

# CIWEM Republic of Ireland branch Annual General Meeting 2020

10 September 2020 | 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Virtual event via Zoom

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## Minutes of the CIWEM Annual General Meeting 2020

### 1. Attendance

Present: Laura Foley (LF), Liam Doyle (LD), Gordon Barry (GB), Olivia Holmes (OH), Brian Hamilton (BH), Jerry Cronin (JC), Pat Murphy (PM), Conor Gaffney (CG), Paul Cieciora (PC), Suzanne Dempsey (SD), Declan Morrissey (DM)

CIWEM staff | Barbara Woods (BW) Branch Liaison Officer.

Apologies: Darragh Hobbs, Ruairí O'Carroll and Trevor Montague.

### 2. Welcome and introduction

- Welcome and introduction was made by the previous chair, Gordon Barry.

### 3. Minutes of previous AGM

- After the meeting came to order, the minutes of the 2019 AGM were read out (as posted on CIWEM website) and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Liam Doyle, seconded by Dr. Laura Foley..

### 4. Matters arising since previous AGM

- No matters arising.

### 5. Chair's report (GB)

- See Appendix A for copy of the Chair's report.
- All sponsors were thanked for their sponsorship during the year.
- The Chair's Report was adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Olivia Holmes and seconded by Jerry Cronin

### 6. Honorary secretary's report (PM)

- See Appendix B for a copy of the Honorary Secretary's report.
- The Honorary Secretary's report was presented to the meeting.
- The Secretary's Report was adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Dr Laura Foley and seconded by Gordon Barry,

### 7. Treasurer's report (LD)

- See Appendix C for the Honorary Treasurer's report.
- The Honorary Treasurer's Report for the year was presented to the meeting. Items of income and expenditure were presented.
- The opening and closing balances, total income and outgoings for the year end (31/12/19) were noted as follows:
  - Opening Bank Balance €5,842.97

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- Total Income €7,704.37
- Total Outgoings €8,154.14
- Closing Bank balance €5,393.20

Total Assets: €10,140.54

Net Assets: €9,765.54

- Online banking | CIWEM Republic of Ireland branch has switched to electronic banking.
- The Accounts were adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Mr. Gordon Barry and seconded by Mr. Jerry Cronin.

### 8. Report on CIWEM Headquarters Activities

- Barbara Woods thanked committee members for their ongoing contribution to CIWEM ROI and presented on HQ activities.
- All events have moved to digital format due to Covid.
- CIWEM HQ has reduced the number of awards it engages with but there remain two awards (Margarette's Bursary (£3,000, will post details on website) and Young Environmentalist of the Year (£1,000, access to 2021 events and one-to-one membership).
- The learning and development team have moved to online format. There have been, and are planned, a number of free and paid courses and events. Details of some:
  - A paid 8-week course in Environmental Economics will start shortly.
  - 2 national/international seminars (both recorded and free) on (1) nature-based solutions and environmental land management (in-line with climate and ecological emergency theme), and (2) mainstreaming property flood resilience
  - Paid river and coast flood digital series (dates: 13 October, 9 Dec, and two in 2021)
- The virtual induction of new president, Nicky Roche will take place on 17 December and the CIWEM AGM will take place on 6 October

### 9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2020 - 2020

- The proposed officers for the year 2020/2021 were read out (noting that there is no incoming Chairperson proposed for the coming year)
- The Honorary Secretary, Pat Murphy is stepping down from the committee, as are Ordinary Committee Members, Richard Flynn, Richard Kent and Joe O'Reilly.
- New officers were elected as follows:
  - Gordon Barry as Past Chair. Proposed by Pat Murphy. Seconded by Jerry Cronin.
  - Trevor Montague as Honorary Treasurer. Proposed by Liam Doyle and seconded by Dr. Laura Foley.
  - Dr. Laura Foley as Honorary Secretary. Proposed by Gordon Barry and seconded by Liam Doyle.

