



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of June 30th, 2021

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

BOARD MEETING – June 30th, 2021

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged apologies received. In response to his request for declarations of conflicts of interest with matters on the agenda, conflicts were declared in respect of two specific projects under Item 10.3 on the agenda. As the format of the agenda had been revised, the Chair outlined the modifications made and its impact on the focus of the Board and meeting efficiency.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1.1 Board Meeting Minutes of Previous Meetings

The **draft minutes of the May 26th meeting and meeting report** were approved by the Board. There were no matters arising.

2.1.2 Board Meeting Status on Actions Arising

The status on actions arising from the May 26th Board meeting were noted.

2.2 Correspondence

Four items of correspondence were noted.

2.3.1 Climate Action Mandate Update

The '*Climate Action Mandate for May*' paper was taken as read and noted by members.

2.3.2 Salmon and Sea Trout Licence Prices 2022-2024

A submission titled '*Proposal for Angling and Commercial Salmon Fishing Licence Prices 2022*', was taken as read and members discussed the recommended alterations to rod, commercial and dealer licences for 2022 – 2024. A request was made to consider equity in terms of the cost differential between the Annual and District licences when next reviewing licence prices. It was also suggested that where an Annual Licence infers travelling between fisheries that biosecurity advice is provided with the licence. The **recommendation to increase licence prices for the 2022-2024 period** was approved by the Board.

3. CEO'S REPORT

3.1 June Report 2021

The '*CEO's Briefing Note to the Board for June 2021*', was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. Following an invitation to members by the Chair, **Professor F. Lucy agreed to join the executive's Energy Performance Committee**. Compliments were extended on exceeding the Public Sector energy reduction target of 30%; for the period 2009-2020 where IFI had reduced its energy consumption by 44%. A discussion ensued on the reported revised vehicle hire costs and the CEO clarified causes in relation to the Seasonal Fisheries Officer cohort and the continued need for single person occupancy for health and safety reasons due to COVID-19. The Board asserted that it expected hire costs to reduce when the pandemic reaches its end. The CEO presented on the appointment of 14 officers to the Protection Mobile Support Unit (MSU) as a result of comprehensive analysis of timesheets, fleetmatics and RIB usage. He reported early successful seizures. He indicated that a report on learnings from the initiative will be shared with members in due course.

The CEO reported on meeting representatives of the Office of Public Works (OPW), and he indicated that a conference would be organised with IFI and OPW staff in order to present on habitat maintenance, notifications, periods of access and training. He also reported on his meeting with the Inspector and Assistant Inspector group.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

4.1 Management Accounts and Executive Summary – May 2021

The 'Management Accounts and Executive Summary for May 2021', were distributed with the meeting papers. Pat Doherty and Michael Martin joined the meeting. The Head of Finance provided further information on instances of non-competitive procurement and the clarifications provided by the relevant staff. M. Martin stated that a Procurement Officer had recently been appointed which will support adherence to critical procurement systems. Other queries responded to were in relation the purchase of portacabin accommodation, drones, eBikes and a rotary field trap.

4.2 Capital Procurement – Electric Vehicles

A document titled 'Electric Vehicle (EV) Proposal', was distributed with the meeting papers. P. Doherty responded to queries raised in relation to number, model selection, distribution relative to function and EV optimisation through full utilisation. He asserted that an EV pays for itself while impacting positively on carbon emissions, mitigating environmental and reputational risk. The Chair advised that the organisation should be replacing its diesel vehicles while there is a market for them and expressed his support of more intense use of Transpoco on a regional basis to assist the optimisation of fleet assets. Following detailed consideration, the **recommendation to invest in EVs as outlined** was approved by the Board.

5. EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBER PRESENTATION

This item is postponed to later in the year.

6. VITAL FEW

6.1 Business Plan 2021

A hard copy of the draft Business Plan 2021 was sent to members following the May Board meeting. Following consideration the **draft Business Plan 2021** was approved by the Board.

6.2 Fish Farm Paper

A paper titled 'Roscrea Fish Farm – The Future of IFI Freshwater Aquaculture', was provided in the meeting papers and taken as read. The CEO provided a synopsis of his visit to the facility, the risks being addressed at the site and his discussions with fish farm staff. He outlined his thoughts on this project. Also discussed was the facility's location and transportation of fish. The **recommendation to pursue option 1 for the development of the fish farm as outlined in the paper and discussed by the CEO**, was and approved by the Board.

6.3 National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF) – Draft Terms of Reference 2021

The **NIFF Terms of Reference 2021** were approved by the Board.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

7.1 The 'Corporate Risk Register 10.19' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The CEO outlined current risks for the organisation and a discussion ensued.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

8.1 Audit & Risk Committee Meeting – June 9th, 2021

The draft minutes of the ARC meeting of June 9th were distributed with the meeting papers and were noted. The Chair of the ARC reported on the attendance of representatives of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OACG). OACG representatives stated that responses to queries of the Finance Team are timely and staff are very cooperative. Disappointment was expressed in respect of the number of recommendations arising from the Internal Audits which

had not yet been addressed. It was anticipated that an update will be provided at the next ARC meeting. Ms Orbinski Burke stated that the Committee requested a paper on IFI's Business Continuity Plan and Emergency Plan. The Board Chair added that effective use of the Transpoco system and data analysis is critical.

9. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

9.1 Designation of Great Western Lakes as Managed Salmonoid Fisheries

A document titled '*Designation of the Great Western Lakes*' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The CEO referred to the risks raised earlier under Item 7 and indicated that the paper would be forwarded as an advice note to the Department. The **progression of the recommendation to the Minister** was approved by the Board.

9.2 Proposal for Procurement of Consultancy Services – Funding Optimisation

A document titled '*Procurement of Consultancy Services to Assist in Obtaining and Co-ordinating Funding*' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. The CEO responded to queries in relation to; the type of funding to be identified, appropriate procurement processes, sufficient resources to deliver funded initiatives, the type of contract engaged in and that the purpose for which funding is applied is aligned with the organisation's core functions and strategy. This **outsourced service initiative** was approved by the Board.

9.3 Funding Awards 2021 Proposal (SSTCRP & MFF)

A document titled '*Projects Office Habitats and Conservation Funding Call Outcome 2021*' was distributed with the meeting papers and taken as read. Subject to receiving a breakdown of one of the projects, **all three Midlands Fishery Fund Panel recommendations** were approved by the Board. Members took each of the Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection fund recommendations individually. With the exception of one SCF21 project and two NSADF17 projects, all others were approved.

9.4 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Application Proposal 2021

Following consideration, the **recommendation to proceed to apply for ORIS funding (€378k)** was approved by the Board.

9.5 Ballynalty NSAD Project Costs

Following consideration, the **recommendation to proceed to award funding** was approved by the Board.

9.6 Hollygrove Lake Access

Following consideration, the **recommendation to accept the land parcel, with relevant conveyancing fees (capped)** was approved by the Board.

9.7 Proposed Access Projects

Following consideration, the **recommendation to repurpose decommitted funds towards access projects as outlined for delivery in 2021, with a total value of €99k**, was approved by the Board.

10. AOB

The Chair sought feedback from members on the operation of the new format of the meeting. The CEO stated that the draft Corporate Plan had been reviewed by the Department and that the environmental screenings were complete and that it was with the Minister for approval.

This concluded the business of the meeting.