



TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8 June 2017
at CIWEM, 106-19, Saffron Hill, Farringdon, London EC1N 8QS**

Present: Trevor Purllant (TP) (Chairman)

Ian Benn (IB), Cliff Carson (CC), Priscilla Haselhurst (PH), Chris Manning (CM), John Oldfield (JO), Paul Sharman (PS), Martin Shilling (MS), David Thomas (DT) (Honorary Secretary), Innes Thomson (IT) (Chief Executive)

Apologies: Alison Briggs (AB), Henry Cator (HC), Kate Halka (KH), Robert Caudwell (RC) Ian Russel (IR) Pete Denham (PC), Rob Cathcart, Karen Thomas (KT) Peter Bateson (PB) (Company Secretary), Roy Lobley (RL)

In Attendance: Aimée Scanlon (AS), Sue Crowther (SC)

Ref	Minute	Action
1427	<p>Welcome</p> <p>TP welcomed committee and gave apologies.</p> <p>TP explained that Rob Cathcart (RC) has moved positions, and in future Emily Dresner will be the new representative from Natural England.</p>	
1428	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>IT explained that ADA will be working to update the guidance on declarations of interest and to provide additional clarity and similarity with local authorities. On a separate note, DT suggested ADA might also look into providing some guidance on charging for freedom of information requests in the interest of national consistency</p> <p>The Committee were also made aware of the changing rules around the Data Protection Act, due to come into force In May 2018</p> <p>Action: ADA to consider changing rules around the Data Protection Act and review</p>	ADA
1429	<p>Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2017 were agreed as a true and fair record, proposed by CM seconded by DT</p>	
1430	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Min 1403: Ref. Report on Somerset Dredging by Nick Stevens which some committee members may not have received. Action: IT to re-send</p>	IT
1431	<p>Health, Safety & Welfare</p> <p>IB began by discussing how well Floodex 2017 went and giving thanks to ADA. Explained presentations from Floodex are available for downloading from the</p>	

	<p>ADA website.</p> <p>IB then presented the Healthy and Safety report – June 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticks and Lyme disease – IB emphasised that if employees who work outdoors get a tick they must document it so others are aware of the risk. CM discussed how using the right tools is imperative to avoiding disease when removing the tick. • Sun Awareness – IB recommended that employees are protected from the sun, in the work environment due to the threat of skin cancer. • Employee welfare – IB discussed making sure that adequate welfare facilities are available, for staff working in the field. This may take a variety of forms but managers need to demonstrate that they have considered and planned for making appropriate facilities available and that staff know where they are, if they choose to use them. • Transportation of work equipment – IB explained that it may be the case you need a specific license for the transportation of work equipment on a low loader. Action IB to research this and keep committee informed • Correspondence with HSE on CDM – No clear answer about specific examples but CDM certainly applies to all maintenance activity where such activity takes place on a designed structure. Accepting that structures such as pumping stations, sluices, culverts, bridges and embankments were designed structures or resulted from construction activities, there was little doubt that CDM regulations need apply. The situation was less clear about whether ditches and drains fell into the category of ‘designed structures’. Whether or not CDM rules applied, all agreed that the planning of any works from a healthy and safety angle was an essential part of any IDB or contractor activity on our watercourses and drains. JO suggested that the committee may wish to consider providing industry advice although considerable care will need to be taken on how that might be done from a legal responsibility perspective. 	<p>IB</p>
<p>1432</p>	<p>Floodex Feedback</p> <p>IT presented the committee with an overview of how Floodex UK 2017 went. There were the same amount of exhibitors as last year and over a thousand attendees. This mirrored Floodex 2016, although the sizes of the stands were smaller resulting in less income. The next Floodex is to be provisionally held on 6th / 7th Feb 2019. This caused concern with committee members because of the 15th Feb deadline for setting drainage rates. <i>[Post-meeting note: new dates of 27th/28th Feb have been proposed]</i></p> <p>a) Results of ADA feedback survey</p> <p>IT explained that the ADA team at Floodex asked various exhibitors 4 simple questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did the event meet with your expectations - What frequency of event would you prefer? - What format of show do you prefer? - What business have you done at the show? <p>Feedback so far is based on 39 responses out of 60 possible.</p>	

