

# Minute of the 22nd Meeting of the National Technical Implementation Group for WFD



4 April 2024



	<p><b>Location:</b> Online</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 4 April 2024 <b>Time:</b> 10:30-12:30</p> <p><b>Chairperson:</b> Mary Gurrie, EPA</p>
	<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p>Anie O’Connor (NPWS), Andrew Kirwan (Forest Service), Anne Goggin (WoL), Anthony Coleman (LAWPRO), Anthony Mannix (EPA), Barry Deane (NFGWS), Billy O’Keefe (TII), Brian Donlon (EPA), Caroline Murphy (EPA), Claire Colman (ÚE), Conor Galvin (OPW), Cormac McConigley (LAWPRO), Emmet Smyth (ABP), Eoin McAleer (LAWPRO), Evin McGovern (MI), Jenny Deakin (EPA), Jim Johnson (EPA), Jimmy McVeigh (LAWPRO), Joan Martin (LAWPRO), Kenneth Bucke (EPA), Leanne Roche (DAFM), Joanne Livingstone (DAERA NI), Margaret Keegan (LAWPRO), Mark Adamson (OPW), Mary Gurrie (EPA) Matthew Craig (EPA), Monica Lee (GSI), Oonagh Duffy (TII), Paddy Morris (EPA), Pat Murphy (Teagasc), Patrick Byrne (EPA), Paul Caprani (ABP), Philip O’Dea (Coillte), Roland Gowran (DHLGH), Ruth Hennessy (LAWPRO), Tadhg O Mahoney (EPA), Tony Kent (EPA), Vanessa Cooling (FSAI) Vera O’Sullivan (EPA), Wayne Trodd (EPA).</p>
	<p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome, introductions and minutes of previous meeting</li> <li>2. Standing updates:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. DHLGH</li> <li>ii. LA Waters Programme</li> <li>iii. ASSAP</li> <li>iv. EPA</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Waters of Life: framework of agricultural measures for HSO River waterbodies</li> <li>4. The Water EIP – update on implementation</li> <li>5. LAWPRO Strategic approach to N referrals 2024</li> <li>6. Third Cycle Implementation: Catchment Management Plans and Sectoral Action Plans</li> <li>7. AOB and next meeting</li> </ol>

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 February 2023.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>DHLGH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A written summary of update is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>LA Waters Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A written summary of this update is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with LAWPRO on Water EIP and individual measures - 38 costed measure</li> <li>Planning for how to expand service across 3rd cycle PAAs is now a key focus - state resourcing 20 advisers; coop resource increasing on an ongoing basis - 26 advisers currently and 5 from Tirlán being added for Slaney project; Lakeland also increasing.</li> <li>Funding for IT system - this is now in place and is being used by ASSAP, being extended to Coop advisers.</li> <li>Nitrogen referrals - working on this, with the coops moving towards an agreed protocol – focus is on farmyards, buffers, spreading, soil conditions, CSAs, application matched to growth rates, weather and working with it, use of slurry, Nitrogen use efficiency.</li> <li>EIP work ongoing – Teagasc also regularising the EIP work into the work of all ASSAP advisers.</li> <li>Teagasc about to launch a multiyear water quality campaign, 2024 focus is leveraging the entire advisory resource to work on water quality, will engage with farmers and integrate it in all Teagasc events and discussion groups.</li> <li>Slaney is a key initiative - LAS, Tirlán, ASSAP, - intensive approach with dairy farms, also tillage (catch crops) – this initiative will include research, in conjunction with EIP. Minister launching water quality camping in Enniscorthy in April 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>EPA</b></p> <p><b>Live issues updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Movement of Organic fertilisers:</i> The new EPA Agricultural Inspections team is taking the lead on this issue and is establishing a working group to assist. The first meeting of the group will be held on 18th April. The objective is to develop a series of recommendations for strengthened measures to manage the information gap that has been identified.</li> <li><i>Sheep dip:</i> The management of spent sheep dip is being progressed by DECC/DAFM as part of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Further updates on the Plan will be provided at the next NTIG meeting in Sept which will have a focus on chemicals.</li> <li><i>Norovirus:</i> There have been recent discussions between EPA and BIM on urban waste water risks for shellfish areas The Marine Institute is working on the shellfish roadmap.</li> <li><i>Land drainage:</i> This topic will be referred to the DHLGH Hydromorphology Working Group in due course.</li> </ul> <p><b>EPA updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual Water Quality Indicators Report for 2023 will be published in June.</li> <li>The EPA Water conference will be held in Galway on 12-13 June.</li> <li>A Drinking Water Source Protection Implementation Guidance document is in development, in line with the Regulations.</li> <li>This year’s targets for the National Agricultural Inspections Programme have been sent to the Local Authorities. Recruitment of new staff is ongoing.</li> </ul>

3.	<p><b>Waters of Life: framework of agricultural measures for HSO River waterbodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> <li>• A Goggin provided an overview of the WoL project with a focus on the <a href="#">Framework of Measures and Best Practice Guidelines for Agricultural Measures in HSO river waterbodies</a>.</li> <li>• Measures/Results based payment scheme: expressions of interest Q4 2024, measures will be implemented in 2025 and onwards.</li> <li>• Forestry - two catchments with forestry are largely Coillte plantations; WOL are looking at opportunity mapping for forestry in all catchments, including potential for riparian zone tree planting to try and encourage land owners into this measure.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>The Water EIP – update on implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> <li>• J Martin provided an update on the work of the Farming for Water EIP.</li> <li>• Measures are being selected and suggested by Teagasc agri-environmental professionals.</li> <li>• Clustering of measures is a key focus to try and deliver measurable water quality benefits.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>LAWPRO – strategic approach to N referrals 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> <li>• E McAleer provided an overview of this data-driven scientific approach to prioritising N referrals.</li> <li>• The 2nd cycle LAWPRO approach to Catchment Assessment is time consuming – desk study, community meeting, LCA etc. so the team are looking to refine and optimise the approach for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Third Cycle Implementation: Catchment Management Plans and Sectoral Action Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is in Appendix 1 which is available on <a href="#">NIECE</a>.</li> <li>• M Keegan provided an overview of the approach for developing the third cycle catchment management plans and sectoral action plans.</li> <li>• LAWPRO is working on a template for the catchment management plans in 5 pilot catchments, with a focus on increased public participation.</li> <li>• Sectoral action plans are also being developed by the implementing bodies to summarise the actions their sector are taking to address water quality.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>AOB and next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next NTIG meeting will be in person at 10:00 on Thursday 26 September in Airfield, Dublin, and will have a focus on chemicals, to include POPs.</li> <li>• Shellfish pollution reduction plans – not updated since 2012. These are under DHLGH and will be reviewed as part of the wider shellfish roadmap. BIM raised the possibility for a marine/shellfish focused working group to be established.</li> <li>• Marine Institute: staff retention and recruitment is a significant challenge for all across the water sector.</li> <li>• The EPA has a new team in place in the Office of Enforcement to manage the National Agricultural Inspections Programme. The team will provide oversight, reporting, and technical support for Local Authorities. New LA inspections staff (57) have been sanctioned and the aim is to be inspecting 4500 farms each year. Inspections will be targeted primarily where agriculture is a pressure but will also address the protect function.</li> <li>• FSAI: a new representative, Vanessa Cooling, has joined the NTIG and was welcomed. The recast drinking water directive is a key focus.</li> <li>• DAFM: nitrates directive review is ongoing (DAFM/DHLGH) – the Agriculture and Water Quality Stakeholders WG will continue in 2024. The inspections rate on derogation farms is being increased from 5% to 10% per annum, based on risk.</li> </ul>