



TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2017
at CIWEM , 106-19, Saffron Hill, Farringdon, London EC1N 8QS

Present: Trevor Purllant (TP) (Chairman)

Peter Bateson (PB) (Company Secretary), Alison Briggs (AB), Cliff Carson (CC), Robert Caudwell (RC), Peta Denham (PD), Chris Manning (CM), John Oldfield (JO), Martin Shilling (MS), David Thomas (DT) (Honorary Secretary), Karen Thomas (KT), Innes Thomson (IT) (Chief Executive)

Apologies: Ian Benn (IB), Rob Cathcart (RCt), Henry Cator (HC), Priscilla Haselhurst (PH), Roy Lobley (RL), Paul Sharman (PS), David Sisson (DS), Nick Stevens (NS)

In Attendance: Ian Moodie (IM), Ian Russell (IR), Aimée Scanlon (AS), Craig Benson (CB)

Ref	Minute	Action
1412	<p>Welcome</p> <p>TP welcomed PD and KT to the meeting as new members of the Committee and looked forward to their contributions.</p> <p>PD confirmed that as the representative from the Environment Agency she would be alternating</p> <p>Action: IT to write letter expressing Committee's thanks to NS who stepped down from the Committee following the end of his term.</p>	IT
1413	<p>Declarations of interest – None</p>	
1414	<p>Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 were agreed as a true and fair record.</p>	
1415	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Min 1362: IR reported that the Environment Agency were exploring impact of plant machinery and grazing on embankments using a dynamic cone penetrometer. Action: IR to share the results with the Committee in due course.</p> <p>Min 1403: Action: IM to send AINA contact details to CM and DT to exchange views on regulation of dredging arisings.</p> <p>Min 1403: Action: IM to share report received from NS on dredging in Somerset with Committee members.</p>	IR IM IM
1416	<p>Committee Chairmanship (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2019)</p> <p>IT reported that the terms for ADA's two Committee chairs had been staggered and that TP's current term was due to conclude in April 2017. On the basis that</p>	

	<p>no other candidates had expressed interest in the post, the Committee unanimously agreed IT recommendation that TP should be reappointed as Chair until 31 March 2019.</p>	
<p>1417</p>	<p>Health, safety and welfare update</p> <p>CB presented the health and safety report prepared by IB. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in CDM regulations, ‘Principle designer’ in the regulation now refers to a function rather than a single named individual. This means it may still be an individual, but may also be a group of individuals, department or whole business depending on nature of project. • The importance of completing site specific risk assessments was stressed. • Key risks for consideration during an excavation presented, basis for a risk assessment in this area. • Summary of accidents within agricultural sector, (closest equivalent of field operations conducted by EA/IDB staff). <p>CB highlighted the value of recording near misses to identify whether there are specific areas of concern, and allow issues to be addressed through briefings/guidance/tool talks with workforce etc. Would welcome ability to collate any near miss data from IDBs to look for and address common themes.</p> <p>Action: IM to work to develop model near miss reporting spreadsheet, which could be periodically returned to ADA on request.</p> <p>Committee discussed potential for workshop focused on health and safety at FLOODDEX 2017. Committee agreed that this needed to be tailored to specific audience needs, different focus/emphasis for workforce versus board members.</p> <p>RC welcomed the workshops and highlighted the need to ensure that board members understand that health and safety is a core responsibility for their Board.</p> <p>Action: IT to look at detail of workshop/s at FLOODDEX 2017.</p> <p>PD stated that the Environment Agency had put in place stringent rules relating to the interface between plant machinery and operatives following past incidents. The Environment Agency also had a good mechanism in place for sharing information with framework contractors through HASSLE notices.</p> <p>Action: PD to investigate appropriate route for sharing HASSLE notices with other risk management authorities (IDBs/LAs).</p> <p>CM and MS discussed safety of working around overhead electrical cables. Both had positive relationship with Western Power Distribution who had been receptive to moving watercourses or moving network cables where this is appropriate on the ground and increasing cable height from ground from 9 metres to 13 metres within 9 metres of a watercourse.</p>	<p>IM</p> <p>IT</p> <p>PD</p>

