



Association of Drainage Authorities

Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
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Email admin@ada.org.uk
Website www.ada.org.uk

SEEKING A VICE-CHAIR – ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

About the role

As Vice Chair you will be an ambassador for the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA), promoting the importance of water level management and expanding public interest in the field. This vital and highly visible role within the organisation is at the forefront of our decision making. You will work closely with the Chief Executive and the Chair, and externally with Government bodies and key stakeholders. Through your demonstration of leadership, we will look to you as the primary candidate for the Chairmanship after 12 months. Channelling your passion and knowledge of the industry, you will complete your term as Vice Chair with extensive experience of strategic management and decision influencing on a national level. This is a great opportunity to take pride in the independence of the organisation and help us to maintain and develop our integrity.

You will commit on average 2 – 3 days per month for the attendance of Board and Committee meetings, the Annual ADA Conference, and a variety of ADA Branch meetings, tours of inspection and stakeholder engagement meetings. Reasonable expenses are covered and the working location is flexible. The role requires regular travel throughout the UK and, at times, further afar.

About you

You are a highly respected and trusted leader in your field of work, with strong business acumen and a keen interest in the flood risk and water management sector. As someone with a wide network already, you have an affinity with the work of the ADA and our members. Your communication, leadership and networking skills are impeccable. You can influence and negotiate with others on a senior level, commanding respect across the political and business spectrum. Though you do not need to be political, you will be comfortable building relationships with MPs and Government bodies.

About us

ADA is the water level management organisation in the United Kingdom, with over 230 membership organisations and around 4,000 people working across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. From working with Government and its agencies, to playing an important role in flood risk management, our influential work is wide-ranging and ever-changing. Now is an exciting time for us, as we look to broaden our role across the country by promoting the importance of water level management to the UK economy, and supporting the interest of drainage authorities at national and parliamentary levels.

To apply

Please submit a covering statement under 500 words expressing your interest and suitability for the role (please refer to Appendix 1 – Duties of the Chair), with your CV, to innes.thomson@ada.org.uk. Alternatively, submissions can be sent to: Innes Thomson, Chief Executive, Association of Drainage Authorities, Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, CV8 2LG.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2016, with shortlisting completed by 23rd March. Interviews are expected to take place on 11th April 2016.

The membership body for water level management

Member of the European Union of Water Management Associations

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Appendix 1 – Duties of ADA Chair

- a) Ensure effective communication with members, the government and its appropriate departments and other relevant stakeholders and that the views of these groups are understood by the Board.
- b) Set an agenda which is primarily focused on strategy, performance, value creation and accountability, and ensure that issues relevant to those areas are considered by the Board.
- c) Ensure that the Board determines the nature and extent of the significant risks the Company is willing to embrace in the implementation of its strategy, and that the Board reviews on an ongoing basis the effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems.
- d) Set the agenda, style and tone of Board discussions to promote constructive debate and effective decision-making.
- e) Manage the Board to ensure that adequate time is allowed for discussion of all agenda items (in particular strategic issues) and to ensure that complex or contentious issues are dealt with effectively.
- f) Ensure the building of an effective and complementary Board, regularly consider its composition and balance, diversity, and succession planning for Board and senior management appointments.
- g) Ensure that the Company maintains a dialogue with its members about governance and strategy.
- h) Support the Chief Executive in the development of strategy and, more broadly, to support and advise the Chief Executive.
- i) Ensure that the performance and effectiveness of the Board, its main committees and individual directors is formally evaluated on an annual basis.
- j) Act on the results of the performance evaluation by recognising the strengths and addressing the weaknesses of the Board and, where appropriate, proposing new members be appointed to the Board or seeking the resignation of directors.

Innes Thomson

Chief Executive, ADA

November 2015

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