**Association of Drainage Authorities - Lincolnshire Branch**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa on Thursday 30th April 2015.

***PRESENT:***

Branch Chairman Mr N A Osborne - Witham First District IDB

Branch Secretary Mr P Bateson – Witham Fourth District IDB

Ancholme IDB Mr I Benn - Clerk

Black Sluice IDB Mr M Scott - Chairman

Mr K Casswell - Vice Chairman

Mr P Bedford – Member (also Witham 4th)

Mr P Holmes - Northern Works Chairman

Mr I Warsap - Chief Executive

Lindsey Marsh DB Mr G Crust - Member

Cllr Mrs P Watson – Member

Cllr W Parkinson (also NE Lindsey IDB)

Mr P Pridgeon - Member and ADA Board Director

Mr J Dodsworth - Member

Mr R Needham – Member

Mr DR Tagg - Member

Mr A McGill – Chief Executive

North East Lindsey DB Mr L Grooby - Chairman

Mr T Vessey - Chief Executive

Mr D Scott - Works Supervisor

North Level IDB Mr J Hoyles – Chairman

Mr M Sly – Vice Chairman

South Holland IDB Mr K Vines – Engineer

Upper Witham IDB Mr F H Myers - Chairman

Mr R H P Ballerini - Vice Chairman

Welland and Deepings IDB Mr T Purllant - Chairman

Mr D Branton - Vice Chairman

Mrs K Daft - Chief Executive

Witham First District IDB Mr R Fletcher – Chairman (also Branch Vice Chairman)

Mr M Shilling - Director of Operations (also Witham Third/Upper Witham)

Witham Third District IDB Mrs J E Froggatt - Chief Executive (also Witham First/Upper Witham)

Miss S Ireland - GIS/Rating Officer (also Witham First/Upper Witham)

Witham Fourth District IDB Mr J Grant - Chairman

Mr P Richardson – Vice Chairman

Mr C Hardy - Member

Mr A Carrott – Engineering Manager

Mr M Redding - Environmental Officer

***GUESTS:***

Mr Innes Thomson ADA Chief Executive

Mr Phil Younge EA Area Manager

Mr Mark Robinson EA Coastal Manager

Mr Robert Caudwell RFCC Chair

Mr Malcolm Harris Chairman ADA Trent Branch

Mr David Sisson Secretary ADA Trent Branch

Mr John Dennis Chairman ADA Northern Branch

Mr Eddy Allen Secretary ADA Northern Branch

Mr David Hickman Lincolnshire County Council

Mr Paul Tame NFU

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**  *Peter Bateson in the Chair*

It was proposed by Peter Pridgeon and then seconded and unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. N.A. Osborne be re-elected as Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year. Mr Osborne took the Chair and thanked the members for their support.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Fred Myers and seconded and unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. R. Fletcher be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**3. ELECTION OF BRANCH SECRETARY**

It was proposed by Peter Pridgeon and seconded and unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P. Bateson be appointed Branch Secretary for a period of 3 years.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr R Bolland Mr P Hoyes Mr P Sharman

Mr P Camamile Mr R Herring Mr D Withnall

Mr H Cator Mr R Leggott Mr D Worth

Mr J Hargreaves Mr S Markillie

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed all guests but in particular Innes Thomson ADA Chief Executive, to his first meeting.

He also mentioned the recent visit to Lincolnshire by colleagues from Somerset as they explore ways to work as a Partnership in that County. He thanked Jane Froggatt and Peter Bateson for organising the two day visit on behalf of the Lincolnshire Branch.

**6. MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st May 2014 be approved and these were duly signed by the Chairman.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising that did not appear later on the agenda.

**8. ADA NATIONAL UPDATE**

Innes Thomson began by thanking the Branch for their kind invitation and for the welcome he had received from ADA members and the existing ADA team in London. He said that Henry Cator was a vital link to ensuring continuity at ADA whilst the new team find their feet.

He said that the Branch structure was an important aspect of ADA and he was therefore impressed by the range of attendees in Lincolnshire including the County Council and the NFU.

