



TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at CIWEM, 106-19, Saffron Hill, Farringdon, London EC1N 8QS

Present: Trevor Purllant (TP) (Chairman)

Alison Briggs (AB), Henry Cator (HC), Kate Halka (KH), Cliff Carson (CC), Emily Dresner (ED), Chris Manning (CM), John Oldfield (JO), Paul Sharman (PS), Martin Shilling (MS), David Thomas (DT) (Honorary Secretary), Innes Thomson (IT) (Chief Executive) Peter Bateson (PB) (Company Secretary),

Apologies: Robert Caudwell (RC) Ian Russell (IR) Peta Denham (PC), Karen Thomas (KT), Roy Lobley (RL) Ian Benn (IB), Priscilla Haselhurst (PH),

In Attendance: Ian Moodie (IM), Aimée Scanlon (AS)

Ref	Minute	Action
1441	<p>Welcome</p> <p>TP welcomed committee members, gave apologies and introduced new committee member Emily Dresner (ED) from Natural England (Senior Adviser – Flood Management and Wetlands), and invited guest, Trevor Renals (Senior Technical Adviser, Invasive Species, Environment Agency).</p> <p>TP notified the committee of the loss of Anthony Morbey and the committee held a minute's silence in his memory.</p>	
1442	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>None</p>	
1443	<p>Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2017 were agreed as a true and fair record by the committee present.</p>	
1444	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>1428: AB explained that when charging for freedom of information requests the Freedom of Information Act 2000 sets out that a public authority can charge for the time taken by its staff on the activities included in communicating the information requested. This is charged at a flat rate of £25 per hour under Regulation 7(5), irrespective of whether a higher rate is actually incurred. A public authority can also charge for the time it takes a member of staff to redact exempt information, again at £25 per hour. This applies up to a maximum of £450, for 18 hours of work. If it takes longer, or is reasonably estimated to take longer than 18 hours the public authority can refuse the request. A higher limit (£600) applies to central Government departments and the armed forces. Where a public authority claims that it will take longer than 18 hours, it should, where reasonable, provide advice and assistance to help the</p>	

	<p>requestor to refine the request so that it can be dealt with under the appropriate limit.</p> <p>Action: AB to provide relevant documents and links from Information Commissioner’s Office website.</p> <p>Action: ADA to prepare briefing either directly to Clerks or in Legal & Guidance section of ADA Gazette.</p> <p>1431: AB noted that there is currently some ambiguity regarding rules relating to transporting work equipment and it may be useful to make risk management authorities aware of the information available on gov.uk.</p> <p>Action: AB/JO to write article for ADA Gazette</p> <p>1432(b): IT articulated comments made to Marriott regarding Floodex UK dinner. Have had some positive contact back from them, and IT said that ADA is expecting a positive offer for Floodex UK 2019, for consideration.</p> <p>1437: IT: ADA and LASOO have been working together around SuDS, discussing LASOO involvement in Floodex UK 2019 and possible future administration of LASOO.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>IT</p> <p>AB/JO</p>
<p>1445</p>	<p>Health, Safety & Welfare</p> <p>IT presented key points from IB briefing paper, including discussion on hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).</p> <p>Action: IM/AS to prepare briefing topics for inclusion in Autumn ADA Gazette.</p> <p><i>[Briefing prepared by IB circulated by IM to Committee members post meeting.]</i></p>	<p>IM/AS</p>
<p>1446</p>	<p>Committee work streams 2017</p> <p>The Committee discussed progress against the objectives for each project.</p> <p>a) Eels & fish passage (DT lead)</p> <p>DT reported that there have not been any recent Eel Liaison Panel meetings, however he had emailed John Curtin (Executive Director of FCRM, EA) to highlight outstanding issues regarding proportionate and consistent application of regulations nationwide when refurbishing pumping stations, with particular reference to the requirement of fine mesh screening.</p> <p>CM: Frustrated that this issue had held up refurbishment work on a pumping station on North Sea coast.</p> <p>Action: IT to raise issue with Catherine Wright (EA Director on ADA Board).</p> <p>Action: DT/AB to convene eel liaison group to discuss screening at pumping stations.</p>	<p>IT</p> <p>DT/AB</p>

