

# Minute of the 15th Meeting of the National Technical Implementation Group for WFD



25 September 2020



**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** 25 September 2020 **Time:** 10:30-13:00

**Chairperson:** Mary Gurrie, EPA

*Presentations from this meeting are available in [WFD NTIG OneDrive](#) – if you do not have access to this please email [p.morris@epa.ie](mailto:p.morris@epa.ie)*

**Email updates:** *The EPA issue updates on the WFD (Catchments Newsletter, public consultations etc) via email – you can sign up for these updates on the front page of [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) We also do a (very brief!) weekly summary of new stories on catchments.ie which you can sign up for here: <https://www.catchments.ie/would-you-like-a-weekly-summary-of-new-stories-added-to-catchments-ie/>*

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**Attendance:** see Appendix 2.

## AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, introductions and minutes of previous meeting
2. Updates:
  - i. DHPLG (20 minutes)
  - ii. LA Waters Programme and ASSAP (20 minutes)
  - iii. Issues arising (20 mins)
3. Implementing Natural Water Retention Measures – recommendations from the working group (20 minutes)
4. Cycle 3 Characterisation Updates and discussion on appropriate measures (20 minutes)
5. Clarifications on the round table updates
6. AOB
  - i. Suggestions for improving virtual NTIG meetings
  - ii. Research project on water governance

1.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes were agreed for the NTIG meeting held in May 2019.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Updates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Implementation / Third Cycle Planning</b></p> <p>i. <b>DHLGH</b> – see presentation in the <a href="#">WFD NTIG OneDrive</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infringements:</b> Drinking Water Directive (THMs) – response to reasoned option submitted 18 September. Urban Waste Water – currently finalising second report to Commission on ECJ case. WFD – preparing update to Commission on agreed legislative programme to address number of issues in letter of Formal Notice</li> <li>• <b>Nitrates Action Programme:</b> 12 week public consultation to be launched in coming weeks; more detailed consultation in 2021; intend to notify commission of our intention to apply for a renewal of Derogation in December.</li> <li>• <b>Drinking Water Expert Group:</b> first meeting was in June; initial focus on drinking water source protection</li> <li>• <b>Abstractions:</b> General Schema circulated to Departments in August. Expected to go for Government approval 29 September, and then onwards to the Oireachtas Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny.</li> <li>• <b>Waters of Life:</b> Project Manager to be advertised soon, to start early 2021; possible extension as a result of COVID.</li> <li>• <b>DWWTS Grants:</b> <a href="#">now operational for systems in 3 categories</a> - inspected under National Inspection Plan/PAAAs/those in a high-status catchment area</li> <li>• <b>Private Wells Grant:</b> <a href="#">new scheme launched</a></li> <li>• <b>Shannon Fish Pass:</b> proposed approach to be submitted shortly; review by steering committee then a second public event is to be held to discuss</li> <li>• <b>Water and Planning Guidance:</b> revised draft received by DHLGH; will be forwarded to steering group following review</li> <li>• <b>SWMI</b> - see presentation in the <a href="#">WFD NTIG OneDrive</a></li> <li>• <b>Third RBMP next steps:</b> A Programme of Measures development team comprising representatives from DHLGH, EPA and LAWPRO has been established and the first round of engagements with relevant bodies has been completed. The SEA/AA tender process is nearly completed. A review of LAWPRO is underway.</li> <li>• <b>Public Consultation and COVID:</b> The best means of running the public consultation for the draft plan during the pandemic has to be discussed.</li> </ul> <p>ii. <b>LA Waters Programme</b> (<a href="#">presentation on WFD NTIG OneDrive</a>) and <b>ASSAP: Issues arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Integrated Management Programme - should include all agencies and not just LAWPRO for the Third Cycle</li> <li>• <b>Pat Murphy ASSAP</b> - gave overview of issues ASSAP have identified on farms, mitigation action examples, and implementation of measures for the 5 most frequent issues. Teagasc are looking at putting a better toolkit in place to extend the reach of water quality advice across the whole advisory service.</li> <li>• Farmer meetings have not yet recommenced but Teagasc Farmer discussion groups have restarted. Options are being looked at to manage farm meetings safely. There are ongoing meetings with DHLGH and DAFM to review outcomes of the programme to inform the third</li> </ul>

