

Minutes of ElectricAid Committee Meeting held on 23rd March, 2021
Conference Call due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Attendees via Skype and phone:

Judith Doherty Hilary Boyse Niamh Delaney Pauline Holland John Kelly James Foley
 Finola O'Donnell Paul Cox Gillian O'Regan Gerry Mooney Zoe Murphy
 Joe Lawlor Aisling Delaney Bernie O'Connor Fergal Fitzgerald Mary Kavanagh
 Oonagh Dalton Jordana Santos Peter Kelly

Apologies: Éadaoin Smith Tony Merriman Deaglan O'Donail Eduardo Galeazzo

Item	Description	Action by
Address by ElectricAid Chairperson	Judith Doherty chaired the meeting as Éadaoin Smith was unable to attend.	
Presentation by Christian Blind Mission (CBM)	<p>Fergal Fitzgerald introduced Christian Blind Mission Ireland (CBM) to make their presentation.</p> <p>The CBM Ireland presentation was made by: Sarah O'Toole (CEO), Lou Talbot Beirne (Programme Manager) and Sanita Lielbarde (Programme and Grants Officer):</p> <p>CBM was established in 1908 and operates in 52 countries; CBM Ireland was established in 2002.</p> <p>CBM Ireland's work focusses on four core areas – disability-inclusive community; inclusive humanitarian action; inclusive eye health and community health.</p> <p>CBM Ireland operates in 7 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. CBM have been in receipt of over €200,000 since their first application in 2009.</p> <p>Sarah O'Toole pointed out that very few donors give grants greater than €5,000; have limiting restrictions and tight reporting requirements.</p>	
Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest were reported.	
Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendment. Matters arising are dealt with under the following sections below. Proposed: John Kelly, Seconded: Paul Cox.	
ElectricAid Office Update	<p>Fergal Fitzgerald gave the Key Performance Indicators for the year to date:</p> <p>There have been 31 fundings across 19 countries with grants totalling €354,432. Of this total, €227,066 has been granted to Special Partners. It was also pointed out how the ElectricAid funding meet the requirements of the United Nations Strategic Development Goals (UN SDGs). ElectricAid has supported Covid-19 projects worldwide (26 programmes; €218,288) and in Ireland (11 programmes; 59,239)</p> <p>Membership figures continue to show a slight decrease among serving staff while pensioner numbers remain static. This remains a matter for concern for ElectricAid and will be addressed by the Membership group and the Main committee.</p> <p>Two other matters discussed are reported under the Evaluation Group section below.</p>	
Finance Group Report	Hilary Boyse reported on behalf of the Finance Group:	

	<p>Overall, no issues to report. The income for 2021 is forecast to be down for ESB staff members due to a reduction in membership numbers. Keeping a close eye on cashflow forecast.</p> <p>Preparation for the annual audit is underway with papers submitted to the auditors. It is expected that the audit will be signed off in time for the next ElectricAid meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: James Foley, seconded Paul Cox.</p> <p>The draft agreement between Eirgrid and ElectricAid has been written. The agreement between ESB and ElectricAid is valid until September 2021.</p>	
Evaluation Committee Report	<p>The Evaluation Group assessed 19 applications seeking a total of €227,480. The Group recommended 16 applications with a total value of €174,157. The spread of applications is: Burkina Faso (1), Chad (1), Ethiopia (3), Kenya (3), Mauritania (1), Mozambique (1), Palestine (1), South Sudan (1), Zimbabwe (1), Brazil (1), Guatemala (1) and Nepal (1).</p> <p>Proposed: Peter Kelly, seconded: Finola O'Donnell</p> <p>20-A-142 had been granted €7,867 for a project in Malawi. However, owing to currency fluctuations the project was underspent by €900. It was proposed that the outstanding amount be used for an additional project in the same location and this was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Aidlink informed ElectricAid that (20-A-118; €8,000) had been forwarded to their partner in Uganda and that the monies had been misappropriated by someone in their partner organisation. Aidlink had advanced this money from their own funds in advance of getting the monies from ElectricAid. It was agreed that subject to assurances from Aidlink that proper governance controls are introduced and implemented that ElectricAid would make the funds available.</p>	
Governance Group Report	<p>Peter Kelly reported that there had not been a Governance Group meeting since the last main committee but that the group would be reviewing the Risk Log and bringing a discussion paper to the next meeting.</p>	
Membership Group Report	<p>Judith Doherty gave an update on the planning and strategy development process. Discussion documents have been circulated and several meetings will take place before the next executive meeting.</p> <p>The Value Added and Evaluation process videos have been completed and will be briefed to members as follows: Customer Solutions: April 2021 Eirgrid: June 2021 EMP: August 2021 Networks: October 2021</p>	
AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Kavanagh announced that she will be leaving her position to take up a role in Group Internal Audit. The committee thanked her for all the work she has done for ElectricAid and wished her well in her new position. 2. Judith Doherty advised that committee should make known their intentions to go forward for the committee after the AGM before the next meeting. 	

Meetings Schedule for 2020/1

Application Deadline	EvalCo	Executive Committee	Other Meetings
	11th May 2021	25th May 2021	