<p>Action: CM to attend future eel liaison panel meetings with DT and AB.</p> <p>b) Water Transfer Licencing (PS lead) IT had recently tried to make contact with Defra on this issue post-election, but is still awaiting response. ADA continues to maintain dialogue and share notes with NFU, Canals & Rivers Trust, UK Irrigation Association and others.</p> <p>c) Emergency response & recovery (IT lead) KH said that the Environment Agency is working with IDBs and other risk management authorities around the country to help get them more involved in flood emergency response and recovery. Ideas received a positive response when introduced at recent ADA Branch meeting.</p> <p>Action: IT to make contact with Carol Holt at the EA to start discussions on how to make this more structured so that more people could be involved.</p> <p>d) Information dashboard DT DT: ADA working to develop comprehensive GIS layer showing boundaries of all internal drainage districts in England and Wales. This will help capture future data regarding areas/interests benefiting from IDB activity. Defra looking at opportunities for data captured about IDBs annually within IDB1 form.</p> <p>e) Biodiversity 2020 (leads CM & ED) CM: Recently chaired meeting of working group involving Natural England, RSPB and IDB ecologists to progress guidance to assist IDBs updating their Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). Guidance around contribution towards Biodiversity 2020 is broadly complete, working on updates to introduction and how best to capture IDB biodiversity actions in future following demise of BARS.</p> <p>IM: ADA intends to jointly write with Natural England to IDB chairs introducing the guidance and encouraging them to take this opportunity to review and update their BAPs. Want to ensure the focus remains on IDBs setting meaningful actions for delivery, and want to instil culture where it is better for IDBs to strive to deliver more than play it safe and set sights too low.</p> <p>f) Demaining & Asset transfer (KT lead) IM reported on progress with de-maining pilots having attended the De-maining Technical Working Group that morning. All five of the pilots were progressing, and public drop-in sessions would occur in October in all but those involving the River Lugg IDB. Public consultation would go ahead on gov.uk in December. This is with a view to complete de-maining in these areas between July and October 2018. The Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook being transferred to River Lugg IDB were still progressing at a slower pace in order to allow the Board time to put in place updated working procedures. There remains some questions where the EA owns land associated with assets within the de-maining areas and how these should be valued and</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>IT</p>
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	<p>transferred.</p> <p>Action: IT to raise land-transfer issue with Catherine Wright during monthly catch-up teleconference.</p> <p>g) Aquatic plant management / Herbicides Trevor Renals (Senior Technical Adviser – Invasive Species, EA) provided a briefing to the committee on the current situation regarding the control of aquatic non-native invasive species, including:</p> <p>i. Biosecurity Environment Agency happy to assist with any IDB/ADA guidance relating to biosecurity policy and measures. Weedboats were noted as a specific at-risk area for invasive species transfer. Equally important to apply standards to contractors, unclean materials returned to suppliers. NNSS website a key source of information.</p> <p>“Check Clean Dry” procedure can be assisted by thermal shock treatment using hot water pressure washers.</p> <p>ii. Response Environment Agency investing in rapid response to target sites and reinforcing existing ban on sale of invasive species. Want to avoid the situation we face with floating pennywort with other species. For water primrose, eradication is proving very difficult. Had sprayed and removed plants over 20 times at one site but the species was still holding on.</p> <p>For various leaves watermilfoil, a submerged problematic weed that is a big problem in the Netherlands there was one identified site at present in the UK – a pond. Thermal shock had been used as a control technique after draining down this isolated site. Also seeking permission to use diquat on this site.</p> <p>Environment Agency had produced a new regulatory position statement on the disposal of arisings from infected sites.</p> <p>Action: Trevor Renals to share regulatory position statement on disposal of arisings with ADA.</p> <p>iii. Strategic management/biological controls For more widespread species, the aim is to develop a suitable national strategy of control, including the trialling of potential biological controls following extensive laboratory testing.</p> <p>For Himalayan Balsam control tested is a rust fungus, but may be too specific as it appears too focused on plants originating from India or Kashmir.</p>	<p>IT</p> <p>TR</p>
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	<p>For <i>Crassula helmsii</i>, investigating a gall forming mite, which is highly specific, and may be approved, but won't be like Azola weevil in killing off outbreaks entirely.</p> <p>For Floating Pennywort a weevil seems to be quite damaging, but questions remain about its specificity and thus suitability for wider release.</p> <p>IM has been in touch with CABI, conducting research and they had agreed to put together an article on biological control work in 2018.</p> <p>Committee also discussed potential ban of glyphosate at European level and suitable controls for filamentous algae, including barley straw, barley straw extract and hydrogen peroxide. Committee would welcome further testing in low-flow watercourses.</p> <p>Trevor Renals stressed that controls of common species such as filamentous algae (spirogyra) needed to be part of an integrated control programme looking at nutrient inputs as well, such as agricultural runoff and sewage discharges.</p> <p>DT noted problems with invasive animal species such as signal crayfish, killer shrimp, Chinese mitten crab and asked what controls are being explored for these species.</p> <p>Trevor reported that CEFAS is working on a number of these, particularly bating systems. Male sterilisation was being explored for the control of signal crayfish.</p> <p>Action: Trevor Renals to add IM to circulation of Environment Agency Invasive Species newsletter.</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>1447</p>	<p>Environment Agency updates</p> <p>KH reported that to date £7.9M had been spent through PSCAs and these had delivered around 15% efficiency savings and mentioned that IR had written an article on this for Autumn ADA Gazette.</p> <p>KH had been a meeting with Witham Fourth District IDB, Defra and EA regarding diquat, and she was clear that the chemical will not be re-licenced for aquatic use in near future and EA/Defra position had not changed in this regard. Kevin Barnes (National Field Services, EA) is working to pull together a workshop to look at the problem of filamentous algae and aquatic non-native species control in lowland pumped systems such as those managed by IDBs.</p>	
<p>1448</p>	<p>Local Authority updates</p> <p>No report.</p>	
<p>1449</p>	<p>EUWMA 2017, Avignon</p> <p>IM reported that RC and IM had attended the 2017 EUWMA meeting in Avignon,</p>	

