

**Minutes of a meeting of SWADA held at the Oaktree Arena, Highbridge at 10.30am
on Wednesday 29 April 2015**

Chairman: AED Bradford

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** as recorded in the attendance book. Additional apologies from Martin Watts and Brian Rowe
2. **Chairman's Introduction:** The Chairman welcomed members, Henry Cator, Ian Moodie, Ed Johnson, Ben Thorne (FWAG), Nick Plumley (SDC), Sarah Diacono and Rachel Burden.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2014:** (appended) Item 9 – 100m³ should read 130km³ with this amendment the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.
4. **Matters Arising:** none
5. **Minutes of an extra-ordinary meeting held: 16 February 2015** (appended): having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.
6. **Matters Arising:** none
7. **Secretary's Report: Brian Watkis (BW)** reported that the annual subscriptions are being received and that there are no adverse financial problems due to the extra ordinary meeting held in February. The new Branch Constitution should be ready for adoption at the next AGM and a draft has been circulated; a clerks meeting would be desired to approve a final draft for circulation prior to the AGM. Correspondence has been received from ADA requesting branch news is submitted to the Ada Gazette; volunteers were requested to provide journalistic assistance. Ian Moodie confirmed the items he would like to see in the Gazette, such as local news affecting IDBs, EA and other associate members to highlight works of the branch and ADA. BW thanked the Consortium staff, in particular Carrie-Anne Porter, for their assistance at the February meeting and this current meeting. He opined that he enjoys the working relationship he continues to have with Tony Bradford (Chairman) and Jeff Fear (Vice Chairman). TB thanked BW for all the hard work he continues to put into the running of SWADA. **Chairman's report** TB advised that was pleased at the result of dredging on the rivers Parrett and Tone. Although flooding is now a distant memory with the recent reasonable winters and dry summers, we should remain mindful that flooding will return. The works being undertaken at present, as part of risk management should minimise the risk. A recent visit had taken place to Lincolnshire to the Upper Witham Boards, 1st and 3rd followed by a meeting with the Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership, which was very informative. TB opined that there appears to be a national problem with regard to extra maintenance and extra budgets, and if additional funds could be raised nationally rather than individually more success may be achieved.
8. **Reports from SWADA Representatives on ADA Board and other Bodies on which SWADA has been represented:** TB reported from the Peterborough meeting
 - Peter Fox had moved to fisheries and conservation
 - Jean Venables retired at the end of March
 - The offices are now located in Kenilworth, Worcestershire
 - The presentation to Jean Venables was not held due to technical difficulties, this will be completed as soon as possible
 - Work is in progress to make ADA an employment body
 - PSCA - concerns expressed regarding liability insurance which is being addressed locally
9. **Guest Speakers:** TB introduced **Ed Johnson** from North levels IDB who gave a presentation of slides and photographs with the following points of note:
 - NLIDB catchment within Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire Fens covering approx. 3300 hectares of low lying fen land
 - Maintain 12 pumping stations and 367 miles of open watercourse
 - Engineering team of 3 and an operational workforce of 11 with in-house vehicles
 - Main projects to be carried out 14/15 under PSCA - River Nene, earthworks, dredging works, repairs to fluvial section of river bank, tidal sections on River Welland in Spalding, mitigation works for section of EA projects team on South Bank

The presentation ended with a question and answer session.

11.30 AJ Dowden joined the meeting

Ben Thorne, FWAG, gave an informative presentation which was followed by a question and answer session.

Sarah Diacono, SRA, gave a presentation of slides to update members and highlight a forward projection of the work of the SRA.

Ian Moodie, ADA, briefed members of the involvement of ADA with the SRA. He also advised of work that ADA has assisted with, which includes PSCA amendments, environmental issues including water voles, water level management and the Home Office Powers of Entry Codes of Practice from April 2015.

10. Address by Henry Cator, Chairman ADA – Mr Cator paid tribute to all the Boards and the SRA for the work being carried out locally. He was pleased that funding had become available for work to continue, and stressed that it is not just a local problem, but is nationwide. Solutions need to be found to address the issues across the country which involve all bodies working together to form a partnership that is based on trust.

- The new office in Stoneleigh Park will officially be opening on 11 May 2015.
- ADA Gazette: the deadline for inclusion in the next issue is 8 May.
- A golf day is being held on 2 June.
- ADA conference 11 November.
- Flood Expo 2016 exhibition is on 9 March which is a joint venture with Indigo Media.

Tony Bradford thanked all the speakers for addressing the meeting with presentations that were received well by members.

11. Any Other Business: None

12. Date of next meetings: 25 November 2015 Venue: Oaktree Arena

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.52pm.

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Chairman

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Date