

Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 30.03.2023

Start time: 09:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Keith Lambkin; Jillian Mahon; David Joyce; Mark Adamson; John Spink (from Item 3) (alternate, Teagasc), Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA), Prof. Conor Murphy,

Apologies: Julie Clarke, Emer O’Gorman, Dr. Ina Kelly; Roger Street; Sinéad O’Brien; Prof. Robert Devoy.

Agenda Item 5: Peter Medway attended for this agenda item.

Secretariat: George Hussey; Stephen Flood; Claire Camilleri; Jodie Colgan; Bryn Canniffe; Ciara Hilliard; Phillip O’Brien; Simon Ngorok

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

It was noted that Emer O’ Gorman has been appointed to the Committee by the CCMA and that Council approved the appointment at the meeting of 16th February 2023.

It was also noted that Conor Quinlan would deputise for Laura Burke (EPA) in this and future meetings.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 26th of January 2023 were agreed.

b. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented but the running order was amended to swap agenda items 5 and 7.

c. Disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update

The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting of 16th of February 2023:

- The Secretariat briefed the Council on the main outcomes from the Adaptation Committee held on 26th January.
- The Council meeting adopted the change to the terms of reference of the Adaptation Committee and endorsed the nomination of Ms. O' Gorman to the Adaptation Committee.
- A discussion on the National Climate Action Plan of 2023 was held with Mr. Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.
- A discussion on the main outcomes from UNFCCC COP27 was held with Dr. Tara Shine and Ms. Sinead Walsh from the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- Senior officials from Office of the Planning Regulator presented an overview of the challenges currently faced within the planning system particularly in relation to the system's role in achieving long term climate targets.
- The draft structure of the 2023 Annual Review was presented to the Council and the members were given until the beginning of March to provide inputs on the document.
- The April meeting of the Council will have a thematic discussion on a Climate Change Vision for 2050 for Ireland and the Secretariat is preparing a paper for discussion on this issue.

3. Secretariat Update

The Secretariat gave verbal updates on the following:

- **Update on small-scale studies**

A final draft of the small-scale study on the Adaptation Research Horizon scan was received from Peter Medway. A final draft of the small-scale study on climate change resilience at farm level was received from Áine Macken-Walsh and is planned to be presented at a future Adaptation Committee meeting.

- **Update on Biodiversity SSS in train**

The Secretariat is in the process of commissioning a small-scale study on identifying nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and ecosystem restoration in Ireland. The Committee requested that the Secretariat carefully consider the terminology around nature-based solutions and to also make reference to ecosystem-based adaptation as nature-based solutions is considered quite Eurocentric.

- **Update on ECCA 2023 engagement**

The Secretariat made a submission to the ECCA organisers for a session on monitoring and evaluating climate resilience. Two submissions for posters on (i) the outcomes of small-scale study on climate change resilience at the farm level (ii) the outcomes of the nature-based solutions roundtable held in November 2022. The Secretariat intended to have a booth at the Piazza during the Conference and would host a social engagement of international colleagues.

- **Update on Adaptation Workshop (May 17th)**

Several meetings of the working group for the adaptation workshop were held since the January Adaptation Committee meeting and the Committee were updated on this work. It was also noted that work towards the September virtual workshop on critical infrastructure was underway.

- **Resilience Team Input into Vision 2050 Document**

It was noted that the Secretariat would present a discussion paper on a Climate Change Vision for 2050 for the April Council meeting, focusing on possible pathways towards achieving the national climate objective, particularly in terms of climate neutrality and climate resilience.

- **Session at Conference of Irish Geographers 2023**

The Conference of Irish Geographers is scheduled from 16-19th May 2023 in Wexford under the theme of resilience. The Secretariat made a submission for a session on “finding the climate action synergy space”.

4. International Engagement

The Secretariat updated the Committee on international engagements since the last meeting.

- **NZ Climate Change Commission events summary of same plus next steps and from in person engagement in Feb 2023**

Several events took place in New Zealand in February 2023 as a follow up to the November 2022 engagements in Ireland.

- **ICCN Adaptation Sub-group activities**

A number of meetings of the ICCN adaptation sub-group were held since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting. It was noted that some fellow members of the ICCN would be attending ECCA and the Secretariat will engage with them during that time.

The Committee requested that adaptation Activities under ICCN be brought to the attention of the Committee so that members could participate in meetings if so desired.

- **Presenting to UK Climate Change Committee Adaptation Indicators Working Group**

The Secretariat outlined the membership and role of this group. It was noted that the Secretariat participated in the third meeting of the Adaptation Indicator Working Group, which took place on 2nd March 2023 and was organized by the UK Climate Change Commission.

- **Session submissions made to Adaptation Futures Montreal (Oct 2nd to 6th, 2023)**

Two session submissions were made to the organisers of the Adaptation Futures Conference scheduled from the 2nd to the 6th of October in Montreal.

It was also noted that the EEAC would hold its annual conference in Bucharest in Romania, also the same week.

5. Annual Review 2023 Planning

- Adaptation Scorecard development

The Secretariat provided a verbal update on the adaptation scorecard as well as the proposed process to assess the questionnaire responses. It was noted that members of the Adaptation Committee would be involved in the evaluation process.

It was also noted that a workshop on the scorecard would take place on the 26th of September. NASC Committee members and scorecard respondents would be invited to the workshop, and it would focus on how best to improve the scorecard.

The Committee discussed the process for assessment and scoring and discussed the process for dispute resolution should it arise in the event that a sector would wish to defend their rating. The approach for 2024 will be further assessed as part of the workshop in September. It was also agreed that a move from a qualitative to quantitative assessment system would be beneficial in the future.

The Committee agreed to adopt the proposed approach for Annual Review 2023.

- Annual Review Update

The Secretariat provided an update on the development of the Annual Review 2023 and gave an outline of the draft chapters relating to resilience.

It was noted that Met Eireann and Cork City Council will provide some input and/or analysis of case studies from the past year to the adaptation chapters of the report.

It was agreed that further discussion is required on adaptation finance from an Irish context for these chapters and should include a discussion and assessment of the Irish performance of the Paris agreement finance goal.

6. Research Presentation

Peter Medway, Community Climate Action Officer at Cork City Council presented the final draft of a small-scale study on climate change adaptation research gaps for the information and approval of the Adaptation Committee.

The Committee thanked Mr. Medway for his work, noted his recommendations and approved his report for publication, subject to minor amendments.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would consider how Mr. Medway's report could influence future Council work and that a proposal on this should be presented to Council in order for a position to be taken on it.

7. Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The Secretariat presented an overview of issues surrounding local authority Climate Action Plan development including issues of policy coherency and resourcing.

The Committee discussed the challenges faced by Local Authorities relating to the preparation of new Local Authority Climate Action.

The Committee noted the recommendations presented and discussed potential approaches to advance the highlighted issues.

It was agreed that the Council will be asked to take a position on this issue.

8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting

a) Next meeting

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 17th of May 2023 and would be held



Signed electronically 17.05.2023