



National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Society Ltd.

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Motions for ADC on 9th March 2016

A. Capital Grants and Rural Water Programme:.....	1
B. GWS operational funding – Subsidy	2
C. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water	2
D. Drinking Water Compliance Monitoring	3
E. Ownership, Mapping & Road Opening	3
F. Miscellaneous.....	4

A. Capital Grants and Rural Water Programme:

1. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to secure DECLG funding which will assist and encourage Group Water Schemes to positively consider and advance rationalisation and amalgamation proposals as advocated in Circular L1/2016.

Leitrim

2. That the NFGWS continues to seek additional funding from the DECLG for GWSs interested in taking part in rationalisation/amalgamation projects.

Kildare & Wicklow

3. That the NFGWS ensures a realistic allocation of capital funding is made available under the multi-annual Rural Water Programme to enable the sector meet the onerous obligations imposed by the Water Services Acts and the Drinking Water Regulations. Funding needs to be restored to pre-recession levels immediately.

Cavan

4. That the NFGWS uses its best endeavours to ensure that the wishes of group water schemes that want to remain private are respected in every way through the various funding mechanisms and through measures aimed at maximising the sustainability of the sector.

Galway

5. That the NFGWS seeks to have 'Specific Source Protection Works' under Measure 2 of the recently announced multi annual rural water programme broadened and the funding limit increased to include necessary source protection works, such as the implementation of recommendations made in Zone of Contribution and Preliminary Source Protection Reports.

Laois

6. That this ADC directs 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 source protection measures as recommended in the ZOC delineation reports.

Louth

7. 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

8. That the NFGWS seeks to have emergency funding provided, through the Rural Water Programme, for Group Water Schemes who have suffered from the effects of flooding during the recent severe weather conditions which are more likely to reoccur as a result of Global Warming.

Mayo

9. That the NFGWS and the DECLG review the requirement for an employer's representative to oversee the replacement of very small items of plant as part of the conditions for receipt of grant aid towards DBO capital replacement works. In some cases the employer's representative fees are almost as expensive as the item of plant being replaced.

Kilkenny

B. GWS operational funding – Subsidy

10. That the NFGWS seeks to have the operational subsidy increased for smaller GWSs to take into account the significantly higher fixed costs (including insurances, auditors' fees, water quality monitoring etc.) per household incurred by these schemes relative to larger schemes. Many smaller GWSs exceed their maximum subsidy entitlement on the basis of these fixed costs alone and this difficulty has been exacerbated as a result of the 2014/15 subsidy review.

Laois

11. That the NFGWS seeks additional support and assistance for smaller GWSs experiencing basic operational costs that greatly exceed their annual subsidy entitlement.

Offaly

12. That the NFGWS seeks additional funding from the DECLG to cover all fixed costs associated with running smaller GWSs (such as Insurance and audit fees) in order to assist such schemes whose maximum subsidy entitlement is exceeded much sooner than larger schemes with similar fixed costs.

Carlow/Wexford

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

Sligo

14. That the NFGWS continues to ensure that the annual subsidy is adequately funded and maintained.

Galway

15. That the NFGWS ensures subsidy rates are immediately increased should domestic water charges on public water supplies be abolished by any future government.

Kildare & Wicklow

C. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water

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

Cork

17. That the board of the NFGWS ensures that the publicly sourced Group Water Schemes are not disadvantaged in any way when the longer term arrangements for Irish Water's non-domestic water charges are negotiated and agreed. It is imperative that the costs associated with distribution of water are adequately considered and that publicly sourced GWSs are in a position to supply their members with a competitively priced, quality water supply.

Cavan

18. That the NFGWS continues to represent publicly sourced GWSs in the development of simple, efficient and timely processes and procedures for the take-over of GWSs by Irish Water when such take-over is requested.

Clare

19. That the NFGWS seeks to have Irish Water compelled to take over “orphan” GWSs in their current condition, in the same way as Local Authority public schemes were taken over on 1st January 2014. Upgrading such GWSs in advance of take over through the Rural Water Programme is not an acceptable option as this has the potential to result in less funding and support services for GWSs with active and engaging committees of management.

Laois

D. Drinking Water Compliance Monitoring

20. That the NFGWS seeks to secure accuracy in compliance monitoring regimes through the full implementation of the EPA recommendations in the Drinking Water Regulations handbook, particularly the recommendation that the supervisory authority consults with GWSs in formulating its annual compliance monitoring plan.

Monaghan

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

Louth

22. That the NFGWS seeks to have all costs associated with compliance monitoring under the drinking water regulations funded separately under the rural water programme and not through the current operational subsidy arrangements. Many smaller schemes cannot afford to pay for compliance monitoring under the current arrangements.

Tipperary

23. That the NFGWS seeks to have the costs associated with statutory compliance monitoring under the drinking water regulations funded in full by the DECLG, particularly for smaller GWSs whose maximum subsidy entitlement is exceeded without the inclusion of such monitoring costs.

Carlow and Wexford

E. Ownership, Mapping & Road Opening

24. That the NFGWS to seek clarification on the ownership status of and the right of access to GWS water services infrastructure in private roadways and to seek additional powers for GWSs if necessary.

Clare

25. That the NFGWS investigates the possibility of GWSs being provided with similar powers to other service providers when dealing with infrastructure in private lands.

Limerick and Roscommon

26. 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. Road opening licence conditions support a. above.

Louth

27. That the NFGWS seeks funding for the digital/GPS mapping of GWS networks/infrastructure.

Roscommon

28. That the NFGWS seeks advice regarding road opening procedures and licences for GWSs to ensure that GWSs can avail of equivalent arrangements as are in place for other service providers, particularly in emergency situations

Offaly

29. That the NFGWS ensures it is involved in any discussions or decisions regarding and proposed development of national standard road opening licence arrangements.

Limerick

30. That the NFGWS investigates the availability of companies that will provide GWSs with appropriate bonds at reasonable cost should such bonds be requested as part of the conditions for road opening licences.

Roscommon

F. Miscellaneous

31. 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

32. That the NFGWS ensures there will be no licence fee or other costs for GWSs in relation to any licensing arrangements that may be introduced.

Tipperary

33. That the NFGWS ensures the reactivation/establishment of Local Rural Water Monitoring Committees and meetings nationwide.

Monaghan

34. That the NFGWS actively encourages broader gender balance representation and participation at both local GWS, county and national federation level.

Monaghan

35. That the NFGWS continues to seek the option of Audit Exemption for co-operative societies so as to ensure parity with limited companies.

Cavan

36. That the NFGWS seeks an exemption on the requirement for audited accounts for GWS Co-operatives with small turnovers, similar to the exemption that small GWS companies can avail of.

Kildare & Wicklow

37. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to continue to monitor any developments regarding hydraulic fracturing and to ensure that the genuine threats to drinking water sources and the Public Health concerns of GWS members are presented to the relevant government bodies.

Leitrim

38. That the NFGWS recruits additional staff for the purpose of raising public awareness of water quality issues and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive through engaging with schools and communities GWS areas.

Carlow and Wexford

39. That the NFGWS seeks to have the water conservation grant application process reopened for GWS members who genuinely missed the original closing date.

Sligo