



## Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

**Date:** 23.05.2024

**Start time:** 09:30

**Venue:** MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Jillian Mahon; Elodie Ruelle (representing Teagasc); Dr Keith Lambkin; Prof. Robert Devoy; David Joyce; Dr Julie Clarke; Liam Conneally; Roger Street.

Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr Stephen Flood; Bryn Canniffe; Claire Camilleri, Phillip O' Brien.

Apologies: Mark Adamson; Ina Kelly; Prof. Conor Murphy; Dr Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA); John Spink (alternate, Teagasc).

**Agenda Item 4:** Dr Eugene Farrell (University of Galway), Valerie Kendall (MKO Consultants), Dr Jade Berman (National Trust), Colin Ryan (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage).

**Agenda Item 6:** Dr. Kelly de Bruin and Dr. Clement Kweku-Kyei (both ESRI)

**Agenda Item 7:** John Breslin and Louise O' Boyle (both BlueWise Marine)

### 1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. Elodie Ruelle introduced herself as a Senior Research Officer at Teagasc.

#### a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved.

## **b. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

## **c. Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **2. Council Update (09:34)**

The Chair briefed the Committee on the key outcomes from the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting that took place on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The planned publication dates for the 2024 sectoral annual reviews were presented and noted.

## **3. Secretariat Update (09:45)**

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

- **Adaptation Indicators Workshop**

The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the main outcomes from the adaptation indicators workshop and it was noted that the report of the workshop would be circulated to the Committee for comment and approval before being published on the Council website.

- **Adaptation Scorecard**

The Secretariat updated the Committee on the assessment process for the adaptation scorecard. It was noted that the draft report would be presented at the June Committee meeting. The Chairperson thanked the volunteers from the Committee that had participated in the assessment process.

- **National Adaptation Framework Update**

It was noted that the new National Adaptation Framework was close to being tabled to Government for approval and publication. The Secretariat also informed the Committee that the draft guidelines for the sectoral adaptation plans would soon be circulated by DECC and that the Secretariat would coordinate a written submission on the guidelines on behalf of the Committee.

- **New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA) workshop**

It was noted that the Secretariat has been engaging with NewERA NTMA to discuss scheduling a workshop on the topic of climate change resilience with the NTMA's 26 designated bodies that will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the NTMA's Dublin office.

- **Irish Adaptation Policy in the context of recent EU and international developments**

The Committee was informed that this report was revised based on comments received in the previous meeting and the revised version was circulated for the meeting as an information document. It was noted that the report would be used as an internal living document and would inform the annual review and various engagements held with Government departments.

#### **4. Coastal Management Session (10.00)**

A thematic session was held on the issue of coastal management and climate resilience. Presentations were provided by Dr. Eugene Farrell on a draft report of research commissioned through the Committee on coastal community recommendations to build climate resilience and by Dr. Jade Berman from the National Trust on the state of play in coastal management in Northern Ireland. A response was also provided by Colin Ryan from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, who is involved in the development of the Coastal Management Strategy in Ireland. An open discussion was held on the issues raised and the Chairperson thanked each of the participants for their contributions.

#### **5. Draft recommendations for the 2024 Annual Review – Adaptation and Biodiversity (11.10)**

The Secretariat presented the draft recommendations of the zero order drafts that were circulated for the sectoral reviews for changing climate, adaptation preparedness and biodiversity. The Committee discussed the draft recommendations and were also invited to provide inputs in writing on the recommendations and content of the zero order drafts.

#### **6. Economic Impacts of Climate Change Adaptation Fellowship (11.42)**

Dr. Kelly DeBruin and Dr. Clement Kweku Kyei from ESRI presented the final outputs from the ESRI fellowship on the economic impacts of climate change. The policy brief on climate change impacts and adaptation in Ireland was approved for recommendation to the Council and it was noted that the brief and other background documents would be available for comment in writing until 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**7. Options for biodiversity-friendly design and approaches for offshore wind farms in Ireland (12:20)**

A team from BlueWise Marine Ltd. presented the final draft report of research commissioned on options for biodiversity-friendly design and approaches for offshore wind farms in Ireland. This was followed by 15 minutes for discussion. The report was approved for recommendation to the Council.

**8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting**

**a) Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and would be held in-person at the National Emergency Coordination Center in Dublin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'P.W.' followed by a stylized, scribbled flourish.

Signed electronically on 27.06.2024