He reported on matters currently engaging the ADA National Office:

* The Ada Gazette would include a new “Branch News” section to promote the work done at Branch level. ADA would also be delighted to continue to receive submissions from individual Boards.
* ADA have moved to a new serviced office location at Stoneleigh Park near the NFU headquarters and would shortly employ 2 staff to handle the office services, working alongside Ian Moodie. He invited all members to drop in and see the team if they were in the area.
* In Somerset, ADA were keen to get partners to keep options open regarding funding solutions rather than a single Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) option, and to think seriously about the consequences of what they do for others.
* The EA and ADA are working to resolve the liability clause issue on the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.
* The two ADA sub-committees meet 4 times a year and they both need Branches to submit items for debate or problems/issues to these committees.
* As a new CEO, Innes was keen to engage in pro-active communication and to emphasize what ADA manages and our water level management credentials to the new Government.

He finished by highlighting the following key dates for members and asked for any questions:

8 May 2015 Deadline for submissions to the next ADA Gazette

13 May 2015 ADA subcommittees meet

2 June 2015 ADA Golf Day at Sleaford

11 November 2015 ADA Conference at 1 Great George Street

9/10 March 2015 FloodEx 2016 at Peterborough Showground

Robert Caudwell said that he had chaired the meeting with Somerset colleagues on 25 April 2015 and it was clear that they didn’t know what they wanted. The newly proposed SRA precepting authority is a concern to everyone, particularly with the level of staffing proposed. There was agreement from members that the formation of the SRA would lead to the demise of IDB’s in Somerset. A better way forward would be to extend the IDB areas but the barrier to this is the 2% CAP on special levies imposed by DCLG.

**9. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP (LFR&WMP)**

David Hickman, Lincolnshire County Council, gave a brief report on Partnership matters highlighting the following:-

**9a. LFR&WMP REVIEW**

* The Partnership is now four years’ old
* The third publication of the Common Works Programme involving works for 2015/2016 has just been published
* The 3 year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering the arrangement for IDBs to exercise enforcement and supervision powers in extended areas on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (LLFA) would shortly be renewed
* The PSCA is being explored to allow it to cover any RMA working for another
* The Partnership has hosted visits from China, Germany and Somerset to share the best practice promoted by Lincolnshire
* DEFRA are aware of Lincolnshire’s model and we are seen as the place to go for policy development
* SUDS has finally started in April 2015

**9b. LFR&WMP CHALLENGES**

* The Partnership is beginning to work with the GLLEP on water resource management and as a result the Strategy Group has changed the name of the Partnership to reflect this to **Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership (LFR&WMP)**
* This link with the GLLEP will evolve a wider strategy for dealing with water supply management and will attract European Funding
* Change is a certainty and Lincolnshire wants to stay ahead of the game.

David thanked all IDB’s for their support in making the LFR&WMP a success and said IDBs were the rock on which the Partnership was based. He also paid tribute to the work done by Robert Caudwell as RFCC Chair as he retires from the role in July 2015. The following questions were asked by members:

* John Hoyles said that SUDS were a problem waiting to happen as there was no certainty that future maintenance would happen. David agreed.
* Pauline Watson asked whether ELDC planning authority were correct, that SUDS would stop inappropriate development? David responded that LCC were holding a series of briefing meetings to discuss SUDS to ensure that a workable solution could be found.

**9b. LFR&WMP - IDB PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION**

At a recent Clerks’ meeting the following roles were agreed:

Strategy Group - Sam Markillie and David Sisson

Management Group - Jane Froggatt, Ian Warsap, Peter Bateson and Karen Daft

Common Works Programme - David Sisson

Branch Secretary - Peter Bateson

Clerks’ Society Chairman - Andy McGill

Clerks’ Society Secretary - Jane Froggatt

Emergency Response - Daniel Withnall

Branch Auditor - Daniel Withnall

In addition, the Branch Secretary had been asked to sit on the GL LEP Water Management Board to represent ADA and this appointment was also approved.