	<p>Action: MS and CM to develop short ADA Gazette article highlighting positive example of IDBs working with Western Power Distribution to increase safe working environment around overhead electrical cables.</p> <p>JO discussed the challenge of meeting demands of both environmental risk assessment and health and safety risk assessment undertaken before works, where conflicts can occur between the two.</p> <p>DT highlighted that this was an area where delivering compensatory habitat elsewhere could be used to mitigate environmental losses required to mitigate health and safety risks.</p>	<p>MS, CM</p>
<p>1418</p>	<p>Committee workstream reports from 2016</p> <p>a) Water Transfer Licencing IT and IM reported that ADA had responded to the water abstraction reform consultation earlier in the year and developed proposals for sharing relevant information about water transfer points between main river and IDB systems including a spreadsheet questionnaire distributed to IDBs. In mid-October ADA had met with Sarah Hendry and Henry Leveson Gower from Defra along with Environment Agency staff highlighting a desire to finding a working partnership solution between IDBs and the Environment Agency’s Area teams. Sarah Hendry had agreed for Defra staff to develop a revised approach.</p> <p>Action: IT and RC to prepare letter to Sarah Hendry seeking the results from those discussions.</p> <p>b) Total Catchment Management IT reported limited delivery from this workstream by the Committee.</p> <p>RC reported on recent visit to Netherlands with Water Resources East (WRE) group being brought together by Anglian Water. Within the Black Sluice catchment proposals for a total catchment management solution to future water management needs was being developed by risk management authorities.</p> <p>Action: ADA to continue to monitor and support members involved with WRE project, including within the Black Sluice catchment.</p> <p>Committee agreed need to work with partners on this approach and develop and publicise case studies around any positive examples.</p> <p>c) Ecological Improvement CM presented the draft paper on updating IDB Biodiversity Action Plans to enable them to demonstrate their contribution to Biodiversity 2020 targets set by the Government. The next stage would be to develop SMART objectives that could be reported on consistently across all IDBs annually.</p> <p>IM reported that there was now a need to identify a new mechanism for</p>	<p>IT, RC</p> <p>RC,IM, IT</p>

<p>recording BAP actions/objectives following the termination of BARS by Defra, JNCC and Natural England.</p> <p>IM suggested that high level reporting could be added to Defra's IDB1 form, with the more detailed SMART objectives reported annually to ADA/Natural England using a spreadsheet form similar to the Environment Agency's Form E.</p> <p>AB stressed that any new questions on the IDB1 form should look at how/whether an IDB's biodiversity action plan is being delivered.</p> <p>Committee members agreed need for accurate reporting of evidence of work in this area by IDBs to highlight environmental successes of IDB work.</p> <p>CC noted that monitoring conducted with Wildlife Trusts had demonstrated that some maintenance of vegetation conducted by IDBs had helped to sustain water vole populations, and that these successes should be recognised.</p> <p>Committee extend congratulations to RCt on his new role as Principal Adviser Biodiversity at Natural England. RCt has said that he will remain as ADA's main point of contact in the interim and will continue to work on the BAP guidance until it is completed.</p>	
<p>Action: Existing working group to continue to complete BAP Guidance.</p>	<p>RCt,AB CM,IM</p>
<p>d) Data & evidence</p>	
<p>IT noted limited progress in this area and a strong need to progress this workstream in 2017, working around basic metrics to help inform the industry, stakeholders and public about ADA members activities and involvement in drainage, water level and flood risk management.</p>	
<p>e) Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCA)</p>	
<p>IR presented the workstream's report on making best use of partner resources to deliver maintenance works and manage flood incidents using PSCA. The report included examples of efficiency gains achieved and areas for future improvement in the use of PSCAs, which included:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the forward planning of works. Setting up meetings to discuss medium/long term maintenance plans of both parties. Should be looking at five year programmes. IDBs, local authorities and Environment Agency should feel able to instigate meetings as they see fit. • Agreeing standards for maintenance, and enabling IDB to 'top-up' Environment Agency funding to deliver better standards of maintenance. • Increasing reciprocal work undertaken by the Environment Agency for IDB by EA, subject to resource availability. • Making Environment Agency recharge rates available to partner authorities, • Increasing utilisation of PSCAs in incident management response and recovery. • Clarify insurance when sharing plant machinery. • Capturing data about works undertaken and efficiencies achieved under PSCAs. 	

