

# **Water Services and Environment S.P.C.**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Venue: The Curragh Racecourse, Curragh, Co. Kildare**

**In attendance:**

**Elected Members:**

Cllr. Suzanne Doyle (Chair), Cllr. A. Breen, Cllr. I. Cussen, Cllr. V. Liston, Emer Conway, Evan Arkwright

**KCC Staff:**

Ken Kavanagh, Rachel Jackson, Chris Galvin, Mark Byrne

**Apologies:**

Marian Higgins – DoS, Cllr B. Wyse, Cllr B. Dooley, Tom O'Connor

**In Attendance:**

Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Planning Office

Hugh Coughlan – Regional Coordinator

Úna Fitzgerald – Regional Technical Officer

Dr. Joseph Roche – Trinity College Dublin

Director of Research (School of Education), Associate Professor in Science Education

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1. The Chair opened the floor to any declarations of pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Act, as amended. No declarations were made.
  2. The minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Íde Cussen., seconded by Cllr. Anne Breen.

3. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Director of Services, Joe Boland, for his guidance and contribution over the years in his role with the Strategic Project Committees.
4. The Committee received a brief on the Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular economy, which was provided by Hugh Coughlan and Úna Fitzgerald, of the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Planning Office.
5. The Brief was quite detailed, setting out a number of Targets and Core Policies, with the aim to achieve a 0% growth in waste numbers as the population increases. A copy of the full draft document is available online at [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie).
6. Following the briefing, the Chair opened the floor to questions. Queries were raised on the scope of change, intended targets, focus on retailers alongside consumer focus, biggest waste contributors presently and timeline set out to achieve intended targets by Cllr. Liston. Further concerns raised by all members regarding an additional Civic Amenity Site for the North of County Kildare. Emer Conway expresses further concern regarding “E-Waste” as it was not outlined in the brief provided.

(Ú.F) – Ambition is to target all waste but confirmed that Construction & Demolition is largest pollution. Notes new EU focus on plastic directive which has set targets of minimum recycling content of 25% by end of year 2025, further increasing to 30% by end of 2030. This shifts the focus on reducing plastic consumption by consumers via retailers.

It is hopeful that a review could be carried out of Public Infrastructure in terms of service offered as well as the spread of services. Further mention that E-Waste is not in the briefing material as it is well established via WEEE Ireland, however it does feature strongly within the plan.

The Chair notes that the Statutory Consultation Phase will run from Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 until 4PM on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. As submissions can be made online at [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie), the Chair suggested that the Committee members would discuss offline and make a submission during the public consultation period.

7. Item 4. on the agenda was to receive a presentation on Citizen Science, a topic that was raised in the previous SPC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Cllr. Vanessa Liston liaised with Dr. Joseph Roche to provide the presentation remotely which included research topics and highlighted the European led portal; <https://eu-citizen.science> which is the platform for sharing citizen science projects, resources, tools, training and more.
8. Following the presentation, a panel discussion ensued where topics were covered such as data reliability or manipulation concerns were raised. Dr. Roche confirmed that samples of data submissions were tested by experts in the to verify accuracy and if faults/anomalies were consistently observed, then the data submitted by that user was disregarded in its entirety.
9. Dr. Roche further highlighted projects, where recent additional astrology data was unlocked thanks to citizen science but has also highlighted in an extreme case from 2014, in Flint, USA that a damaging scandal emerged instead of a rounding success story. Has also stressed delight that the subject is being driven forward positively at a European level.
10. The Chair thanked Evan Arkwright for his wonderful hospitality at the Curragh Racecourse venue, which served as an ideal meeting place.
11. Committee members then departed for a tour of a local site facility, Green Generation Ltd.
12. The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Committee Room, Áras Chill Dara.

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