catchments Team Lead
Bernie O'Flaherty	Regional Co-ordinator – Border and West Regions
Fran Igoe	Regional Co-ordinator – South East and South West Regions
Ray Spain	Regional Co-ordinator – Midlands and Eastern Region & Head Office Operations Manager

Table 1 – Senior Management Team

The Regional Co-ordinators and Catchments Team Lead have specific sectoral expertise and coordinate and facilitate multi-agency collaboration at regional and national level. The Head Office Operations Manager oversees and directs the work of the LAWPRO Head Office, see section 3.2. The Catchments Team Lead oversees the work of the Catchment Assessment Team to ensure that work programmes in the Priority Areas for Action (PAA) are delivered across the Country.

Retirement

In December 2020, Seán Keating, Director of Services retired from Tipperary County Council and LAWPRO after a career spanning 44 years. Karl Cashen was appointed to the role of Director of Service for LAWPRO.

3.2 Head Office

LAWPRO's Head Office is in Ballingarrane, Clonmel and provides back office supports in several key areas. These include administration, funding, IT, financial management, health and safety, communications, and marketing.

LAWPRO operates out of 13 separate local authority offices, nationwide, and to facilitate this, its computer and information systems are cloud-based. These systems allowed LAWPRO staff to respond quickly to public health advice, in particular 'working from home', thus minimising the impact on LAWPRO's work programme for 2020.

The programme is 100% funded by DHLGH through a Memorandum of Funding Agreement. This agreement allows for recoupment on certified expenditure. LAWPRO's expenditure in 2020 was €5,312,596 against a budget of €6,235,298, an underspend of €922,702. This was principally because of reduced salaries due to staff turnover, reduced travelling and expenses and reduced in-person engagement activities, because of covid lockdowns. Increased expenditure was incurred in the IT area to provide video conferencing facilities for continuation of work during covid lockdowns.

The support staff based in Clonmel have responsibilities in the following areas:

Finance and HR – The programme is 100% funded by the DHLGH and costs of the programme are recouped monthly. All purchasing is monitored to ensure compliance with public procurement practices. These functions are managed by an office administration team, comprising a Senior Staff Officer and two Clerical Officers.

Information Technology – 2020 was a challenging year for the IT function due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Impact on LAWPRO's work programme was kept to a minimum because we operate a cloud-based system. Video conferencing facilities and training were supplied to all staff. As well as providing continuous support for all the staff of the programme, there has been a recent development in our systems to cater to the increased level of data capture from the Catchments Team. For the Communities Team, there were upgrades in our virtual communication systems to cater for increased virtual engagement with communities through online media. A new website was developed in conjunction with the Stories from the Waterside competition <https://storiesfromthewaterside.ie/>. Upgrading of LAWPRO's website <https://lawaters.ie/> began in 2020.

Communications and Marketing – Communications are central to LAWPRO's core work. 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 the need to protect waters and the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan. We continually developed a range of marketing tools and assets to promote our activities, engagements, and publications.

LAWPRO delivers information on science and policy to local communities and stakeholders. An updated Communications Plan was put in place for 2020, incorporating a communication's calendar and specific plans for 'big ticket' items such as Heritage Week, the Communities Conference and National Spring Clean. Tools and guidance to support staff with local level engagement are also included.

Community Funding – LAWPRO helps communities access funding to deliver local water projects and initiatives. In this way, communities build capacity and become more involved in the care of local water bodies. A specialist Funding Lead advises staff, local authorities, public bodies, and community groups on available funding streams.

The Funding Lead administers a dedicated Community Water Development Fund of €380,000 in 2020, to drive community participation in caring for local water bodies. In delivering water quality objective

Environmental Health and Safety management system – In 2020, LAWPRO's commitment to providing a safe place of work and doing our work in a way that is environmentally friendly continued. This was against the background of a global pandemic that affected all aspects of how we worked. LAWPRO worked with Tipperary County Council to ensure that all staff were kept safe and that they and members of the public were protected as far as possible throughout the pandemic. The process has involved changes to work policies and procedures, including:

- Roll out of remote working for staff
- Reorganisation of meetings, including public meetings to go online
- Reconfiguration of the Ballingarrane offices to meet COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines
- Additional support for staff in the form of training and PPE
- Consultation with all the relevant stakeholders.

3.3 Catchment Managers

LAWPRO has a team of five Catchment Managers at Senior Executive Scientist grade.

Name	Role
Martina Smith, to July 2020 Gary O'Connell, from September 2020	Border Region
Margaret Keegan	Midlands and Eastern Region
Ruth Hennessy	South East Region
Maeve Ryan	South West Region
Bernadette White	West Region & Blue Dot Catchments Programme Manager

Table 2 – Catchment Managers

The Catchment Managers primarily manage and monitor the work programmes of the catchment scientists in the PAAs within each respective region. They also promote catchment science and management with colleagues in public agencies and local authorities, providing scientific expertise and advice and training on measures and actions to address water quality issues.



Upland Forestry, Co. Wicklow

3.4 Catchment Scientists

LAWPRO has a team of 31 scientists from many disciplines, including environmental science, agricultural science, ecology, and hydrogeology. They are employed at assistant scientist grade.

Their principal area of work is local catchment assessment in the 189 priority areas for action (PAAs), as identified in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 (Figure 2).

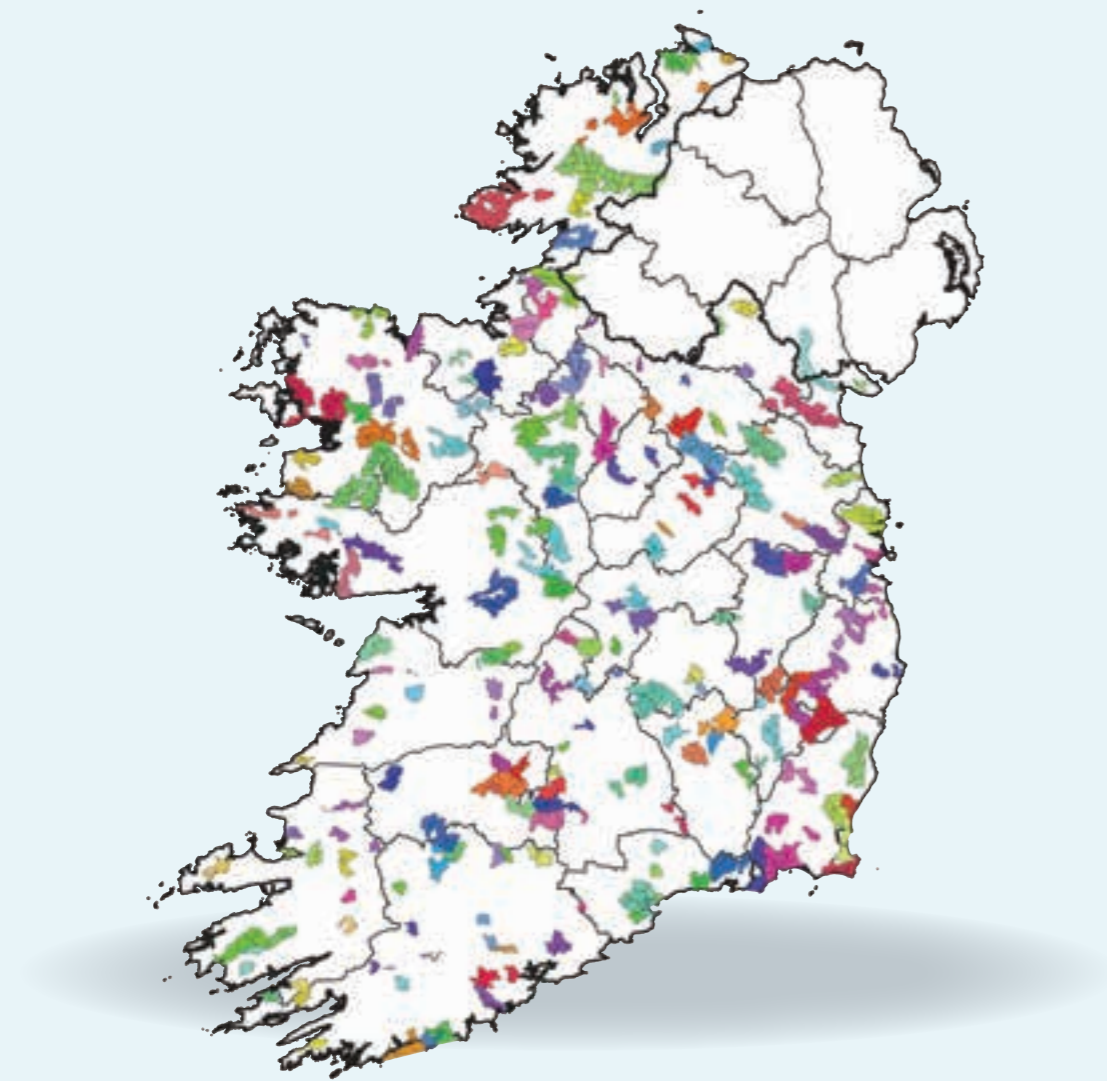


Figure 2 – Priority Areas for Action 2018 - 2021

The specialist work in the PAAs involves desk studies and community information meetings, followed by local catchment assessments (Figure 3), which generally include stream walks and water quality assessments to identify the significant issues (e.g., phosphate, nitrate, sediment etc) affecting water quality. Issues identified are then referred to the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) for agricultural pressures, and to the relevant public bodies for other pressures. Fieldwork findings are tracked via the EDEN WFD App, together with the referrals recommended and conclusions on the water body assessments undertaken.

LAWPRO is at the fore of this innovative catchment science approach in assessing water quality impacts. Catchments Team members meet and share knowledge in internal working groups, with the focus on development and dissemination across the full team to ensure a consistent approach nationwide. They share this knowledge and science with colleagues in local authorities, with ASSAP advisors and with implementing bodies.

3.5 Community Water Officers

LAWPRO has 13 Community Water Officers at Staff Officer level. They actively engage with the public on water matters, promoting participation, education, local inclusion, two-way communications, understanding and trust.

A core aim of the Communities Team is to facilitate the engagement of communities in caring for local water bodies. The 13 Community Water Officers promote active involvement and stewardship of local streams, rivers, and lakes through building capacity in existing community organisations and assisting in the establishment of new community groups and initiatives. They provide technical support, access to funding, knowledge transfer, and training. The communities team also works with existing and emerging Rivers Trusts and catchment associations.



4 LAWPRO's Work Programme



LAWPRO/ ASSAP farmers engagement, Co. Wexford.
Credit: LAWPRO.

4.1 Programme Management and Coordination

LAWPRO's regional coordinators are responsible for the internal governance function of the organisation as well as to actively promote inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder participation and facilitate learning and dissemination of best practice in implementation of WFD RBMP measures.

The regional coordinators also provide a secretariate to the Regional Committees. WFD Governance and the regional committees', details can be found on the LAWPRO website at – River Basin Management Plan - Local Authority Water Programme (lawaters.ie)

The committees form a conduit between decision making at different levels in the RBMP Governance Structure and local authorities. 19 Regional Management Committee meetings and 20 Regional Operational Committee meetings were held in total in 2020, with 30 of these online.

