

## ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

### LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH & WELLAND AND NENE BRANCH MEETING

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the Branch held at The Inn, Woodhall Spa on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016:

#### ***Present:-***

R Fletcher	Lincs Branch Chairman & Member – Witham First IDB	
P Bateson	Lincs Branch Secretary & Chief Executive, Witham 4th IDB	
D Worth	W&N Branch Chairman & Member – South Holland IDB	
P Camamile	W&N Branch Secretary & Chief Executive, South Holland IDB	
Ancholme	C Benson	Finance Officer
Black Sluice	K Casswell	Vice Chairman
	M Brookes	Member
	I Warsap	Chief Executive
Lindsey Marsh	D Sisson	Engineer
North Level	P Sharman	Chief Executive
North East Lindsey	T Vessey	Chief Executive
Welland & Deeping	D Branton	Vice Chairman
Witham First, Witham Third And Upper Witham	P Gilbert	Member (W1)
	Mrs J Froggatt	Chief Executive
	M Shilling	Operations Manager
	Ms S Ireland	Environment Officer
Witham Fourth	A Carrott	Engineering Manager
Lincolnshire CC	D Hickman	Environment Commissioner
Environment Agency	J Ray	
<b><i>Guests:</i></b>		
ADA	R Caudwell	Vice Chairman
	I Moodie	Technical Manager

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed Phil Camamile the new secretary of the Welland & Nene Branch to his first joint Branch meeting. He also welcomed John Ray from the EA and Robert Caudwell and Ian Moodie from ADA.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

The Secretary reported apologies for absence from Mr H Cator, Mr Innes Thomson (ADA) and Mrs D Campbell (EA), Mr P Tame (NFU).and the following branch members:

Mr P Bedford, Mr D Withnall (Black Sluice)  
Mr P Pridgeon, (Lindsey Marsh)  
Mr I Smith (Middle Level)  
Mr J Hargreaves, Mr L Grooby (NE Lindsey)  
Mr J Hoyles (North Level)  
Mr S Markillie (South Holland)  
Mr T Purlant, Mrs K Daft (Welland & Deepings)  
Mr F Myers (Upper Witham)  
Mr P Hoyes (Witham Third)  
Mr J Grant, Mr P Richardson (Witham Fourth)

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Phil Camamile asked why on page 2, IDBs had not taken up their full allocation of capital funding and the Branch secretary explained the steps being taken to avoid this in 2016/17. There were no other matters arising that were not already covered by the Agenda.

### **5. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK and DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**

David Hickman gave a brief presentation on Partnership Developments covering:

- Devolution - The document had been signed by all local authorities in April 2016 and pages 24 and 25 related specifically to water level management and the Governance Structure (of the Mayoral Authority) is currently out for public consultation (ends 31-8-2016)
- It affects the whole of Lincolnshire including the South bank of the Humber
- Despite Brexit, the government are pushing ahead with the Devolution Agenda
- A decision will be made in September and the Authority should be in place by January 2017 with a budget of £15m.
- The objectives of Water Management under devolution are:
  - o It builds on the existing partnership
  - o It builds on joint working and the potential of the Common Works Programme
  - o It will improve governance over spending on FCERM
  - o It promotes the extension of IDB boundaries to cover the whole of the Lincolnshire Geography to bring a better income stream from upland areas
  - o ADA resources are being offered to facilitate these changes

He asked the IDBs present at the Branch meeting, whether or not they were interested in taking this further and there was an overwhelming positive response, subject to a couple of caveats regarding the cost of a Mayoral Office and another tier of government. David agreed to feedback the results of the consultation to the ADA Branch in due course.

