

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

MINUTES MEETING

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

HELD ON

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2015

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN

**MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD
ON 8th October, 2015 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.**

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Cllr. David Healy
Cllr. Tom Barbazon	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Gaye Fagan	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Kate Feeney	Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Neale Richmond
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Pat Vance

In Attendance:

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA
 Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA
 Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA
 Ms. Mary Carey, EMRA
 Ms. Susan Mahon, EMRA

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Vance welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes held on 11th September 2015

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th September 2015 were proposed by Councillor Dermot Lacey and seconded by Councillor Kate Feeney. The Minutes were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation by EirGrid

- **Presentation by John Fitzgerald**

Mr Fitzgerald introduced EirGrid's Draft Strategy.

The presentation included:

- Grid Development Programme
- New technology
- North South Interconnector
- National Capital Investment Programme

Following the presentations contributions were made by the following members; Councillors B. Fitzgerald, M. Murphy, T. Cullen, K. Dennison, P. McEvoy and the Cathaoirleach who raised concerns about the North South Interconnector and the effect on land and rural life if overground. Mr Fitzgerald addressed all contributions and concerns and advised that his presentation would be circulated to all members.

An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Fitzgerald for his presentation to the Assembly.

ITEM 3 – Planning Items

NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area - briefing by M. Bradley

A presentation was made by Mr Malachy Bradley on the NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. An overview of the legislative requirement, contents of the strategy, the statutory function of the Regional Assembly and the timelines involved. Mr Bradley indicated that the NTA draft strategy will be on public consultation in the coming days. Also that the Assembly has a specific function in the adoption process of the strategy which most likely will occur at the EMRA meeting in December, according to the current NTA timeframe.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. McEvoy, D. Lacey, Horkan and Healy in which it was suggested that the Transport Strategy be discussed at the November meeting. Mr Bradley indicated that there will be a number of LECP for discussion at the November meeting, but was willing to present the strategy for discussion. Also it was requested that notification would be sent to Members when the public consultation period commences.

ITEM 4

Committee of the Regions

Cllr Mary Freehill gave an update at the meeting on behalf of the Irish Delegation, on the current work programme of the COTER Commission.

Noted

ITEM 5

Programme of Works Q3 update

The third quarter update on the Programme of Works was circulated to members.

The report was **Noted and Agreed**

ITEM 6

Membership of Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee

The Cathaoirleach sought nominations for the Membership of the Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee.

Councillor PJ Reilly proposed that Cllr M. Cahill be nominated for the Membership of the Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee, seconded by Cllr. G. Horkan

Councillor K. Dennison proposed that Cllr C. Markey be nominated for the Membership of the Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee, seconded by Cllr. N. Richmond

Councillor M. Freehill proposed that Cllr. L. McCarthy be nominated for the Membership of the Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee, seconded by Cllr. D. Healy

Cllr L McCarthy withdrew her nomination as she felt that it would be more appropriate for a more rural county to be represented. Cllr C. Markey commented that he had experience in the field and was the Chair of a LEADER programme.

The matter was put to a roll call vote which resulted as follows:

For Cllr Mick Cahill:	11 ELEVEN
For Cllr Colm Markey:	6 SIX

For Cllr Cahill Councillors: M.Cahill, K. Feeney, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Freehill, T. Brabazon, P. Hill, G. Horkan, L. McCarthy, F. O'Loughlin, PJ. Reilly, P. Vance

For Cllr Markey: Councillors: T. Byrne, K. Dennison, I. Keatley, C. Markey, M. Murphy, N. Richmond

Abstentions: Councillors: P. Bourke, C. Burke, G. Fagan, D. Healy, P. McEvoy

Councillor Mick Cahill was deemed elected as the representative on the Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee. Cllr Cahill thanked the Assembly

ITEM 7

ENCORE Network

The Director Mr. Jim Conway circulated a recommendation for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly to participate in the ENCORE Network and the Cathaoirleach would be the representative from the Assembly. It was **Agreed**.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

The Director informed the Members that an acknowledgment had been received from Department Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the letter sent.

ITEM 9

Any Other Business

Cathaoirleach P Vance welcomed Cllr. T. Brabazon to the Assembly.

An issue was raised that EU Commissioners attended an event hosted by the Southern Assembly in Trinity College where both other assemblies were represented. There was no EMRA presence at the event. Councillors, P. Bourke, G. Horkan, M. Freehill and An Cathaoirleach contributed to the discussion. It was proposed that the Assembly write to the Minister of Department Environment, Community and Local Government and the Southern Assembly outlining the issues.

The Director explained that the visit was arranged by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The Director will write to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government expressing concerns.

ITEM 10

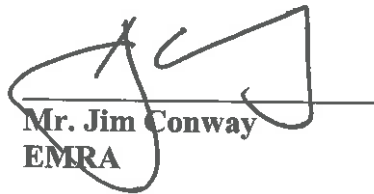
Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 13th November, 2015 at 11am in Dublin City Council chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Signed:



**Cllr. Pat Vance
Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA**

Date:

13/11/2015