Some highlights from the Regional Committee work for 2020 are summarised as follows:

1. Coordination of the selection of Areas for Action for the 3rd cycle across all implementing bodies, through the Regional Committees, commenced in 2020.
2. Development of strategic relationships, with a view to influencing policies and prioritisation of work programmes within implementing bodies such as Inland Fisheries Ireland, Forest Service, Office of Public Works by means of joint meetings and field trips.
3. Greater inclusion of marine stakeholders in the Regional Operational Committees, e.g., Sea Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA), Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), and Marine Institute, in the Regional Operational Committees.
4. Identification and capture of key areas requiring attention under the WFD, e.g., development of nature-based Sustainable Drainage Systems (NbSuDS) originated with a request from planners in the southern region ROCs, for greater guidance on the design and implementation of NbSuDS and concurrently LAWPRO were receiving requests from engineers, planners and community groups for advice on how best to incorporate in capital projects. This project is now influencing the incorporation of NbSuDS into large scale capital projects and associated guidance, e.g., Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (in progress) (TII) and Urban Watercourses Planning Guide (IFI).
5. The need for a rapid response by Operational Committee members to significant declines in water quality or toxic impacts was highlighted by this group. A reimagined Red Dot Programme was prepared by the EPA and adopted by operational committees in mid-2020.
6. Discussion of issues arising from the Regional Committees and directly from LAWPROs catchment assessments at the National Technical Implementation (NTIG) working group as follows:
 - a. The impact of faecal indicator organisms on Shellfish waters was discussed at the SE Regional Operational Committee (ROC) and presented by LAWPRO on behalf of the ROC to the National Technical implementation Group (NTIG).
 - b. Frequently at ROC meetings the issue that action in the area of water quality management is not adequately resourced (particularly when compared with the waste management) has been raised. This was brought to the attention of CCMA/NCMC.
 - c. Hydrometric network upgrades
 - d. West region – Oyster fishery impacts from pollutants e.g. sediment, nutrients etc
 - e. Lough Foyle jurisdictional issues.

4.2 Community Engagement and Catchment Science

Figures 4 and 5 provide an overview of various elements of LAWPRO's work in numbers. While these do not cover the full extent of the programme, they present an overview of achievements and core activities at a glance. Additional detail is provided for selected highlights in section 9 below.

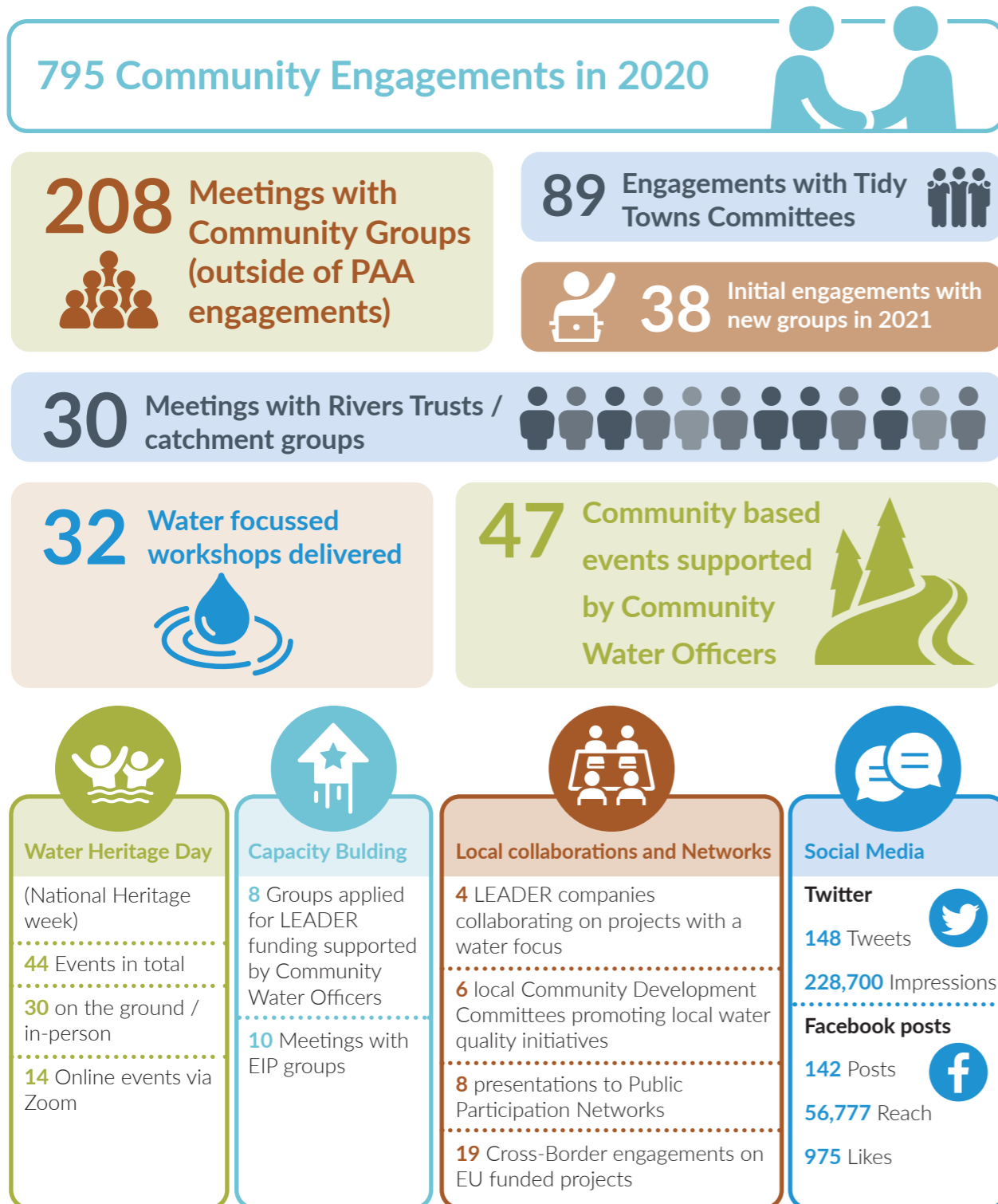


Figure 4 – Core engagement activities for 2020

2020 Catchments Assessment Outcomes

Governance, Coordination & Strategic Partnerships

- Regional Management Committees x 5
- Regional Operational Committees x 5
- Local Authority Liaison Group
- Local Authority Liaison Groups & Topic Specific Focus Groups
- National Technical Implementation Group
- Blue Dot Steering Group



Innovation & Evolution of Methodologies via Working Groups



- Ecology
- Lakes
- Sediment & Hydromorphology
- Blue Dot
- Agriculture
- Chemistry
- Date & GIS

Local Catchment Assessment

- 34 (162) Desk studies
 - 83 (104) Desk studies on WDF App
 - 26 (160) Community Meetings
 - 27 (127) Farmer Meetings
 - 37 (127) Local Catchment Assessments
 - 38(162) Actions Plans Started
- * Cumulative total to end 2020 in ()



Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing

- Pilot ICM 1 Day Course
- Agricultural Advisors – Farming for water Quality training
- Catchments Team Macrophyte and Macroalgal training
- LAWPRO internal working group training delivery to staff
- Guidance Publications, e.g., Cattle Access

Referrals*

157 (247) ASAP referrals



486 Total

*Includes Protect Referrals for Blue Dots



Advisory and Collaborations



- EPA Research Project Steering Committees
- European Innovation Partnership Scheme
- LIFE
- Drinking Water Directive
- Catchment Focus Groups – Pesticides
- ASSAP Coordination & Oversight

Figure 5 – Core catchment science and management activities for 2020



5 Blue Dot Catchments Programme Visioning Workshop

The Blue Dot Catchments Programme Steering Group agreed on a work programme in September 2019 with the overall aim “to protect and restore high status waters in Ireland”. To achieve this aim, a number of programme objectives were proposed:

1. Agree a vision for the protection and restoration of high-status waters in Ireland.
2. Determine what constitutes a Blue Dot water body / site / catchment and agree on a spatial network of high-status waters in Ireland.
3. Agree branding for high status / blue dot waters.
4. Prepare a communication and engagement plan.
5. Establish pilot projects for community engagement and action.
6. Work together with DHPLG to establish planning guidance for protecting Blue Dot waters.
7. Influence national schemes and programmes which can prioritise the protection and restoration of Blue Dot waters.
8. Help improve the exchange of information within and between local and public authorities and with Government Departments.
9. Consider areas where further research is required.
10. Review proposals for site specific measures for high status objective water bodies from LAWPROs work programme and the Waters of LIFE IP.
11. Contribute to the development of a long-term strategy for high status waters.

Work in 2020 included focus on addressing Objectives 1 and 3, to inform Objectives 4 and 5. The need for a visioning workshop with input from a broad range of stakeholders was identified and needed to be completed before other objectives could advance. The Programme requires the cooperation of local and public authorities, environmental interest groups and the public. This is important to inform the development of a communication and engagement plan, and proposals for branding for Blue Dot waters.

The visioning workshop was held on 5th March 2020 and was attended by a broad group of stakeholders (**Table 1**). 45 people were in attendance.

Table 1: List of attending organisations

Organisation	Member of the Steering Group	Organisation	Member of the Steering Group
An Fóram Uisce	No	IRD Duhallow Blue Dot Farming Project	No
An Taisce	No	Kerry County Council	Yes
Corrib Beo	No	Local Authority Waters Programme	Yes
Department Housing, Planning and Local Government	Yes	Mayo County Council	Yes
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Yes	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Yes
Donegal County Council	Yes	Office of Public Works	Yes
Environmental Protection Agency	Yes	Pearl Mussel Project	No
Forest Service	Yes	Sustainable Water Network	No
Inishowen Rivers Trust	No	Teagasc	No
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Yes	Upland Forum	No
Irish Water	Yes	Wicklow County Council	Yes

The outputs sought from the workshop were:

1. Proposals for a Vision statement for Blue Dot waters.
2. Proposals for the branding of Blue Dot waters, and
3. Proposals for how to engage communities in the Blue Dot areas.

Vision Statement: Across the groups, 71 separate words were recommended for inclusion in a Vision Statement and the most commonly reoccurring words (13) are listed in Table 2 below. The word cloud includes 50 of the 71 words that were identified at least once and therefore has more words than **Table 2**.

Table 2: List of words recommended for inclusion in the vision statement

Recommended words
Protect
Restore
Climate
Community
Health
Value
Biodiversity
Integrated approach
Ownership
Pride
Pristine
Resilience
Well being

