

**County Wicklow Maritime Business Development Group (MBDG)**  
**Meeting at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont, Rathnew**  
**25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - 11am**

**Present:**

Tom Delahoyde	-	TD
Frank Curran	-	FC
Simon Greenwood	-	SG
Roy Conway	-	RC
William Tyrrell	-	WT
Stephen Kavanagh	-	SK
Paul Ivory	-	PI
Christine Flood	-	CF
Marc Devereaux	-	MD
Susan Nichols	-	SN
Derek Cullen	-	DC
Lorcan O' Toole	-	LOT
Cllr. Pier Leonard	-	PL
Cllr. Gail Dunne	-	GD

**Apologies:**

Pat O' Suilleabhain	-	POS
Sean Quirke	-	SQ
Matthew Carroll	-	MC

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MINUTES

**Item No. 1**

**Introductions and terms of reference for the benefit of new members**

TD thanked everyone for attending and proceeded to introduce two new members to the group. PL and GD each gave a brief introduction, respectively.

TD then asked that everyone give a brief introduction for the benefit of the group and proceeded to welcome everyone.

SN read out the Terms of Reference for the Maritime Business Development Group viz;

Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Local Enterprise Office and local business interests came together as County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) to develop an Action Plan aimed at driving economic activity in the County. Under the Action Plan: *"a proactive approach is required if the potential economic opportunities for these (maritime) assets are to be identified."*

The Action Plan proposed the establishment of a Maritime Business Development Group to assess the opportunities to capitalise on the Maritime Infrastructure in County Wicklow.

**Aims of the MBDG:**

- To develop a Maritime / Harbour Strategy for County Wicklow

- To progress proposals for the major development of port facilities in the County

**General Operation:**

- From time to time, individuals may be co-opted to provide specific advice / expertise as required
- The Group will meet once per month; meetings may be held more, or less frequently as required
- Members of the Group will be circulated electronically with documentation at least one week in advance of each meeting
- Members of the Group will respect the confidentiality of deliberations at meetings. Any reports to the media will be approved in advance and released on behalf of the Group to the media
- Membership of the MBDG to be reviewed annually

RC asked if there are plans for the set-up of any working groups for the harbours in Wicklow.

CF suggested that representatives from each harbour area be invited to give updates on a scheduled basis to the MBDG. In this regard, MD proposed that a representative of the Bray Harbour Development Group be invited to the next meeting. This was agreed.

**Item No. 2**

**Minutes of meeting from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were proposed by SK and seconded by PL.

LOT asked if there was any funding left over from F.L.A.G in order to carry out a cleanup of the harbour area in Arklow.

MD advised that this would not be covered by F.L.A.G funding as the application was specific to the Fishermans huts for the area.

PI explained that tonne bags had been placed around the harbour area in the past but it turned out to be counter-productive as domestic waste was being dumped. He advised that he will make contact with Arklow Municipal District on this issue.

SG advised that Tim Greenwood had attended the Ocean Wealth Conference which had some useful keynote speakers.

**Item No. 3**

**Update on Maritime Strategic Review**

CF presented the draft Maritime Strategic Review to the meeting covering the following areas:

- General recommendations that included establishing an implementation team, development of a communication strategy, to maintain a watching brief on the developing policy and to ensure that any climate action strategies being developed reference the marine space.

- Strategic Recommendations that included Offshore Wind Opportunity in County Wicklow, the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow and a marketing strategy for County Wicklow.
- Location specific recommendations that referred to Bray Harbour, Greystones Harbour, Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour all covering various issues relevant to each harbour or port.

CF asked the members to read over the Maritime Strategic Review and focus on their area of interest respectively. She asked that the members revert back to the Economic Development section of Wicklow County Council within 10 days with any comments they may have regarding the draft review.

#### **Item No. 4**

##### **Update on Aquaculture Projects**

SK gave an update to the meeting on the Oyster Reef Restoration Project under the heading of Aquaculture Projects.

He added that they are also looking at other sources of funding, including LEADER which ticks lots of boxes but unfortunately until they have a completed feasibility study they won't be able to proceed.

SK also informed the meeting that since the last MBDG meeting NORRI have built a new website, social media page and made a documentary on Oyster Reef Restoration but he added that they still have lots to do.

#### **Item No. 5**

##### **To discuss formation of an Offshore Wind Energy sub-group**

CF stated that one of the actions under the LECF is to examine the opportunities for Wicklow's ports to capitalise on the expansion of the offshore wind industry.

She added that the development of offshore wind farms poses a unique opportunity for Co. Wicklow.

She proposed that a small sub-group is set up from among the members of the MBDG along with Ms. Pamela Walshe who is very experienced in this area. CF also proposed this sub-group would meet about 3-4 times a year in WCC or in Clermont and could invite experts to attend, as required.

WT proposed that Mr. Andy Kinsella of Mainstream Renewable Power is asked to sit on this group. LOT proposed that WT join the group. PL and TD also expressed an interest in sitting on the sub-group.

## **Item No. 6**

### **Any Other Business**

LOT informed the meeting that if anyone encounters any roadblocks with the Marine Institute in Galway to contact him.

PL stated that an environmental conversation project is needed in relation to abandoned whelk-pots at sea. MD stated that this is an area he would be very interested in following up because the abandoned whelk-pots are clogging up various harbours. He added that he will discuss this further with PI.

MD also informed the meeting of plans to install a pontoon in Wicklow Harbour. He stated that there will be a ramp leading onto it for access and it will be bound to the pier wall.

WT asked if there was any timeframe on the appointment of a harbour master in Arklow.

PI advised that he is currently maintaining a presence in Arklow Harbour and that the recruitment process may take some time. MD advised that the job specification may change to a more managerial position than that of a technical nature.

**This concluded the meeting.**

**Date of next meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019