



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 07.03.2024

Start time: 09:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Jillian Mahon; John Spink (alternate Teagasc); Dr Ina Kelly; Keith Lambkin; Dr Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA); Prof Robert Devoy; David Joyce; Dr Julie Clarke; Liam Conneally; Roger Street; Prof Conor Murphy (joined at 10.00).

Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr Stephen Flood; Bryn Canniffe; Jodie Colgan; Ciara Hilliard; Claire Camilleri.

Agenda Item 4: Mark Adamson (Office of Public Works), Rosemary Lawlor (Met Éireann), Niall Cussen and Anne-Marie Lawlor (both Office of the Planning Regulator).

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25th January 2024 were approved.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

c. Disclosures of Interest

The Chairperson disclosed that he was appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Global Climate Observing System. Dr Ina Kelly disclosed that she serves on several public interesting serving bodies. There were no other disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update (09:35)

An update was provided of the Council meeting held on 15 February 2024. The process to prepare standalone sectoral publications for the annual review in 2024 was noted and that resilience issues would be integrated within these publications. It was expressed that the understanding of adaptation is limited and that this could be further discussed in the Committee after further sectoral engagements are held.

3. Secretariat Update (09:40)

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main events that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting.

National Adaptation Framework Submission

The Secretariat reported that a submission was compiled and sent to DECC on the National Adaptation Framework based on the comments received from the Adaptation Committee members.

Research Studies

The Secretariat reported the status of progress of five research projects that have been commissioned by the Adaptation Committee.

Adaptation Scorecard

The Secretariat reported on the timelines for the 2024 adaptation scorecard. It was reported that volunteers from the Adaptation Committee were secured to participate in the assessment.

Adaptation Workshop

The Secretariat updated the members on the logistical and technical preparations for the adaptation metrics and indicators workshop that was taking place on 12th March in-person at the Aisling Hotel in Dublin.

New Zealand Climate Risk Assessment Engagement

The Secretariat reported that it had met with representatives from the New Zealand Climate Change Commission and consultancy team developing New Zealand's second National Climate Risk Assessment and to exchange on the risk assessments that are currently being developed in both countries and to share mutual lessons to inform both processes.

4. Flood preparedness thematic session (10.05)

Two external presentations were made under this item. Mark Adamson from Office of Public Works (OPW) presented on flood risk management and climate adaptation. Rosemarie Lawlor from Met Éireann presented on the work of its flood forecasting center. Anne Marie O' Connor from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) provided remarks on the role of OPR in reviewing City and County Development Plans and ensuring that issues of flood risk management are addressed in the planning process.

The Chairperson thanked the external stakeholders for their participation and the Committee members discussed the way forward on this item in a separate session. It was noted that the Secretariat would take up the main outcomes from the discussion in the annual review.

5. Adaptation in the context of recent EU and international developments (12.25)

The Secretariat presented the main findings of a draft report written by the Secretariat on Irish adaptation policy in the context of recent EU and international developments. The Committee members provided comments on the report and identified gaps and suggestions for the Secretariat to rework.

6. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting (12.45)

The Secretariat provided background to the draft report on 'options for the biodiversity-friendly design and approaches for offshore wind farms in Ireland' that was circulated for review and comments from the Committee members by 14th March.

The Chairperson informed the meeting that a new member was needed to replace Sinead O' Brien on the Committee. Members were encouraged to contact the Secretariat if they had any suggestions for candidates with appropriate expertise on biodiversity, nature-based solutions and adaptation.

The meeting was informed that Jodie Colgan would be moving within the Secretariat from Team Resilience to the Carbon Budgets Team. She was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Committee.

a) Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 23rd May 2024 and would be held virtually on MS Teams.

P.W. 

Signed electronically on 23.05.2024