



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

# BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

## Meeting Report of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

This is the report of the meeting of the Board of IFI which took place in January 2021.  
This report provides an outline of agenda items raised at this meeting.

# BOARD MEETING – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## 1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair welcomed members and extended the apologies of those members that could not attend the meeting. The Chair formally opened the meeting, one interest was declared and it was agreed that member would step out of the meeting when the matter is raised.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The following meeting minutes/report were approved:

Board Meeting – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Board Meeting Report – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 3. Matters Arising

The Board enquired as to the status of the value for money report on the TETRA system.

## 4. Correspondence

Correspondence related to an application from a stakeholder group for funding outside the current funding programme criteria of IFI. The matter was discussed in detail and the executive was requested to produce rigorous scrutiny and evidence of the merits of such an award.

## 5. Corporate Plan 2021-2025

P. Millar was admitted to the meeting. Mr Millar presented on the output of the three workshops with the Senior Leadership Team (which includes the RBD Directors). He reported that further work was required to complete the measures of strategy delivery. He cautioned the members to consider the scale of organisational change and process improvement required, adding that identifying resources and partnership potential is key to effectiveness. P. Millar then left the meeting.

## 6. IFI Fish Farm Feasibility Study

This item was deferred for discussion under Item 9. CEO's Report.

## 7. Review of Business Plan 2020

Two papers titled 'Projects Year End Update 2020' and 'Business Plan Detailed Report 2020' were distributed with the meeting papers. The Senior Management Team was admitted to the meeting. Team members responded to queries in relation to; compliance warnings to anglers; presentation of the Business Plan and budget ensuring a link between the high-level objectives and actions of the Corporate Plan; and the availability of development activity data. The Chair emphasised that the Board was concerned with ensuring fishery development plans were in place and their delivery was effective. The Executive stated that a critical requirement to efficiently collate and report on this data was the procurement of appropriate software which is currently being tendered for. The SMT were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

## 8. Climate Action Framework 2019-2021

A copy of the '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019 – 2021*' update was distributed with the meeting papers, taken as read. The Board suggested that climate targets not only included addressing fleet and property energy reduction and efficiency but also ensuring awareness and effecting behaviours regarding IFI's carbon costs such as paper consumption (noting carbon cost grams on documents) and wastage with the example of uniform turnover. It was agreed that IFI's approach

was to collaborate with other agencies where possible in achieving best practice in the delivery of its energy sustainability goals.

## 9. CEO's Report

The CEO provided a verbal update on the following matters: the impact of COVID-19; the proposed pedestrian footbridge at the Galway weir and IFI's interaction with Galway City Council; the collapse of the salmon population on the Owenriff Fishery; the Eco Eye programme on L. Carra and IFI's public profile; and fleet vehicle retention. The CEO briefed the members on the status of the contract to remove *Lagarosiphon* major in Lough Corrib, where measures are to be introduced to mitigate risks associated with effective delivery on the weed management programme.

The CEO discussed, the requirement to roll out body worn cameras supporting staff health and safety; and the ongoing review of costs associated with the Youghal base fitout and Clonmel roof repair.

## 10. Finance

P. Doherty and M. Martin were admitted to the meeting.

### Management Accounts November 2020

The 'Management Accounts and Executive Summary for November 2020' were presented by P. Doherty. He responded to queries raised in relation to; the significant cost of IFI workwear, its source and wastage and their respective carbon footprint implications.

### DRAFT Budget 2021

The draft 'Budget 2021 and Budget Considerations' were presented by P. Doherty. He outlined significant factors impacting budget drafting; COVID-19 and the impact of the vaccine roll-out, the forthcoming root and branch review, the incomplete Corporate Plan and stated that the organisation was seeking to achieve a breakeven budget. He stated that further review of the draft Budget 2021 shall be undertaken by the ARC on February 10<sup>th</sup>, and if required an extra meeting of the Board will be scheduled to approve the Budget 2021. The Board sought assurance that planning incorporated periodic budget reviews by budget holders. S. Campion re-joined the meeting at this time.

## 11. Management Assurance

### Monthly Protection Plan Review Report – December/YTD 2020

The 'Monthly Protection Plan Review Report for December/YTD 2020' was noted by the members.

### Conservation & Habitats Report and Other Categories Report December 2020

The 'Conservation & Habitats Report December 2020 and Other Categories Report December 2020' were noted by the members.

### Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) Research Contract 2021

The **continuation of a limited ESRI contract** was approved.

### Draft Stock Management Plan 2021

The 'Draft Stock Management Plan 2021' was noted, and a detailed discussion ensued on the management of the designated wild brown trout fisheries, Matters raised were the differing interest groups, social media, and consequential challenges for staff. The CEO stated that detailed plans, standard operating procedure, and fish welfare training, at significant cost, have been provided.

### Draft Revised Fleet Management Policy & Procedure

The **amended draft Revised Fleet Management Policy & Procedure** approved.

River Restoration Works - Science based Guidance centered on Hydromorphological Principles in an Era of Climate Change - Summary<sup>1</sup>

A one-page paper providing a summary of IFI's Guidance Document (IFISH: Fish and Habitats: Science and Management, Volume 2) on river restoration works was distributed with the papers.

## **12. Strategic Human Resources Sub-committee**

Chair's Verbal Report of Meeting of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

On behalf of the sub-committee Chair, S. Boland, M. McGreal provided the report of the sub-committee to the members. Matters addressed were: mitigations implemented by the organisation as a result of COVID-19 (reporting a low incidence of infection among staff); business cases for position upgrades to Assistant Principal, which were being recommended by the sub-committee, and the seasonal Fisheries Officer recruitment campaign. The following positions were approved: **Board Secretariat and Compliance Manager** and **Communications Manager**. The appointment of a Sustainability Officer was deferred by the sub-committee pending its incorporation in the root and branch review.

## **13. Property Sub-committee**

Chair's Verbal Report of Meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chair of the Property sub-committee, M. McGreal, reported on the work of the sub-committee: a review of the overview of IFI's property portfolio and individual papers for 8 different properties. He outlined decisions in respect of progressing matters made were: Cornamona; GCC's plans to build pedestrian footbridge at Galway Weir; Ballina buildings; L. O'Flynn building; Youghal base; Claregalway base; and Clonmel building roof cost. The Board agreed that it was necessary to obtain the expertise necessary to provide assurance regarding the significant expenditure proposed and that a full portfolio assessment needs to be conducted.

Aasleagh Lodge & Complex Proposal

A paper titled 'Feasibility Study for the Development of Aasleagh Lodge, grounds, and the Erriff Fishery' which outlined the justification for conducting a feasibility study, was noted.

## **14. Risk Management**

COVID-19 Report

A paper titled 'COVID-19 Actions, Mitigations and Controls 2020' was noted by the members.

Corporate Risk Register 10.14

The Corporate Risk Register was distributed in the meeting papers and noted. The CEO provided assurance that the current most significant risk to the organisation was COVID-19 and that with IFI's COVID Taskforce, the organisation was succeeding to mitigate the complex issues raised, which was recognised by staff.

## **15. AOB**

No business raised.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete text may be found [here](#).