

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

239th Board Meeting of the Authority

At the Boathouse, Kilkeel

on

Friday 04th October 2024 at 10.00am

Present:	Kevin Quigley (KQ)– Chief Executive Stephen Welch (SW) – Chair of Board David Knott (DK) – Board Member Harry Wick (HW) – Board Member Maynard Mawhinney (MM) – Board Member Robert Ryans (RR) – Board Member Siobhan McCauley (SMcC) – Board Member Lynn Gilmore (LG) – Board Member (Teams)
In attendance:	Belinda McCaughey (BMcC)– Accounts Administrator

	Action
1. Chair's Opening remarks	
<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> SW welcomed all to the meeting and thanked MM for chairing the last meeting. <u>Declaration of Interest</u> No declarations made.	
2. Minutes of the Special & 238th Board Meetings	
Both sets of minutes were approved. All matters arising have been actioned or are on today's Agenda.	
3. 2024/25 Management Accounts	
KG noted that revenue is concerning. Budget was set using last year's figures and we are already £100k down. This could in part be due to fleet reductions. Portavogie has been hit hard, Ardglass is stable and Kilkeel is showing a significant drop. Young people are not entering the business and older boats are being replaced by bigger and better vessels. Industry challenges due to foreign crews with poor English and high wages. HQ noted that the weather has also made a significant impact, with a 30% reduction on last year's landings.	
KQ advised that the high figure of water usage is due to a water leak in Portavogie which is being addressed.	

	Action
<p>BMcC noted that an analysis of the 'Other' figures in the summary is shown by an asterisk in the Company Accounts.</p> <p>KQ turned to the Forecast and noted still early days. Fishing has gone on longer than usual; pelagic landings will make a difference.</p>	
<p>4. Executive Report</p>	
<p><u>CEO Report</u></p> <p>KQ updated the Board on the sinking of the Sara Lena in Ardglass. Discussions with the Insurers are taking place at the moment.</p> <p><u>Abandoned Vessels</u></p> <p>Ocean Hunter has been taken by tug from Kilkeel to Portavogie. This has dried out and is currently watertight.</p> <p>The Bounteous in Portavogie needs dismantled as a matter of urgency as it is leaking badly. This vessel and the Glendeveron in Ardglass are the two vessels targeted to be dismantled this year.</p> <p>Business Plan – DAERA have agreed funding for this year.</p> <p>Remuneration – The 2023/24 Pay Remits were approved and have been paid.</p> <p>Union – The focus has now switched to pay differentials. The union will provide us with benchmarking comparisons.</p> <p>After a full and frank discussion the Board asked KQ to prepare a draft business case for submission to DAERA. This will be for the whole Organisation.</p> <p>KQ noted that for the foreseeable future our budget will get worse. Diversification is the only way forward.</p> <p>MM also suggested that meeting with Councils may aid our discussions around diversification. Whilst KQ is not against this there are time constraints in place.</p> <p>KQ noted that he had met with the Councils in the past. As part of the Corporate Plan we will meet with the councils.</p> <p>FSDP - no movement on this.</p> <p>The Quinquennial Review is now down to the last couple of interviews.</p> <p>The Partnership agreement is back with DAERA.</p> <p><u>Balanced Scorecard – September 2024</u></p> <p>Content and current status was accepted.</p> <p><u>KPI's</u></p> <p>Ambers noted - Ardglass Ice Plant is causing issues and Rent Reviews are behind.</p>	<p>KQ</p>
<p>5. Safety and Personnel</p>	

	Action
<p><u>Health and Safety / Port Marine Safety</u></p> <p>HSMS and the MSMS are not actually published documents. They are systems and consist of numerous different documents.</p> <p><u>Bridge/Fish Pass Kilkeel</u></p> <p>Letter has been received from the Permanent Secretary. The Board discussed this and the requirement to follow up after a reasonable period of time has elapsed.</p> <p><u>Section 75, Personnel and Training</u></p> <p>Training is going well. A new member of staff has been recruited for Kilkeel to cover the slipway. Start date will be November.</p>	KQ
6. Audit Risk and Assurance Committee Update	
<p><u>Report on the meeting of 4 September 2024</u></p> <p>MM updated the Board on the contents of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Risk Register – August 2024</u></p> <p>MM highlighted the risk around having just 1 senior person – consideration of this will be taken to the next ARAC meeting in November.</p> <p>KQ was tasked to look at the previously removed risks to ensure nothing has been omitted from the current list of risks and to bring suggestions to the next ARAC meeting.</p> <p>The Risk Register was approved by the Board</p> <p><u>Risk Appetite and Risk Management Policy.</u></p> <p>KQ discussed situations where the levels of Risk are applied.</p> <p>Risk Appetite and Risk Management Policy were approved.</p> <p><u>Maternity and Paternity Pay</u></p> <p>A proposal was taken to the ARAC committee on the level of Maternity and Paternity pay. The Board discussed this and approval was given for KQ to proceed with recommendations.</p>	
7. Capital Projects	
<p>KQ updated the Board on the current Projects. In particular</p> <p>Portavogie Slipway – project running smoothly.</p> <p>Kilkeel Slipway Rails – Business case is currently underway.</p> <p>Kilkeel River and Fish Pass – no damage as result of last weeks rain.</p>	
<p>Windy Gap – the hole in the quayside is being monitored.</p>	

	Action
Slipway Access Ladders – the short term solution is to use an arrest/fall system. Once this is in place we will concentrate on a long term solution.	
8. Environmental Management	
KQ noted that Jenny made a significant contribution to the QUB grant funding application. Ardglass Harbour have been shortlisted for the BPA Port Sustainability Award.	
9. Estate Management – September 2024	
KQ updated the Board on current issues. In particular: Ballyardle Site – Board discussed this fully. KQ is to make a proposal to move this forward.	KQ
10. Corporate Plan	
SW questioned why prepare a Corporate Plan when Program for Government has not yet been published? KQ advised that amendments can be made when the PfG has been published. We may be asked at short notice to submit our plan so better to be prepared. The Board discussed the papers included in the Pack for the meeting. The guiding DAERA strategy is currently the FSDP. A discussion was held around the deliverability of the current strategy. It was agreed to bring the Board’s concerns around this to the joint board meeting. It was noted that currently there is neither a published programme for government or DAERA strategy. This makes formulating a corporate plan very difficult. Peace Plus – the Board discussed and approved the grant application. Budget – DAERA are keen that NIFHA moves to a positive position. There is no quick solution to this. This budget does not take us into this position. We need to diversify to do this. There was a discussion around sub-quota landings and the implications for the future of the industry.	
11. Quinquennial Review	
Awaiting final few interviews.	
12. DAERA/NIFHA Partnership Agreement	
Currently back with DAERA.	
13. Schedule of Meetings	

	Action
Dates as set. Date for Killeel Stakeholders to be confirmed.	KQ
14. Any Other Business	
None.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	
Tuesday 17 December 2024	