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- Non-officer committee members were elected as follows: Trevor Montague (Vice Chair), David McHugh (Branch rep), Anna Murphy, Darragh Hobbs, Liam Doyle, Dr. SM Ashekuzzaman, Tom O'Reilly, Olivia Holmes, Jer Keohane and Joe Higgins. Proposed by Jerry Cronin and seconded by Gordon Barry.

- There are no new nominations to the committee.

### 10. Any other business

- Brian Hamilton enquired about pathways to chartership. Suggested to contact member of the committee (e-mail) to request support for applications.
- BW noted there have been series of Webinars on chartership. BW will forward details for these.
- Noted that interviews currently being carried out virtually.

### 11. Date of next meeting

- TBC but approx. July and likely again virtual.

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## Appendix A | Chair's report for 2019 | 2020

A very strange year started very positively for the Branch with the continued rejuvenation of the committee and the appointment of a number of new members at the AGM. This positive boost was maintained, with a tangible increase in energy around the committee table during the course of the year, which was a very welcome step in the continued growth of the Branch.

The Branch hosted a number of CPD events, with sponsored receptions this year. This was a very successful innovation and provided a welcome opportunity for members and guests to network and develop bonds and relationships amongst their peers. We are very grateful to the companies which sponsored these occasions, specifically:

- J. B. Barry & Partners Ltd;
- T. J. O'Connor & Associates;
- Glan Agua Ltd; and
- Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd

The networking events unfortunately halted with the arrival of Covid19, but the CPD events did manage to continue with a further online talk.

2019 also saw the elevation of David McHugh to the role of President of the institution, with the induction event being held at UCC. This was a significant honour for David and the Branch are proud to acknowledge the achievement. The Branch would also like to acknowledge the contribution by Fehily Timoney & Co. to the hosting of the event.

I have spoken on previous years about the need for the continuous rejuvenation of the committee and I would strongly encourage any members who would like to become more involved in their institution to introduce themselves and consider becoming a member of the committee.

The role of committee members is not a lifelong commitment, but rather an opportunity in your professional life to give something back to the profession and the institution for a few years, with the intention of then stepping back down and encouraging others to step up.

This year the Committee members stepping down are

- ❖ Pat Murphy, who has contributed a number of years service as Branch Secretary
- ❖ Richard Flynn;
- ❖ Richard Kent; and
- ❖ Joe O'Reilly

The Branch would like to gratefully acknowledge their contribution over their years of service.

I was unfortunately not personally in attendance at the annual dinner this year, but all reports are of a very successful and enjoyable evening. Our engagement with the Northern Ireland Branch has continued, with a representative in attendance at the dinner. Unfortunately, we were not able to return the favour and send a representative to their annual dinner, as it had to be cancelled due to Covid, as did the annual North-South visit.

Finally, I would just like to wish the incoming committee every success in the coming year, and hopefully we will see some respite from the pandemic restrictions.

Gordon Barry

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## Appendix B | Honorary Secretary's Report for 2019 | 2020