	<p>France, on 4th and 5th September. The European Commission would next review the Water Framework Directive in 2019 and that EUWMA has agreed on the key topics it believes need revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2027 deadline, needs to be extended, • One out all out requirement, is curbing ambition and delivery across a range of waterbodies, • Artificial and heavily modified waterbody status needs to better reflect the societal need and benefits of these modifications. <p>IM – EUWMA has drafted an Avignon declaration on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the water management sector, ADA has assisted with the declaration’s preparation and it will be published in October.</p> <p>IM – Brief discussion regarding Brexit held at EUWMA meeting, RC and IM explained process to date and that legislation would remain consistent with EU members until Brexit and that with regards to water legislation likely remain consistent for many years to come.</p> <p><i>A full meeting report from EUWMA 2017 is available as a news item on the ADA website.</i></p>	
1450	<p>Floodex UK & Floodex Europe</p> <p>IM - The next Floodex UK event would take place on 27 and 28 February 2019 and that discussions were underway with other partners to broaden interest in the event.</p> <p>IM - The first Floodex Europe event will take place as part of the Amsterdam Water Week in October 2017, although the format in this first year would be confined to a seminar session. ITh had previously discussed with PB about representing ADA in the proposed panel discussion.</p>	
1451	<p>‘ADA Seminar 2018’</p> <p>IM – The ADA office is exploring holding a technical seminar event in mid-2018. The content of the event and audience are to be confirmed but the aim is to modernise the Local Authority Seminar format.</p>	
1452	<p>AOB</p> <p>Dates for 2018 meetings agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th January 2018, 10.00 – 12.30 • 5th June 2018, 11.30 – 15.00 • 19th Sept 2018, 11.30 – 15.00 	
1453	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 9th January 2018, 09.30 coffee with 10.00 start, finishing 12.30, followed by buffet lunch with members of ADA Policy & Finance Committee.</p>	