	<p>Action: IR to prepare ADA Gazette article highlighting report's recommendations, actions undertaken to further improve partnership working, and advocating proactive use of PSCAs.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p>1419</p>	<p>Setting Committee workstreams for 2017</p> <p>Action: The Committee agreed upon the following workstreams to deliver in 2017:</p> <p>a) Water Transfer Licencing Purpose/outputs: Respond to further work by Defra/Environment Agency in development of recording of water transfers into internal drainage districts from main river under Abstraction Reform. <i>Participants: PS, DT, Andrew Newton (Ely Group of IDBs).</i></p> <p>b) De-maining and asset transfer Purpose/outputs: Develop and publish guidance to assist IDBs considering de-maining and asset transfer. <i>Participants: IB, JO, KT, David Sisson, Marie Coleman (to be confirmed by PD).</i> Action: PD/IR to confirm Environment Agency contact.</p> <p>c) Eels and fish passage Purpose/outputs: Respond to further work by Defra/Environment Agency regarding eel and fish passage at flood defence structures. <i>Participants: AB, DT</i></p> <p>d) Biodiversity 2020 Purpose/outputs: Complete guidance on renewing IDB Biodiversity Action Plans and develop recording mechanism for associated actions. <i>Participants: Rct, CC, CM, AB</i></p> <p>e) Emergency response and recovery Purpose/outputs: Investigate utilising PSCAs to facilitate IDBs assisting during, and in the recovery from, emergency circumstances <i>Participants: Craig Woolhouse (Deputy Director Flood Incident Management, Environment Agency), IT, PD, KT, IR.</i></p> <p>f) Information Dashboard Purpose/outputs: Develop a suite of key statistics related to water level management and IDBs. <i>Participants: DT, KT.</i></p> <p>g) Aquatic Herbicides Purpose/outputs: Consider future availability of chemical control of aquatic vegetation and consideration of environmental/financial cost of alternative control methods. <i>Participants: PS, John Fenn (Operations Engineer, Middle Level</i></p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p><i>Commissioners).</i></p> <p>Action: Each sub-group to designate a lead contact</p> <p>Further topics discussed, which would be raised with ADA's Policy & Finance Committee, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing guidance and associated case studies on broadening funding opportunities/sources for capital FDGiA projects; • developer contributions; and • SuDS adoption. 	All
1420	<p>FLOODEX 2017</p> <p>IT stated that plans remained on track for this year's exhibition on 17 and 18 May at the Peterborough Arena. ADA was anticipating a similar number of exhibitors to last year's event and expected to exceed the breakeven margin of £100,000.</p> <p>ADA was once again developing the schedule of seminar speakers and workshops at the event. ADA is also working to confirm the attendance of the Duke of Gloucester. The ADA office is organising the FLOODEX Dinner which will take place at the Marriott hotel opposite the Peterborough Arena on the evening of Wednesday 17 May.</p> <p>Other groups are becoming involved in FLOODEX 2017 including Future Water, Innovate UK, Drains UK etc.</p>	
1421	<p>Eel Regulations</p> <p>IM reported that to date £18,500 had been committed collectively by ADA, IDBs and the Anglian Central RFCC towards further research by HIFI in 2017 and a similar amount in 2018 as well.</p>	
1422	<p>Environment Agency updates</p> <p>IR gave an update from the Environment Agency highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood foundation degree and opportunities for IDBs and local authorities to take on graduate trainees during placements. • The Government's response to the EFRA Committee's report on Future Flood Protection was expected to be published shortly. • The Environment Agency's flood awareness campaign in November 2016 had been successful resulting in a further 78,000 registering to receive flood warnings. This year's campaign targeted 18-34 year olds. • The Environment Agency was awaiting Defra approval for process to deliver de-maining. • A new senior advisor at the Environment Agency would be starting in February to assist with PSCA work. 	
1423	<p>Glyphosate</p> <p>IM presented the paper prepared by CM on glyphosate and the upcoming decision regarding its licence renewal by the EU later in 2017. The Committee</p>	

	agreed with the proposed lobbying on this topic, including support of campaigns run by agricultural bodies. Topic will be overseen by Aquatic Herbicides workstream.	
1424	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations consultation</p> <p>IM presented the paper regarding the Government’s consultation on revisions to the EIA Regulations where these impact the functions of risk management authorities. The Committee agreed that the changes proposed could be supported and agreed that ADA should lobby for the removal of the requirement to advertise in newspapers and instead seek for notices to be placed on websites.</p> <p>Action: IM to prepare and submit ADA response to EIA regulations consultation.</p>	IM
1425	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Committee paused in silence to remember Nick Lyness, Flood & Coastal Risk Manager at the Environment Agency who had recently died suddenly. The Committee recognised Nick’s instrumental role in managing flood risk and water levels across the Wessex region.</p>	
1426	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>Committee meetings in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.30 for 11.00 until 16.00, Thursday 8 June, at CIWEM, Farringdon • 10.30 for 11.00 until 16.00, Wednesday 20 September, at CIWEM, Farringdon 	