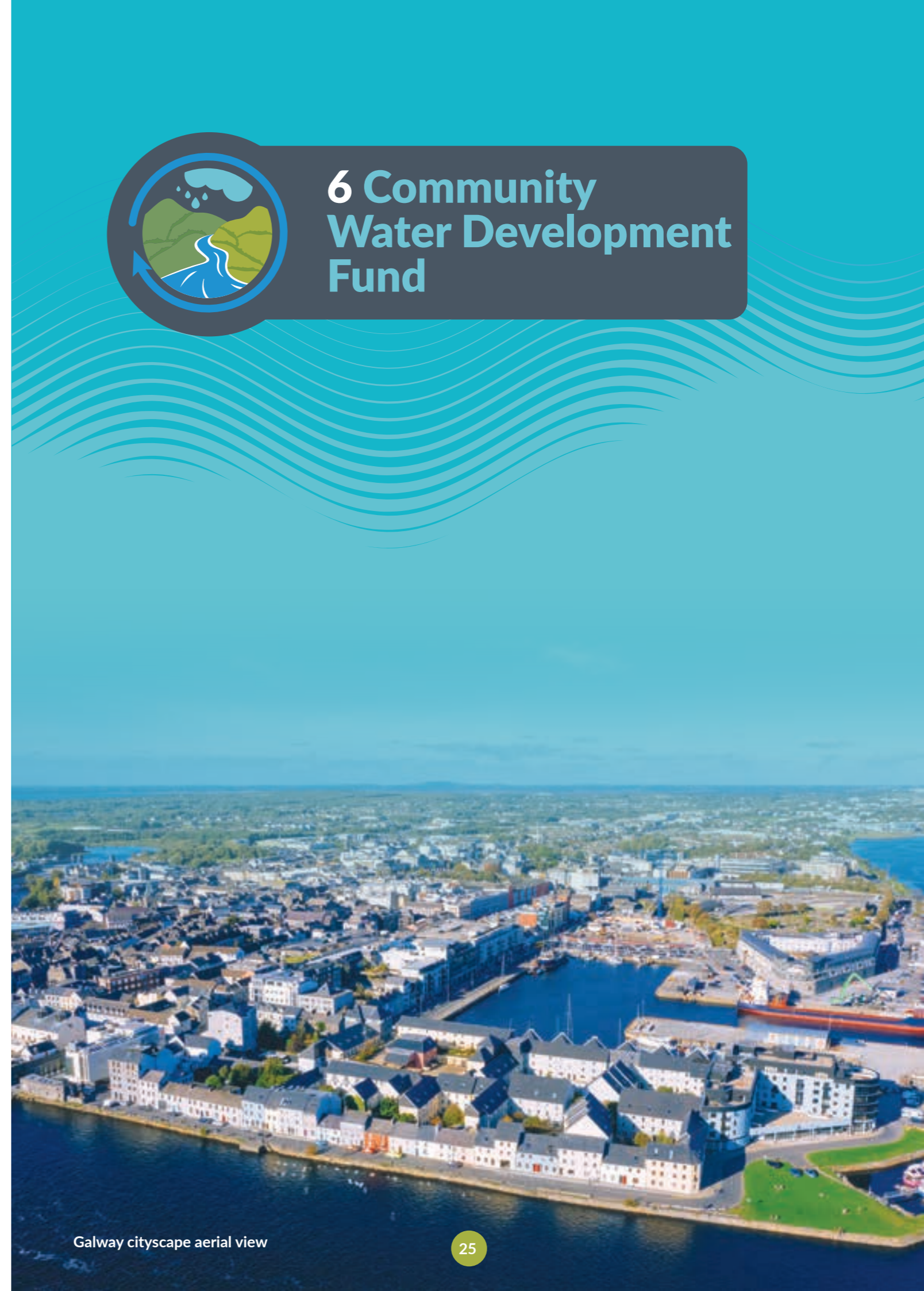


Photo Credit: Alan Walsh, LAWPRO.

Figure 7: Blue Dot Programme Visioning workshop – March 2020



6 Community Water Development Fund



Galway cityscape aerial view

2020 was the third year of the Community Water Development Fund. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provides the funding and LAWPRO administers it. The fund was set up to support communities to get involved in caring for local streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas.

There is growing interest in the fund, which is clear by the numbers of applications received by LAWPRO in 2020. The fund delivers a broad range of water projects that benefit the amenity of local areas. Each year, the fund is oversubscribed, which means not all applicants can receive the grants applied for. For a full list of grants awarded in 2020 see Appendix 2, pages 55-56.

Applications Received	No. of grants offered	Max Grants sought	Grants approved
145	118	€ 663,904	€ 230,247
Average grant offered € 1,587.92			

Table 4: Summary of Community Water Development Fund Grants



Figure 8 - Map shows the geographical spread of CWDF grants in 2020



7 Communications and stakeholder relations



Two adult swans and several (cygnets) on the water at St Stephen's Green in Dublin,

Communication is a core function of LAWPRO and key to achieving strategic goals for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration between a broad range of actors that includes Government Departments, State agencies, local authorities, public bodies, water stakeholders and communities. A guiding message to support this goal is ‘good water quality benefits everyone and all sectors of society.’

A new LAWPRO Communications Plan was developed through the Communications Working Group for 2020 to provide guidance and support to staff in the delivery of consistent and high standard in communications and engagement activities.

The evolution of LAWPRO since its inception in 2016 and lessons to date have allowed for an innovative approach to public engagement and consultation. This approach focuses on collaboration and cooperation across relevant State actors and public bodies to achieve common goals for water quality in Ireland. And at a local level, engaging stakeholders and communities around the importance of good water quality for health, well-being, biodiversity and local economies.

Catchment Catch-Up Newsletter

LAWPRO publishes quarterly newsletters called *Catchment Catch-Up*, with a separate one for each of the five regions. The intended audience for these newsletters are local authority staff, management, and Elected Members. And agency staff engaged with LAWPRO through the regional structures. Community Water Officers also sent them to community groups and individuals involved in caring for local waterbodies. Twenty *Catchment Catch-Ups* issued in 2020, four in each of the five regions.

Catchments Newsletter

The Catchments Newsletter is produced by the EPA as a way of communicating science and information updates. LAWPRO contributes articles to each publication relating to catchment science and management, community activities, examples of best practices and training. Community Water Officers work with local communities to submit articles and short pieces for a section called Waters & Communities News.

Social and Digital Media

LAWPRO has a presence on social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. Facebook is used to promote LAWPRO events and to engage with local audiences. Twitter allows LAWPRO to reach a wide network of partner organisations and stakeholders with an interest in water quality and river basin management planning.

In 2020 LAWPRO issued 148 tweets yielding 228,700 impressions on Twitter (the number of times the tweets were shown). In addition, 148 posts were issued on Facebook receiving 975 likes, generating a reach of 56,777 people.

Local Press and Radio

LAWPRO recognises the value of local press and radio for reaching local communities with water quality messaging. 17 Community Information Meetings in the Priority Areas for Action were advertised in local press, utilising the Office for Government Procurement framework. To maximise messaging around these meetings, a follow up press release is issued about the meeting and the local waterbody.

The communications calendar sets out a month-by-month approach for press, radio, and social media to promote local events and maintain a regular flow of information and messaging on water quality matters. This was curtailed in 2020 because of the impact of COVID-19 and the postponement of local events. Press releases were coordinated across all counties, covering the following themes:

- February – World Wetlands Day, in collaboration with local groups and LA Heritage Officers
- August – Water Heritage Day as part of National Heritage Week
- August – changes to septic tank grant scheme
- September – Tidy Towns Special Award – Waters & Communities Award
- October – launch of Community Water Development fund 2021



8 Knowledge Exchange and Transfer

A large portion of LAWPRO's work is at the cutting-edge of catchment science and community engagement. Opportunities for shared learning are provided through the regional meetings' structure, events and also through convened training.

A series of workshops, facilitated by communication consultants, were held in November and December, 2020 to review learnings and experiences from a previous consultation process in 2017 on the 2nd cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan. The learnings will inform the approach to the public consultation on the 3rd cycle draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027.

The Catchment Scientists continually advance and develop catchment science and management knowledge and methods through internal working groups and training with external experts.

Learnings are communicated to staff through the regional meetings' structure and by webinars, while regular training is also convened with ASSAP advisors and other public agencies.

LAWPRO continues to invest in upskilling its staff, who it sees as leaders and advocates for Ireland's natural waters.

LAWPRO also takes every opportunity to present at conferences and webinars. In 2020 these included:

- EPA Water Conference
- Teagasc Signpost Series
- Local Authority National Services Training Group
- Annual Freshwater Science Association meeting
- International Rivers Symposium
- NoreVision Webinar 2020

LAWPRO also works with the LA Environmental Services Training Group to develop and provide training for local authority staff and other public bodies.

8.1 Catchment Science and Management Training

In 2020, LAWPRO developed a 1-day Introduction to *Catchment Science and Management* training course, with the assistance of the EPA and Mr. Donal Daly. This course was specifically designed for and targeted at local authority personnel. In association with the Local Authority Environmental Services National Training Group, a pilot course was delivered, in person, in January 2020 by LAWPRO and Mr. Donal Daly, after which delivery moved online.

126 local authority personnel attended along with several staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland, ASSAP and the National Federation of Groups Water Schemes. This course was designed to be easily adapted for different audiences and LAWPRO intends to provide the training course to LA staff in Planning, Roads, and Housing sections, and to staff in other public bodies and private sector interests, such as the Agricultural Consultants Association as funding allows. The first adaptation of this course was held on the 7th and 8th December 2020 and titled "Farming for Water Quality". This two day version of the course was delivered to members of the Agricultural Consultants Association.

LAWPRO rolled out online delivery of the *Urban Local Catchment Assessment* training in December 2020 to local authority staff.

In 2020, LAWPRO's catchment scientists started the process of updating the *Catchment Science and Management* Training Course first delivered in 2018 by the EPA, to incorporate findings and lessons learnt from 3 ½ years of local catchment assessment experience. It is hoped to roll out this course in 2021 in collaboration with the Environmental Service Training Group (ESTG) sector of LASNTG.



9 LAWPRO Projects, Conferences, Initiatives and Highlights



Aasleagh Falls on Erriff River, Co. Mayo

9.1 Working with Nature - from Tipperary to National Policy

In response to representations by planners at the South East and South West Regional Operational Committee meetings, a workshop focusing on the management of surface water runoff from urban areas was organised by LAWPRO in January 2020.

The event explored the challenges facing rural local authorities in the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the protection of water quality from pollutants generated on hard surface areas. It brought together staff from Dublin City Council and Tipperary County Council to share experiences and knowledge and included management and staff from Roads, Planning, Environment, and Community & Enterprise Sections. The workshop concluded that there is a need for more nature based approaches to be used in urban surface water management especially as climate change will lead to changing rainfall patterns, and for a national coordinated approach.

Following this workshop, LAWPRO, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Irish Planning Institute, and Engineers Ireland, delivered a national webinar focussing on Nature Based Surface Water Management, on the 9th November with almost 500 in attendance. The purpose of the webinar was to promote understanding amongst local authority planners, engineers, and landscape architects of the benefits of designing and integrating 'Green and Blue' infrastructure to help manage surface water in urban areas. Practitioners from across the Local Authority sector shared experiences of delivering such projects. Attendees were encouraged to promote Nature Based Surface Water Management in the next iteration of County Development Plans.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is acting on recommendations from the conference to develop a guidance document to assist public bodies in implementing Nature Based Surface Water Management in their areas.



Figure 9: Promotional flyer for the conference

9.2 Linkages with Northern Ireland Agencies and Cross Border Projects

The LAWPRO Border Region team has ongoing linkages with agencies in Northern Ireland and with EU funded cross-border projects. This includes membership of multiple steering committees and working groups. These fora provide opportunities for sustained awareness of the need for active management of shared waters and cross border involvement for information exchange, networking, and community engagement.

Northern Ireland agencies and bodies involved include Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Loughs Agency (cross-border agency), Local Authorities, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University and British Geological Survey.

Examples of the EU Interreg funded projects we liaise with include Source to Tap, CatchmentCARE and the CANN Project, in addition to groups which help identify and facilitate the funding aspect of potential projects such as Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) and East Border Region (EBR).

9.3 Acknowledging Community Involvement

Community involvement is key to the protection and management of local waterbodies. A core function of LAWPRO is to engage local groups and communities and support them in getting involved. This is being achieved through a three-stage process:

1. Raising awareness of and engaging communities on local water quality issues and concerns.
2. Supporting community involvement in the stewardship of local streams, rivers, lakes, and coasts.
3. Building capacity within local communities through knowledge, funding and training.

LAWPRO is building networks of active communities with the knowledge, skills, and capacity to make a difference. In this way, LAWPRO's Community Water Officers have established themselves as contact points for local communities. This is clear by the growing number of groups and champions getting involved in caring for their local water environment.

- Between 2016 and end of 2020, LAWPRO engaged with circa. 650 community groups.
- Community Water Officers have regular and ongoing engagement with over 350 local groups.
- 184 of these groups are actively involved in caring for local waterbodies.

The types of groups involved include River Trusts, Catchment Groups, Angling Clubs and Associations, Environmental Groups, Tidy Towns, Development Associations, Local Heritage Groups. This is represented in the pie chart in Fig.9.