	<p>Feedback varied, but overall was positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% of exhibitors scored 7 out of 10. • 28% scored 5 or 6. • 15% scored 1 - 4. <p>Frequency of the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under half said happy with an annual event • Over half said biennial (every other year) <p>Format of show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56% very happy with current show format. • 20% would like to see a bigger event with a larger footfall. • 15% more interested in having a demonstration as part of the event. <p>General Exhibitor Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority said they physically had not done any business, however several said it was good for future pipeline business. • Exhibitors commented that the Floodex dinner was useful for business & networking. • Aesthetic / front of house needs improving with better show signage. • Needs a robust attitude on the pricing, no last minute deals. <p>b) Committee feedback</p> <p>Target audience:</p> <p>TP – Suggests a stronger focus on target audience and providing tailored events and seminars for them.</p> <p>CM – Fed back that a new member of staff from an LLFA did not learn much from the event. Look into providing something for this audience.</p> <p>CM – Suggested retention of visitors is important and needs to be looked at.</p> <p>IT – Stated that potential partners with LASSOO & UK Irrigation Association for future Floodex as there is an interest in combining</p> <p>DT /IB – Discussed how difficult it was to get board members to attend.</p> <p>IT – Notes have been taken on how to attract those who work at IDBs. Providing a demonstration would attract this target audience.</p> <p>Action: IT to research possible mechanisms for future-demonstration events.</p> <p>Floodex Dinner:</p> <p>TR – Poor service, meal was average.</p> <p>JO – Short of vegetables, limited stock of wine. Felt restricted. (2.5 glasses of wine was not enough)</p> <p>Action: IT / HB Feedback from sponsors on the dinner & report back to committee. IT /HB Feedback to the Marriott that the event was received poorly.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <p>JO – Suggested running Floodex at the end of Feb due to board meeting</p>	<p>IT</p> <p>IT/HB</p>
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	<p>season. PH – Signage was poor – had problems with getting a taxi / transport to the event as the taxis were not sure where to go collect passengers.</p> <p>c) <u>Headline finances</u> IT explained the components of this year’s draft finances as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Income: £161,000 compared to 2016 Income: £199,000. However, costs for this year were much less: £109,000. Compared to 2016 costs of £123,000 ÷ • Overall profit as reported by Indigo Media: £52,110 • The costs and income that we look at: £5,106 ADA costs for this event 2017. Costs have gone up from 2016, as we needed to invest more time in preparing the show brochure. • Floodex dinner: net gain of £1,440 <p>d) <u>Future options and recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT proposed a free bar before the event, with a set pricing limit. May decide to put more behind the bar as there was a surplus this year. • The committee discussed running the event on alternative years to Flood & Coast. To offer our support to the EA / Flood & Coast to ensure chances of this happening. It was agreed that we should aim to offer reciprocal support to EA / Flood & Coast to increase the chances of this happening. <p>e) <u>Floodex Europe</u> IT explained how Floodex Europe is interwoven with a complete water week in Amsterdam, which overall is a prominent European water industry event. IT explained to the committee that ADA has no business links with the operation of Floodex Europe. However, some ADA members are planning to attend Floodex Europe and ADA staff will be helping out at the EUWMA stand.</p>	
1433	<p><u>Committee work streams 2017</u> The Committee agreed work group leaders for each work stream and discussed progress and objectives for each project.</p> <p>a) <u>Water Transfer Licencing (PS Lead)</u> IT expecting to renew discussions with Defra post-election. Andrew Newton from Ely Group of IDBs is keen to remain involved in discussions. ADA have made strong representations to Defra about the state of proposals so far, and their inadequacy, which Defra have advised are being taken into account.</p> <p>b) <u>Demaining & Asset transfer (KT Lead to be confirmed with her)</u></p> <p>c) <u>Eels & fish passage (DT Lead)</u> CM - £21,000 for eel research has been gathered for research for over 2 years CM – Chinese mitten crab issues appear to be increasing following the introduction of fish passage measures which may be encouraging transfer into watercourses. This issue had been overlooked but the Environment Agency are looking for research money.</p>	

