

## ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

### LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH & WELLAND AND NENE BRANCH MEETING

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the Branch at The Inn, Woodhall Spa on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016:

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

The attendance list for the meeting was not handed in therefore an accurate list of attendees is unavailable. However, the following Branch Officers were present, plus representatives from all Lincolnshire Boards:

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

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

The Chairman asked Members to stand as a mark of respect for Steve Morris, the recently retired Chief Executive and members stood for a moment's silence.

The Chairman welcomed Eddy Poll (RFCC), Peter Lundgren (Environment Committee) and Paul Tame (NFU) to the meeting. He also welcomed Robert Caudwell (ADA) and Deborah Campbell and Greg Smith from the EA.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

The Secretary reported apologies for absence from Mr H Cator, Mr I Thomson, Mr I Moodie (ADA) Mr N Robinson (EA) and the following branch members:

Mr S Willis (LCC)
Mr D Sisson (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr M Sly (North Level)
Mr K Vines (South Holland)
Miss S Ireland (Witham 1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> /Upper)
Mr F Myers (Upper Witham)
Mr P Hoyes (Witham Third)
Mr P Richardson (Witham Fourth)

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were confirmed as accurate apart from a couple of minor changes following which they would be signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no 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 – Despite the fact that the agreement was dead, the part related specifically to water level management would be taken forward.
- £1.2M had been allocated from local levy to pursue the designation of the former lines of defence and he thanked Sam Markillie and Eddy Poll for their support in pushing this.

- A review of the effectiveness of the Partnership was underway and partners had been asked to complete a survey to enable this review to begin. The creation of the LEP meant that parts of the Partnerships Terms of Reference would need refreshing.

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

Deborah Campbell gave a brief update on EA matters:

- The new EA Chair was Emma Howard Boyd who knows Lincolnshire and the good work done
- Norman Robinson is now the permanent area manager for Anglian Northern Region and he will attend the next Branch meeting to introduce himself
- She introduced Greg Smith who had taken up a new role at the EA as catchment manager and he introduced himself and the work that the PACM (Partnership Approach to Catchment Management) Group were undertaking
- A new EA role had been taken by Gemma Ward who would be managing the Black Sluice IDB frontrunner project and she had transferred from the Humber Region
- The capital programme had been refreshed and would be on the EA website from January 2107. All bar two projects had received the requested funding which was good news

Deborah then presented slides that had been shown to the last LFR (Local Resilience Forum) at the request of the Branch and the presentation covered the winter of 2015 and the subsequent resilience measures that had taken place. It also looked at the impact of future events.

James Grant asked what was being spent to bring assets into a “fit-for-purpose” condition in places like Cumbria? Deborah said there was no evidence that lack of maintenance had caused the issues in Cumbria, it was the magnitude of the event, which was unprecedented. Jane Froggatt asked if any of the £2.1m IDB precept paid to the EA would be used on projects with a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of less than 1:1 and was PACM going to be reviewing this? Deborah responded that no schemes with a BCR of less than one would be supported with Precept Monies.

Deborah said that the National Flood Resilience Review had been concluded and published and she shared the findings and actions following that review. A number of follow up questions then arose from members:

Jane Froggatt asked about the 5 year maintenance plan and why there had been no discussions on it with partners. Black Sluice was the only Board to have had a meeting with the local EA ops team?

James Grant asked how many kilometres of mudding or vegetation cutting had been done by the EA. Figures were not available but Deborah said she could find out.

John Hoyles raised a concern about the number of badgers in the banks of the tidal river Nene and the obvious problems this creates. Deborah responded that work was currently ongoing to remove and relocate badgers that were in key flood defence assets.

Matt Harrison from LCC then gave an update of the work that the PACM Group had carried out explaining that an agreed partnership management approach for each sub-catchment in Lincolnshire was the desired outcome. The group is meeting monthly and the work was split into 3 phases:

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Data and modelling collection and a project statement to be presented to the April 2017 RFCC meeting	Testing the methodology By 2018	Delivery of the agreed appraisals for asset management solutions by 2021

The first few meetings had established lots of partner support for the project and updates will be given to future Branch Meetings. James Grant asked if there was a way to speed up the project as it was not happening quickly enough?

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

Peter Pridgeon gave an update on National ADA matters:

- ADA have a new employee, Aimee Scanlon who will be mainly responsible for PR and the Gazette
- The Finance report shows that ADA will return around £40K in profit for 2016, largely due to FloodEx. This will enable subscription levels to be held for 2017. Income for 2017 is budgeted at £347K.
- An update was given on Ines' activities and Peter Bateson gave a Company Secretarial Update.
- Updates were given from the EA and DEFRA
- The ADA Business Plan was discussed and will be published in March 2107
- Membership of EUWMA will continue
- The Technical and Policy & Finance Committees are working very well
- A presentation was made to Peter Pridgeon at the last ADA Board meeting as ADA Vice-Chairman, as it was his last meeting

John Hoyles said we should thank Peter for his work as ADA Vice-Chairman and this was supported by those present.

Robert Caudwell also updated the meeting in his capacity as ADA Vice-Chairman. He reiterated his thanks to Peter Pridgeon for his contribution and experience. He said FloodEx was important as it enabled ADA to do more including using a professional PR firm for PR and the website. FloodEx is running again on 17/18 May 2017 and it is important that lots of people attend.

