

Minutes of the South West Branch of the Association of Drainage Authorities Meeting, held at The Oaktree Arena, Highbridge on Wednesday 23 November 2016 at 10.30am

Chairman: Mr Tony Bradford

- 1 Attendance and Apologies:** as per register.
- 2 Chairman's Introduction: Tony Bradford** welcomed Henry Cator, Richard Dyer, David Jenkins, Lower Severn IDB, North Somerset IDB and Rachel Burden.
Comments from the Chairman (this list is not exhaustive): Much work has been undertaken in the south west by the EA, IDB, local authorities and SRA on main river and other schemes.
Due to dredging, maintenance dredge and other schemes, people, property, business and local infrastructure are better protected. With adequate funds and partnership working we can continue to protect our communities.
EFRA Committee Report: Neil Parish MP recently undertook a tour and flooding discussion in Somerset.
The EFRA report recommended that local people should be paid for storing water; however there is no compensation mechanism in place.
Development: The expansion of cities and towns are encroaching on the country landscape. Locally, these developments are taking place on grade I land which, with adequate sustainable urban drainage systems may store water for a short time, however in an extreme event these may not be adequate. The levels and moors need to be protected from flooding; local authorities need to work with IDBs on SUDS to protect these areas.
IDBs: age and attendance of membership is a concern. IDBs are an important part of the community. Format and outlook of IDBs should be addressed.
- 3 Secretary's Report: Brian Watkis** asked members to approve the previous minutes. The minutes having been previously circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 27 April 2016.
BW advised that he would not be seeking re-election as secretary of SWADA and stated SWADA continues working to achieve its planned future programme. Recommendation to consider one full meeting and one special (Chairman and Clerks) meeting during the course of the year.
The branches need to take a positive attitude to what the future holds and should use the assistance of ADA central as necessary.
BW thanked the Chairman for his assistance during their mutual term of office.
Comments received from members (this list is not exhaustive):
- Support the idea of one full meeting and one Chairs/Clerks meeting per year
 - Inclusion of presentation and video to schools and Young Farmers groups to highlight the future responsibility and duty to the area
 - Lower Severn meetings receive good attendance. The Board has 29 members; 15 appointed and 14 elected
 - R Burden and J Rowlands invited the IDBs to work with EA to carry out field visits, for collaborative working
 - The spirit of the branch needs to be kept and new members should be encouraged
 - Chairs and vice Chairs of all the Boards should meet to decide a future plan.
- Proposed: Jeff Fear, seconded: Peter Maltby "that a meeting of Chairs and Vice Chairs of SWADA members be awarded delegated power to decide how the SWADA meeting programme will proceed" vote unanimous RESOLUTION 1.**
- 4 Report from ADA Board: Tony Bradford, Regional Director - ADA Executive meeting held on 13 October 2016:**
- James Hereford will join the Board as a representative
 - ADA budgets: subscriptions held at 0% increase
 - Flood Ex will be held in Peterborough on 17 & 18 May 2017; all members encouraged to attend
 - Innes Thompson is working with local authorities for collaboration of SUDS
 - Draft business plan is in progress to be approved at the next meeting in March
- 5 Report from ADA Conference 17 Nov 2016: Nick Stevens, CE SDBC:** NWS attended the conference at which the following were invited speakers:
Dr Therese Coffee MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment & Rural Life Opportunities and the MP for Sussex Coastal, **Emma Boyd-Howard**, Chair EA, **Minette Batters**, Deputy President NFU, **John Curtin**, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management, **Laura Nola**, EUMA and **Neil Parish MP**, EFRA.

Action

RES 1

Discussions included collaboration and a Partnership approach.

ADA will remain a member of EUMA after Brexit.

The EFRA committee report made reference to powers for working on main river. IDBs are only able to work on main river with the agreement of the EA. Environmental permits would still be required but the work would be carried out on the Board's behalf. Neil Parish MP was very supportive of local input both around funds raised and the ability of local input and undertaking works.

