



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of April 28th, 2020

This is the report of the meeting of the Board of IFI which took place in April 2020.
This report provides an outline of agenda items raised at this meeting.

BOARD MEETING – April 28th, 2020

1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming members. In response to his request for declarations of conflicting interests with matters on the agenda, no conflicts were raised.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Board Meeting – April 16th, 2020

The minutes of the April 16th private session of the Board were approved. At the April 16th meeting it had been agreed to convene a meeting of the Strategic Human Resources Sub-committee in the coming weeks.

3. Matters Arising

Further a query raised at the April 16th meeting regarding the status of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) funding which had recently been granted to IFI, the CEO stated it was his understanding that the funding document had been signed and that it was anticipated that five General Operatives would be hired from the panel which had been formed and that a programme of work was in place.

4. Correspondence

As agreed at the previous meeting, a draft letter to a member of the Fish Farm Working Group) was distributed with the meeting papers. The content of the draft letter was agreed.

Board Member Submission

A Board member submission paper regarding a technical review of the outputs of the Habitats Directive workshop with the Board was circulated. It was agreed that a video conference meeting will be arranged to hold this review at an appropriate time.

5. Corporate Plan 2020-2025

Organisation Structure Briefing Note

A copy of the '*IFI Organisation Structure*' paper was distributed with the meeting papers. Members commended the paper and discussed the importance of structure in implementing the Board's strategy. The Chair stated that it is the role of the Board to take ownership of and be the sponsors of the Corporate Plan which would be a meaningful document for stakeholders, employees, and prospective employees. It was agreed to write to the Department to inform them that due to the current uncertain operating environment, delivery of the new Corporate Plan would be delayed and that the Board would continue with its detailed planning in preparation for the final drafting process.

6. Climate Action Framework - Update

A copy of the '*FI Climate Action Framework 2019 – 2021*' update for April distributed with the meeting papers. Members discussed the issues raised in the paper; the heavy reliance on vehicles as part of the delivery of the protection service; fleet rationalisation; electric vehicles; eco-driving and considering the reduction of the fleet when workforce planning. Members discussed the energy consumption of IFI's larger buildings and the benefits and challenges of staff working from home. It was agreed to include tree planting as a data input for the climate actions being taken by the organisation. The paper was noted and commended.

7. CEO's Report – April 2020

The CEO's Report was taken as read. The CEO responded to queries in relation to the status of an HR related matter and the MOUs recently with angling groups.

8. Finance

Draft Annual Report 2019

The Chair introduced the draft Annual Report 2019 which had been distributed with the meeting papers, as an account of IFI's stewardship of its resources. Following his invitation for queries and feedback, members provided some notes regarding editorial amendments. Queries were raised in relation to the timing of the publication of lake surveys; the annual expenditure on the treatment of Lagarosiphon major in L. Corrib and the success of same; the source of the €150k fund for projects under the International Year of the Salmon; an update on the Novice Anglers Strategy and vehicle rationalisation. The draft Annual Report for 2019 was approved by the Board.

Management Accounts – Executive Summary March 2020

The CEO responded to queries in relation to legal fees and specific building repairs.

Financial Statements – Q1 2020

The Quarter 1 Financial Statements were taken as read and noted by the Board.

2020 Funding Call Outcome

A report on the outcome of awards of the funding schemes opened for applications in January 2020 was distributed with the meeting papers [Capital Grants Fund, Salmon and Sea trout Conservation Fund and Midland Fisheries Fund]. All but two projects were approved, and it was agreed that more detailed costings would be provided.

Erriff Building Briefing Note

The Briefing Note on the building of a base at the Erriff site was noted by the members.

9. Audit & Risk Committee

Approved ARC Meeting Minutes – March 19th

The ARC meeting minutes of March 19th were noted.

10. Risk Management

COVID-19 Crisis Paper

A paper titled 'IFI's Response to COVID-19' was distributed with the meeting papers and was noted by members. The CEO provided a brief overview of the content of the report and the impact of COVID-19 on operations. He also outlined the membership of the IFI COVID-19 Taskforce. A discussion ensued on the impact the pandemic was having on the organisation's working capital and the potential of IFI work on habitat/infrastructure development while applying public health social distancing advice.

11. Protection & Conservation

Protection Report to March 2020

A document titled '*Monthly Protection Plan Review – March 2020*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The Board noted and commended the format and quality of this report and commented that the effort in producing it to inform the Board, is very worthwhile.

Habitats & Conservation Works Plan 2020

A document titled '*2020 Habitats and Conservation Works*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The extent of the ambitious programme of work was commended, and the more detailed iteration of implementation, the projects planned and the assessment against the plan was anticipated. The CEO confirmed that geographic spread would be provided in further reporting. The Board commended the document and noted the content.

Angling Tourism Strategic Marketing Plan 2020-2024

A document titled '*IFI Angling Tourism Strategic Marketing Plan 2020-2024*' was issued with the meeting papers. The members discussed the document in detail and referred to the request that the Executive was tasked with reconciling the ethos of the Salmon Green paper and IFI's marketing angling strategy. The Board agreed not to progress the draft strategy at this time.

12. Any Other Business

The following operational matters were considered:

The **Commercial Salmon Licences for 2020**, as recommended in the document distributed, were approved.

The **River Barrow Bye law** regarding angling limitations during salmon spawning, as recommended in the document delivered with the meeting papers, was approved.

The **revocation of Bye law No. 961 on the River Blackwater (Munster) at Fermoy**, as recommended in the document delivered with the meeting papers, was approved.

The **appointment of a licence distributor in the Lismore District**, as recommended in the document distributed with the meeting papers, was approved.

Following an initial review by the Audit & Risk Committee, the **draft Records Management Policy**, was approved.