

## ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

### JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH & WELLAND AND NENE BRANCH MEETING

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the above Branches held at the South Forty Foot Drain, Neslam Road Sempringham Fen near Sleaford, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017:

***There were 41 attendees present:-***

R Fletcher (Chair)	Lincs Branch Chairman & Member – Witham First IDB	
P Bateson (Secretary)	Lincs Branch Secretary & Chief Executive, Witham 4th IDB	
Black Sluice	K Casswell	Vice Chairman
	P Bedford	Member
	P Holmes	Member
	J Fowler	Member
	M Brookes	Member
	Richard Austin	Member
	I Warsap	Chief Executive
	D Withnall	Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh	D Sisson	Assistant Chief Executive
	Joanne Wadon	Operations Manager
North Level	J Hoyles	Chairman
	R Sly	Ratepayer
	P Sharman	Chief Executive
South Holland IDB	K Vines	Engineer
Welland & Deeping	G Sly	Member
	Karen Daft	Chief Executive
	J Boden	Assistant Engineer
	Jane Picking	Secretary
Witham First, Witham Third And Upper Witham	P Gilbert	Chairman (Witham First)
	F Myers	Chairman (Upper Witham)
	Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
	M Shilling	Operations Manager
	Sam Ireland	Environment Officer
Witham Fourth	J Grant	Chairman
	E Johnson	Assistant Engineering Manager
Lincolnshire CC	D Hickman	Environment Commissioner
	M Harrison	Senior Commissioning Officer
Environment Agency	N Robinson	Area Manager
	Kate Halka	Operations Manager
	A Clack	Asset Manager
	Deborah Campbell	Flood Risk Manager
	M Morrell	Operations Manager

**Guests:**

ADA	R Caudwell I Moodie	Vice Chairman Technical Manager
Anglian Water	S Moncaster Emily Clarke	Supply/Demand Strategy Manager Flood Specialist
Nuffield Farming Trust	Lorna Davies	Nuffield Scholar
NFU	Paul Tame	Advisor
Environment Committee	Peter Lundgren	Committee Chairman

**1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman began the meeting by sharing the sad news that Mark Welsh had died the previous week following an accident in London.

He said that Mark was one of the LCC officers that was part of the inception of the Partnership in Lincolnshire and played a key role in its success to date. Mark was a pleasure to work with a passion for getting things sorted. He represented local authority interests very well at National Defra meetings including the Defra IDB Policy Advisory Group. Mark was a no nonsense practical person that had high regard for IDB colleagues, and was a good supporter of the Branch, having presented a number of topics over the past 7 years.

He finished by saying that everyone's thoughts and prayers go out to Mark's family and friends and he invited Branch Members to stand for a minute's silence in respect of Mark.

He then welcomed the above guests to the meeting and then thanked Black Sluice IDB for hosting the two day demonstration of the Royal Smals dredging operation, which had sparked so much interest.

**2. APOLOGIES**

The Secretary reported apologies for absence from Mr I Thomson (ADA) and the following branch members:

Mr D Worth (South Holland IDB) Mr P Camamile (South Holland IDB) Mr D Thomas (Middle Level) Lorna McShane (Middle Level) Sam Ablett (Middle Level) Mr R Hill (Hundred of Wisbech & Waldersey) Mr S Ayers (Hundred of Wisbech & Waldersey) Mr G Lankfer (Waldersey) Mr T Purlant (Welland & Deepings) Mr D Branton (Welland & Deepings) Mr N Morris (Welland & Deepings)	Mr M Sly (North Level) Mr P Hoyes (Witham Third) Mr J Hargreaves (North East Lindsey) Mr L Grooby (North East Lindsey) Mr P Reilly (EA) Mr P Richardson (Witham Fourth) Mr A Carrott (Witham Fourth) Mr G Crust (Lindsey Marsh) Mr P Pridgeon (Lindsey Marsh) Mr A McGill (Lindsey Marsh)
---	--

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were confirmed as accurate and they were signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

James Grant followed up the position regarding aquatic herbicides. He was concerned that if we were not proactive we would lose these herbicides forever. He pointed out that the watercourse being used for the demo contained Cott which was hampering the dredger's progress. The use of Diquat would have prevented this so he urged members to write to The EFRS minister to make the case. There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the Agenda.

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

No Nomination for this post had been received prior to the meeting so following an earlier discussion, Keith Casswell, Lincolnshire Branch ADA Director, had indicated that he would be prepared to substitute for the Branch Chairman should he be unable to attend any Branch meetings. The Branch Chairman thanked him for this kind offer.

#### **6. WATER RESOURCES EAST – South Lincs Water Partnership**

Steve Moncaster of Anglian Water (AW) shared their objectives, one being water resources for the future. He is involved with Water Resources East (WRE) which is a collaboration between AW, Natural England, IDBs and the NFU, working together to seek out a resilient water supply. One project is the South of Lincolnshire in the Black Sluice IDB catchment has identified a possible site for reservoirs where their use will be multiple, not just for water supply. The project has identified that they want the storage of water to be segregated (not all in one super reservoir), and that the South Forty Foot Drain will have to be re-engineered to accommodate leisure and environmental uses.

The process will take time and WRE are working on the needs assessment and the cost effectiveness of it. A Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) will have to be submitted to the secretary of state to proceed. There is however, no reason why Partners cannot work together to deliver aspects of the project that improves the current position.

Members asked if water quality would be an issue given that much of the water runs off agricultural land. Steve replied that AW recognize that there may be a water treatment cost and water will be monitored to establish this.

Emily Clarke (AW Flood Specialist) made a plea to IDBs to flag up any project that benefit AW customers as AW have funds to put into such partnership projects. She asked that the Branch Secretary re-sent the previous email to Boards so that these projects could be identified as she needed to include them on a report by October 2017.