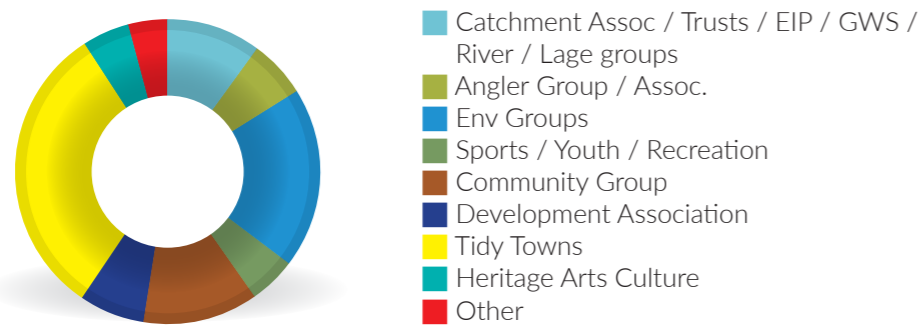


Figure 10: Pie chart showing range of groups LAWPRO has engaged with

9.4 Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant Scheme (DWWTS)

DHLGH formally advised local authorities of the extension of the above scheme on the 4th June 2020. The existing National Inspection Plan (NIP) has been amended to remove means testing for grant eligibility and the grant has been increased to €5,000 or 85% of the certified cost of upgrade work.

Individuals living in an area with a high-status objective water body will be eligible (by self declaration) to apply to their local council for an upgrade grant. Those in prioritised areas for action can do so only if their catchment has been assessed by the Catchment Science Team and they have received a letter of eligibility from LAWPRO informing them that their system may be contributing to deteriorated water quality.

9.5 Local Authority Water, Climate and Biodiversity Actions

The City and County Management Association established a Local Authority Climate, Water & Biodiversity Working Group as a sub-committee of the Climate Change Committee. This sub-committee was setup to integrate waters and biodiversity objectives into the existing local authority national climate change training programme. LAWPRO chaired and led on this sub-committee, building capacity, and understanding within the sectors of multiple benefits achievable through local authority day-to-day activities and programmes.

LAWPRO provided case examples of local authority best practice and community action, which was integrated into the rollout of the first training programmes in 2020.

9.6 Communities Caring for Water Webinar

LAWPRO in partnership with The Rivers Trust held the 2nd annual Communities Caring for Water conference. Due to Covid-19, this was held online as a webinar which allowed viewers to interact and pose questions to presenters. The purpose of the conference webinar is to bring together Rivers Trusts in Ireland, catchment partnerships, and groups working to enhance their local



water environment. In this way knowledge and experiences are shared between participants and leading experts can present latest developments and guidance. In 2020 there were 246 participants in the online event on Saturday 28th November. Topics covered included citizen science, social inclusion, community resilience.

The Community Water Development Fund 2021 was launched on the day.



Figure 11: Social-media and screenshot of webinar

9.7 GAA Green Club Programme

The Green Club Programme is a partnership between the GAA, LGFA and The Camogie Association and local authorities across Ireland. LAWPRO is a member of the working group and is partnering with Irish Water to deliver a holistic approach for the water theme, incorporating water quality, conservation, water supply and wastewater. Water is one of several sustainability themes included in the Programme; other themes include Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Travel & Transport, and expert partners from various bodies are supporting this GAA initiative. The programme was launched on December 9th 2020 and currently 45 clubs across Ireland (North & South) are taking part in the pilot stage. For further information, see Green Clubs Programme (gaa.ie)



Figure 12: LAWPRO / Irish Water illustration promoting good water management in GAA clubs

9.8 Citizen Science

The role of Citizen Science in engaging the public is well recognised in terms of scientific data collection and awareness raising. Freshwater monitoring by citizen scientists has not yet been developed to its potential in Ireland and data recording to date has been low. Furthermore, communities reported that some of the citizen science scoring systems were too complex for the average interested member of the public.

To address this problem, LAWPRO set up a National Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Citizen Science working group to develop a standard method that would be accessible to all and fit for the Irish context. The group comprises a range of citizen science practitioners, trainers, academics, the EPA, LAWPRO, rivers trusts and catchment partnerships, NGOs, local authorities, and the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Focusing on streams, the core aims were to develop indices suited to the Irish small stream monitoring, which are relatively easy to learn and are open source. Meetings of both the wider working group and a technical group to refine the scientific considerations were held throughout 2020, culminating in the selection of two techniques:

- Beginners CSSI (Community Small Stream Index) and,
- Advanced SSIS (Small stream impact score).

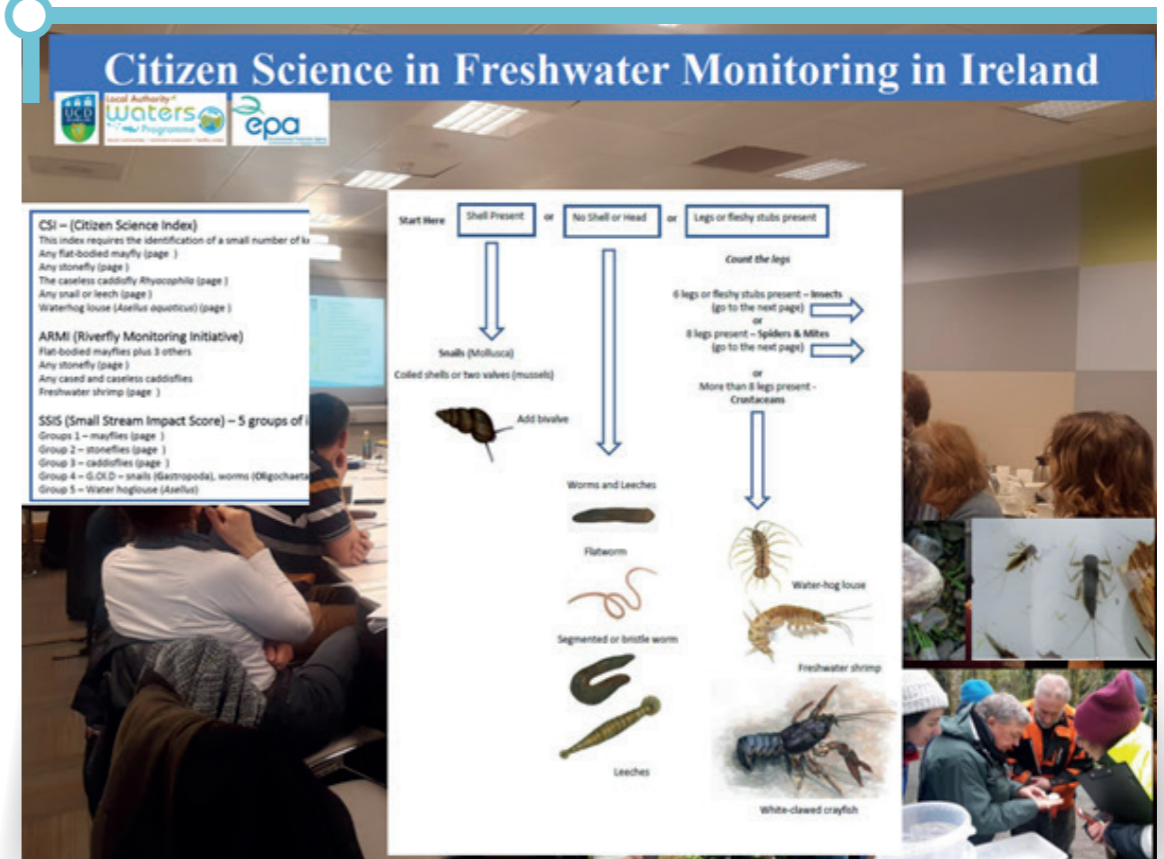


Figure 13: Citizen Science Engagement

Trialling took place in partnership with the LEADER co-operation NoreVision project. These were showcased to the public at the *Communities Caring for Water Conference* in November 2020.

In addition to the development of the above, Community Water Officers received training in the *Dragonflies Ireland* citizen science project (2019-2024) led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. LAWPRO is also a member of the steering group on that project.

9.9 LEADER and LCDC engagements

LAWPRO recognises the strategic importance of the LEADER programme and continues to work closely with all elements involved in supporting rural development. This includes working with the Rural Development Companies on the ground, the Irish Local Development Network, Rural link, the Department of Rural and Community Development.

In addition to providing co-funding for projects and support/expertise to community groups wishing to develop and promote water and biodiversity projects through the programme, our Community Water Officers provide support to communities in terms of what they can do to help their local water bodies and context in terms of where they live within catchments.

Some of these projects are large in scale, e.g., NoreVision, River Feale and Waterville visioning projects and others locally focused projects (e.g., New Zealand Pygmyweed removal project in Kerry, South Tipperary invasives species training). A key initiative in 2020 was to engage with the LCDCs (Local Community Development Committees) on the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the importance of clean water for public wellbeing. This included presentations on synergies with the LEADER programme, the work of LAWPRO and the potential linkages across the LCDC remit from LEADER oversight, where applicable to social inclusion considerations. Initial engagement was made with the LCDC co-ordinators, followed by engagement of each LCDCs by the Community Water Officers.

9.10 Stories from the Waterside - LAWPRO's contribution to COVID mental mitigation

LAWPRO delivered stories from the Waterside during the first COVID-19 Lockdown in May 2020. It was initially a story writing competition to promote the value of local waters, and later entrants spoke of how it had helped help them cope during Lockdown. Entrants were asked to write a story about their memories and reflections of time spent at a river, lake, or coast. There was also an option to write about local heritage or folklore. There were two age group categories, Under 18s and Over 18s.

Almost 500 stories were received from members of the public from across the entire island of Ireland, in both English and Irish languages. A robust judging process selected 20 prize winning stories which LAWPRO published along with a further 18 stories in the *Stories from the Waterside* book.



Figure 14: Press Release on New Zealand Pygmy weed project, Breda Moriarty and local community group

The book was launched during National Heritage Week 2020 by Minister Malcom Noonan to mark Water Heritage Day. This initiative was delivered in collaboration with The Heritage Council, The Heritage Officers Programme, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and Waterways Ireland. The success of this initiative led to a request to speak at an international Symposium on Rivers in November 2020.

This project was the single most significant public engagement piece in 2020, extending from May onwards and right through National Heritage Week in August, culminating with the publication of the book.



Figure 15: Slide shows the cover of the *Stories from the Waterside* book, some of the prize winners, and a story reading webinar held during Heritage Week.

9.11 Water Heritage Day - 20th August 2020

Each year LAWPRO collaborates with The Heritage Council to deliver Water Heritage Day as part of National Heritage Week, during the last week of August. LAWPRO encourages and supports local community groups to organise public events to take place throughout National Heritage Week and on Water Heritage Day, with 44 events in 2020. In compliance with public health advice, live events in 2020 were restricted in numbers, while many events took place online. For the full list of Water Heritage Day events in 2020 see Appendix 1, pages 51-54.

Water Heritage Day Events in 2020		
Total no. of events	On the ground	Online
44	30	14
Types of events: storytelling, guided stream walks, catchment bike tours, wildlife surveys, children's activities and more.		



10 Environmental Health and Safety



Tributary stream of the Owentooey River, Graffa More, County Galway

In April 2020, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) officially received its certification to ISO 45001:2018, a health and safety standard and ISO 14001:2015, an environmental management standard. LAWPRO successfully completed its surveillance audits in June to maintain certification to the above standards. LAWPRO is one of only two Local Authority organisations that has a combined EHS management system.

2020 presented significant health and safety challenges to the organisation, especially because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New work practices and mitigation measures were introduced with the help and support of senior management and the staff of the organisation, which was advised by Tipperary County Council's health and safety section. This allowed LAWPRO to provide a safe place of work and a safe system of work for staff while still completing work programmes and organisational objectives.

