

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 Holland IDB, Holbeach on Tuesday 20th February 2018:

There were 26 attendees present:-

D Worth (Chairman)	Welland & Nene Branch Chairman – Chairman, South Holland IDB	
P Bateson (Secretary)	Lincs Branch Secretary - Chief Executive, Witham 4th IDB	
Black Sluice	K Casswell	Chairman
	P Bedford	Member
	R Leggott	Member
	D Withnall	Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh	P Pridgeon	Chairman
	D Sisson	Engineer
Middle Level Commissioners	Sam Abblett	Assistant Treasurer
	Lorna McShane	Solicitor/Assistant Clerk
North Level	W Gee	Vice Chairman
	J Hoyles	Past Chairman
	P Sharman	Chief Executive
	J Stublely	Operations Manager
South Holland	S Markillie	Vice Chairman
	K Vines	Engineer
Welland & Deeping	N Morris	Engineer
Witham First, Witham Third, Upper Witham & NE Lindsey	R Fletcher	Member & Lincs Branch Chairman
	Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
	M Shilling	Operations Manager
Witham Fourth	P Richardson	Vice Chairman
	A Carrott	Engineering Manager
	E Johnson	Assistant Engineer
Lincolnshire CC	D Hickman	Environment Commissioner
Environment Agency	B Thornely	Flood Risk Manager
<i>Guests:</i>		
ADA	I Moodie	Technical Manager
	R Dixon	Technical Assistant

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman began the meeting asking Branch Members to join him to stand for a moment's silence in respect of James Epton who had recently passed away. James was a long term Branch member who had chaired the Events Committee for many years and he would be sadly missed.

Following this, he went on to thank Branch members for travelling to the South of the County for the Branch Meeting

2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary reported a large number of apologies for absence from Mr E Poll (RFCC) and Mr I Thomson & Mr R Caudwell (ADA) and the following branch members:

Mr P Camamile (South Holland)	Mr P Gilbert (Witham First)
Mr T Purllant (Welland & Deepings)	Mr J Hargreaves (NE Lindsey)
Mrs K Daft (Welland & Deepings)	Mr L Grooby (NE Lindsey)
Mr D Branton (Welland & Deepings)	Mr J Grant (Witham Fourth)
Mr D Thomas (Middle Level Commissioners)	Mr S Eyre (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr R Hill (Hundred of Wisbech & Waldersley)	Mr G Crust (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr S Ayers(Hundred of Wisbech)	Mr A McGill (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr G Lankfer (Waldersley)	Mr N Robinson (EA)
Mr M Sly (North Level)	Mrs D Campbell (EA)
Mr J Austen (King's Lynn)	Mr P Reilly (EA)
Mr B Long (King's Lynn)	Mr G Szomi (EA)
Mr F Myers (Upper Witham)	Mr A Clack (EA)
Mr P Hoyes (Witham Third)	

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 19th October 2017 were confirmed as accurate and they were signed by B Fletcher, the Chairman at that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

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

5. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK and DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

David Hickman began with a general update that covered the following:

DEVELOPING THE PARTNERSHIP: David outlined the thoughts arising from the Partnership Review Workshop that had taken place with all Partners over a number of workshops and said that LCC are still collating feedback from the event. However, the overall feeling was "it is working well but could do with some tweaking". Communication needs to improve and the engagement with new partners is necessary. There was also the need to better define the roles of the Management and Strategy groups and Sam Markillie said that the third layer of the partnership also needed focus as not all liaison groups are meeting frequently enough (Boston & South Holland).

Finally he informed the Branch that the Joint Strategy needed to be revamped in accordance with the FWM Act 2010.

COMMON WORKS PROGRAMME: this is the action plan of the partnership and he urged partners to try to capture the non FDGiA joint schemes that RMA's deliver so they can be counted.

CONSENTING & ENFORCEMENT: A notice had already gone to IDBs who were performing consenting and enforcement work on behalf of LCC, to get 2017/18 invoices in by the end of February 2018.

6. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Ben Thornely (Flood Risk Manager for Welland & Nene catchment) gave a general update on EA matters:

- The East Coast Strategy (Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point) is out for consultation and Ben said he would let the Secretary have a copy of the link to share with Branch members
- PSCA arrangements continue to work well
- The management of Badger Setts near flood defences is being managed by the EA across the country
- The relic lines of defence project is being led by S Markillie and the previous protection of these banks by “designation” is going to be replaced with protection using the Environmental Permitting Regulations. Claire Truss (EA) is taking this forward.
- Abi Jackson (EA) is project managing the De-maining of 16.8Km of South Forty Foot tributaries South of Boston, along with Black Sluice IDB
- He said that the CAPITAL programme was on target to deliver the target of 3,872 properties by 31 March 2018. The culvert relining by Witham Fourth District IDB will deliver the 68 properties that get past the post. £3m of efficiencies has already been delivered in the current programme.
 - The next 6 year CAPITAL programme is being developed and RMAs will be contacted to contribute to this. IDBs were encouraged to identify and flesh out projects now so that they can develop their own programme.
 - There are £2.5M of outstanding RMA claims as at 20 February 2018 so RMAs were encouraged to get the claims in as soon as possible.
 - He said that the CAPITAL programme was on target to deliver the target of 3,872 properties
- Incident Management – a paper will shortly go to the RFCC regarding the EA’s response to incidents and how they will work with other RMAs in future. Ben invited Branch colleagues to visit the incident room at Ceres House and the Branch Secretary suggested that a future Branch meeting could be held there, which was supported.

7. RFCC FUNDED POST TO SUPPORT IDB CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Branch Secretary had circulated a paper regarding this matter and it was discussed by members. There was the need to establish (1) the recruitment process, (2) the practicalities of the delivering the role and (3) the longer term funding of the 3 year post (RFCC support for 12 months). Questions were asked about the actual level of support given and the longer term funding for the post. ADA and the Branch fully supported this initiative and it was agreed that the Lincolnshire Clerks would select 2-3 individuals to handle the recruitment of the post and address the above questions.

Ed Johnson raised a concern that different EA PSO teams seem to ask for different criteria in similar Capital programme business cases which the post could help to standardize.

8. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ADA

Ian Moodie gave an update on National ADA matters but began by introducing Ryan Dixon who had just joined the ADA team and would be responsible for producing the ADA Gazette and for ADA communication with the membership:

- ADA was keen to support IDBs with their Health and Safety compliance (H&S) and a H&S questionnaire was being developed to test on some IDBs before going live
- Liaison with DEFRA was ongoing and with their support, a “Good Governance Guide” is being developed for IDB Board Members, in line with a similar one produced by NALC. Iain Smith has been appointed to be the lead author and the aim is to publish it mid 2018
- The standard IDB Bylaws are being updated and feedback has been received from some IDBs regarding content. Revised Bylaws will now be finalised.

- The revised Policy Statement for IDBs has been through a few iterations but the final version is now being circulated by DEFRA.
- Ian thanked Boards who had contributed to the trials with eel passage at IDB structures
- Water transfer Licensing is a major concern to ADA who are frustrated by the regulations and IDB's inclusion in them. IDBs have already submitted applications (which have to be in by 30 June 2018) regardless of ADA's progress with DEFRA. ADA will update IDBs as dialogue continues with DEFRA.
- Environmental Permitting Regulations – a charging consultation is currently live and ADA have sent in a robust response. The implementation date is 1 April 2018 but dialogue with RMAs has been very poor so far.
- Ian mentioned the potential ADA collaboration with LASSOO and said members would be updated as a clear outline of the working relationship developed.
- ADA are managing a project to show digitized versions of all IDB maps on the ADA website

Concern was expressed by members about DEFRA's "readiness" to process new byelaws for those IDBs adopting the new standard. Ian said ADA had made this point clear and DEFRA said they were ready.

ADA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Martin Shilling gave a summary of the last meeting in January 2018 where the following topics were covered:

- H&S and welfare issues – it was agreed that ADA output is good + Gazette articles were useful
- A H&S questionnaire is being developed
- Member training
- Public engagement – how do we share "good news" around
- Biodiversity 2020 guidance is awaited
- SUDSs and LASSOO

ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Jane Froggatt gave a brief update to the Branch on the last P&F meeting on the same date

- Tim Farr will replace Ian Thornton as Chair of this group from 1 April 2018
- The Governance guide for members was supported
- DEFRA have highlighted the new IDB1 form

Under audit it was noted that the new internal auditor for Lincs IDBs (TIAA) are very efficient and focused

9. REPORTS FROM BRANCH COMMITTEES

i) Show Committee

Peter Richardson reported as Chair of this Committee and had recently met with Innes and Heather from ADA to discuss initiatives:

- 3 shows would be attended in 2018, Spring Show, Lincs Show and the Heckington Show.
- The Committee want to target where the budget is spent and have plans to revamp the trailer to make it an asset for the wider IDB community. This would cost circa £5K but ADA may be able to contribute to this
- 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 was no one at the meeting to give this report.

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

Daniel Withnall reported from the meeting:

- Boards had now agreed that the pay cap has been lifted and therefore the new formula would apply giving a 1.98% pay rise from 1 April 2018
- The pay and conditions elements of the White Book are also being simplified at the next meeting on 6 March 2018

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised

Next meeting: Joint Lincolnshire Branch AGM – 28 April 2018

----- Chairman

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