

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**Glendalough, Wednesday 20 February 2008**

**Present:** Dermot Hand – Chair, Donal Anderson, Stephen Bray, Eoin Browne, John Byrne, Sean Byrne, Claire Chambers, Michael Cogan, Pearse Connolly, Saive Coffey, Pat Dunne, Pat Ewen, Pearse Foley, John Flynn, Peter Galvin, Edmond Kenny, Philip Maguire, Sean Malone, Murtagh O’Keeffe, John Power, Joe Walker  
**In attendance:** Helen Lawless, Lenka Mulligan, Colin Murphy  
**Apologies:** Tony Flynn, Philip Geoghegan, Brian Kehoe, Eileen Kennedy

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January were approved subject to following amendments:

- a) Include formation of Renewable Energy sub-committee.
- b) Under 6 - Philip Maguire reported on Farming and Landowning panel discussion.
- c) Under 6 - Joe Walker pointed out the advantages of the WUC Forestry Project and appealed to the Wicklow IFA members to support the project at Wicklow County IFA Executive.

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by John Byrne and seconded by Claire Chambers.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**a) Forestry Project**

The meeting discussed two letters received from Declan O’Neill, Chair of Wicklow IFA, one sent 25 January and the second sent by e-mail on 20 February. Both letters arose from the WUC Forestry Project and also made reference to the national park issue. It was agreed that the two issues should be dealt with separately.

Various concerns were raised including the delay in responding to the January letter from Declan O’Neill; the budget for the forestry project and the information provided to WUC Board members. Following the responses to these issues it was agreed that Dermot Hand and representatives from the Forestry Project Steering Group should meet as soon as possible with the forestry sub-group formed by Wicklow IFA.

**b) National Park issue**

Following discussion, the Board re-worded a proposed resolution regarding landscape categorisation and designations. The resolution was proposed by Saive Coffey and seconded by Pat Ewen. The document is to be forwarded to Wicklow IFA and also Michael Starrett in the Heritage Council. John Power proposed that Wicklow Uplands Council resolve to oppose the extension of national parks on private land in Wicklow. (There was no seconder for this proposal).

**3. CASH FLOW AND FUNDING**

Joe Walker reported that work is still underway on the year-end accounts, and that a report will be provided to the next meeting.

#### **4. CORPORATE FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Scheduled for Monday 28 April 2008 in Ritz Carlton Hotel, Enniskerry.

#### **5. PROJECTS**

##### **Monthly project update**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **a) Clash with National Park Council meetings**

WMNP have been provided with WUC meeting dates and will try to avoid a clash of dates, or start their meetings earlier so members can attend both.

##### **b) Renewable Energy study visit**

Lenka Mulligan encouraged Board members to participate in the study visit Saturday 23 February to Cronelea Windfarm (Shillelagh), small hydro scheme (Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford) and farm-based biogas cheese production facility (Adamstown, Co. Wexford).

##### **c) INTERREG European Coastal Mountains (ECOAM) project, 2008/2010**

WUC has been asked to consider participation in the project by National Parks and Wildlife Service. Colin Murphy will be attending a preliminary meeting in Cantabria, Spain, on 28 February and will report to next Board meeting.

##### **d) PURE**

Colin Murphy reported Ian Davis's apology that article in Irish Times 20 February mentions all PURE stakeholders except WUC, despite WUC being included in press release. It was suggested that a PURE press release should be issued on WUC letterhead.

##### **e) Chairing**

Pat Ewen complimented Dermot Hand on his chairing of the meeting, seconded by Sean Malone.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**Coillte, Newtownmountkennedy**

**8.00pm**

**Joint meeting with Wicklow Dublin Mountains Board**

#### **Resolution of the Board of Wicklow Uplands Council**

Wicklow Uplands Council recognises that there are major concerns about future implementation of the European Landscape Convention and legislation for the governance of national parks and landscape management, especially in Co. Wicklow.

It is feared that the imposition of landscape categorisations and designations can have a negative effect on land and property uses and values.

Notwithstanding our responsibility to comply with existing or future legislation, Wicklow Uplands Council resolves by consensus that:

- These issues have major implications for us all. Consequently Wicklow Uplands Council will not support any initiatives or actions to promote landscape designations and/or categorisations or national park governance until the subject is fully debated by the Board and agreement reached by consensus on how to proceed.
- The response, if any, to future calls for public consultation will be regulated by the Board.

This resolution was adopted by the Board of Wicklow Uplands Council at its meeting on 20 February 2008.