Additional training was provided to staff in early 2020 (pre-Covid), including training on advanced driving (which included eco-driving) and remote emergency care training for staff carrying out fieldwork. Supplementary PPE such as face masks and disinfectant was provided to all staff.

2020 saw a focus on waste minimisation and staff initiatives to reduce waste, such as use of reusable travel mugs.

The increased use of online meeting platforms also meant that the amount of travel undertaken by staff was reduced, which in turn reduced the carbon footprint of the organisation.





11 LAWPRO Reviews

As part of its remit, LAWPRO was required to conduct a review of its work since establishment in 2016. LAWPRO appointed Micheál Ó Cinnéide, former director with the EPA and Craig Bullock, Optimise, to carry out an independent assessment of LAWPRO. This review began in 2019 and was completed in July 2020. A report on the review was presented to DHLGH, the EPA, the County and City Management Association and local authority Chief Executives.

The report was highly complementary and supportive of LAWPRO's work and objectives. It concluded that LAWPRO:

- was good value for money
- that it punched well above its weight in terms of resources and impacts
- that it was highly innovative
- that public and community engagement at this scale had not been achieved previously
- that its internal governance structure was unique and invested in its staff
- that social learning was being facilitated and was occurring
- that synergies should be built with climate change and biodiversity
- that it should further develop and build on its social engagement framework
- that LAWPRO should be provided with extra resources to expand its work.

14 recommendations were made in the report and LAWPRO has begun to incorporate these into its activities.





12 Research into WFD Governance Structure

12.1 IPA Research

In 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency commissioned the Institute of Public Administration to examine the water governance arrangements around Ireland's implementation of the second-cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), 2018–2021. This was done in the context of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Water Governance Indicator Framework. A particular emphasis was put on informing policy and practice to ensure appropriate and effective governance arrangements for the third cycle RBMP for Ireland for 2022–2027.

The studies focussed in particular on the structures and processes for water governance for the second cycle RBMP, 2018–2021. Including the three-tier structure comprising the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC), supported by the Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce), advising the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; the National Coordination and Management Committee (NCMC) to coordinate implementation, with technical support from the National Technical Implementation Group (NTIG) and the EPA), and local authorities, supported by regional committees and a local government shared service, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO).

The various reports, while suggesting several amendments to governance structures, have been highly complementary to the integrated and adaptable nature of the way water is managed. It cites LAWPRO as an example of “experimental governance”, an academic term used to describe new governance methodologies which include reflexivity, institutional learning and an ability to self-monitor and learn from past success and failures.

Published reports are available at [EPA Research Framework Agreements | Environmental Protection Agency](#)

12.2 ESRI Research

In 2020, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government commissioned the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) to undertake an impact assessment of LAWPRO activities to identify early-stage outcomes. Seán Keating and Bernie O’Flaherty represented LAWPRO on the steering committee.

A survey was conducted of participants who took part in LAWPRO community engagements to measure their reaction to the event and identify to what extent participants were enthused to change behaviours, either their own or others. The subsequent analyses provided insights on what outcomes should be expected from specific event types, or audience categories, which can inform future event design or target audience.

The research concluded that LAWPRO’s community engagement was innovative and successful. It also suggested amendment and additions to the community engagement programme. LAWPRO has taken the findings on board and is using them to guide future engagements.

The research paper is published at <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/237967/1/WP696-1.pdf>



13 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027

13.1 Public Consultation on the 3rd Cycle Draft RBMP

It is expected that the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage will launch a new River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in 2022. This will set out Ireland's approach to implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the third cycle.

As the first step in the consultation process, DHLGH launched its *Significant Water Management Issues* (SWMI) report on 20th Dec 2019. A consultation period of 6 months to June 2020 then commenced.

LAWPRO facilitated consultation through its engagement with community groups, public bodies and assisting DHLGH with its consultation event in Dublin Castle.

LAWPRO began preparations in Q4 2020 to lead on local public consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (published in September 2021). This involved an in-house workshop in October to reflect on the public consultation process on the 2nd Cycle RBMP in 2017. Learnings from the 124 public meetings in 2017, were reviewed to identify opportunities for changes in the 3rd Cycle approach.

A facilitated workshop followed in November entitled *Refresher Thinking*, that focused on how the public and communities can be engaged on the draft RBMP. There was a focus on LAWPRO messaging and how to remain relevant and meaningful at a local level.

13.2 Selection of Proposed Areas for Action for 3rd Cycle RBMP

In 2020, LAWPRO and the EPA led a collaborative process to select the Proposed Areas for Action for the period 2022 – 2027, for the public consultation on the Draft RBMP. The approach expanded on that undertaken for the second-cycle in 2017.

The EPA liaised with multiple organisations to discuss an Area for Action long list while LAWPRO led on engagements to refine the list to a shortlist of suggested Areas for Action for inclusion in the draft RBMP, taking current available resources into consideration. LAWPRO led on meetings with each local authority, Irish Water, Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Geological Survey of Ireland.

The current approach provides 'a place in the plan for everyone', by including a wider selection of Areas for Action, incorporating Areas for Protection, Areas for Restoration, and Areas for Catchment Projects. Further details of this framework are outlined in Figure 16 below.

The process captures the full extent of catchment work to achieve water quality outcomes by LAWPRO and many stakeholders. The areas for inclusion in the Draft RBMP were agreed by each of the five Regional Operational Committees and the five Regional Management Committees. In total, 527 areas were selected for focused attention in the third cycle.

- 427 of these areas require restoration, as they are not meeting their environmental objectives.
- 85 areas are meeting their environmental objectives but require dedicated protection measures to ensure water quality does not deteriorate.
- 15 areas are the subject of catchment projects which aim to improve water quality.

Each area for action will have a designated lead, such as LAWPRO, a local authority, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, Inland Fisheries Ireland, etc. This approach aims to capture as much of the water quality improvement work as possible that is happening across the country. More projects will be added during the lifetime of the 3rd Cycle RBMP.

3rd Cycle Areas

Process evolved to also capture on-going work that's not in the 2nd Cycle RBMP

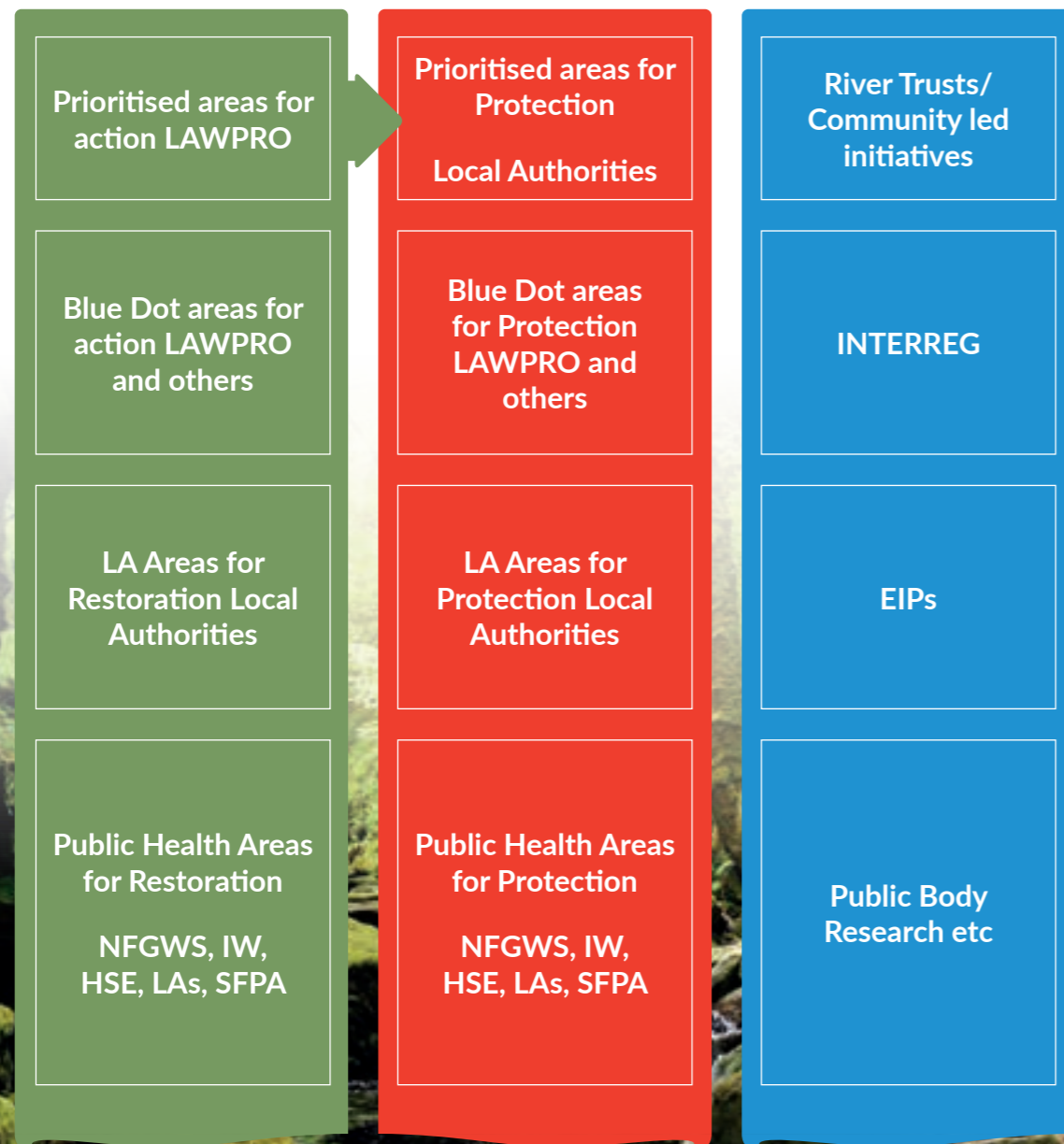


Figure 16: Framework for selection of Proposed Areas for Action for 3rd Cycle RBMP



Killarney National Park

As part of the process priority was given to areas that linked with those outlined in the second-cycle plan, areas with a high-status objective and protected areas, such as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, bathing waters, shellfish waters and drinking water supply sources.

The following additional principles were also considered:

- selection of areas for action at a sub-catchment scale where practical,
- address waterbodies in the headwaters first,
- look to address multiple pressures on water quality together,
- build on existing programmes including second cycle Priority Areas for Action and community group initiatives,
- build on existing improvements in water quality,
- aim to ensure a fair distribution of tasks between pressure owners, pressure types, bio-geophysical settings and regionally, and
- ensure the proposed areas included a mix of known, fixable issues and longer-term challenges.