He said that the forthcoming ADA Conference had the best line up of speakers possible and urged members to attend so we would get full attendance.

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

Martin Shilling gave a summary of the last meeting in September 2016 which had discussed:

- Ideas were needed for FloodEx sessions in May 2017
- H&S and welfare issues that were covered by Ian Benn
- Disappointment expressed at time taken to deal with boundary changes for IDBs
- An update on Water Transfer Licenses and
- Application of certain byelaws in Somerset
- Future maintenance of SUDS that IDBs will inherit

### ***ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:***

Jane Froggatt updated Branch members on the last meeting in September 2016 which included:

- There are 3 vacancies on the committee
- P&F Committee to review ADA finance info ahead of Board meetings
- A new IDB policy statement is being agreed with DEFRA
- The National Review of Flood Resilience – IDBs broadly supportive
- DCLG consultation on the impact of business rate retention on IDB precepts

Paul Tame asked about the worrying rating change proposed for glasshouses in the Boston area. A meeting of IDBs and the local MP was taking place the next day to flag up the funding implications of this move. Robert Caudwell confirmed that ADA was aware of the issue.

The Branch secretary said he had recently met Stuart Hogan, a deputy director at DCLG who said that the consultation message from IDBs and others about the special levy issue had been "*heard loud and clear*".

Members suggested that if flood risk and drainage was shown on a separate line as part of the community charge, ratepayers would understand what they are paying for. Sam Markillie said that

the IDB levy needs to be decoupled from the community charge to make it visible. Jane Froggatt said she was nervous about a complete separation.

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

### **i) Show Committee**

In the absence of Peter Richardson the Committee Chairman, Julian Boden updated members on the last meeting where there had been a long debate about the Spring Show, Lincs Show and possibly the Heckington Show, to share ensure Boards effort was consistent with the value they receive from attending shows. He asked Members for comments:

- Trevor Vessey felt that the Lincs Show had run its course as we attract children in but not people we don't already know
- James felt that sponsorship could be the key to making it work e.g. property level resilience suppliers
- Karen Daft felt that we are putting all of our resources into one big show that doesn't connect with those in the South of the County
- Jane Froggatt said she supported Karen's point. Perhaps we should change committee to be publicity and events so it does more than just the one show. She would support the other initiatives mentioned
- John Hoyles said the North Level invite parish councils and bus them around to see the value of the work done and the feedback is very positive
- Nicholas Watts asked what the comparative costs were of each show

Feedback concluded with a request for the show committee to come up with a proposal that would support more than one show and widen the remit of the committee, and present it at the next Branch Meeting

### **ii) Environment Committee**

In Sam Ireland's absence, Peter Lundgren reported as Environment Committee Chairman following the last meeting on 14 September 2016. The meeting covered:

- That the Greater Lincolnshire NP conference was on 9 November 2016 in Lincoln
- Anglian water had appointed a new farm liaison officer
- Ian Moodie presented on Fenland Water Bodies
- A water vole training day was organized on 17-19 November in Lincoln
- A guidebook on quick wins e.g. creating an otter holt was being developed
- The committee visited Nick Watts farm

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

The Branch Chairman began by thanking David Branton and Karen Daft for their service on the committee over the last 3 years and allowed David the opportunity to summarise where negotiations had reached which he did. He said that Karen Daft and he had felt unable to continue on the committee and the Welland & Deepings IDB would not be taking part in the new committee but he wished the new committee well for the future.

The revised draft Terms of Reference circulated suggested that the new committee would have an officer and a member representative from each Board and the Branch Chairman asked for comments on the terms:

- Ian Warsap suggested that the Chairman and Secretary should not be from the same Board
- Julian Hargreaves suggested that the committee could only be an advisory committee and could not commit Boards to a pay deal, merely make a recommendation. This was supported by Duncan Worth
- Keith Casswell said that this was no different as the committee had always been advisory

- Jane Froggatt agreed that it should be so with capped powers but should agree a position to recommend to the Branch. Sub groups could look at specific issues if necessary
- Andy Carrott said that there was a union representative from each Board able to attend meetings
- Peter Pridgeon said the Branch should control the number of attendees
- Sam Markillie commented by agreeing that the committee should
  - Not replace each Board but stay advisory
  - Should produce recommendations
  - Relay to this to individual Boards
- James Grant said that everyone needs to be engaged in the process and felt that the Welland & Deepings Board should rethink their position.
- Trevor Vessey said that he was concerned that all Boards were not tied to the white book which they should be so that all Boards were treating employees the same

It was agreed that the new committee should go ahead and form and select a chair and secretary at their first meeting. The Branch Secretary said that he would arrange the first meeting

**9. ADA BOARD DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS**

The Branch Secretary handed out nomination papers for an ADA Director to represent the Lincolnshire Branch and asked that each Board consider putting forward a candidate for election at the next Board meeting

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Julian Hargreaves announced that Trevor Vessey was retiring in May 2017 and paid tribute to him. The Branch joined him in congratulating Trevor on his retirement and showed their thanks for his contribution to the Branch over many years. The management of the North East Lindsey Board would be handled by Jane Froggatt from the Lincoln office from the start of the new financial year.

**Next meeting: Joint Branch Meeting on a date t.b.a. in the Welland & Nene Catchment**

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