

**Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group**  
**Joint meeting of the Environmental and Infrastructure Working Groups**  
**11th April, 2018**  
**11:15-13:15**  
**LIR NOTF**

**Attendance:** **DCCAE:** Bernie Comey (BC), Philip Mac Fadden (PMF), **SEAI:** Patricia Comiskey (PC) by phone link, **DHPLG:** Jeannine Dunne (JD) **GSI:** Sean Cullen, **NPWS:** David Lyons (DL), **EPA:** Robert Wilkes (RW), **CRU:** Gosia Sadowska (GS), **Marine Institute:** Terry McMahon (TMM),

**Apologies:** **IMDO:** Liam Lacey (LL), **EPA** Tadhg O'Mahony (TOM), **Eirgrid** Des Cox (DC)

**1. Adopt Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of Joint Environment /Infrastructure meeting on 04 October 2017**

The minutes were agreed.

**3. Draft 2018 Work Programmes for Environment and Infrastructure Working Groups**

The work programmes for each group were agreed, whilst noting that programmes may require to be updated as it is proposed that the ORESG will task the Chairs of the Working Groups with progressing relevant recommendations of the Interim Review via the annual work programmes.

**4. Opportunity and Constraints Mapping Tool – Update on work of subgroup on OCM tool.**

There was a general discussion on the future of the tool and it was agreed that prior to carrying out work to further develop the tool, a decision is desirable on appointment of an appropriate body to take ownership of the tool and to maintain it.

**ACTION SC and TMM to consider work underway under the Infomar project in regard to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and to liaise directly with DHPLG with a view to establishing the merits of tying this tool into MSP work. TMM to liaise with J.Fisher on any relevant work underway by the MI on the MSP.**

**5. Proposed Process map for the licencing and permitting of ORE Projects**

A discussion was held around the aims and scope of this piece of work. It was agreed to appoint a consultant to develop a document that would detail current requirements for developers for obtain licences/ authorisations/ etc.in order to undertake ORE activity and the processes and likely timeframes attaching to each.

To progress this work, it was agreed to hold a 1 day workshop involving relevant stakeholders and facilitated by the consultant.

**ACTION: Consultant to be appointed to facilitate 1 day workshop and draw up process maps.**

#### **6. Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments and Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects**

PC updated the group on the development and finalisation of the document. It was agreed that the document should be published.

**ACTION: Publication of document to be considered by Steering Group and published on DCCAE website, subject to clearance by Minister.**

#### **7. Updates on industry and test site activity**

PC advised that approximately 20 projects are currently in the pipeline for funding under the PDF and also updated the group on the range of devices and technologies being tested by developers. An update was provided on LIR, the Galway Bay site and AMETS. A review by SEAI of the business needs of AMETS is nearing finalisation.

**ACTION: PC to circulate list of devices being tested under PDF.**

#### **8. MAFA Bill - Update**

JD advised that the provision of comments by a number of Departments on draft AGO advice on the MAFA bill will allow the AGO to provide final advice to DHPLG. It is hoped that this might be available over the coming weeks.

#### **9. Presentation from MaREI on work on Climate Change Adaptation**

Barry O'Dwyer gave presentation on Climate Ireland: Supporting National Adaptation Policy. [www.climateireland.ie](http://www.climateireland.ie) @climateireland

**ACTION: Presentation to be circulated to the group.**

#### **10. Update from EPA on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) :**

RW welcomed the EU Commission project to be led by the EPA on a review of the effectiveness of SEA in Ireland. The group noted the value of the work and will monitor its progress.

#### **11. Interim Review of the OREDP**

BC advised the group that the Interim Report of the OREDP is finalised and has been submitted to the Minister for noting. Once the review has been noted by the Minister it will then be published on the DCCAE website and submitted to ORESG for evaluation of recommendations. The report makes 26 recommendations across 10 action points.

**ACTION: Report to be circulated to ORESG group once noted by Minister.**

## **12. Update on finalisation of IPORES Report**

TMM advised that the IPORES report is nearing finalisation. Final comments have been requested from the members of the relevant steering group. The timetable for publication and distribution of the report will be agreed with the OREDP Steering Group.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The July 11<sup>th</sup> was tentatively proposed.

**ACTION PMF to follow up.**

## **14. AOB**

### *(a) Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) Decision on the Enduring Connection Policy – phase 1*

GS gave an update on the recent decision of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) on the Enduring Connection Policy – Phase 1. The decision is a first step in revising existing connection policy, allowing the first in a series of regular batches of connection offers. The decision will allow those projects with planning permission to get a connection offer, ahead of the less mature projects.

### *(b) Galway Bay Marine Renewable Test Site*

JD advised the group that an application has been made to the courts for a Judicial Review of the decision of the Minister for HPLG to issue a Foreshore Lease to the Marine institute for test activities at the site..

Electricity Policy Division

13/04/2018