

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre

MINUTES

***MEETING OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY***

HELD ON

FRIDAY 24th APRIL, 2015

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2

MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2015 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.

Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. Sean Haughey
Lord Mayor Christy Burke	Cllr. David Healy
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cllr. Francis Duffy	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Gaye Fagan	Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Kate Feeney	Cllr. Seamas McGrattan
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
	Cllr. Pat Vance

In Attendance:

Mr Daniel McLoughlin, Designated Chief Executive EMRA
Mr Jim Conway, EMRA
Mr Malachy Bradley, EMRA
Mr Pat Lonergan, EMRA

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllrs., Cahill, Fitzpatrick, McDonagh, Richmond, King, Murphy and Keatley.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Gerry Horkan presided. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillor Gaye Fagan to the assembly as a new nominee for Dublin City Council and replacing Councillor Jonathan Dowdall.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 20th March 2015 were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**

ITEM 2

Regional Jobs

- Presentation by William Parnell

William Parnell introduced the presentation and outlined the context of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.

Mr Parnell outlined:

- Background and overview to the action plan
- Synergies between DJEI and DECLG regional plans
- Stakeholder forum
- The three tier competitive funding streams
 - Community Enterprise Initiatives
 - LEO Initiatives
 - Competitive Regional call

A discussion took place regarding the action plan for jobs project and the involvement of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly with contributions from Cllrs. Lacey, McEvoy, Healy, Fitzgerald, S. Bourke and P. Bourke.

The Cathaoirleach summarised the contributions, by highlighting the importance of the regional action plan for jobs to the economy. He emphasised the need for more collaboration between the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the EMRA members in addition to the Executive around the action plan for jobs process.

ITEM 3

Organisations with Regional Structures

A report was circulated to the Members to the meeting with regard to public organisations that have a regional structure.

The report was **NOTED**.

ITEM 4

Committee of the Regions Update

The Director updated the Members on the Committee of the Regions (CoR). A meeting took place recently with the Irish Ambassador in Brussels. A presentation by a delegation of the CoR members was made to the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs committee on 23rd April. Cllr Freehill also updated the meeting, outlining to the meeting the Committee of the Regions current work programme for 2015 and the recent events that took place. Cllr Freehill requested that any future surveys from EU institutions on the work of the Committee of the Regions be submitted to an Assembly meeting, as a headed item on the agenda.

Cllr. Feeney also updated the meeting with regard to the programme of work, water security and water infrastructure which is currently being debated within the Committee of the Regions agenda. Cllr. Feeney would welcome feedback on these two issues from other assembly members.

ITEM 5

Planning Items

Two submissions were circulated to the Members with regard to (i) Irish Water - Water Supply Project for Eastern and Midland Region and (ii) Irish Water – Water Services Strategic Plan.

An outline of the two submissions was presented by Mr Malachy Bradley. Mr Bradley highlighted that EMRA had no statutory obligation to make a submission on either of these items. However, given the regional significance of the items it was agreed that it was best practice, as a regional body, that a submission should be lodged.

Submission to (i) Irish Water - Water Supply Project for Eastern and Midland Region was discussed by the members with contributions from Cllrs S Bourke, B Fitzgerald, McEvoy, Healy, Lacey and Bracken, and AGREED.

It was also **noted** by the meeting that the EMRA submission on (ii) Irish Water – Water Services Strategic Plan, was forwarded to Irish Water directly by the executive. The submission did not involve any comments from the assembly members, this was because the schedule of the April EMRA meeting was changed. Following discussion, amendments to the submission were proposed by Cllr Healy and seconded by Cllr McCarthy. The amendments were AGREED and be included in the additional EMRA submission on the Irish Water – Water Services Strategic Plan.

Following a further discussion an amendment to the submission was proposed by Cllr Cullen and seconded by Cllr S Bourke “That Wicklow County Council will be remunerated for the extraction of water from Wicklow reservoirs by Irish Water”.

The Amendment was put to a vote and on a division the voting resulted as follows For:2 Against:14 Abstain:4

For: Cllrs Cullen and S Bourke

Against: Cllrs P Bourke, Bracken, Dennison, Feeney, C Fitzgerald, B Fitzgerald, Freehill, Haughey, Horkan, Kearns, Lacey, McCarthy, McEvoy and Vance.

Abstain: Cllrs Duffy, Duncan, Healy, McGrattan

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Horkan declared the amendment LOST.

ITEM 6

Nominations

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. G. Horkan requested alternate nomination for the Ireland-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. D Lacey seconded by Cllr. Horkan
“That Cllr. P Kearns be nominated as an alternate for the Committee”.

This was Agreed.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. G. Horkan requested alternate nomination for the PEACE Programme Monitoring Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Dennison seconded by Cllr. Duncan
“That Cllr. Markey be nominated as an alternate for the Committee”.

This was Agreed.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. G. Horkan requested two alternate nominations for the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. C Fitzgerald seconded by Cllr. Bracken
"That Cllr. P Vance be nominated as an alternate for the Committee".

It was proposed by Cllr D Lacey seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald
"That Cllr G Horkan be nominated as an alternate for the Committee".

This was Agreed.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. G. Horkan requested alternate nomination for the Border Midland and Western Operational Programme Monitoring Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bracken seconded by Cllr. Vance
"That Cllr. C Fitzgerald be nominated as an alternate for the Committee".

This was Agreed.

ITEM 7

Quarterly Update

The Director presented to the meeting an update on the key areas from the EMRA Programme of Works. He outlined the key tasks that have been completed to date in the various projects.

(i) **Planning** - Meetings with 12 constituent Local Authorities on the LECP process and regional planning issues.

Established sub regional meetings on LECPs with the relevant Economic Directors of Services, there have been meetings for the Dublin and Eastern sub region in March with a follow up meeting in the Dublin Region. Introduction meeting and establishing working groups with stakeholders invested in the implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines.

Ongoing implementation and monitoring of RPGs by preparation and lodging of submissions to Dublin City Development Plan variation no 24., the NTA Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and Irish Water on the Water Services Strategic Plan and Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Region.

HR & Corporate & Finance:

The Director outlined that the EMRA Website established since February. Seven out of 15 staff redeployed to EMRA. Recruitment process underway for

- Senior Planner
- Senior Executive Planner x 3
- Administrative Officer (Brussels office)
- Policy & Research Officer.

EU Affairs:

The Director outlined that preliminary meetings were held with senior officials from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Department of Finance.

Participation of officials in the Programme Monitoring Committees at five Operation Programmes.

Preliminary meetings held with 3 regional assembly directors and the IRO regarding defining a role for EU Affairs unit in new assembly structure.

ITEM 8 Corporate Plan

The Director outlined a draft corporate plan is required and is to be considered by the regional assembly for adoption. The Director welcomed collaboration from members in the drafting of the corporate plan. It was AGREED that the leaders from each political groups of the assembly provide a nominee to assist with the draft corporate plan. The nominees are to be submitted to the Director by Friday 1st May, 2015.

ITEM 9

Correspondence

- (i) Correspondence Irish Water

The Director outlined that he wrote to Mr John Tierney, Managing Director of Irish Water recently seeking a presentation by Irish Water to the members of the assembly.

ITEM 10

Any other business

No business was reported.

ITEM 11

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 8th May, 2015 at 11am in Dublin City Council chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Signed:

Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cathaoirleach EMRA

Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date:
