

**Minutes of Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership meeting held on Friday 6 August 2010, ICE Building, Malone Road, Belfast**

<b>Attendees:</b>		
John McMullan (Chairman)	JMM	Bryson Group
Irene McGee (Secretariat)	IMG	SNIFFER
Ivan Gregg (Change)	IG	DoE (Climate)
Karen Smyth	KS	KS
Fiona Mulholland	FM	NIEA
Raymond Smyth	RS	CEHOG
Nigel McMahon	NMM	DHSSPS
Brian Doyle	BD	Rivers Agency
Keith Miller	KM	DHSSPS
Roger Holland	RH	DRDNI
Anne Lockwood	AL	PEPG
Jim Kitchen	JK	SDC
Alan Moore	AM	NI Water
Emer Murnaghan	EM	ICE

<b>Apologies:</b>		
A representative	-	NICVA
Liam McEvoy	LME	DRDNI
Patricia Mackey	PM	SNI
Sue Christie	SC	NIEL
Gerry Metcalf	GM	UKCIP
Julian Holbrook	JH	SNIFFER
Valerie Crozier	VC	NI Water
Christine Butler	CB	DARDNI
Aileen Lawson	AL	UFU
John Davison (Planning)	JD	Doe
George Dorrian	GD	FSB
Deirdre Stewart	DS	CBI

**1. Welcome (JMM)**

NICCIP Chairman welcomed everyone to meeting at ICE. Chairman welcomed Ivan Gregg in particular, who is replacing Brendan Forde from DoENI. He also welcomed new member Anne Lockwood from PEPG, and Alan Moore who stepped in for Paddy Brow. Chairman acknowledged Brendan Forde's work for the partnership and noted how the overall NICCIP partnership appreciated his contributions.

**2. Action Points from the last NICCIP meeting**

Minutes for the last meeting were accepted to be a true record. Secretariat provided a summary of the action points from the last meeting. Some action points to be rolled forward include the following;

**Action Point 1: Secretariat to circulate information on the received information on research projects to the group.**

**Action Point 2: Chairman to further contact NICVA to source replacement for Frances McCandless.**

### 3. Policy Update (IG)

DOE provided an overall update on policy items.

#### (a) UKCCRA

The UKCCRA team have been carrying out sector specific workshops based in England and other venues in the UK. Reports from the workshops will be available shortly. A NI CCRA workshop is to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at the Agri-Food and Business Institute in Hillsborough. Invitations have been sent out for this event, which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review the UK wide list of impacts and identify which risks are most important for NI. It is essential that the workshop is well attended and has a good representation across all sectors.

The UKCCRA newsletter has also been issued, and NICCIP members should have received it.

#### (b) Cross-Departmental Working Group

There is now approval for a cross-departmental working group on greenhouse gas emissions. The first meeting will be held next week, and it will be chaired by the Environment Minister. This group will develop a cross-departmental action plan on how Northern Ireland will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### (c) Additional Resources within DOE

There has been a small change in the set-up of the DOE climate change unit. Ivan Gregg has been appointed to work within the climate change unit on adaptation and cross-cutting areas. Michael McCallion is the full-time contact for adaptation. Brendan Forde is now focussing on mitigation, and leading on the cross-departmental group for greenhouse gases.

NICCIP members welcomed the creation of the inter-departmental group on climate change. Some queries arose on the current climate change targets. NI targets are set to be a 25% reduction over the 1990 baseline by 2025. This is somewhat short of what is envisaged in the UK and the EU.

The main focus of the group would be to produce a cross-departmental action plan on greenhouse gas emissions and in doing so they would take into account the various targets that are in place for NI, UK and EU.

### 6. UKCIP Update

The secretariat summarised the current situation regarding the DEFRA consultation on the consideration of UKCIP's current contract. The UKCIP contract ends in September 2011. Secretariat has sent a briefing note to all NICCIP members, and outlined the general points and issues. DEFRA is currently considering how best to deliver adaptation support in the UK beyond the current contract with UKCIP. DEFRA are consulting with various stakeholders including the devolved administrations. The situation is complex as many Regional Climate Change partnerships (RCCP's) have different existing funding sources and business models. Some include mitigation as well as adaptation, and some have several full-time staff.

DEFRA have established a timeframe for delivery of this contract, including stakeholder engagement through to procurement.

(Refer to Appendix 1, Briefing Note for further information).

NI is slightly different in that it is funded 100% by DoENI and there is a 2 year contract in place. It employs one person one-day per week.

NICCIP member expanded on how the UKCIP contract has previously been deemed as research; however the nature of the work has changed from pure research into more support and guidance. The future model for the DEFRA Adaptation Support Contract may therefore involve a change in the type of contract which would have funding implications for the devolved administrations.

The benefit of NICCIP being a small organisation is that it gives us more time to establish our level of work, delivery and outputs which have to happen. JMM summarised how NICCIP operates a 'coalition of the willing' as members believe in the subject of climate change. Members voluntarily commit to the partnership. NICCIP is an inexpensive body for what it gives.

The action required is for NICCIP to agree if it wishes to submit a statement to DEFRA commenting on the 4 questions posed which focus on what an adaptation service should deliver and who the customers are. The secretariat can assist in collating the comments.

**Action Point 3: IMG to send an email to all with the questions which require answering today (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of August). All NICCIP members to respond with their comments asap, no later than Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in order for the secretariat to collate the comments into a response.**

NICCIP Member suggested there is an opportunity to 'sell' the partnership to the Environment Committee. NICCIP has been asked to respond to the Department response to the Environment Committee Inquiry, this could be used as a useful opportunity for NICCIP to push itself forward. NICCIP Member commented that we have a 'unique' opportunity to be asked what we think of the Departmental response.

**Action Point 4: NICCIP to utilise the opportunity to respond to the Environment Committee's request for comments on the Departments response as a means of driving NICCIP forward.**

## **7. Membership Group Update**

Secretariat provided a summary of the recent membership sub-group meeting. A presentation of flyers and text was provided for comment. Each sector was also visited in terms of which members should join Tier 2.

All members support the developments of a Tier 2 organisation based membership. There was some concern about expanding the membership when the DEFRA situation was unclear.

NICCIP members provided some suggestions as to who should be involved in Tier 2, and some comments on updating the flyer text, prioritising the benefits, adding that membership is 'free' etc. Some discussions followed on how to engage with Councils, either through sector contacts within councils, or other means as advised by KS.

The DoENI logo should be used on the flyer to add credibility.

**Action Point 5: NICCIP Chairman and Secretariat to discuss how to approach the Utility Regulator in relation to representing the energy sector within the partnership. Re-visit previous minutes to ascertain other Tier 1 members to approach.**

**Action Point 6: The secretariat to issue a list of potential Tier 2 Members to all for further population.**

**Action Point 7: KS to advise on how best to engage with Local Councils.**

**Action Point 8: NICCIP Chairman and Secretariat to meet to discuss the methods of engaging members and the expectations, roles and tasks of the various tier members.**

## **8. Work Planning Group Update**

NICCIP Members provided an update of the progress of the work-planning sub-group. Secretariat re-visited the minutes of that meeting with all NICCIP members.

It was recommended we re-visit the bid for the Nottingham Declaration, and potentially identify a funding source to take it on. It was further emphasised how all 26 councils responded very positively to the bid, however the councils would not sign it as it had not been signed by Ministers. It was also highlighted how the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health would be able to help, and how it would draw in Tier 2 members. NICCIP members agree this should be re-visited.

