

ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES TRENT BRANCH



MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY 2014 AT THE WILLOW WORKS, OLD TRENT ROAD, BECKINGHAM

Representatives of the following Boards and Authorities were present:-

Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board
Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board
Sow and Penk Internal Drainage Board
Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

Environment Agency
Bassetlaw District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council

Guests and Speakers:-

Henry Cator – Chairman of Association of Drainage Authorities
Paul Lockhart – Environment Agency
Andy Wallace – Nottinghamshire County Council

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed delegates and guests to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from, Cllr. Mr W. Eckhardt (Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB), A Arden, W. Staunton and R. Warburton (Trent Valley IDB).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013 were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

With regard to minute 1.6 of the minutes, Cllr. Allcock asked members to note that the Isle of Axholme Strategy had now been signed off by the Environment Agency.

4. Incorporation of ADA and Implications for Branch

Henry Cator explained the need for ADA to become incorporated, and that as the industry is changing so must the Association. A new structure was to be put in place including a much strengthened Branch structure.

The Secretary showed a selection of slides regarding the Branch Constitution and the following agreements were made;

Membership of the Branch would be available to all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) within the Branch area who are fully subscribed members of ADA National.

Branch Meetings to be held annually in February and AGMs to be held annually in June.

Branch Officers would consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary/Treasurer. It was proposed by Cllr. Alcock and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. L. Redfern that the term of appointment for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary be for a period of three years.

It was further AGREED to appoint by invitation Simon Thackray, Director of Finance for Trent Valley IDB and Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB and Craig Benson, Principal Analyst Shire Group of IDBs as Honorary Auditors to the Branch.

Voting at Branch meetings would be on the basis of one member authority one vote.

The four larger IDBs of the Branch AGREED to continue to host the February Branch meetings in rotation.

On advice from the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, it was proposed by Mr. R.J. Adam and seconded by Cllr. J. Rickells that no subscription fees for 2014 are to be sent out.

The draft Constitution for the Branch would be updated and presented at the 2014 AGM for formal adoption.

5. Election of Branch Representative to ADA Executive Board

Two nominations had been received as follows;

- (1) Ian Benn – Clerk and Chief Executive of the Shire Group of IDBs
- (2) Malcolm Harris – Chairman of Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB and ADA Trent Branch.

A ballot was held, 9 votes were cast and, Malcolm Harris was elected to represent the Branch on the ADA Executive Board, Ian Benn was asked to act as a non-voting stand in/substitute should Mr. Harris be unable to attend.

6. ADA National Update

Henry Cator, Chairman of the Association of Drainage Authorities addressed members with the emphasis being on the current flooding situation and the “blame culture” stating that he was keen for the Association to keep out of political point scoring.

Henry advised he would be visiting Somerset the following weekend and then giving evidence to the EFRA committee with ADA's CEO the following week.

Henry passed an article round from a newspaper showing the River Parrett in Somerset, the series of photographs showed how it looked many years ago and how much narrower it is now. This he suggested was indicative of how changes to maintenance regimes of rivers had not benefitted land drainage and flood protection standards.

Any similar evidence of deteriorating standards or information on works required in the Trent area were requested to be fed back to Henry prior to the EFRA committee session.

In conclusion, Henry thanked all members for their continued support of ADA and of land drainage and flood risk management in the Trent area.

The Secretary circulated details of this year's ADA National Local Authority Seminar.

A question and answer session followed.

7. Environment Agency Matters

Paul Lockhart was introduced by the Chairman to deliver a presentation on the Strategic Reviews Response which was the EA's response to the current round of budget cuts. He also made reference to 2015/2016 Allocation Process and 6 year capital programme settlement to be given to the EA by Defra which would be included in the Autumn Statement for 2014. He encouraged strong MTP bids from Local Authorities and IDBs and stated these needed to be submitted by the end of February.

Andrew McGill stated in addition to the 6 year Capital Works Programme, a 6 year maintenance works plan should be presented to Defra by the EA.

Matt Goodall then made a brief presentation on where IDB precept monies would be spent in 2014/2015 highlighting supporting the pumping network and on recovery works in various places after the East Coast tidal surge in December 2013.

Of particular satisfaction to members, Matt outlined plans for 2014/2015 to include maintenance of the Trent defences and the pumping and river network for channel conveyance.

He thanked all IDBs for working with the EA and stated that in his opinion, the challenging revenue situation could only be addressed by working together. Both he and Ian Russell (EA/IDB Liaison) highlighted the new Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) as a vehicle for delivery of joint activity.

David Hoskins reported that bids for recovery works support in the Midlands Region following the December tidal surge had been granted and that full details would be available soon.

8. LLFA Matters

Andy Wallace, Flood Risk Manager for Nottinghamshire County Council gave an update on Flood Risk Management in Nottinghamshire stating the Council now has a more active role in land drainage. The presentation illustrated the problems they were facing as a Lead Local Flood Authority. Andy stated that Nottinghamshire County Council were 11th out of 151 LLFA's areas identified as being at risk of flooding.

The Chairman thanked Andy for his update.

9. Annual General Meeting

The AGM would be held on Wednesday 4th June 2014 at the Doncaster Knights RUFC. The Secretary asked for any agenda items that the Branch needed addressing in the conference section of the meeting to be sent to him soonest.

10. Any other business

Notification that the ADA National Conference is to be held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 in London was received.

The annual IDB/EA Liaison meeting for 2014/2015 is to be held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at the Doncaster Knights RUFC.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked all speakers and guests and encouraged wide attendance by RMA members and officers at future Branch meetings.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm

Attachments – Presentations by Paul Lockhart (EA) and Andy Wallace (NCC).