For full information on the Areas for Action selection, please see Microsoft Word - National Area for Action Report_3rd Cycle_F03.docx (lawaters.ie)



Appendices

Appendix 1 Water Heritage Day Events 2020

CWO	County	Event name	Group involved	Type of event	Detail/Output
Ann Phelan	Carlow	Boat trips on the Barrow	Tidy towns	Physical event	Boat trip along the barrow with historical talk
Ann Phelan	Carlow	Wildflower ecology walk	Carlow greening committee	Physical event	Adventure walk looking at the importance of wild flower along the river Burrnen
Ben Malone	Cavan	"The Living Heritage of our Bogs" - Video series production	West Cavan Bogs Association	Online event	The production of a series of videos, produced by West Cavan Bogs Association, which aimed to highlight the rich natural heritage and biodiversity found in the bogs and wetlands of west Cavan
Ruairí Ó' Conchúir	Clare	Shannon Town Community Wetlands Event	Duchas na Sionna, Shannon TT and Shannon Wetlands Committee	Physical event	Nature Dective Day, Wetlands Video and unveiling of nature based classroom for children
Ruairí Ó' Conchúir	Clare	Wild About Ennistymon / Ennistymon Tidy Towns	Wild About Ennistymon / Ennistymon Tidy Towns	Physical event	Water, Heritage & Biodiversity - River Walk on the Inagh River & The Fairy Glen (Ballymacraven River)
Catherine Seale	Cork	Bishopstown Otter Appreciation Project	Bishopstown Tidy Towns	Online event	A wildlife camera on a number of evenings to check for the presence of otter. An online seminar was also held.
Catherine Seale	Cork	Daubenton Survey of Coomhola River	Bat Conservation Ireland, Streamscapes Salmon Trust and Coomhola Community, NPWS	Physical event	Daubenton Bat Surveyor Brid Colhoun survey of the Coomhola River for the unique Daubenton river bat. With a special demonstration on the evening of the 21st of August in the Streamscapes School
Catherine Seale	Cork	Appreciating the Glenville Catchment	Glenville Environmental Group, Glenville Community Council	Physical event	A walk along the River Bride with local experts including local historians and wildlife experts. A local photography competition in conjunction with the walk. A film will also be produced
Catherine Seale	Cork	The Caha River Project	Caha Heritage Group, local farmers	Online event	The Caha Project is a project where nine farmers have come together to do their part to protect a section of their local river. This length of river is particularly important as it has been identified as having a High Status Objective and is a Priority Area for Action under the Water Frameworks Directive
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	Exploring the Source - Clonmany River and Lough Fad	Inishowen Rivers Trust	Physical event	A guided hike in the area (3 hours) to visit heritage points and explore the use of the river by past and current generations and the status of the river today. Water Heritage Day August 23rd 2020

CWO	County	Event name	Group involved	Type of event	Detail/Output
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	Talk /Demo on Heritage week Irish Food Culture of seaweed	Carrowmena Community Group	Physical event	Reveal the forgotten heritage and health properties of this seaweed
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	A seaweed safari and maritime heritage walk on Kinnagoe Bay	Greencastle Mens Shed	Physical event	A seaweed safari to experience the wonders of seaweed and identify edible seaweeds. Discover traditional harvesting methods and evaluate traditional folk remedies associated with seaweeds
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	Uncovering maritime myth and legends in the Lough Swilly area		Physical event	Researcher Liam Campbell, Far and Wild Director Lawrence McBride and creative artists/ storytellers Helen Henderson and Sorcha Boyle, led a unique 1 day event to explore the natural landscape and associated myths both virtually and in person
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	Biodiversity by Bike	Termon Community Centre	Physical event	Explore the Biodiversity of the Glenveagh National Park and the Local Water Catchment by Bike with an expert guide
Jimmy McVeigh	Donegal	Ramelton River Walk: Bees and Balsam Bash on the River Bank	Ramelton Tidy Towns	Physical event	Take a journey on the new Ramelton Nature Walk. Learn about Bees and Balsam Bashing along the way
Thomas Carolan	Dublin	The LIFELINE: Urban Water - An outdoor Classroom on Dublin's Royal Canal	Bí Urban, Stoneybatter	Online event	A live online event broadcast from 'LIFELINE' territory. A journey with Valerie Vetter, Dublin City FM community radio presenter, and Kaethe Burt O'Dea, creative director at Bí Urban, along the route formerly taken by the Royal Canal from Broombridge to Broadstone to explore how the heritage of urban waterways can inform sustainable regeneration
Thomas Carolan	Dublin	Celebrating the Heritage of the River Camac in Clondalkin through story	Friends of the Camac	Physical event	"Stories from the Waterside (River Camac) publication. Friends of the Camac published a newsletter that highlights the entries relating to the River Camac to LAWPRO's Stories from the Waterside competition. This newsletter was distributed throughout the community in Clondalkin."
Thomas Carolan	Dublin	Gullies Awareness/ Education Event	Stoneybatter Pride of Place	Physical event	Roy O'Donnell, the Gully Manager from the Surface Water Maintenance Unit of DCC gave an outdoor talk on the importance of keeping gullies clear and what not to do. This forms part of an ongoing focus on water initiatives by Stoneybatter POP supported by LAWPRO.

CWO	County	Event name	Group involved	Type of event	Detail/Output
Breda Moriarty	Kerry	Waterville Catchment	IRD Waterville	Physical event	2 x workshops with anglers and heritage groups in the Waterville Catchment area
Breda Moriarty	Kerry	Natterjack Toad	Maharees Heritage and Conservation Group	Online event	Children's resources about natterjack toad in the Maharees
Breda Moriarty	Kerry	A digital journey through a selection of Blue Dot Catchments in Kerry		Online event	Storymap of some of the Blue Dot Catchments in Kerry. Outline the WFD, RBMP and Water Quality
Breda Moriarty	Kerry	Where is Akeragh Lough?	Ballyheigue Biodiversity Group	Online event	Video about the disappearance of a once very important wetland area
Ann Phelan	Kilkenny	Walking Safari along the Barrow	Tidy Towns	Physical event	Eanna Ni Lamhna bio-diversity walk
Ann Phelan	Kilkenny	Trips along the Nore	Tidy Towns	Physical event	Boat trips with Cliff Reid on the River Nore
Ann Phelan	Kilkenny	Launch of Stories from the Waterside	LAWPRO office and Minister	Physical event	Photo Op with the Minister for Heritage Malcolm Noonan
Karen Kennedy	Leitrim	Nature on our Doorstep	Drumsna Tidy Towns	Physical event	Guided walk and opportunity for community input in new biodiversity signage at Drumsna harbour along River Shannon
Karen Kennedy	Leitrim	The Water, the Woods and the Underworlds	Kilticlogher Heritage Centre	Physical event	Guided catchment walk with local landowners along Corranmore River and Lough Mc Nean shoreline
Ruairí Ó' Conchúir	Limerick	Mulkear River - Annacotty	Annacotty Tidy Towns Association	Physical event	Water Quality & Biodiversity - Mulkear River & Lower Shannon SAC at Annacotty
Karen Kennedy	Longford	Canal biodiversity, bird and water walk	Longford Tidy Towns	Physical event	Guided biodiversity walk along the canal
Karen Kennedy	Roscommon	Nature/ Poetry/Music on the Bog	Mount Allen Residents Association	Physical event	Guided walk on farm at MountAllen
Karen Kennedy	Sligo	Nature/ Poetry/ Stories walk along the Garavogue River	Sligo Tidy Towns	Physical event	Guided biodiversity walk with nature poetry readings
Ruairí Ó' Conchúir	Tipperary	Cabragh Wetlands Thurles	Cabragh Wetlands Trust	Online event	Wetlands Talk and Commic Walk

CWO	County	Event name	Group involved	Type of event	Detail/Output
Ann Phelan	Waterford	Anne Valley Wetland ecology walk	Paddy Dwan ecologist	Physical event	Annes Valley Heritage Walk
Ann Phelan	Waterford	Three Sisters Place name project	Coastwatch and Passage East Tidy Towns	Physical event	Three Sisters Placename project and the creation and hosting of the new webpage A-Z of Three Sister Placenames at https://tidesandtales.ie/placenames-of-the-three-sisters/
Basil Mannion	Westmeath	Multyfarnham on the River Gaine - our water heritage	Multyfarnham TT	Physical event	River clean up along the bank and by boat in the water, a walk and talk on the water heritage of the River Gaine and Multyfarnham
Ann Phelan	Wexford	Bio-diversity Walk Jamestown Nature Reserve	Community Groups Involved	Physical event	Walk along the abundant reedbeds and explore the wildlife in Jamestown Nature Reserve overlooking banks of Slaney
Ann Phelan	Wexford	Digital Photos and Reflections Ahare River	Friends of the Ahare River Cathy Lee	Online event	Photos of wildlife from Ahare River, historical photos scenic views of river or estuary, reflections to accompany the photo prizes include nature books and special edition of Stories from the Waterside
Ann Phelan	Wexford	Promtional video of the Dark Woods heriatge		Physical event	A video showing the woodlands and riparian project Seal Sactuary courtown (Owenarrvarragh River)
Ann Phelan	Wexford	Video of the Dark Country (Courtown Woodlands project)	Courtown community Council	Online event	
Donal O'Keeffe	Wicklow	River Derry Bubbles Project - Day of Learning and Exploring	Tinahely Community Area Projects	Online event	Online trip to Tomnafinnoge Woods to visit a heritage area. An opportunity to visit the River Derry and/or its tributaries and at the same time be part of an online event allowing members of the local river catchment to share stories and images and learn about the River Derry catchment.
Donal O'Keeffe	Wicklow	The Three Trout's River & Heritage	Delgany Tidy Towns	Online event	Online Water Quality and Biodiversity knowledge sharing event about the Three Trouts Stream
Donal O'Keeffe	Wicklow	Avoca Estuary Enhancement	Arklow Tidy Towns	Physical event	Mural at Arklow Harbour highlighting the estuary and coastal wildlife/ biodiversity and a stone garden for kids to bring their painted stones. also some pollinator friendly planting and new planting beds

Appendix 2 Groups Funded under the Community Water Development Fund 2020

Ref	Grant recipient name	County	Project summary at application stage	Grant awarded €
EM20/01	Geashill Tidy Towns	Offaly	A Feasibility Study on a design for an array of permanent, semi permanent and seasonal ponds forming a wetland within an existing recreational area on R420 Portarlington Approach Road in Geashill, Co Offaly.	1,200.00
B20/3	Clones Development Association	Monaghan	To promote the history, nature and future of the Ulster Canal, through the research, design and printing of a booklet and production of interpretive indoor museum panels to support the external nature signage installed last year.	425.00
SW20/5	Waterloo Renewal Group	Cork	The project is to stabilize the Mill Pond Path which has subsided due to erosion. To commencement of works we need to engage a geotechnical expert to investigate ground quality, provide a detailed design up to tender stage and to carry out a Topo Survey.	7,000.00
SE20/8	Camross Parish Development Association	Laois	To purchase sustainable seating for our Aquatic Outdoor Classroom on the Little Delour river and in Phase 2 build on its success by completing additional sympathetic landscaping (with seating) to enable more people enjoy this unique pristine habitat by making the river centre stage in our new Village Park in Camross.	5,000.00
SW20/9	Milltown Community and Chamber Alliance	Kerry	A river clean up including a special information event and placement of nature signage.	300.00
B20/11	Carraroe and District Regeneration Association	Sligo	Education/awareness raising school project around the development of respect and protection of our Lough Gill .We want to develop a photographic resource /library of information on the beauty and ecology including some mapping and signage. We plan to have a boat trip on the lake with Yeats poetry associated with Lough Gill.	700.00
SE20/12	Killeshin Waterworks Committee	Laois	To continue to promote and develop the Killeshin Waterworks as a healthy and inviting amenity by ensuring clean water supply, enhancing visual attractiveness and ensuring visitors' safety.	1,500.00
B20/13	Dundalk Salmon Anglers Association	Louth	The purpose of this project is to enhance the salmonid habitat and river water quality on a section of the River Fane below Knockbridge in Co. Louth.	2,190.00

