



Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body

Thursday 10 March 2022, 3:15pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Video Conferencing

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Michelle Minihan Dónal Purcell

Martin Sisk Miriam McDonald

Secretariat Claire Gavin George Antonescu

Darren Browne

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of WAB Meeting on 17 February 2022:

The Members agreed the minutes of this meeting subject to minor editorial amendments.

The minutes will be published on the WAB website.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

3. Discussion of regulatory framework meeting with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency

The Board discussed the prior meeting with representatives of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency. Members noted the limited powers both Environmental Protection Agency and Commission for Regulation of Utilities have to

prosecute in cases of serious breaches of duty by Irish Water. WAB members also suggested that the legislation for dealing with Irish Water should be strengthened, and that an opportunity to address these issues with a statutory instrument is presented by the current recast of EU Drinking Water Regulations.

The WAB agreed to invite representatives of the Water Services section within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to an upcoming meeting to further discuss the matter and to help inform advice to the Department Minister. The Chairperson will draft a note of recommendation for discussion at the next WAB meeting which will form a basis of a meeting with the Department. The presentations delivered will be provided to the WAB before publication on the WAB website alongside the minutes of the meeting.

4. Progress of Quarterly Report 1 of 2022.

The data cut-off date is 25 February with updated data and graphs to be received from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency by 23 March as technical issues resulted in an earlier date not being achievable. The report will also feature commentary on the Environmental Protection Agency's "Drinking Water Quality in Public Water Supplies 2020" report.

5. Irish Water Customer Survey Update

Following receipt of the survey results, a summary report was prepared, circulated and agreed by the Board. The summary report will be sent for light desktop publishing and the slides presented by Core will be included with no change in the report. It was agreed that all reports for 2022 would have an identifying colour and that this would be sent to the Chair for his input on receipt of an updated design.

The Secretariat will prepare a release timeline in preparation of the survey report's release. It would take into account the time to have the report desktop published and for the public relations firm to be appointed. The report will be circulated under embargo to Irish Water, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Forum two days prior to publication. Along with the report, a letter will issue to Irish Water inviting them to an upcoming WAB meeting.

A new limited 'request for quote' tender will be drafted and issued to obtain a public relations company to assist in releasing the survey report and the four Quarterly reports due for 2022.

6. Confirm next three meeting dates

The following meeting dates were agreed:

- 14 April 2022 at 10am.

This meeting is scheduled to take place in-person in the Custom House, Dublin.

- 18 May 2022 at 2pm.

This meeting is scheduled to take place remotely via WebEx.

- 8 June 2022 at 2pm

The meeting format will be decided closer to the time.

7. Any Other Business

Upcoming water conferences:

Michelle Minihan will circulate details two upcoming water conferences;

- Water Ireland Conference 2022 on 28 April 2022 and
- 2022 EPA Water Conference – Wednesday/Thursday 18 and 19 May

Corporate Governance:

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies section 4.9 states that the Board should meet at least twice a year without executive Board members or management present to discuss any matters deemed relevant. The Board will hold this meeting prior to the commencement of the WAB meeting on 14 April.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
1.	Minutes of WAB Main Meeting on 17 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed subject to minor editorial amendments. • Will be published on the website.
3.	Irish Water Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WAB agreed to invite representatives of the Water Services section within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to an upcoming meeting to further discuss the matter and to help inform advice to the Department Minister. • The Chairperson will draft a note of recommendation for discussion at the next WAB meeting which will form a basis of a meeting with the Department.
4.	Quarterly Report 1 of 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated data and graphs to be received from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency by 23 March.
5.	Irish Water Customer Survey Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summary report will be sent for light desktop publishing. • The Secretariat will prepare a release timeline in preparation of the survey report's release. • The report will be circulated under embargo to stakeholders two days prior to publication. • A new limited 'request for quote' tender will be drafted and issued to obtain a public relations company to assist in the of all reports for 2022.

6.	Upcoming WAB meeting dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following meeting dates were agreed: 14 April 2022 at 10am (in-person attendance) 18 May 2022 at 2pm (remote attendance) 8 June 2022 at 2pm (attendance option to be determined nearer to the time)
7.	Upcoming water conferences:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Minihan will circulate details two upcoming water conferences; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Ireland Conference 2022 on 28 April 2022 and ○ 2022 EPA Water Conference – Wednesday/Thursday 18 and 19 May
7.	Corporate Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will hold a short meeting without executive Board members or management prior to the commencement of the WAB meeting on 14 April.