

1 MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2013 AT GRANGE PARK GOLF CLUB, MESSINGHAM.

Representatives of the following Boards were present:-

Doncaster East
Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire
Scunthorpe and Gainsborough
Sow and Penk
Trent Valley

Guests and Speakers:-

Henry Cator	Chairman - ADA
David Hickman	Lincolnshire County Council
David Hoskins	FCRM Advisor Partnership & Strategic Overview – Environment Agency
Matt Goodallt	Operations Manager North – Environment Agency

1.1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed delegates and guests to the Branch meeting and advised those present of his intention to stand down at the Annual General Meeting in June. He thanked members for their continued support during his term of office and was stepping aside to allow a “younger man” to take over.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from

- Doncaster East IDB - K Knight, R Chapman, C Goodall P Cornish and K Durdy
- Doncaster East IDB (Officers) – P Jones, I Benn and M Spoor
- Sow and Penk IDB – R Sutherland and A Parrott
- Trent Valley IDB – A McGill
- Environment Agency – P Lockhart and J Pygott
- Isle of Axholme and North Notts WLMB – R Alcock

1.3 Branch Matters

The Chairman and Secretary reiterated their intention to stand down from their roles at the AGM in June and requested that any nominations for the positions should be made in writing to the Secretary as soon as possible. The Secretary also informed members that there would also be a vacancy for a Branch representative on the ADA Executive Committee. Again nominations should be received by the Secretary in writing. This position is only for a year as the three Branch representatives term of office comes to an end next year.

The Secretary informed members that the AGM would be held on the 5 June 2013 at Castle Park, Armthorpe.

On a final note, the Secretary gave an update on the Annual Branch Golf Competition. This was cancelled last year, due to the adverse weather conditions, and due to time constraints it might be difficult to schedule the event this year. Members were asked to express their interest in this competition continuing in the future.

1.4 ADA Matters etc

Henry Cator, Chairman of ADA, expressed his sincere thanks to Ian Fowler for all his service to the industry. "You should be very proud as we are" "We Salute You" All those present showed their appreciation to Ian by giving a round of applause.

Henry then addressed the audience and confirmed that ADA have now a seat on the EFRA Committee and this has given them the opportunity to get their message across. He expressed concern over the continual decline in the Environment Agency's maintenance budget and the effects that this was having and would have in the future. "We appear to be living in a back to front world where common sense has gone out of the window". What is the point of putting up new structures if you cannot afford to maintain what you already have.

Henry thanked all members for their continued support and encouraged them to attend the ADA working demonstration.

There then followed a question and answer session.

1.5 Lincolnshire County Council

David Hickman was warmly introduced by the Chairman to deliver a presentation on the steps taken by the Council as the LLFA for their district. The presentation is available from the Secretary on request. The areas covered were the main responsibilities and duties of the Council, Flood Zone 3 maps, Partnership approach to working, Strategy and Action Plans, Mapping Data and the Delegation of Powers IDBs.

There then followed a question and answer session.

1.6 Environment Agency

David Hoskins updated members as to the progress of the Isle of Axholme Strategy, it was still with the Agency's large project group and all of Defra's questions had been answered. They are waiting for it to be signed off. The standard of protection will probably end up at 1:75 for the area. The Agency were taking steps to implement the strategy and were establishing groups with their partners to help with the delivery.

Matt Goodall updated members on the restructuring of the Agency. He confirmed that the Agency's capital budget had been increased whilst their maintenance budget had been cut. He also confirmed that the IDB precept was now coming to the operations team and will fund direct work on the ground. The monies will be used to protect the Trent defences.

There then followed a question and answer session.

1.7 Thanks to Speakers/Guests

The Chairman thanked Henry, David, David and Matt for their participation at the meeting and then closed the meeting.