



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

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## Motions approved at ADC on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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## **A. Group Water Scheme Subsidy and Capital Grants:**

1. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that sufficient subsidies continue to be available to group water schemes for operation & maintenance costs.

**Monaghan**

2. That this ADC instructs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that group water scheme operational subsidies are retained at levels sufficient to ensure the viability of the group water scheme sector.

**Mayo**

3. That this ADC instructs the board of the NFGWS to ensure that the GWS operational subsidy is retained for all GWSs and particularly those that entered into long term DBO contracts in good faith, on the understanding and in the expectation that subsidy for DBO Operational and Maintenance contracts would continue for the lifetime of the contracts.

**Sligo**

4. That the NFGWS Board seeks security on the current levels of Subsidy available to group water schemes in order to assist them fulfilling their requirements under the Drinking Water Regulations.

**Clare**

5. That the NFGWS requests guarantees in relation to the retention subsidies and allowances for Group Water Schemes.

**Leitrim**

6. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure the continuation of sufficient subsidies for the operation & maintenance of rural group water schemes.

**Louth**

7. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the Capital and Operational funding necessary for the future sustainability & development of the Group Water Scheme sector is continued in order to protect and underpin the investment and associated improvements that have been made and to ensure that top quality drinking water standards are maintained.

**Cavan**

8. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that Capital Grant Aid and Subsidies for group water schemes are kept in place.

**Galway**

9. That the Board seeks confirmation that the grant aid and annual subsidies, that GWSs are depending on to survive, will not be affected by the establishment of Irish Water.

**Limerick**

10. That the NFGWS Board ensures that the funding to the GWS sector under the RWP is maintained at current levels.

**Kilkenny**

11. That the NFGWS Board seeks to have voluntary work, completed by the GWS sector, included as an expense item for the purposes of operational subsidy and capital grants, similar to the arrangements that are in place for Leader grants.

**Kildare and Wicklow**

12. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure capital grant aid continues to be available for necessary improvements/upgrades in the group water scheme sector.

**Monaghan**

13. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure the continuation of capital grant aid for the improvement & necessary expansion of Group Water Scheme infrastructure.

**Louth**

14. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure capital investment grant aid continues to be made available for group water schemes to maintain and upgrade ageing infrastructure and networks into the foreseeable future.

**Clare**

15. That the NFGWS seek to secure a 2 year rolling budget for the RWP to assist group water schemes in completing upgrading works and spending their allocation as the current timeframe is too confined.

**Clare**

16. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure continuation of capital grant aid for the maintenance and improvement of group water scheme infrastructure.

**Roscommon**

17. That this ADC instructs the board of the NFGWS to ensure that the establishment of Irish Water and the associated Water Sector Reform process does not negatively affect the continuation of the much needed capital investment in the GWS sector through the Rural Water Programme which has resulted in the significant improvement in drinking water quality in rural Ireland.

**Sligo**

## **B. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water**

18. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that adequate Local Authority resources continue to be provided to Group Water Schemes, including suitably qualified Rural Water Liaison Officers, to ensure the success of the Rural Water Programme can continue.

**Monaghan**

19. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to seek to ensure that the same level of support services for the Rural Water Programme are kept in place Following reorganisation of the Water Services.

**Galway**

20. That this ADC instructs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the unique position of Publicly Sourced Group Water Schemes is acknowledged and catered for as part of the overall Water Sector Reform implementation strategy associated with the establishment of Irish Water. In particular, it is essential that recognition be given to the additional costs associated with network maintenance and administration when deciding on the price to be charged to these Group Water Schemes for water delivered at the bulk meter.

**Mayo**

21. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the good working relationship that exists between the GWS and the Local Authority will remain in place after the establishment of Irish Water.

**Roscommon**

22. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the good will established and enjoyed by Group Water Schemes, whereby land-owners allow permission to access sites of water abstraction points and treatment plants, is protected in any re-organisation of water services provision through the establishment of Irish Water.

**Louth**

23. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the well established partnership model of rural water services delivery (involving the GWS sector, the DECLG and the Local Authority) and particularly the GWS local support structures (L.A. rural water liaison officers and staff) are retained and strengthened as part of the Water Services Reform Programme associated with the establishment of Irish Water.

**Cavan**

24. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures in their negotiations through Work Stream 4, regarding the establishment of Irish Water and the associated Water Sector Reform, that the good relationship that has been developed between GWS sector and Local Authorities for advice, technical support and the administration of funding, remains in place for the future.

**Tipperary**

25. That the NFGWS ensures that the proposed Water Sector Reform Programme associated with the establishment of Irish Water takes into consideration the unique position of Group Water Schemes and their enormously important function in rural Ireland and that, in particular, it recognises the role of publicly sourced Group Water Schemes and how they operate in conjunction with local authorities. In this context the new board of Irish Water should be requested to clearly communicate its position in relation to Group Water Schemes.

**Leitrim**

26. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to;

- a. Ensure that the interests of the Group Water Scheme sector are protected and that the sector is not disadvantaged in any way as a result of any organisational changes that may arise through the establishment of Irish Water.
- b. Ensure that financial and organisational supports remain in place for the GWS sector so that rural Ireland can continue to benefit from the vibrant, efficient and sustainable service being provided through community owned and operated Group Water Schemes.

**Meath**

27. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that legislation ensures that Irish Water is kept in Irish Public Ownership.

**Galway**

### **C. Shale Gas extraction and Hydraulic Fracturing**

28. That the Board secures the protection of the GWS sources against fracking and liaises with those involved to identify areas that may be affected.

**Roscommon**

29. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to continue to monitor any developments with regard to proposals to extract shale gas using hydraulic fracturing and to ensure that the genuine concerns of the Group Water Scheme sector are highlighted and addressed.

**Cavan**

### **D. Miscellaneous**

30. That this ADC instructs the Board of the NFGWS to seek the restoration of CLÁR, or equivalent, funding for GWSs in order to facilitate the completion of schemes that have already invested substantial member funds on planning and design. CLÁR top-up funding is critical to the viability of these schemes and the withdrawal of funding for CLÁR measures has resulted in communities spending significant resources on a planning a piped drinking water supply with little prospect of realising their objectives.

**Mayo**

31. That the NFGWS ensures that all GWS Managers and Boards complete a course on effective management of their Co-operatives and Companies.

**Offaly**

32. That the NFGWS seeks to secure funding to complete source protection surveys on the all GWSs in the Country using the very successful pilot scheme in Limerick and Cork as a template.

**Limerick**

33. That the Board of the NFGWS, following the success of the Limerick/Cork pilot project on identifying the Zones of Contribution for ground water sources, continues its efforts to ensure that funding is made available to complete this work, as well as the development of full source protection plans for all GWS.

**Carlow and Wexford**

34. That the NFGWS Board explores methods of using existing GWS structures to handle community concerns about domestic waste water treatment system inspections and future upgrades of such systems.

**Cork**

35. That the NFGWS promotes the utilisation of existing GWS structures as a platform for communities to set up neighbourhood watch communications in rural areas.

**Kilkenny**

36. That the NFGWS continues to try and negotiate a GWS rate or some form of discount with laboratories for affiliated GWS.

**Laois**

37. That the NFGWS seeks to have the Group Water Scheme sector excluded from the Revenue definition of Principal Contractors involved in Construction Services in the context of Relevant Contracts Tax and VAT.

**Laois**