- 1.** Annual General Meeting  
The year commenced with the election of the Branch Committee at the 2019 AGM, which was held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, at Irish Water's offices, Foley Street, Dublin.
- 2.** Presidential Induction  
The Branch co-hosted the induction of Mr. David McHugh as CIWEM President for 2019/2020. The event took place on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at University College Cork. The title of David's speech was *How to tackle the Climate Emergency*. The speech was followed by an address by Professor Jerry D Murphy (University College Cork).
- 3.** Technical Presentations  
The Branch organised a number of technical presentations during the year, including.
  - ❖ 4 October 2019 | South-east Annual Seminar  
National Sludge Management Policy | Irish Water  
Thermal Hydrolysis at Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant | Veolia
  - ❖ 28 January 2020 | Health through Water: A study of the Need for and Provision of Healthy Water Supply Past, Present and Future  
Liam Doyle (CIWEM Committee Member)
  - ❖ 25 February 2020 | Kerry Central WSS – Delivering Critical Infrastructure under Environmental Constraints  
Andrew Driver (Glan Agua) and Gavin Reilly (Nicholas O'Dwyer)
  - ❖ 28 May 2020 | Characterising Irish Karst Aquifers: From Recharge to Discharge  
Dr Philip Schuler (CDM Smith)
- 4.** Study Trip  
There was no Study Trip arranged this year.
- 5.** Annual Dinner  
The Annual Dinner was hosted in Kildare this year at the Killashee Hotel in Naas on Friday 15 November. We were delighted to welcome David McHugh, President of the Institution, and Mr. Warren Boal, Chair of the CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch to the dinner.
- 6.** North – South Visit  
The annual joint field trip did not go ahead this year. Events were curtailed from March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 7.** Environ 2020  
Environ 2020, organised by the ESAI (Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland), was scheduled to take place in April however it was postponed to October due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will take place as a virtual event. The Branch has previously sponsored a prize for the Best Water Related Presentation.
- 8.** Membership  
The branch membership currently stands at 302 which is an increase on the previous year's count of 271.
- 9.** CIWEM Headquarters - Saffron Hill

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The Branch engagement with the CIWEM headquarters at Saffron Hill this year included a number of meetings with the Branches, Groups, Networks and Panels (BGNP) group and discussions in relation to Public Liability insurance cover for the Branch.

**10.**

Acknowledgements

Finally the Branch Committee would like to thank everyone, both members and non-members, who volunteered their time and resources to assist with the running of the branch and its activities, whether as organisers, speakers, or sponsors.

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Appendix C | Financial report for 2019 – 2020



<b>Bank Account Reconciliation</b>		€
Cash at Bank 31/12/2018	Current	5,842.97
	Deposit	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,842.97</b>
Starting Bank Balance		5,842.97
Add total lodgements to 31/12/19		7,704.37
Deduct Bank Charges to 31/12/19		91.50
Deduct Cheques issued and presented prior to 31/12/19		5,464.04
Deduct EFT payments by Branch		2,598.60
Calculated Bank Balance at 31/12/18		<b>5,393.20</b>
Actual Bank Balance at 31/12/19	Current	
	Deposit	5,393.20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,393.20</b>

<b>Balance sheet at 31/12/2019</b>	€	€
	2018	2019
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Debtors (Net)	2,572.73	2,842.73
Cash at Bank	5,842.97	5,393.20
Chairman's Chain	1,904.61	1,904.61
Cheques to be lodged	0.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,320.31</b>	<b>10,140.54</b>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Cheques Issued & not cashed	125.00	375.00
Creditors	3,199.80	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,324.80</b>	<b>375.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>6,995.51</b>	<b>9,765.54</b>

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Statement of Income and Expenditure		
Details	€	€
	2018	2019
<b>Income</b>		
HQ Transfers	0.00	0.00
2018 Golf Outing	2,100.00	
Sponsorship	150.00	
2017 Annual Dinner	150.00	-
2018 Annual Dinner	4,725.00	1,780.00
2019 Annual Dinner		5,000.00
Unexplained payment	-	777.63
Inadvertent payment to Branch	-	146.74
Study Tour (Portugal)	422.72	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,547.72</b>	<b>7,704.37</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
AGM		
	0.00	117.50
Refund overpayment by sponsor (AGM '17)	443.00	
Refund overpayment by CIWEM Member		146.74
2017 Annual Dinner	2,814.25	-
2018 Annual Dinner	2,923.85	3,199.80
2019 Annual Dinner		4,598.60
Insurances	662.31	-
Bank Charges, Admin charges & Auditor Fees	99.85	91.50
Golf Outing expenses	1,860.00	
ESAI Sponsorship	250.00	
Joint Visit NI Branch		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,053.26</b>	<b>8,154.14</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-1505.54</b>	<b>-449.77</b>