Ref	Grant recipient name	County	Project summary at application stage	Grant awarded €
EM20/16	Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Kildare	This project aims to complete a wildflower survey, skill sharing and public walk in partnership with Celbridge Catchment River Trust along the publicly accessible stretch of the Ballygoran Stream (1.7km), a tributary of the River Liffey in Celbridge, Co. Kildare. To upload all identified species recorded with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	785.00
SW20/17	Ballyheigue Biodiversity Group	Kerry	To look at habitat and management of wetlands and improve quality of water and flood defenses.	500.00
B20/19	Rathmullan the Way Forward CLG	Donegal	To purchase and install a sand ladder to decrease damage to the dune system by having one dedicated access path only and enabling improving safe beach access for visitors. The dunes stretch for 200 meters North from The Flight of the Earls sculpture at the beach car park in Rathmullan and is owned and managed by Donegal County Council.	1,000.00
B20/20	Mullagh Sports Partnership	Cavan	To create a small wetland area (approximately 600 sq. metres) in the S.E of lands owned by Mullagh Sports Partnership. The wetland will be fed by Mullagh Lough Stream and some natural percolation. An otter holt and a small boardwalk over the wetland is also planned which will form part of a Biodiversity Walk/ Park.	12,000.00
EM20/25	Ballymahon Tidy Towns	Longford	Our project aims to create a biodiversity trail along the River Inny and surrounding areas by planting wild flowers, herbaceous and perennials while engaging with our local community and schools to create a better awareness of the river's biodiversity and the importance of the preserving water quality in our waterways.	1,800.00
B20/27	Sligo Tidy Towns	Sligo	A celebration of the Garavogue River through poetry, story-telling and nature to increase awareness of the importance of the river to the well-being and health of the community.	100.00
W20/28	Mount Allen Residents Association	Roscommon	Raising awareness of the natural habitats including raised bog and lakeshore wetlands at Mount Allen Organic Farm.	1,175.00
SW20/33	Castlegregory Trout Anglers Club	Kerry	To eradicate the invasive species (New Zealand Pygmyweed) from artificial ponds and a channel that are immediately adjacent to Lough Gill, Castlegregory, Kerry.	4,000.00
B20/34	Tireragh Community Support Ltd	Sligo	Delivery of 15 Water Cycle workshops (2.5 hours per workshop) to 15 national schools (approx 340 5th & 6th class pupils) situated in and around the catchment area of the Bellawaddy River's Priority Area for Action (workshops to be delivered by Daithi Lavelle of Reconnect With Nature).	1,000.00

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B20/35	Fanad Coastal Group	Donegal	In Fanad we have a major issue with fly dumping and poor manage of domestic waste. This is causing damage to our local environment , including contamination to water courses and beaches, We plan to produce an information pack that will be distributed to the local community and visitors and to also position 2 minute clean up boards at two locations.	500.00
EM20/37	Gormanston Community Association CLG	Meath	Gormanston Community Association CLG wish to commission a Biodiversity Management Plan for a stretch of the Delvin River between the Delvin Bridge and the Rail Viaduct.	2,250.00
SW20/39	Castleconnell Tidy Towns Committee	Limerick	High quality information panels sharing the natural and built environment as it exists on the banks of the Shannon at Castleconnell.	1,421.00
B20/40	West Cavan Bogs Association	Cavan	A Community Bioblitz to emphasise the unique biodiversity in boglands and the roll of bogland in water quality. Events to take place relating to bogland in the Erne Catchment , specifcly the Woodford River catchment. Also involving photography for future publicity and public events and artistic creativity to involve the community.	1,500.00
W20/41	Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection Group Ltd.	Galway	THE CMCWPG Group are encouraging/ advocating local club to perform small stream characterisation system (SSCS) on their local streams, this investment in training and equipment is essential to enable the characterisation process.	1,869.00
B20/42	Ox Mountain Development Co.	Sligo	To video Lough Talt catchment area by drone, capturing the interest of locals/ visitors, illustrating importance of this water throughout history for man and other creatures.	1,000.00
EM20/43	Mullingar Shamrocks GAA Healthy Club Initiative	Westmeath	We want to control and minimize any risk of eutrophication and associated dangers to our aquatic ecology and unique and valuable habitat. We wish to further progress our Biodiversity agenda.	1,645.00
W20/44	Portrun Development Association CLG	Roscommon	This project proposal aims to generate interest, understanding and appreciation of waterways locally and how the local water protection impacts the national waterway system. This will be carried out through providing information, organising activities and exploration of the local waterbody and it's associated flora, fauna and marine life.	667.00
EM20/46	Keep Kilcoole Tidy under Kilcoole Community Development Association	Wicklow	Additional fencing between Kilcoole stream and existing farmland and installing cattle feeders.	450.00

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EM20/47	Moneygall Development Association CLG	Offaly	Ballyfinboy Bio Diversity Plan to regenerate and engage the community with the rising of the river.	4,000.00
EM20/48	Bird Watch Ireland	Offaly	A community led citizen science River Bird Survey, with a particular focus on education, training and awareness to highlight the importance of key river bird species as important indicators of river water quality.	560.00
W20/49	Ballyfarnon Tidy Towns	Roscommon	To create Wildlife signs which would include wildflowers, birds, and insects for the river bank and the school.	1,003.00
EM20/54	Royal Canal Clean-Up Group	Dublin	If we get this grant our proposal is to purchase 2 kayaks and associated wet & safety gear, in order to clean-up further reaches of the Royal Canal.	834.00
SW20/55	Glenville Community Council	Cork	We, the community people of Glenville and also to include some of Carrignavar and Bottlehill, propose a Biodiversity and Biological Water Quality Survey of our local water in the upper catchments of the river Bride (EPA Code 18B05) and tributaries.	3,000.00
EM20/56	Legan Tidy Town Development	Longford	Information signage with regard raising awareness & educating school children & adults about fish life, plants, trees, birds along the river. Purchase of bird boxes.	878.25
B20/57	Pristine Waters	Leitrim	Pristine Waters Ériu would like to put up signage explaining the micro and macro biology of the river Glenaniff in Rossinver, county Leitrim.	1,000.00
SW20/58	Fermoy Forum	Cork	Examining the feasibility of improving water quality in the Glenabó tributary of the river Blackwater near Fermoy as a demonstration project for wider tributary-based water quality improvement with a view to improving general water quality in the river Blackwater sufficient to support the sustainable re- introduction of the freshwater pearl mussel.	1,500.00
W20/61	Tuam TidyTown	Galway	To create a diagram that describes wild instream and bankside plants by their microhabitat and their interaction with insects, fish and birds.	2,000.00
SE20/62	Rhododendron Walking festival	Tipperary	A river clean up as part of national spring clean week, with all members of our committee and public invited to attend.	100.00
EM20/63	Rathangan Tidy Towns	Kildare	Our group members have been monitoring wild life in Rathangan for years. They will attend a Citizen Science training course on small streams in order to assist in the protection and management of water quality. We are teaming up with the local angling club and volunteers with Wild Kildare who monitor wild life in the county.	2,000.00

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W20/64	Kilkelly Village Enhancement Voluntary Group	Mayo	To enhance the river bank and utilize this area of disused ground and create a tranquil resting spot.	1,000.00
EM20/67	Swords Tidy Towns	Dublin	Swords Tidy Towns wish to carry out a study of wildlife in and surrounding the rivers running through Swords, and recommendations on how to enhance biodiversity, (beginning on the Ward River approximately 500m inside the Ward Valley Park and continuing to where the Broadmeadow Linear Park begins).	4,744.00
W20/68	Lough Carra Catchment Association (LCCA)	Mayo	LCCA has identified farms in the catchment where cattle are entering the main channel. We aim to install cattle water drinkers and fence off where the cattle are entering the water channels.	2,500.00
b20/69	Culdaff Development Association	Donegal	We are looking to design, construct and install biodiversity information panels along the Culdaff river bank.	1,649.00
EM20/70	Rathdrum Tidy Towns	Wicklow	Remove waste material from stream, enhance borders with appropriate planting to increase biodiversity and hold event to publicise project; raise awareness of stream value and introduce measures to prevent dumping.	430.00
B20/71	Ballinrillick Environmental Group T/A The Benwisikin Centre	Sligo	We propose to engage the local community in a programme to create awareness and appreciation of our local rivers. We are proud to have high status and good water quality in the catchment and the Duff River is also in a PAA.	797.00
W20/72	Kilteevan Tidy Towns	Roscommon	Through a 5 year Professional Management Plan our project will treat, control, monitor and hopefully eradicate 3 stands of Japanese Knotweed.	1,500.00
B20/74	Muileann Coirce Leitir CTR	Donegal	The proposal aims to positively impact on the local environment and also the social well Being of South West Donegal by constructing an Environmental River Walk as apart of a wider project which will also deliver a major new Cultural Heritage Tourism Product for the area.	5,730.40
SW20/75	Cork Nature Network	Cork	The project aims to create awareness in local communities on the importance of the otters within the waterways in Cork and in particular within the River Bride and Midleton region.	927.00
EM20/76	Global Action Plan	Dublin	The Water Explorer Santry River Challenge will engage 5 primary schools in the catchment of the Santry River in a series of challenges around waste water, biodiversity, riverbank cleanup and school and family action.	4,492.00

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B20/78	Doohamlet District Community Development Association	Monaghan	Three local community groups have come together to propose a range of measures to protect a waterbody through riverbank stabilisation, development of a riparian zone and watercourse protection measures for installation along a football pitch development adjoining Major Lough Stream_010, Doohamlet, Co. Monaghan.	5,000.00
EM20/80	Raheny Tidy Village Group	Dublin	Our project involves 1 – 2 people from our group taking part in Ken Whelan's (The Atlantic Salmon Trust) Small Streams Characterisation System (SSCS) course.	450.00
SW20/81	Moyvane Community Sports Hall	Limerick	We will redirect rain water from our gutter down pipes into overflow tanks in our attics for use within the sports hall.	1,700.00
SW20/82	Ballybunion Tidy Towns	Kerry	We propose improving the Cashen River area by renovating the Cashen River trail with signage, adding biodiversity rubbing plates for flora & fauna in the Cashen River habitat, installing a telescopic viewer & building a bird blind.	1,000.00
EM20/83	An Oige Knockree Conservation Group	Dublin	To prevent further bank erosion with consequential negative effects on water quality along a 1.2 km section of the Glenree river by improving the riparian zone with tree planting. To develop a biodiversity trail along the Glenree river.	1,010.00
SE20/85	Tipperary Tidy Towns	Tipperary	To increase the nesting opportunities for birds and bats found along the town section of the River Ara. These species have been identified by a previous survey and the boxes will be made into kits by students at the Abbey school in their woodwork classes. A workshop for the public on assembling the boxes will be held at the Resource Centre.	700.00
B20/86	Inishowen Rivers Trust	Donegal	This project will provide training to Inishowen River Guardian volunteers on the skills and ethics of the Leave No Trace programme as well as map reading, navigation skills and information on landowner engagement and permissive access.	1,682.00
SW20/88	Tidy Towns Cloghane Brandon	Kerry	Development of an invasive species survey, mapping, and management plan for the Cloghane Brandon area in Co. Kerry, which is a priority area for action for the EPA, a Special Area of Conservation, and a member of the Wild Atlantic Way.	2,294.25
EM20/90	Marely Grange Residents Association	Dublin	Improving the river area through clean ups, planting and raising awareness and biodiversity walks such as bat walks and seed safaris.	1,000.00
EM20/91	Balbriggan Tidy Towns	Dublin	Our project involves 3-4 people from our group taking part in Ken Whelan's (The Atlantic Salmon Trust) Small Streams Characterisation System (SSCS) course.	375.00

