

**County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT)
Maritime Business Development Group (MBDG) Meeting
Wicklow County Campus, Clermont, Rathnew
5th December 2018**

Present:

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| Tom Delahoyde (Chair) | TD |
| Frank Curran | FC |
| Christine Flood | CF |
| Roy Conway | RC |
| Marc Devereux | MD |
| Stephen Kavanagh | SK |
| Susan Nichols | SN |
| Kate Dempsey | KD |
| Sean Quirke | SQ |
| Matt Carroll | MC |
| Lorcan O'Toole | LOT |
| Cllr. Derek Mitchell | DM |
| Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald | PF |
| Billy Tyrrell | BT |

In attendance:

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| James O'Hara, SSE Project Manager | JOH |
| Paul Doherty, Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions | PD |

MINUTES:

Item No. 1

Minutes of meeting from 28th June 2018 and matters arising

The minutes of meeting from 28th June 2018 were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Item No. 2

Presentation on Oyster Reef Restoration by Kate Dempsey

KD made a brief presentation to the meeting on the potential positive collaboration of industry operating on the Wicklow coastline in relation to the proposed Oyster Reef Restoration Project, covering areas including:

- Drivers for collaboration
- An example of a mutually beneficial project – area of cable line
- Potential in context
- Why Oyster Reef Restoration
- Mitigating Barriers to Wind Energy Development and Oyster Reef Restoration

Item No. 3

Presentation by SSE Airtricity on the Arklow Bank Windfarm

JOH and PD gave a presentation to the meeting on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Operations Base Feasibility Study covering the following areas:

- SSE Overview
- SSE's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio (Britain & Ireland)
- Arklow Bank Offshore Wind Park
- Operations Base Feasibility Study – Independent Assessment
- Potential Impact
- Examples of Transformative Impact in the UK
- Minimum Requirements
- Vessel Requirements
- Example Layout
- Methodology: 2-Phased Approach
- Stage 1: Suitability Assessment (Regional)
- Stage 2: Suitability Assessment (Local)
- Current Status of the Study

Following the presentation, a number of questions were raised which were addressed by JOH and PD. TD thanked both for their attendance at the meeting and the informative presentation.

Item No. 4

Presentation by Kate Dempsey

KD gave a brief update on the current status of her licence application and her business, Aquaculture Analytics.

Item No. 5

Maritime Spatial Plan

CF updated the meeting on what is needed to progress the Wind Energy sector in County Wicklow, including:

- A targeted policy to develop offshore wind energy
- Design of new RESS facilitates offshore wind
- Grid connection policy
- Foreshore leasing policy reform
- Marine Spatial Plan

Following some discussion on the matter it was agreed that a submission would be formulated on behalf of the group, a draft would issue to all members by 10th December with a view to making a final submission by 14th December.

Item No. 6

Correspondence

In order to comply with the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and the Transparency C

ode, it is proposed to publish the Terms of Reference, List of Membership, Agenda and Minutes of the MBDG on the www.wicklow.ie website. It was noted that minutes would not be published until approved/adopted at the relevant meeting.

Item No. 7

Any Other Business

It was proposed by the Chairman that a sub-group be established to focus on Aquaculture and examine the possibility of hosting a conference. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting: TBC