**Action Point 8: Secretariat to obtain information on the Nottingham Declaration.**

**Action Point 9: NILGA to send a copy of the NI Declaration**

**Action Point 10: CEHOG to send further information on how the CIEH would be able to help.**

Other items which NICCIP members commented on the work-planning sub-group;

- NI Climate Change Publications Database: This should be kept to relatively recent documents in Ireland and Northern Ireland as it could become over populated.
- North/South Interaction: Secretariat to include N/S Ministerial Council and Comhar on the Tier 2 Membership.
- Policy Clusters: Secretariat researched the RTPi model. It takes 1 full-time member of staff to manage the policy hub web-site, plus 2 other part-time staff. NICCIP does not have the resource to do so. NICCIP members suggested this may develop itself as the partnership grows, particularly where members have a sectoral interest.

**Action Point 11: Secretariat to include N/S Ministerial Council and Comhar on the Tier 2 Membership.**

## **9. Communications Sub-Group**

NICCIP Members have agreed to be part of the NICCIP Communications Sub-Group. The sub-group are to look at a potential website, an annual NICCIP event and social networking sites. The facebook site has been uploaded with 25 fans.

A climate change event in Autumn is too soon as it would clash with several other events. The outcome of the September workshop will provide some indication of what the theme of the event should be.

NICCIP Member suggested it could be focussed on adaptation where case studies have been put into practise. JK agreed and added that in ROI the themes have been around mitigation. An event focussing on adaptation and items such as the Floods Directive would be beneficial.

It is suggested the DoENI would prefer to hold the event towards the end of the financial year, end of March 2011.

**Action Point 12: NIEA to seek in-house capacity for potential site hosting and assistance in its development.**

**Action Point 13: Secretariat to arrange a meeting for the NICCIP communications sub-group.**

## **10. Environment Committee Letter**

Following the 'Inquiry Report', the Environment Committee have written to all stakeholders seeking any views or comments in relation to the Departmental response by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. NICCIP members are invited to comment on the Departments response.

DOE would be attending the Environment Committee meeting on 21 October in relation to its response and subsequent correspondence.

Members agree that NICCIP should respond. By responding, we can present the NICCIP structure to the committee. Also, the committee should ask for officials from other Departments, and a cross-party presence in relation to Climate Change. For the Environment Committee to focus on one Department is not substantial.

NICCIP members agreed to send a shorter response now by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, however will respond further after the summer. NICCIP would also welcome the opportunity to meet with the Environment Committee to discuss further.

**Action Point 14: Group of NICCIP members to volunteer to shape the broad response letter to the Environment Committee by 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Members to form a further response after initial broad response. NICCIP to also seek a meeting with the Committee in their response.**

#### **11. Publication of NICCIP Minutes**

Some discussion was had on whether to publish the NICCIP minutes on the NICCIP webpage after meetings. It was agreed that the secretariat should circulate the minutes for approval before circulation. Approval will take place at the next meeting.

#### **12. NICCIP Climate Change Contacts Directory**

The NICCIP Climate Change Experts Directory has been re-named to 'Contact' in order to remove the idea of expertise. The secretariat has sent the document out to many people, and there are currently only 22 names on the database who have given consent. Some NICCIP members are not on the database.

**Action Point 15: NICCIP Members to be more active in putting their names on the database and circulating to others. Secretariat to re-circulate.**

#### **13. NICCIP List of Climate Change Publications**

The NICCIP Publications list has been started. Some sectors still remain blank. The secretariat requires NICCIP members actively populate the database with relevant publications across all sectors in order to allow a substantial document to be uploaded to the NICCIP webpage.

#### **14. Any Other Business and date of next meeting**

There is a conference on 'Emergency Planning' forthcoming and she will send on details in due course.

PEPG highlighted how there is a review of PPS 15, the floods review. The review and responses from the public will be appearing soon. The Waste Directive also gives the opportunity to look at planning policy on waste.

The business plan for PPS 1 (Planning Policy Statement 1) was due to be out next April; however, it has been caught up in the RPA (Review of Public Administration) changes.

Irene McGee  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
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