### **6. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

In Deborah Campbell's absence, John Ray gave a brief overview of developments at the EA including the recent changes to the 6 year investment programme. He began by thanking RMA officers for their effort in respect of the investment programme refresh that had just concluded. Whilst there had been some flexibility on individual schemes, the size of the programme had remained largely unchanged. He went on to stress the following points:

- There was a desire by the local EA team to make the management of the programme more of a "little and often" approach rather than a big annual event as this will make the programme more robust and deliverable
- IDBs now had a dedicated programme contact and he went through the local EA team

- The Maintenance programme has now been confirmed and it will not reduce in real terms over the next 5 years
- He was aware that IDBs wanted certainty over future work streams and he wants to work with Boards to develop this
- EA orders for 2016/17 maintenance work have been delayed nationally but they are imminent
- The EA are using some of the additional maintenance funding to fill some posts in the delivery team to ensure the maintenance programme is delivered

John mentioned a specific capital project regarding relic lines of defence and the EA are working with IDBs to assess the “value” of the defences and to consider designating them to avoid further degradation. All Lincolnshire relic lines would be designated in one go but this is being kept under the radar at the moment.

John then answered several questions covering the need for a multi-year commitment under PSCAs and the lack of purchase orders for 2016/17 maintenance work. It was suggested that Adrian Clack (EA) attend the next engineers’ forum to discuss these points with IDBs.

David Sisson then went through the recent unfunded watercourse workshop which had been rebadged as “total catchment management” and confirmed that this was to be presented to the RFCC the following day. The objective was to look at (1) where we should be performing maintenance? and (2) who should be doing it? This dove tailed nicely into the Devolution objectives for water.

There was a desire to de-main some assets and Black Sluice IDB were at the forefront of this. It was agreed that the exercise should be cost shifting not cost saving and the next meeting is on 27 July to formally “Launch” the initiative.

## **7. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ADA**

ADA Technical Manager Ian Moodie gave a national update:

- ADA have issued a press statement regarding BREXIT and the need to continue to work with European Partners through EUWMA
- The EU legislation affecting our sector e.g. Water Framework Directive (WFD), will probably be enacted into UK legislation ‘en bloc’
- Andrea Leadsom is the new Secretary of State for DEFRA and ADA will continue to engage with the new DEFRA team
- The Annual Value of land outside of IDB districts is an issue for new DBs and those IDBs wishing to extend their areas. 3 local Branch officers are helping to develop this and are looking for other IDBs to work with
- Water Transfer Licenses – ADA have given robust feedback regarding IDB districts but need to work closer with EA staff to resolve the remaining issues
- The ADA Conference is set for 17 November 2016
- FloodEx 2016 was very successful and will be repeated next year - 17 and 18 May 2017 and entry will again be free

Ian said ADA are using the income from FloodEx to hold subscription levels the same next year and to improve communications both internally for members and externally, and to revamp the website to make it more mobile/tablet friendly.

### ***ADA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:***

Ian Moodie gave a summary of the last meeting on 11 May 2016 which had discussed:

- H&S and welfare issues that were covered by Ian Benn
- A review of older pumps that may already be fish friendly
- Water Transfer Licenses and
- An update on the T&E work streams

## *ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:*

Jane Froggatt updated Branch members on the last meeting on 12 May 2016 which included:

- An update from Defra
- The National Review of Flood Resilience – report due July 2016
- An action plan in Cumbria and other areas
- An EA update from Phil Winrow
- Progress with the SRA
- Developing PSCAs
- An update on the P&F work streams

## **8. REPORTS FROM BRANCH COMMITTEES**

### **i) Show Committee**

In the absence of Peter Richardson the Committee Chairman, members were asked for their views of the show this year. Views were positive but there were a couple of areas that needed attention:

- The Branch secretary said that the Schools Challenge was very good and some schools had clearly picked up water and flooding projects but ADA were not involved in the prize giving at the end of day two,
- Jane Froggatt challenged the Show Committee to get the dynamics of the show sorted (some Boards do a great deal and others do very little).

### **ii) Environment Committee**

Sam Ireland reported as Environment Secretary that she had just attended the EA's workshop on their 25 year plan for the environment based on four pillars of:

1. Decision making
2. Delivery
3. Finance and
4. Connecting people to the Environment

The overall desire was to improve the environment for a generation. Sam updated the meeting on the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, a forthcoming workshop on EU funding and promoted the next Committee meeting on 14 September 2016.