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W20/93	Moy Rivers Trust (Water Trough)	Mayo	To remove cattle from entering the river Moy thereby preventing water pollution and sediment. The current areas where cattle drink is also subject to bank erosion by cattle continuously walking in and out of the river at the same locations.	908.98
W20/94	Moy Rivers Trust (Salmon Festival)	Mayo	Event/Workshop during the Salmon festival allowing Children the opportunity to learn about Water Quality, Wildlife, Birds and Salmon fishing, lead by the River Moy Trust with assistance from the following government agencies, I.F.I, L.A.W.C.O , E.P.A and N.P.W.S as well as Mayo County Council.	200.00
EM20/95	Arklow Tidy Towns	Wicklow	Regenerate a neglected area into accessible and natural river for the Arklow community.	1,500.00
B20/96	Coiste Glan agus Glas	Donegal	The project will raise public awareness of the importance of Water Conservation and Harvesting and how we all have a responsibility to look after our waters. The project will be entitled "Sky to Shore" ("Ón Spéir go dtí an Trá").	2,085.00
EM20/97	Fore Heritage and Amenity Group	Westmeath	Raise awareness of the importance of Lough Lene by encouraging the community to take ownership of the issues and challenges facing Lough Lene- by developing the associated site of Fore; with water identified as the key heritage asset; monitor and support the diverse ecosystem, the rare species that are supported, its role as a public water supply and community amenity.	5,000.00
SE20/98	Barrow Valley Community Development LTD	Kilkenny	Works to stop sewerage entering the Duiske and Barrow rivers. Works to allow visiting campervans to properly dispose of their Grey and Black water waste.	5,628.00
SE20/99	Bagenalstown Improvement Group	Carlow	Riverside Wildlife Art Project - series of commissioned small drawings/paintings of local wildlife flora and fauna local to the area. Canal Walk & Talk - guided nature walks to discover local wildlife along the river Barrow & production of an information booklet for recreation and local tourism use.	1,893.09
EM20/100	Swords Tidy Towns	Dublin	Our project involves 3 people from our group taking part in Ken Whelan's (The Atlantic Salmon Trust) Small Streams Characterisation System (SSCS) course.	375.00
EM20/101	Clara Heritage Group	Offaly	A feasibility study in respect of a Brosna River linear park, seeking s to expose the waterways to the public, preserve the ecology, and provide a wild park amenity.	4,500.00
SW20/102	Maigne Rivers Trust	Limerick	To train "Citizen Scientist Volunteers" using the Small Stream Characterization System (SSCS) to assess the health of headwater streams, using biosecurity measures that will mitigate the presence of crayfish plague.	1,644.00

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EM20/105	Friends of the Camac	Dublin	We want to produce a booklet to help us educate the public, schools, partner organizations and stakeholders about the River Camac and to help us improve on the positive engagement we have been building ever since the group started in December 2017.	3,478.39
SW20/107	Bandon Rivers Trust	Cork	A group of local farmers and land owners working together to fence off both unfenced lengths of the Caha river (areas within the PAA where fencing has deteriorated or never existed) and fence off cattle access points along the river, instead providing piped water to these fields adjacent to the River.	3,306.31
W20/108	Crossmolina Community Council CLG	Mayo	We want provide a recreational area and to install a panoramic telescope at the pier at Lough Conn pier, to increase awareness in biodiversity and nature at this beautiful waterside.	1,750.00
B20/109	Fintown Anglers Association	Donegal	Enhancement and creation of spawning beds on tributaries of Lough Finn, to promote spawning success of Sea Trout & Salmon in the Upper Finn Catchment. A PAA under the 2018-21 National RBMP.	1,000.00
EM20/111	Delgany Tidy Towns	Wicklow	Continue the next phase of our Delgany-Greystones "Uisce Beo" / Our Three Trout Lifeline project, re-connecting the Delgany & Greystones Community with it's ancient lifeline and wildlife corridor, the Three Trouts Stream.	2,526.33
EM20/112	Crumlin Community Clean-up	Dublin	We are organizing the first edition of the Poddle Festival which will aim at reconnecting Dublin residents with the Poddle river in a holistic and inclusive manner.	1,500.00
B20/113	Rosses Anglers Association	Donegal	Small stream habitat enhancement project for the Dungloe Lakes Water Catchment - a high Status Objectives Waterbody.	1,300.00
SE20/114	Laois Heritage Society	Laois	Erection of signage to promote biodiversity and heritage along the canal in Co. Laois.	2,500.00
W20/115	Galway Waterways Foundation	Galway	To conduct a feasibility study including costings for the completion and fit-out of the currently vacant waterways and milling interpretive centre on the Eastern Mill Conduit in Galway City.	1,500.00
EM20/119	Clonbullogue Development Association	Offaly	Upgrade access to the river Figile walk – provide a handrail for safety and improve the walkway for pedestrians by creating an improved path/ramp.	958.68
EM20/120	Inchicore Environmental Group	Dublin	To enhance the waterways within the Inchicore/Kilmainham area (River Liffey, Camac river, Grand canal) and their surrounding areas by planting native trees and wildflowers to encourage more biodiversity along their banks.	701.50

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W20/121	Céide Coast Community Company Limited By Guarantee	Mayo	To devise and put in place a community backed, strategic plan focusing on local awareness, education, subsequent sampling and monitoring of the Ballinlen River and its catchment area, enabling the provision of protection and enhancement measures for the stream biodiversity and the associated hinterland into the future.	1,385.00
SE20/122	Clohamon Community Development Group	Wexford	This project will take place on the banks of the river Slaney near the historical bridge in Clohamon and the salmon weir. We wish to develop the common ground on the riverbank as a public amenity with biodiversity signage and a picnic bench, while also providing fencing to protect from stock in neighbouring land.	1,865.38
B20/124	Drumsna Development Association Tidy Towns	Leitrim	Drumsna have two sections along the River Shannon, 1st at the Harbour, 2nd the Shannonside walk, we want to keep protecting the water quality and make more people aware of how they can get involved in protecting the broader water catchment.	1,219.35
SW20/125	Schull Tidy Towns	Cork	To provide an Artistic Educational and Information Board featuring Wading Birds, Fish and Aquatic Insects Common to Close Shore and Estuaries in the Area.	1,500.00
B20/126	The Organic Centre	Leitrim	WATER & WOODLAND Protect Project - aimed at protection and enhancement of waterways and woodland for public benefit.	1,050.00
EM20/127	Killinarden Angling Initiative	Dublin	A Lake Assessment and Feasibility Study.	2,721.00
EM20/128	Monkstown Village Tidy District	Dublin	Two awareness events (i) to engage local community in the "hidden stream" and (ii) protection of biodiversity along the Stradbrook stream in Monkstown.	700.00
B20/129	Dromore West Village Enhancement Committee	Sligo	To carry out a tree survey along the Dunneill River Walk and provide training workshops to local CE Scheme workers and community volunteers. See link https://sligowalks.ie/walks/dunneill-river-walk/	2,490.75
W20/130	River Moy Search and Rescue Ballina CLG	Mayo	Our objective is to improve the water quality of the duck pond by ridding the pond of its summertime algae bloom and also to create a natural self- sustaining ecosystem in keeping with that of Belleek Woods and The Moy Estuary.	4,000.00
EM20/131	Wild Kildare	Kildare	To monitor water quality through river catchment bio diversity such as moths, butterfly and dragonfly surveying and recording, in conjunction with hosting community events to create awareness if river catchment bio diversity.	3,000.00

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B20/132	Cloughaneely Angling Association	Donegal	To further develop and implement a citizen science approach to monitoring remote high status lakes, identifying pressures, informing measures selection and documenting methods for potential roll out to other communities.	961.00
SW20/134	Annascaul Adventures	Kerry	To create awareness and education on our Annascaul rivers, streams and lake through a biodiversity event and heritage event with guest speakers, workshops and exhibition, also to erect two water stations in Annascaul village and Inch beach.	600.00
EM20/136	An Taisce Dun Laoghaire Association	Dublin	Half day conference on the significance of Booterstown Marsh SPA. A Plant Study of this wetland. Events: April National Spring Clean h, National Biodiversity Week school event, Heritage Sunday walking tour, October Clean up.	2,638.00
EM20/138	Digby Trust Offaly	Offaly	Baseline ecological study of Screggan Bog, Tullamore, Co Offaly.	2,000.00
EM20/139	Meath Partnership on behalf of Meath Local Action Group	Meath	To carry out a feasibility study and produce a development plan for Lough Bracken linked to conservation of habitats, water quality, restoration of biodiversity, protection from erosion and sensitive development linked to community recreation.	1,155.95
B20/141	Gairdin Gortahork Pobail	Donegal	We wish to create biodiversity trail in the forest focusing at the river. We have a large garden where we currently run community garden classes and other workshops in growing food, and we would like to develop it further and do training around the forest and river.	2,000.00
W20/143	Lough Carra Catchment Association	Mayo	To Prepare and ReSubmit a 'Concept Note' for EU 2020 LIFE funding.	5,000.00
SE20/144	Lattin Tidy Towns	Tipperary	We wish to conduct an ecological survey and water quality monitoring for a period of six months at ten locations on the upper Ara to create awareness and educate all on the status of the Ara catchment area and to complete our signage of the river.	3,600.00
W20/145	Yeats Thoor Ballylee Ltd	Galway	A weekend educational and cultural festival celebrating the local habitats and environment around Yeats's tower on an island surrounded by two rivers at Thoor Ballylee, a literary landmark often threatened by flooding.	750.00
SW20/146	Coomhola Salmon Trust Ltd.	Cork	The 'Salmon Sanctuaries' Project will build awareness of the importance of water quality in the conservation of extant wild salmon populations in 10 south western spate salmon river Catchments.	2,098.00
SW20/147	Funshion Catchment Group	Cork	Reline bank with stone and willow.	3,500.00

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EM20/148	Mullingar Tidy Towns	Westmeath	To clean and enhance the River Brosna bank and immediate area from the canal bank as far as the Town Park and install interpretation boards along the river bank and similar signage at the canal bank from Dublin bridge to Carey Bridge.	1,000.00
SE20/149	Portlaw Heritage Group	Waterford	Improve the habitat on the Clodiagh River in order to save the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) population, which is going extinct locally.	4,299.30
SE20/150	Clonmel Junction Arts Festival	Tipperary	To improve engagement and eco-literacy by involving the community in stewardship and protection of the local water environment by a series of arts and ecology linked workshops, performances and talks, linked to a festival in Denis Burke Park, Clonmel from 6th to 12th July including a Family Discovery Day.	3,000.00
W20/151	Lough Carra Catchment Association	Mayo	Produce (design and print) several awareness raising items : an A4 brochure about Lough Carra with a map of the entire catchment in the centre of the brochure; Lough Carra Catchment Association logo boat and car stickers; bpa free water bottle with LCCA logo.	1,000.00
B20/152	riverblackwater catchment trust	Monaghan	The source of the Mountain Water PAA and Monaghan Blackwater is Sliabh Beagh in Co Monaghan. Self seeding conifers have become a problem affecting the hydrology and biodiversity on the mountain.	2,300.00
SE20/154	Ballinderry Development Association	Tipperary	The Lower Ballyfinboy River is a water body at Risk. Our plan is to work with the community and the schools to learn the importance of our rivers, identify and understand life in the river and on its banks so that we as a community can help preserve that life with an aim to eventually create an open science room.	2,500.00
EM20/155	Bí URBAN	Dublin	To install rainwater/ downpipe planters in 20 + gardens in Stoneybatter, Dublin city.	3,545.00
W20/156	River Moy Trust	Mayo	Develop a masterplan for a 13km section of the River Pollagh, one of the main tributaries of the River Moy. This plan will seek to enhance the habitat for trout and salmon and demonstrate best practice when dealing with trout and salmon habitat.	3,000.00
SW20/158	Douglas Tidy Towns	Cork	Gather water quality data on the Ballybrack Stream and Tramore River which meet and flow into the Douglas River and Cork Harbour (Moneygourney Catchment) in Douglas.	1,300.00
EM20/160	Palmerstown Meitheal Tidy Towns	Dublin	To bring students from the local Secondary school to the River Liffey for an educational and environmental experience on the water and the banks.	700.00
EM20/161	Ashbourne Tidy Towns	Meath	Create a Broadmeadow river walking 5km route or circuit.	2,500.00

