

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 9th May 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 9th OF MAY 2025.

Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Rachel Kerley
Cllr Emma Coffey	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Aoibheann Mahon
Cllr JP Durkan	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Neil Feighery	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Sean O'Brien
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Tom O'Leary
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Jacqueline Sheehy
Cllr Deirdre Heney	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: Cllr Tony Murphy, Ms Clare Bannon

In Attendance:

Ms Bernie Roe, EMRA
Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA
Ms Laure Antoniotti, EMRA
Dr Owen Douglas, EMRA
Mr Simon Musial, EMRA
Ms Geraldine Kenny, EMRA
Mr Ross Higgins, EMRA
Ms Cara Farrell, EMRA
Ms Sarah Campbell, EMRA
Ms Teresa Lennon, IREO

Mr Kieran Kehoe, CE Meath County Council
Deputy Barry Ward TD, Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Affairs
Ms Orla Carroll, Director Product Development - Fáilte Ireland

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 11th of April 2025.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th of April 2025 were proposed by Cllr JP Durkan and seconded by Cllr D Healy.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation of the EU JTF-funded Regenerative Tourism scheme by Orla Carroll, Director Product Development, Fáilte Ireland

Ms Orla Carroll gave the Members a presentation on the EU JTF-funded Regenerative Tourism scheme, the following topics were discussed: Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking in Ireland, EU Just Transition Fund 2023 – 2027 - 3 Key Priorities in EU JTF, EU JTF Territory; Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme Objectives; Investment; Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Investment Scheme, Approved Investment to-date; Projects Funded, Network of Trails, Scheme B - Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs, Digital Transformation Programme, Strategic Partnerships with Local Authorities & State Agencies; Tourism Activators, Tourism Network, Tourism Learning Network.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Ross, Cllr J Fox, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr G Murtagh, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr N Gaffney, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr N Feighery, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Byrne, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr D Heney, Cllr C Fitzgerald, Mr K Kehoe, Ms O Carroll and Ms B Roe

ITEM 3

Address on Ireland and the EU by Barry Ward TD, Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Affairs

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Deputy Barry Ward TD who addressed the Members as the newly appointed Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Affairs, discussing the following topics: Ireland's Presidency of the EU in the second semester 2026, Ireland's EU approval rate, EU policies, EU Parliament and Committee of the Regions (CoR), advantages of EU membership and Subsidiarity.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr N Gaffney, Cllr D Heney, Cllr F Jose, Cllr J Fox, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr T O'Leary, Cllr E Coffey, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr C Fitzgerald and Deputy B Ward

ITEM 4

Update on the work of the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Region and the Irish Regions European Office by Teresa Lennon, Head of the IREO.

This item was postponed to a future date to be determined due to time constraints.

ITEM 5

Planning items

i. EMRA submission on the DETE Statement of Strategy 2025-2028

A copy of the EMRA submissions on the DETE Statement of Strategy 2025-2028 was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. Dr Owen Douglas outlined details of the submission to the Members.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

None

ITEM 7

Any other business

i. Members' study visit to Brussels

Ms B Roe gave the Members an update on the next Members' study visit to Brussels. It will be held on 4th and 5th of June, 11 members have indicated their willingness to participate. Travel details and agenda of the visit will be communicated soon.

ii. Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator training programme workshops

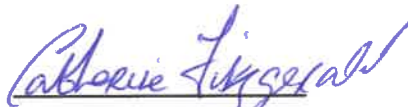
Dr O Douglas reminded the Members of the SSMA full day workshop and site visit, which will be held in Athlone on the 13th of May. The invite was sent via email and Members are invited to RSVP.

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on **Friday the 13th of June 2025 at 11.00am**

Signed:



**Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA**

Date:

13-06-2025.