



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of May 26th, 2021

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

BOARD MEETING – May 26th, 2021

1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. In response to his request for declarations of conflicts of interest with matters on the agenda, no matters were raised.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The **draft minutes of the April 26th and 30th meetings, and meetings report** were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Members discussed the makeup of IFI's Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

4. Correspondence

Correspondence distributed in the meeting papers was noted by the members.

5. IFI Fish Farm

The draft revised '*Fish Farm Working Group Terms of Reference*' document was distributed with the meeting papers and the CEO stated that he anticipated a meeting of the Joint Fish Farm Working Group. Membership of the working group was discussed and confirmed as; the Board Chair, Prof. Frances Lucy, the CEO, the Head of Research and Development and angling representatives (from NARA and TAFI).

6. Climate Action Framework 2019-2021

A copy of the '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019–2021-April Update*' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The Board noted the content and progress made. Members proposed that the executive consider the use of eco diesel and a review of vehicle idling.

7. National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF)

The Chair outlined the progress made in engaging a suitable individual for the chairmanship for the next iteration of the National Inland Fisheries Forum. He asked for two members of the Board to work with him and the CEO in reviewing the terms of reference.

8. Business Plan 2021

The draft '*Business Plan for 2021*' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The Chair introduced the document as a critical management tool, where the CEO and management team would report on it at a high level to the Board. It was agreed to approve the draft 2021 Business Plan at the June Board meeting.

9. CEO's Report

The CEO's Report for May was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. Members discussed the role of the Projects Management Office and field staff in delivering development projects; the skill sets developed in relation to permissions and consents, design and implementation; and the optimum structure for habitat development delivery (HLO 1). Further discussion on the level of preparedness for project delivery ensued and it was agreed that the goal for development projects is that they are 'shovel ready' as early as possible. Also discussed was the scope for IFI to communicate its plans to Local Authorities as early as possible. The CEO shared his thoughts on the role of an ecologist within the Operations Division.

In relation to the removal of barriers to passage, the CEO stated that the organisation required investment in resources to support its leadership role.

The Board discussed the composition of the Implementation Group (IG) which reviews and provides final approval for the disbursement of funding to grant applications under the Midland Fisheries Fund (MFF) and the Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund (SSTRCPF). The CEO confirmed that two independent experts had been appointed to the IG and that candidates from the angling federations were due to be nominated to the panel. It was agreed that two papers would be provided at the June meeting; the outcome on the project grants awarded and the utilisation and outcome of Dormant Accounts Funding awarded to IFI.

In response to a query on IFI's facility at Roscrea, the CEO confirmed that the organisation will continue in operation at the site and outlined his thoughts on the form this might take. He confirmed that a paper on the matter would be provided to the members in June.

A query was also raised as to whether IFI has a strategic plan for wind farms and the CEO confirmed that a note would be provided on the issue. The CEO confirmed that work continues on IFI's new website.

The Chair and CEO provided an outline of their meeting with Mayo County Council. It was agreed that IFI would benefit from working more closely with county councils and local authorities in developing partnerships to support collaboration.

In response to a query on optimising vehicle usage the CEO confirmed that within guidelines multi-passenger vehicles are moving to dual occupancy, and that the organisation was continuing to use hire vehicles for operational efficiency. He also informed members that safety webinars for dual occupancy were delivered to all operations and research staff in the last two weeks.

The Board confirmed that options for the Icehouse and Watchtower in Galway City would be reviewed.

10. Finance

P. Doherty was admitted to the meeting.

Management Accounts April 2021

The 'Management Accounts and Executive Summary for April 2021' were distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. P. Doherty presented on these accounts, responding to queries in relation to: monies remitted to the Department; funds at bank; the impact of the Board's 10% cut in budget for 2021 on operations; and funds held for fish farm operations.

Capital Expenditure Appraisal – CatchmentCARE – Arney River

The 'Capital Expenditure Appraisal CatchmentCARE – Arney River' was distributed with the meeting papers. Although not IFI's capital expenditure, it was agreed that Board oversight is necessary ensuring project output is in line with the organisation's strategic goals and was approved. P. Doherty left the meeting.

11. Audit and Risk Committee

The minutes of the ARC meeting of April 20th were distributed with the meeting papers and noted.

12. Property Sub-committee

The 'Property Sub-committee Terms of Reference' document was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. **P. Gibbon's membership of the committee was approved by the Board.** The chair of the Property Sub-committee reported on a visit to the Cong and Cornamona facilities. The CEO responded to a query on whether progress had been made on the search for accommodation in Sligo.

13. Matters for Decision

Funding Awards 2021 [SSTCRP and Midlands Fisheries Fund]

A document titled 'Projects Office - Habitats and Conservation Funding Call Outcome – 2021' was distributed with the meeting paper and taken as read. Following detailed discussion the Board agreed to defer approval until the relevant angling bodies are nominated to sit on the panel. Feedback was provided on two specific projects.

Corrib Catchment River Habitat Enhancement Prioritisation

A document titled '*Corrib Catchment River Habitat Enhancement Prioritisation*' was distributed with the meeting papers and noted. The CEO outlined the risks to delivery of this work over a 5 year period which depended on appropriate organisational re-structuring. Members anticipated that this work would require a lot of planning and welcomed the commitment provided by CEO to ensure the organisation is structured to deliver fisheries maintenance work efficiently and effectively.

14. Management Assurance

Protection Plan Review Report

A paper titled '*Monthly Protection Plan Review - April 2021*' was distributed with the meeting papers and was noted by the members.

Windfarm Guidance

A paper outlining guidance in relation to windfarms was distributed with the meeting papers and was noted by the members. Members welcomed the note and its inclusion of reference to hydrogeological studies. It was proposed that a similar guidance note is produced for quarry sites and that both are placed on the website.

Field Staff Handbook

The extent of powers of field staff was discussed (outlined in IFI's handbook).

Body Cameras

Referring to recent consent to the use of body cameras for the Gardai, the Board requested that progress is made on the provision of body cameras for field staff.

RIBs Training Requirements

The Chair stated that in order to utilise IFI's assets and provide effective protection services, RIB training must be progressed as soon as possible.

15. Risk Management

Corporate Risk Register 10.18

The Corporate Risk Register was distributed in the meeting papers and noted.

16. AOB

Board Evaluation – Recommendations Schedule

The Secretary provided a high level update on the meeting of the Chair and Secretary to review the Board Evaluation recommendations.

The Chair thanked members for their robust and beneficial engagement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.