	<p>DT – There are still issues with speed of progress on various issues, especially relating to screening. Action: IT to raise this with Environment Agency</p> <p>d) Biodiversity 2020 (CM Lead)</p> <p>e) Emergency response & recovery (IT Lead)</p> <p>f) Information dashboard (DT Lead, JO)</p> <p>g) Aquatic herbicides (CM Lead) Witham 4th contact – discussion about considering varied options for Aquatic herbicides. Different products, methods, different chemicals.</p> <p>Action: AS to send the P&F work stream leads to T&E Committee</p>	<p>IT</p> <p>AS</p>
1434	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments CM presented a combined document with both English and Welsh EIA regulations showing together. CM highlighted particular points as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Heritage has been removed from the statutory consultees. • Natural England are still statutory consultees, however worried about their purpose. • Under section 2, Interpretation (improvement works), its definition in clause i) uses the word “alter”. It is not clear what the word “alter” covers and CM to provide text for ADA to send to Defra seeking clarification. <p>Action: CM to draft text for ADA to raise with Defra about, what adding / altering means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft regulations consulted on proposed a 60 day time limit for the appropriate authority (Defra) to make a determination as to whether improvement works would have a significant effect on the environment. In the final regulation this determination period was reduced to 45 days. <p>Action: CM clarify regulation to IT</p> <p>Action: The overall combined document needs an introductory half page to explain what this is, and then needs to be edited and formatted. CM / SC</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>CM</p> <p>CM / SC</p>
1435	<p>Himalayan Balsam CM – The matter is unresolved, and CM will keep the committee posted.</p>	
1436	<p>Demaining Pilots IT – Ran through the 5 main demaining pilots:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norfolk and Suffolk Rivers (Norfolk Rivers IDB, Broads IDB and Norfolk County Council) 2. South Forty Foot Drain, Lincolnshire (Black Sluice IDB) 3. Snow Sewer, North Lincolnshire (Isle of Axholme & North Nottinghamshire WLMB) 4. Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook, Herefordshire (River Lugg IDB) 	

	<p>5. Stour Marshes, Kent (River Stour IDB)</p> <p>The 3 strands around the demaining projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining the governance of each of the boards involved • Checking the local community are supportive through consultation • Increased reporting by IDBs back to Defra. <p>The drainage boards need to be clear on the composition of their boards and levels of attendance at board meetings. Summer public consultations have been delayed until Autumn and preparation work will resume post-election. IT mentioned that certain additional IDBs were interested in demaining sections of watercourses in their areas but were awaiting resolution of ownership and maintenance of assets, for example, at Great Clough pumping station, Selby IDB.</p>	
<p>1437</p>	<p>EA/LLFA updates</p> <p>PD Absent</p> <p>PH – LASSOO update; meeting next month. Discussions are taking place between LASSOO and ADA about possible future working relationships to better promote sustainable drainage.</p> <p>IT –Reported ADA’s involvement with Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT). Group chaired by Steve Willis, Lincs CC. Website at www.adeptnet.org.uk</p>	
<p>1438</p>	<p>EUWMA technical meeting</p> <p>DT presented the highlights and interests from ADA’s visit to the mid-term EUWMA technical meeting in Dithmarschen, North Germany, where the group was hosted by the local Water & Drainage Board:</p> <p>Shared practice highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H&S: A more relaxed approach was noted, with a bigger expectation of common sense and care for others. Different culture within work place. Reduced signage. Working safely is culturally more inherent within the industry, therefore does not need additional rules and regulation. • Environment: Fish friendly pumps not a high priority, possibly something for future. Attitude was that pumping stations were there for flooding purposes. If they fail it is bad so they need to be simple and reliable. Eels were understood and dealt with by seasonal transfer across/around obstacles. • Climate Change: Much more advanced, with a Board level focus on the impact of climate change. The Water Board have invested in 3 wind turbines each power rated at 3MW and standing over 200m high. • Electricity: Load balancing with electricity – if there is a time of day when there is an excessive amount of electricity, you can actually be paid for using it. Germany want to concentrate on renewables and have a plan to decommission all nuclear power plants. The target is to be 100% reliant upon renewable power. • Carbon foot print: As an industry we have been struggling to know what direction to go in. Suggested in future for ADA to take lead to reduce carbon footprint in the UK. 	

	<p>Difficulties faced from boards overseas:</p> <p>Germany:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board co-operation. • Did not have a conservation officer, but had been challenged on this and were looking into options. <p>France:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are getting more involved in flood risk management. They have community groups who manage local watercourses, and are expressing potential interest in taking over the management of some watercourse lengths from French water management authorities. 	
1439	<p>AOB</p> <p>Dates for 2018 meetings agreed:</p> <p>9th January 2018 10.00 – 12.30</p> <p>5th June 2018 11.30 – 15.00</p> <p>19th Sept 2018 11.30 – 15.00</p>	
1440	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 20th September 2017 – all day meeting, CIWEM, Saffron Hill, Farringdon, 11.00 coffee with 11.30 start, finishing at 15.00.</p>	