



National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Society Ltd.

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Motions approved at ADC on 11th March 2015

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A. Capital Grants and Rural Water Programme Review:

1. That the NFGWS ensures the capital funding available through the Rural Water Programme remains in place following any review of the programme.

Tipperary

2. That the NFGWS seeks an increase in RWP funding as part of any programme review.

Kildare and Wicklow

3. That the NFGWS seeks to have the annual allocation of funding under the RWP increased and restored to pre-recession levels as part of any review of the programme.

Kilkenny

4. That the NFGWS ensures, in the context of any review of the Rural Water Programme, that the conditions and maximum per household levels of capital grant aid are clarified, and amended if necessary, to allow all GWSs to complete the two phases of their overall upgrading programmes; the provision of quality drinking water and the upgrading of the GWS network and distribution infrastructure.

Kilkenny

5. That the NFGWS Board works to ensure that the promised three/five year multi-annual rolling programme for RWP funding is finalised and implemented as soon as possible.

Cavan & Meath

6. That the NFGWS continues to ensure the introduction a multi-annual rolling funding structure for the Rural Water Programme as part of any review of the current arrangements.

Laois

7. That the NFGWS seek to ensure that a multi-annual Rural Water Programme is secured & implemented.

Monaghan

B. GWS operational funding – Subsidy

8. That Board of the NFGWS continues to ensure that the operational funding necessary for the future sustainability of the Group Water Scheme sector is maintained in order to ensure that top quality drinking water standards are maintained.

Cavan

9. That this ADC requests the NFGWS and the DECLG to examine and implement policies and mechanisms that will alleviate the disproportionate effect of the subsidy reduction on smaller GWSs.

Carlow/Wexford

10. That the NFGWS seeks to have the Annual Subsidy Claim form for GWSs simplified.

Offaly

11. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to seek the restoration of GWS subsidy rates to 2014 levels.

Leitrim

C. Source Protection and Rural Water Programme:

12. That the NFGWS seeks the extension of the very successful and cost efficient Specific Source Protection Works Category of Rural Water Programme funding to have financial assistance provided for GWSs towards the implementation of recommendations outlined in the preliminary source protection reports.

Carlow and Wexford

13. That the NFGWS seeks to have funding provided, through the Rural Water Programme, for source protection measures based on the recommendations from the ZOC studies.

Mayo

14. That this ADC directs the board of the NFGWS to seek to include an additional category under the RWP for implementation of source protection measures as a follow on to the ZOC/catchment mapping funding.

Monaghan

15. That this ADC direct the Board of the NFGWS to seek to request the Inclusion of a source protection category in the Rural Water Programme to help schemes successfully implement further source protection measures as recommended in the ZOC delineation reports.

Louth

16. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that all assessments of planning application give due consideration to GWS drinking water sources and their zones of contribution, including ZOC studies and reports completed under the rural water programme.

Roscommon

D. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water

17. That the NFGWS continues to represent the interests of GWSs Nationally in the context of the water sector reform programme.

Cork

18. That the NFGWS ensures that the unique position of Publicly Sourced Group Water Schemes as Irish Water consumers continues to be acknowledged and catered for as part of the overall Water Sector Reform programme associated with the establishment of Irish Water. It is particularly essential that the additional costs associated with maintenance and administration "downstream" of the bulk meter are given due consideration.

Cavan

19. That the NFGWS continues to seek clarification and certainty for GWSs supplied by Irish Water. There is particular need for such clarity regarding the arrangements that will apply in instances of failure by Irish Water to supply water meeting drinking water quality standards, in sufficient quantity and at sufficient pressure.

Laois

E. Shale Gas extraction and Hydraulic Fracturing

20. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that due consideration is given to GWS source zone of contribution / catchment reports by any organisation (consultants, companies, research teams etc.) involved in environmental impact assessments and site suitability assessments associated with proposals to extract shale gas using hydraulic fracturing.

Roscommon

21. 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 threats to ground water and the Group Water Scheme sector are presented to the relevant government bodies.

Leitrim

22. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to seek the inclusion of a public health impact assessment as part of any review of hydraulic fracturing which they undertake.

Leitrim

F. Miscellaneous

23. The NFGWS seek to secure accuracy in compliance monitoring regimes through the full implementation of the EPA recommendations under the Drinking Water Regulations handbook, particularly that Water Services Authorities consult with GWSs in formulating their annual compliance monitoring plans.

Monaghan

24. That the NFGWS Board carries out a comparative analysis of the compliance monitoring charges in place across all counties with a view to achieving standardisation and fairness for all group water schemes.

Louth

25. That the NFGWS seeks to have its annual grant restored by the DECLG in order to ensure that the valuable and much needed services provided to the GWS sector by the NFGWS may continue.

Sligo

26. That the NFGWS continues to hold workshops & seminars for GWS personnel similar to the very successful secretaries' and treasurers' seminars held in 2014 and the chairpersons' seminars delivered in 2013.

Kilkenny

27. That the NFGWS looks at the feasibility of a number of GWSs grouping together to appoint a common auditor in a bid to achieve cost savings.

Kildare and Wicklow

28. That the NFGWS examines ways in which GWSs might pool resources through the bulk purchase of goods and services with a view to achieving collective efficiencies and reducing costs in light of the reduction in subsidy rates.

Laois

29. That the NFGWS investigates the possibility of negotiating "bundle" Insurance deals for clusters of GWSs and the feasibility of negotiating the similar terms and conditions attaching to road opening licences for GWSs as are in place for Irish Water.

Limerick

30. That the NFGWS ensures that GWSs are provided with increased powers when dealing with infrastructure in private property and on public roads and more reasonable terms for GWSs when being considered for Road Opening Licences and associated Road Restoration costs.

Clare

31. That the NFGWS investigates the possibility of seeking amendments to legislation which would provide Group Water Schemes with equal powers to Irish Water when dealing with pipe lines/water mains through private property/lands.

Roscommon

32. That the NFGWS engages with the relevant authorities (RSA & HSA) with a view to having the very stringent Health & Safety Regulations applicable to road openings on MINOR roads relaxed.

Cork

33. That the NFGWS seeks to have the required frequency of RCT related VAT returns to Revenue reduced to annually or bi-annually for organisations, such as Group Water Schemes, that only occasionally need to use the system.

Cork

34. That the NFGWS seeks to establish better communication procedures for GWSs in their dealings with Electric Ireland, Iarnród Éireann, Irish Water and other relevant service providers.

Limerick

35. That the NFGWS communicate the concerns of publicly sourced group water schemes to Irish Water / DECLG / HSE regarding possible negative health effects of fluoridation of drinking water.

Galway

36. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that:

- a. Combined digital mapping of infrastructural services including water, sewerage & energy are created & shared to ensure that all service providers & appointed contractors are aware of nearby infrastructure before carrying out works .
- b. Irish Water & its contractors stop interfering with GWSs systems & property.
- c. Road opening licence conditions support a. & b. above to ensure transparency.

Louth