#### **7. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK and DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**

David Hickman began by thanking ADA colleagues for their words of support following the loss of his LCC colleague Mark Welsh. He then informed colleagues about the recent Partnership Review Workshop that had taken place with all Partners on 23 June. The workshop had reviewed the status and direction of the Partnership and notes and slides from the day will be shared with other RMAs in the near future. This will be followed with another RMA conversation to produce a proposal for the refreshed Partnership in around 10 months' time.

Matt Harrison then updated attendees about the Common Works Programme. He explained that the CWP is the "action plan" of the Partnership Strategy produced 4 years ago. The current situation is that projects which have attracted FDGiA and local levy have been captured but this is not the whole picture. He urged RMA colleagues to forward all Partnership projects, no matter how small, to the CWP group so that this information can be captured.

## **8. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Norman Robinson (Area Manager for the Anglian Northern) gave an update on EA matters:

- Martin Morrell was covering for Pete Riley who was currently on sick leave.
- Despite the relatively low rainfall in the area, there are no real water resource issues yet apart from the River Welland
- The EA have recently gone through an incident employment exercise and he would like to include other RMAs to assist with future training exercises as we are always able to assist
- He then explained the CAPITAL and MAINTENANCE programmes:

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Second year of the six year programme	£12.0m for 2016/17
40% of 45,000 target homes delivered	£12.2m for 2017/18
3,000 of these are other RMA projects	Of this £7.4 is for frequent maintenance
Third largest capital programme in UK	The £4.8 left is for other works
RMAs need to think about the next 6 years now so that this programme can be populated	This include 0.8K on dredging works and Norman promised to circulate information to IDBs showing where this work is taking place

- He said in light of the above, PSCA agreements are being amended to be long term
- Greg Smith is the new Partnership Approach to Catchment Management (PACM) EA Manager and along with David Sisson, has identified five pilots to test the guidance and methodology for this approach.

## **9. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ADA**

Ian Moodie gave an update on National ADA matters following a recent ADA Board meeting that welcomed Keith Casswell (ADA Lincolnshire Branch Director), and Catherine Wright (EA Head of Innovation and Skills) to their first meeting. The main Board matters were:

- A review of the draft budget for 2017
- Approval of the 2017 final accounts
- A recommendation that subscriptions go up 1% in 2018 for all ADA members
- FloodEx UK to become a bi-ennial event following feedback from exhibitors
  - FloodEx UK to remain a Trade Show rather than a conference, akin to Flood & Coast
  - He thanked members for their attendance at the event which was critical
- ADA had set up meeting with the press to establish strong links with certain titles
- NAO report has been responded to and one positive matter arising is the need for DEFRA and ADA to better define their relationship. Transparency information on IDB websites also needed to improve
- The IDB1 form has changed slightly and will be changing again in 2018
- Finally, Michael Gove is the new SoS at DEFRA

Members were asked to note the **ADA Conference date of Thursday 16 November 2017**

### ***ADA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:***

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

- H&S and welfare issues – this guidance is reproduced in the ADA Gazette so please read it
- Biodiversity 2020
- T&E Work streams update
- Changes to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)
- 5 National EA demanding pilots are continuing, including the South Forty Foot in Boston

**ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Jane Froggatt updated Branch members on the last meeting, also in June 2017. She said there were 5 work streams established, all of which were progressing well. The Committee had heard that an IDB had recently been visited by HMRC and they had flagged up pump men living in Board’s accommodation as being a benefit-in-kind issue. As lock-keepers enjoy exception to this rule it was hoped that pump operatives would share the same exclusion once correspondence with HMRC concluded.

**10. REPORTS FROM BRANCH COMMITTEES**

**i) The Award Winning Show Committee**

Julian Boden, Committee Secretary, reported that the show stand had won the best stand in the countryside area at the show and the “Gamekeeper’s Cup” was on display at the meeting. He said there had been a good atmosphere on the stand with over 2,750 visitors over the two days. 220 quiz questionnaires were completed and new ideas such as the colouring table had worked very well. The signage was simpler and this made the stand more attractive. The Committee was congratulated by members for this achievement. The Committee felt that the Countryside Show in Spring had also gone well and they were on a waiting list for the Heckington Show in July 2017. They would continue to update the Branch at future meetings.

**ii) Environment Committee**

Sam Ireland reported to members following the last meeting of the Committee at Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve:

- The Greater Lincolnshire NP Annual Review was due out shortly
- The tour of the Reserve was very good and she encouraged members to visit the reserve if they got the chance
- Sadly, this was Sam’s last meeting and Jane Picking from Welland & Deepings IDB would take over for future meetings.

Peter Lungren (Committee Chairman) thanked Sam for her tremendous efforts on the Committee and in particular, the Environmental “Quick Wins” booklet that had been shared with all Boards. He wished her well with her new role at CH2M in Swindon. Thanks were also echoed by the Branch Chairman.

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

Daniel Withnall reported from the meeting:

- The next meeting of the Committee would look at updating the white book sections that needed reviewing.
- The Union had agreed the 1% + 0.4% pay settlement
- The Treasury had confirmed that the 1% pay cap was not applicable to non-Government Department employees e.g local authorities.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bob Fletcher introduced Lorna Davies, a Nuffield Scholar doing a research project looking at land drainage. Lorna was attending her second ADA meeting and said she was impressed with what she had seen in Lincolnshire and promised to be back in touch when her project completes.

**Next meeting: Joint Lincolnshire/Welland & Nene Branch Meeting – 19 October 2017 (venue t.b.a.)**

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