

ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH & WELLAND AND NENE BRANCH MEETING

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the above Branches held at the Bentley Hotel, Lincoln on Thursday 19th October 2017:

There were 24 attendees present:-

R Fletcher (Chair)	Lincs Branch Chairman & Member – Witham First IDB	
P Bateson (Secretary)	Lincs Branch Secretary & Chief Executive, Witham 4th IDB	
Ancholme IDB	C Benson	Finance Officer
Black Sluice	K Casswell P Bedford I Warsap D Withnall	Chairman Member Chief Executive Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh	D Sisson	Assistant Chief Executive
North Level	J Hoyles J Stublely	Chairman Operations Manager
Welland & Deeping	T Purlant	Chairman
Witham First, Witham Third, Upper Witham & NE Lindsey	L Grooby Jane Froggatt M Shilling	Vice Chairman (NEL) Chief Executive Operations Manager
Witham Fourth	R Leggott A Carrott	Member Engineering Manager
Lincolnshire CC	D Hickman	Environment Commissioner
Environment Agency	P Reilly A Clack Abi Jackson G Smith	Operations Manager Asset Manager De-maining Manager PACM Manager
<i>Guests:</i>		
RFCC	E Poll	Anglian Northern RFCC Chair
ADA	I Thomson	Chief Executive
NFU	Paul Tame	Advisor

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman began the meeting by thanking the above guests for their attendance.

2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary reported a large number of apologies for absence from Mr H Cator, Mr I Moodie & Mr R Caudwell (ADA) and E Clarke (Anglian Water) and the following branch members:

Mr D Worth (South Holland)	Mr P Hoyes (Witham Third)
Mr S Markillie (South Holland)	Mr P Gilbert (Witham First)
Mr P Camamile (South Holland)	Mr J Hargreaves (North East Lindsey)
Mr K Vines (South Holland)	Mr J Grant (Witham Fourth)
Mrs K Daft (Welland & Deepings)	Mr P Richardson (Witham Fourth)
Mr D Branton (Welland & Deepings)	Mr E Johnson (Witham Fourth)
Mr N Morris (Welland & Deepings)	Mr G Crust (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr M Sly (North Level)	Mr P Pridgeon (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr P Sharman (North Level)	Mr A McGill (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr F Myers (Upper Witham)	Mr N Robinson (EA)

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 13th July 2017 were confirmed as accurate and they were signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not already included on the Agenda.

5. RATIONALISING THE MAIN RIVER NETWORK

Abi Jackson and Ian Warsap presented on this topic and in particular the de-maining pilot taking place in the South Forty Foot catchment near Boston. Abi began by setting out the National Rationale for de-maining where the aim was to be more efficient, benefit communities and pass to organisations that can better manage the medium and low consequence main river network. This will leave the EA able to concentrate on the high consequence, riskier systems and fits with their risk based approach.

This move by the EA empowers other RMAs to make local decisions based on local criteria and will result in the right people managing the right watercourses in the right places. There are 5 pilots running in the UK and 2 of these are in Lincolnshire.

South Forty Foot Catchment (SFFC) – it is intended to cover 27.4Km over 4 watercourses in the SFFC all of which are low consequence water bodies. They are already being maintained by Black Sluice IDB under a successful PSCA agreement so the IDB already knows these watercourses. There have been high profile DEFRA visits to the SFFC and the pilot is currently identifying the ownership of all of the assets along these watercourses to aid the transition to the IDB.

Ian presented the IDB maintenance regime intended for the watercourses and the planning required to be able to deliver this. There was an issue in a couple of places where access from the bank was restricted due to overgrown habitat which needed to be ironed out. A series of public drop in sessions have been held to engage with stakeholders and although the turnout was low, the quality of those attending was very strong. The aim is to complete a formal consultation by January 2018 with a formal transfer to the IDB in July 2018.

6. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK and DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

GENERAL UPDATE: David Hickman began with a general update and confirmed that a person had been appointed to begin the process of designating secondary lines of defence, a project that had already been allocated £1.2M of local levy by the RFCC. He said that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP had assisted two local projects to get non-traditional funding for flood defence schemes although the funding process is quite painful. He was pleased that Water Resources East (WRE) was seeking to establish a pilot for water resource management project.

DEVELOPING THE PARTNERSHIP: David outlined the thoughts arising from the Partnership Review Workshop that had taken place with all Partners, in June 2017. LCC were still collating feedback from the event but the overall feeling was “it is working well but could do with some tweaking”. Communication needs to improve and the engagement with. He asked the meeting to use the paper he had put on chairs to note down one area where the partnership was strong and another where members felt there needed to be some change.

Finally he informed the Branch that the LCC FRM Partnership team were moving into Lancaster House in the centre of Lincoln, from their current location at Stamp End.

7. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

GENERAL UPDATE: Pete Reilly (Operations Manager for Welland & Nene catchment) gave an update on EA matters in Norman Robinson’s absence:

- 14 new starters at the EA in recent months
- The operational teams are on track to be winter ready and incident ready
- PSCA arrangements are working well and although the EA cannot sign a multi-year Purchase Order, they are able to write to IDBs to agree a longer term commitment now that Revenue budgets are known. This should help IDBs to assemble the resources to deliver PSCA works.
- There were a disappointing number of local choices schemes put forward for the recent meeting, so all of the projects put forward have been supported
- He said that the CAPITAL programme was on target for delivery by 31 March 2018 and the REVENUE programme is already 65% complete as at October, which is the most complete he could remember.
- He encouraged IDBs to look at the most recent condition surveys to see if there were any assets that could be refurbished or renewed in order to keep the Capital programme pipeline full.

Jane Froggatt said she was aware that the EA were making changes to their asset database and wanted to know how this would affect IDBs. Pete said it was too early to say as they are initially focusing on incident response.

PACM UPDATE: Greg Smith updated the Branch on the 5 pilot catchments that all sat within the Anglian Region. Over 40 stakeholders had already been consulted as part of the pilots and each pilot is working through a 5 stage program. The pilot program is 12 months long and is very ambitious but is working well to date. As always, Lincolnshire is leading the way and this is recognized nationally as a really good concept.

8. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ADA

Innes Thomson gave an update on National ADA matters and reported on the ADA Board meeting that had taken place earlier in the week:

- ADA has a diverse membership with the majority being IDBs but there were many associate members. He encouraged the Branch to invite these members to future Branch meetings

- He was pleased to report the the Coal Authority and Anglian Water had recently joined as ADA Members
- He reported on ADA's improved financial position over the last two years which was helped by FloodEx UK
- ADA had attended a EUWMA event over the summer and he was pleased to report that BREXIT would not affect ADA's active involvement with EUWMA
- Craig Benson and Phil Camamile were working with DEFRA to sort out the ratings lists to enable IDBs to be created and boundaries to change
- There is much work happening regarding Eel compliance and he was aware of an inconsistent approach around the UK. There is funding available for ADA and HIFI to work together to provide evidence to inform this debate
- ADA are trying to get all IDBs to demonstrate good governance and recently the Selby IDB has reduced the Board from 50 members down to 31
- ADA are managing a project to show digitized versions of all IDB maps on the ADA website
- ADA have updated model bylaws and these will be sent to IDBs for their comments
- FloodEx Europe is happening from 31 October and a contingent from Lincolnshire are attending
- FloodEx UK will become a biennial event following feedback from exhibitors but will partners with SUDS exhibitors and others
- He encouraged members to look at ADA's website as it was a very good source of information with plenty of Twitter traffic etc

He asked members to note the **ADA Conference date of Thursday 16 November 2017** and to ensure that as many Board members and officers attended this event as possible, as it celebrates the 80th anniversary of ADA and also Henry Cator's retirement as ADA Chairman. Finally he asked members for feedback on what the Branch would like ADA to do more of. Pete Reilly said that the training and demonstration events that had been put on were very helpful.

ADA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Martin Shilling gave a summary of the last meeting in September 2017 where the following topics were covered:

- FOI requests and sharing best practice
- H&S and welfare issues – transportation of plant
- Biodiversity 2020
- A presentation by Trevor Renals - EA invasive species expert which was very useful
- T&E Work streams update
- An update on PSCA works

Concern was expressed about the potential loss of Glyphosate and Paul Tame said he would send contact details for local MEPs so the Branch could add their weight to the lobby for it to remain.

ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Jane Froggatt gave a very brief update to the Branch on the last P&F meeting as much of the content had already been covered during the meeting.

9. REPORTS FROM BRANCH COMMITTEES

i) The Award Winning Show Committee

Peter Richardson had reported to the Branch Secretary that it had not been possible to be at the Heckington Show this year as there was no space available.

ii) Environment Committee

There had not been a meeting of the Committee since the last Branch meeting so there was nothing to report.

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

Daniel Withnall reported from the meeting:

- Peter Richardson was appointed as the independent Chair of this Committee and the last meeting was very positive.
- The Committee accepted that IDBs are not subject to the public sector pay cap but the industry should follow it while it is in place
- The 2018/19 pay award will therefore be 1% if the cap is in force or if it is removed, pay increases will revert to the old formula based on the rate of AWE in January each year
- Boards should complete a “year zero” review so that all Boards are at the same starting point for future pay increases
- Daniel has sent to Clerks a spreadsheet to complete that sets out how closely each Board follows the White Book so that they can all be aligned.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Hoyles announced that this would be his last Branch meeting as he was standing down as North Level IDB Chairman in November after 26 years. The Chairman thanked John for his support at many Branch meetings over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

Next meeting: Joint Lincolnshire/Welland & Nene Branch Meeting – February 2018 in W&N Catchment (date and venue t.b.a.)

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