**10. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MATTERS**

Phil Younge, Area Manager presented the EA report but began by thanking partners for their support during his first 12 months in the role and said Lincolnshire had a great reputation for working in Partnership which he had witnessed in practice. He went on to highlight the following:-

* The EA were supporting the partnership and this was evident through the development of the PPSCA and the work that they had done recovering from the 2013 tidal surge,
* Looking forward, the 6 year capital investment programme was part of the national £2.6 Billion allocated to flood defence works but efficiencies were being sought in order for the full programme to be delivered,
* Eel compliance continued to cause concern and a proportionate response to EU legislation is required but he was confident that if it could work, it would work in Lincolnshire,
* The EA were taking a long hard look at how they work near watercourses to ensure safe working and the results of this review would be shared with the partnership,
* The EA had a new National Director of Operations, Toby Willis, and Paul Leinster (CEO) would be replaced later in the year,
* Finally, Phil paid tribute to Robert Caudwell as he retires as RFCC Chairman after 10 years, during which time he had shown great leadership, and thanked him on behalf of the partnership.

During questions, The Branch Chairman praised the PSCA and hoped that the EA would support a longer commitment so that IDBs could plan for the future promise of work. Phil said he was comfortable with that proposal in principle.

James Grant said that he supported safer systems of work but hoped that common sense would prevail so that the EA did not stop doing the work. Andy McGill asked about the use of EA plant and manufacturer’s own rigs and Phil said that a detailed review of plant was currently taking place.

Andy Carrott suggested that one way of removing the operator risk would be to apply herbicide instead and for the EA to support the development of a safe alternative aquatic herbicide.

***Eels***

There were several questions regarding eel compliance and the potential cost of compliance to the IDB community at a time where eel fishing licences are still being issued.

Innes Thomson said that there was a national review taking place to look at situations where resolution is difficult and ADA will be part of the review team. Peter Pridgeon said the last ADA Board meeting had urged officers to look at how European colleagues are dealing with compliance to gather evidence for a proportionate response.

Robert Caudwell ended the discussion by urging IDBs to accept that there has been a decline in Eel numbers and to begin by looking at low cost pragmatic solutions first.

**11. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Sam Ireland presented a full report on the activities of the Branch Environment Committee highlighting the following:-

1. The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership DATA LOGGER project had recently recorded 90 sightings of water voles,
2. There were 20 spaces available at the non-native species workshop on 23 June 2015,
3. Eel Regulation trials were being conducted at St German’s and Hobhole Pumping Station and medium sized pumping station sites were also being sought for similar trials,
4. The meeting dates for 2015 have been circulated to Environment Committee members.

James Grant updated members on the development of alternative aquatic herbicides but sadly, Dr Newman reports that the Japanese parent company that makes Flumioxasin will not allow field trials and lab trials will not recreate the conditions needed. £30-£40K is needed to progress the development of lab tests. So every effort is being made to get this product to field trials and support from other Boards is important.

**11. LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW COMMITTEE**

The Show Committee Chairman Peter Richardson presented a report on preparations for the partnership's show stand for 2015 where there were to be 3 activities:

* The Countryside Lincs event is taking place on the Lincolnshire Showground on 29th March
* The main show stand would be manned at the main show on the 24th and 25th June.
* The schools challenge will also take place at the show and several schools have picked up the theme of drainage as part of their school project.
* ADA would be on the same plot as last year, the previous year's display had been revamped (by the enthusiastic committee) and made more interactive.

There was no report from the pay and conditions committee.

**12. APPROVAL OF BRANCH ACCOUNTS**

The Branch Secretary went through the accounts with members and they were approved by the Branch. The level of Branch Subscription for the 2015/16 year was set at the same level as the previous year.

**13. BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Following advice from the Secretary presented by the Branch Chairman it was unanimously RESOLVED that subscriptions remain the same for 2013/2014.

**14. 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was AGREED to hold the 2016 AGM in April/May 2016, the date and venue to be confirmed.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Branch, Norman Osborne thanked Robert Caudwell, the retiring RFCC Chairman, for all of his support during his tenure.

………………………………………. Chairman ………………………………………. Date