



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of November 12th, 2020

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

BOARD MEETING – November 12th, 2020

Board Members Time

Members met with the new CEO for a period of 1 hour.

1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair formally opened the meeting welcoming members. no conflicts of interest with matters on the agenda were raised.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The following meeting minutes were approved:

Board Meeting – September 25th, 2020

Board Meeting Report – September 25th, 2020

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Correspondence

A letter sent to Minister E. Ryan TD (copied to the Chairman) was noted by the members.

5. Corporate Plan 2021-2025

A document titled '*IFI Approach to Development of Corporate Plan 2021-2025*' was distributed with the meeting papers. Pat Millar of Clarion Consulting, external facilitator appointed to support the development of the Corporate Plan 2021-2025, was admitted to the meeting. Mr Millar presented on the background and status of the development process. He responded to queries on his presentation. The Board sought assurance that the corporate plan would be accompanied by balanced annual budget. P. Millar stated that the Corporate Plan supporting document will address resources and risks. It was agreed that the Board/SMT workshop as part of the Corporate Plan 2021-25 development process would serve to ensure a shared vision. It was also asserted that an important aspect of successful implementation of the Corporate Plan would be to manage the pace of delivery and related communication, ensuring that all levels of the organisation are united and take ownership of their part in its implementation. The Board thanked P. Millar and he left the meeting.

6. Climate Action Framework 2019-2021

A copy of the '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019 – 2021*' update for October was distributed with the meeting papers, taken as read and noted.

7. Deputy CEO's Report

A copy of the Deputy CEO's Report was provided with the meeting papers. The Chair acknowledged the comprehensive report. The Deputy CEO responded to queries on the content.

8. Finance

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

Management Accounts and Executive Summary September 2020

A copy of the Management Accounts and Executive Summary for September were distributed with the meeting papers. These were taken as read and noted by the members. The Board discussed year end matured liabilities. A discussion ensued on plans for IFI's aquaculture facilities and it was

agreed to convene a dedicated meeting on the matter at the earliest opportunity. P. Doherty responded to queries in relation to expenditure on safety supplies and computer maintenance.

Financial Accounts and Executive Summary for Quarter 3 2020

A copy of the Financial Accounts and Executive Summary for Quarter 3 were distributed with the meeting papers. Matters raised related to the forecasted deficit, funds remitted to the Department during the period and the impact of COVID on IFI's finances.

Vehicles Review

A document titled '*Vehicles Review*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The Chair provided a brief background of the significant improvements implemented by IFI in relation to the management of its fleet, but that an over reliance on vehicle hire has emerged. He asserted that IFI must now set a cap on this operational expenditure. P. Doherty confirmed that the Logistics Division had commenced reducing internal vehicle hire whilst taking the organisation's COVID 19 related risks into account. A discussion ensued on the appropriate course of action while acknowledging the previous significant vehicle management measures. P. Doherty confirmed that Transpoco is used to assess vehicle management compliance. A discussion on Benefit in Kind took place.

P. Doherty raised the matter of the Departmental grant and a discussion ensued on the adoption of breakeven budgeting by IFI. He stated that in adopting this approach it would be necessary to highlight those areas of expenditure that would need to be prioritised and areas sacrificed in order to achieve breakeven.

Investment in Plant & Machinery for Development Works

A document titled '*Options for Procurement of Plant & Machinery for Development Works*' was distributed with the meeting papers. Members agreed that in the absence of specific development plans and resources to utilise such machinery it was not appropriate to invest in plant and machinery at this time.

Additional Vehicle Replacement

A document titled '*Additional Vehicle Replacement*' was distributed with the meeting papers. Members discussed the proposal to replace a further 10 vehicles in line with IFI's fleet replacement programme. A discussion ensued on the merit of such a proposal in the context of benchmarking, fuel costs, maintenance costs, emissions, and electric vehicle infrastructure. **The replacement of a further 10 vehicles in IFI's vehicle fleet was approved.**

Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) – Angler Panel/ Socio Economic Research

The members discussed the Economic & Social Research Institute's (ESRI) Angler Panel expenditure and concluded that IFI would no longer invest in this socio-economic research. P. Doherty and M. Martin left the meeting at this point.

9. Management Assurance

Protection Plan Review Report – September 2020

The '*Protection Plan Review Report for September 2020*' was distributed with the meeting papers and was noted by the members. G. Forde responded to a query regarding permit and licence inspections,

Habitats & Conservation Works Report – September 2020

The '*Habitats & Conservation Works Report for September 2020*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The content was noted by the members. NSAD Director, Barry O'Connor responded to a point raised in relation to setting realistic and achievable development project numbers and timelines, citing the need to account for time in liaising with landowners, planning, liaising with

environmental specialists etc. Mr. O'Connor confirmed that there were a small number of staff capable of conducting a screening process but not a full-blown Appropriate Assessment. He stated that IFI draws on a panel of experts for this work.

Other Works & Categories Report – September 2020

The 'Other Works & Categories Report for September 2020' was distributed with the meeting papers. The content was noted by the members.

Habitats & Conservation Projects (MMF & SSTRCP) 2021 Funding

A document titled 'Habitats & Conservation Projects 2021 Funding' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The Habitats and Conservation **funding** proposal for 2021 was approved.

Outdoor Rural Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Proposals for 2020

Two documents titled 'Outdoor Rural Infrastructure Scheme Proposals for 2020' and 'Outdoor Rural Infrastructure Scheme - Outline for all Measures' were distributed with the meeting papers. B. O'Connor responded to a query on available funding for eligible projects, which are in line with IFI's strategy. The **ORIS funding proposal for 2020** was approved.

10. Strategic Human Resources Sub-committee

SHR Sub-committee Meeting November 4th, 2020 - Report from Chair

S. Boland provided a verbal update to the Board on the work of the sub-committee at its meeting on November 4th.

Proposal to Appoint 2nd Director to WRBD

Following the recommendation of the Strategic HR Sub-committee, the **proposal to re-instate the position of a second Director in the Western River Basin District** was approved.

Outstanding Commitment and Bravery Awards

A document titled 'Outstanding Commitment and Bravery Awards' was distributed with the meeting papers and its content noted and supported by the members.

11. Property Sub-committee

Sub-committee Membership

The **appointment of M. McGreal and S. Coady** (in the event of his re-appointment as Staff Nominee to the Board) **to the Property Sub-committee** was approved

New Pedestrian Bridge – Galway City

Two documents titled 'Proposed New Pedestrian /Cycle Bridge Galway City Briefing Note' and 'Indicative Land Acquisition Map – location of pedestrian bridge' were distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The CEO provided background to this initiative by Galway City Council and responded to queries from members.

Cornamona Base

A document titled 'Cornamona Base Briefing Note' was distributed with the meeting papers. Members discussed this property as a strategic location on Lough Corrib.

12. Risk Management

Corporate Risk Register 10.13

The Corporate Risk Register was distributed in the meeting papers. The CEO agreed to update the register.

This concluded the business of the meeting.