- 6 Somerset Rivers Authority update: N Stevens** reported that the existing flood management bodies are undertaking works on behalf of the SRA.
"The Stream" publication advises works that are being undertaken locally.
Tours have taken place to look at the different types of flood management.
Precepting process can be captured by the district councils within council tax.
A report from a DCLG officer advised that ministers had been briefed and a draft precepting brief will be reviewed locally prior to submission to parliament.
The local authorities will repeat local precepting via council tax for 2017 if approved at respective council meetings.
The programme of works needs to be prioritised; SRA Board Feb/March for approval.
Ray Adlam felt that the Drainage Boards had been excluded from decisions and are not included in the opportunity to make a difference.
- 7 Braunton Marsh IDB Overview: Richard Dyer, Chairman** provided a slide presentation and overview of Braunton Marsh IDB advising that members achieve good attendance at meetings and there is a good relationship with the EA. Tours are carried regularly to show the works that have been carried out together with proposed works, to highlight the importance of the area. Parrot Feather and Hemlock water dropwort also known as Deadman's Fingers are problematic. Dredging is carried out on 70% of the network every year. EA has inspected the current sea defence which is approx. 6m higher than the marsh; the marsh is approx. 2000 acres.
- 8 Guest Speakers: David Jenkins, Chairman Wessex RFCC:**
There are 12 RFCC's nationally and IDB members are encouraged to be involved with RFCC's; the Wessex RFCC has 25 members, 5 of whom are active IDB members.
All RFCC's are members of ADA: D Jenkins is the RFCC representative on the ADA Board of Directors.
SRA Board allows for collaborative working. EA and IDB's are encouraged to work together at local level with local knowledge with PSCA's for efficiency and benefit of local area.
There is to be a 2% increase to the EA local levy in the forthcoming year.
EFRA report commends works of IDB's in Somerset.
Dr Rachel Burden, EA advised that her role is changing to Somerset Flood Risk Manager.
Giles Oliver, Engineer for the NSLIDB expressed thanks for the quick response from the EA for two pumps mobilised at Weston Super Mare to help prevent flooding.
- TB thanked guest speakers for their time and attendance. The agenda was moved at this time.
- 10 Minutes of the meeting held 27 April 2017 (Enc 2):** see item 3.
- 11 Matters arising:** None
- 9 Annual Business:** Brian Watkis was presented with an engraved crystal decanter by Mervyn Winslade (MW) and was thanked for his hard work and guidance as Secretary, a post which BW has held for over 40 years. BW thanked MW for his comments and gift.
- 9.1 Election of Officers 2016-2018:** TB to end his term as Chairman thanked his family and the IDB's for their support over the last 8 years.
BW asked for nominations for Chairman
Proposed: Mervyn Winslade, seconded: Bernard Grey "that Jeff Fear is elected as Chairman of SWADA for a two year term to 2019". All agreed RESOLUTION 2 RES 2
With no other nominations JF was duly elected as Chairman and thanking TB for his long and astute service to SWADA asked TB to remain in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
TB called for nominations for Vice Chairman
Proposed: Graham Littleton, Seconded: Peter Maltby "that Matthew Riddle is elected as Vice Chairman for a two year term to 2019". All agreed RESOLUTION 3 RES 3
With no other nominations Matthew Riddle was duly elected as Vice Chairman.
TB asked for nominations for the role of Secretary
Proposed: Jeff Fear, Seconded: Brain Rowe "that Carrie-Anne Porter is elected as Secretary to SWADA for a two year term to 2019". All agreed RESOLUTION 4 RES 4
With no other nominations C-AP was duly elected Secretary.

- 9.2 Appointment of Regional Director – March 2017-2020:** TB role as Director will terminate in March 2017. TB was thanked for the work he has carried out as director.
Proposed: Matthew Riddle, Seconded: Ray Adlam “that Tony Bradford is elected as Regional Director for the South West branch of ADA for a three year term 2017-2020”. All agreed RESOLUTION 5 RES 5
 With no other nominations TB was duly elected Regional Director.
 TB thanked members for their confidence and is honoured to represent the South West at a national level.
- 9.3 Financial Report 2016: (Enc 1)** BW asked for a resolution to remove existing signatories and authorise the new officers as a result of the officer election.
Proposed: Peter Maltby, Seconded: David Spicer “It was resolved that a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the Bank) in accordance with this mandate and that : RES 6
- The individuals identified as authorised signatories may, in accordance with the signing rules, sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, Electronic Payments, Banker’s Drafts and other payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit.
 - Any authorised signatory may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the accounts; opening accounts with the same signing rules and authorised signatories; closing accounts; or other banking services or products.
 - The Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written authorised signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions.
 - The organisation will provide to the Bank a copy of its constitution and any amendment to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary.
 - This mandate will continue until the organisation gives the Bank a replacement mandate.
- Signatories will consist of Jeff Fear, Matthew Riddle and Carrie-Anne Porter.” All agreed RESOLUTION 6**
 BW asked that the accounts for SWADA are approved and reported the final payments to be made are for gifts £270.27, secretary’s honorarium £500 and SDBC charges £1466.05. Members agreed to approve the accounts and final payments.
- 9.4 Subscriptions 2017:** It was recommended to not increase subscriptions. C-AP will continue to re-charge her time via SDBC. Venue hire costs will be reduced if one future annual meeting is held at the SDBC office.
Proposed: Peter Maltby, Seconded: Bernard Grey “that 2017 SWADA subscriptions are not increased for the ensuing year”. All in favour. RESOLUTION 7 RES 7
- 12 Address by Henry Cator Chairman ADA:** HC paid tribute to TB for the work he has carried out for the branch, wishing JF every success in his Chairmanship, congratulating MR as Vice Chairman, thanking C-AP for taking on the secretary role of the branch and BW for his continued support.
 He reiterated the previous comments regarding collaborative working.
 ADA is redesigning its website with increased resources towards communication as communication with landowners and ratepayers is very important.
 Mr Cator reminded members this is his last year as Chairman of ADA and therefore this is his last Branch event. He thanked members for the welcome he has always received and advised that Robert Caldwell will take on the role from November 2017.
 TB expressed his thanks to HC for his presence during the terrible floods in Somerset and presented him with crystal goblets and decanter on behalf of the South West Branch of ADA. HC accepted the gift with great appreciation.
- 13 Any Other Business:** None
- 14 Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 26 April 2017 – format to be confirmed
 There being no other business the meeting closed at 13.02pm

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 Chairman

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 Date