### **iii) Pay and Conditions Advisory Committee (P&C)**

Karen Daft, Committee Secretary had given her apologies so David Branton, P&C Committee Chairman gave an overview of the recent impasse with the union and referred to a meeting of the Branch on 2 June 2016, which he was unable to attend. He said the committee was disappointed that the Branch felt the need to have a separate meeting and that the minutes of the meeting had been sent directly to the Union with a slightly better offer, bypassing the committee. As a result, the committee felt undermined and had written to the Branch Secretary to say that the committee would cease to operate as they felt they had no role at the present time. The Branch Chairman asked for comments:

- Jane Froggatt said that the 2 June meeting was called in order to break the impasse with the union who had rejected two offers of 1%. Feedback from the union was that the issue was not 100% about pay; they wanted to refresh the relationship with the employers and to reset the goalposts to be more productive. The union had wanted to revise terms of reference and this needed more dialogue
- Andy Carrott said that historically meetings were a joint negotiation to get a solution and it had worked well in the past
- Duncan Worth agreed and said the committee needed a clear remit from the Branch in respect of the terms of reference for the committee as they had only an advisory role
- Keith Casswell said the at the last meeting there was an issue as the union established that the committee were only able to advise the Branch, not agree any terms
- Jane Froggatt said both side HAD to have a meeting as most Boards want a joint negotiation to a) resolve the current impasse and b) to make a recommendation to Boards. The next meeting needed to have revised goalposts, draw a line under the last 2

years. The committee must do the work required to achieve this and cannot simply “hang up their boots”

- David Branton felt that we had already past that point. He said the committee didn’t want to opt out but felt it had to do so

The Branch Chairman suggested that we needed a new vehicle to handle future joint negotiation that included Chairman and Chief Executives/Clerks of the local Boards and asked Boards for their comments:

- Trevor Vessey said we needed to be together and have a joint negotiation. The feelings expressed at the AGM on 28 April were very strong and that is why the Branch decided to hold a separate meeting on 2 June
- Ian Warsap said we should stick together as one Branch on this issue
- Keith Casswell said the wider issue was to look at the terms and conditions in the white book and suggested that a group of Chief Executives/Clerks get together as we are not currently all on the same page
- Phil Camamile said his Board had few employees but was happy to continue with a committee that recommended pay scales and his Board would follow this
- Jane Froggatt agreed and said that it was not acceptable for Boards to receive a letter from the P&C Committee with one rate and then to receive a separate letter from the union with an alternative request. We needed a collective agreed position but didn’t get one
- Andy Carrott said the new P&C must still be advisory and be a facilitating group to get to an agreed position
- David Branton said that at the last meeting with the union, they had mentioned revising the terms and conditions and went away to look at proposals, but the P&C committee never received any

The Branch Chairman asked Boards if they still wanted a joint negotiation and the status of the P&C Committee to be advisory, and all Boards present said yes. With regard to future negotiation he thought that the P&C Committee would benefit from having some senior officers on it with Board Chairmen.

It was therefore proposed by Jane Froggatt and seconded by Phil Camamile that:

- We await the result of the latest ballot on 1% for 2015/16, 1% for 2016/17 plus a one off non-consolidated 0.4% payment for 2016/17 **(it was accepted)**
- Make a recommendation that if it is accepted, ask the P&C committee to recommend this to Boards in order to put these two years to bed
- Prepare a revised composition and terms of reference for the P&C Committee with a 2 year work programme
- Continue to work collectively

All voted in favour of this proposal. David Branton said that if the revised committee contained officers they would have a conflict of interest as they benefit from any pay rises. It was therefore suggested that they should not have a vote on such matters.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**Next meeting: Joint Branch Meeting on Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> October to be held at a venue in the Welland and Nene catchment**

----- Chairman ----- Date