	<p>plan. ASSAP is also looking at ways of capturing data and actions from the advice given to farmers, especially spatial data, while retaining farmer confidentiality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Teagsac Signpost Webinars</a> – The series is getting a very good response with 250-300 people attending each time, so it is now being broadened out and extended indefinitely. Attendees are mainly from the agricultural sector, depts, agencies and NGOs. There have been 6 dealing with water quality and there are another 4 planned in October led by the Agricultural Catchments Programme.</li> <li>• LAPWRO engagements are very dependent on broadband. Online meetings are very open although it has been found that the chat function can shut down the meeting. There are also challenges with managing interventions from some people where a topic is outside the area of discussion.</li> <li>• NFGWS – The national federation of group water schemes has a source protection pilot project which has gathered learnings about engaging farmers that they are intending to document. Farmers are interested in getting involved and want to do the right thing but there are barriers if they are already participating in schemes (Glas etc) and if they make changes it may delay their payments. The COVID challenge has been difficult in terms of engagement</li> <li>• It was discussed that Public Health AFAs should not be whole subcatchments where the NFGWSs are taking the lead as some areas will be outside their area of interest and responsibility.</li> <li>• The importance of the protect function was discussed and the need to see how that can be supported through the local authority inspection planning process, the RMCEI</li> <li>• <b>ACTION – EPA to consider how the RCMEI approach can support the delivery of the river basin management plan</b></li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Implementing Natural Water Retention Measures – recommendations from the working group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural water retention measures working group presented their final report and summarised their findings for the group.</li> <li>• There was general support for a change to the name of these measures to Nature based catchment solutions, although it was suggested it would be worth considering how to bring out the concept of the role of water flow.</li> <li>• It was agreed that multi-agency involvement will be very important. There are linkages with the CAP and other policies supporting the multiple benefits of biodiversity, climate, air quality, and health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• There was also support for the recommendation to conduct a pilot feasibility study to quantify the benefits of these measures</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Cycle 3 Characterisation Updates and discussion on appropriate measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA gave a summary of the outcomes of characterisation. It was noted that change has been significant in some parts of the country in comparison to elsewhere. Catchment Reports are being developed will be available with the draft RBMP.</li> <li>• There was discussion about the need to emphasise the Protect function in the third plan. We need some creative thinking around joining up the messaging, making better use of existing measures, and expanding the measures toolbox to take account of multiple benefits.</li> </ul>

5.	<b>Clarifications on the round table updates</b> N/A
6.	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving virtual NTIG meetings – All to consider and revert with any comments or suggestions.</li></ul>

### Appendix 1: NTIG membership and attendance list – Sept 2020

Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies	Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies	Name	Organisation	Attended	Apologies
Deirdre MacGabhann	ABP			Stephen Fennell	EPA	X		Noreen Mc Cleery	NIEA / DAERA		
Anne Marie O'Connor	ABP			Jenny Deakin	EPA	X		Richard Gray	NIEA / DAERA		
Mike Murphy	BIM			Marie Archbold	EPA	X		Deirdre Quinn	NIEA / DAERA		
Joanne Gaffney	BIM	X		Patrick Morrisey	EPA			Oonagh McCann	NIEA / DAERA		
Catherine Butler	BIM			Andy Fanning	EPA	X		Joanne Livingstone	NIEA / DAERA		
Brian O Loan	BIM			Kevin Collins	Forest Service	X		Silke Hartmann	NIEA / DAERA	X	
Alan Dunney	CAROs	X		Ken Bucke	Forest Service			Mark Adamson	OPW	X	
Deborah Meghan	Coillte	X		Monica Lee	GSI	X		Conor Galvin	OPW	X	
Philip O' Dea	Coillte			Martin Cormican	HSE		X	Peter McGoary	SFPA	X	
Aoife Crowe	CER			Cathal Gallagher	IFI			Pat Murphy	Teagasc;	X	
Jack Nolan	DAFM			Serena Keane	Irish Water			Noel Meehan	Teagasc	X	
Bernard Harris	DAFM	X		Niall Horgan	Irish Water	X		Billy O Keeffe	TII	X	
Dymphna Kehoe	DAFM			Claire Colman	Irish Water	X		Paula Treacy	WI	X	
Clare Casey	DAFM			Ray Spain	LAWPRO	X					
Colin Byrne	DHPLG			Bernie O Flaherty	LAWPRO	X		<b>Guests</b>			
Donal Grant	DHPLG	X		Fran Igoe	LAWPRO	X		Emma Quinlan	EPA	X	
Graham McGovern	DHPLG	X		Carol McCarthy	LAWPRO	X		Mary-Liz Walshe	DCC	X	
Imelda Averill CCMA	DCC			Sean Keating	LAWPRO	X		Daireann McDonnell	Waterways ireland	X	
Mary Gurrie	EPA	X		Margaret Keegan	LAWPRO	X		Wayne Trodd	EPA	X	
Eva Mockler	EPA	X		Ruth Hennessy	LAWPRO						
Anthony Mannix	EPA	X		Maeve Ryan	LAWPRO	X					
Paddy Morris	EPA	X		Bernie White	LAWPRO	X					
Matt Craig	EPA	X		Gary O'Connell	LAWPRO	X					
Noel Byrne	EPA	X		Evin McGovern	MI						
Karen Creed	EPA	X		Ciaran O' Keeffe	NPWS						
Suzanne Wylde	EPA	X		Barry Deane	NFGWS						
Shane O' Boyle	EPA	X		Kerry Anderson	NIEA / DAERA						