

ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH & WELLAND AND NENE BRANCH MEETING

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the above Branches held at the Golf Hotel, Woodhall Spa on Thursday 19th July 2018:

There were 21 attendees present:-

R Fletcher (Chairman)	Lincs Branch Chairman, and Member, Witham First IDB	
D Worth	Welland & Nene Branch Chairman and Chairman, South Holland IDB	
P Bateson (Secretary)	Lincs Branch Secretary and Chief Executive, Witham 4th IDB	
Black Sluice	K Casswell	Chairman
	P Bedford	Member
	I Warsap	Chief Executive
	D Withnall	Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh	G Crust	Chairman
	A McGill	Chief Executive
	D Sisson	Engineer
North Level	P Sharman	Chief Executive
Welland & Deeping	K Daft	Chief Executive
	J Boden	
Witham First, Witham Third, Upper Witham & NE Lindsey	Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
	M Shilling	Operations Manager
Witham Fourth	P Richardson	Vice Chairman
	A Carrott	Engineering Manager
Lincolnshire CC	M Harrison	Environment Commissioner
<i>Guests:</i>		
ADA	R Caudwell	Chairman
	I Thomson	Chief Executive
Environment Agency	I Russell	Retired Engineer

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman began the meeting by expressing his disappointment at the low attendance at the meeting, due in part to the harvest. He asked members if the Branch should drop the summer meeting in future and Members agreed that this would be a sensible option.

2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary reported many apologies for absence including the following branch members:

Mr P Camamile (South Holland)	Mr P Gilbert (Witham First)
Mr T Purllant (Welland & Deepings)	Mr J Hargreaves (NE Lindsey)
Mr D Branton (Welland & Deepings)	Mr L Grooby (NE Lindsey)
Mr D Thomas (Middle Level Commissioners)	Mr S Markillie (South Holland)
Mr R Hill (Hundred of Wisbech & Waldersley)	Mr J Grant (Witham Fourth)
Ms Lorna McShane (Middle Level Commissioners)	Mr E Johnson (Witham Fourth)
Ms Sam Ablett (Middle Level Commissioners)	Mr S Eyre (Lindsey Marsh)
Mr M Sly (North Level)	Mr M Brookes (Black Sluice)
Mr W Gee (North Level)	Mr N Robinson (EA)
Mr F Myers (Upper Witham)	

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 20th February 2018 were confirmed as accurate and they were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

A Carrott asked whether ADA had completed their work on the revised Byelaws. Innes Thomson confirmed that they were in their final iteration and would be approved shortly, for Boards to use.

5. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK and DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Matt Harrison gave the meeting a general update that covered the following:

NEW STRATEGY – this is being refreshed to include other initiatives such as WRE and the LEP Water Management Plan. A Water Management Summit will be held each year to include all wider water management stakeholders. The draft strategy should be finalised by March 2019.

DRAINAGE LIAISON GROUPS – These are operating well except for Boston & South Holland which has not met for 2 years. However, a meeting has been set up in Sept 2018 and will be chaired by Andy Wharf, LCC.

SECTION 19 INVESTIGATIONS – There is a backlog of investigations going back to June 2018 as a result of staff shortages in the Technical Services Team that collate this information.

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

CONSENTING & ENFORCEMENT MoU: This arrangement was renewed in April 2018 for a further 3 years and this partnering arrangement is working well.

6. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Unfortunately, there was no one present at the meeting from the Environment Agency. However, an update from the EA had been given at a recent RFCC meeting and the following matters were noted:

- Water abstraction licenses are being renewed, including IDBs which was an area of concern
- Deborah Campbell is standing down from the FRM role for 18 months to concentrate on Coastal matters and we will be informed shortly regarding her temporary replacement
- The EA are in the process of doing an asset strategy review with the aim of achieving ISO 55001

- The 6-year program refresh has resulted in around 60 new lines of RMA projects which is encouraging

7. RFCC FUNDED POST TO SUPPORT IDB FCERM CAPITAL PROJECTS

Ian Warsap reported that the deadline for applications was not until 28 July but that no applications had yet been submitted. The Branch secretary reported that he had discussed with the EA Area Manager, the possibility of seconding EA staff to fill the role should applications be unsuitable.

8. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ADA

ADA Chairman, Robert Caudwell, gave an update on National ADA matters and began by highlighting the points covered at the latest ADA Board meeting:

- ADA was operating in line with the financial budget for 2018
- IDB mapping was now live on the ADA website, showing all of the IDBs in England and Wales
- RFCC Boundaries would appear on the website later in the year
- The ADA Conference would stick to the format of previous years
- Lincoln has hosted a very successful launch of the Water Resources East (WRE) project, led by ADA's former Chairman, Henry Cator, which presented a real opportunity for Lincolnshire

Innes Thomson then covered a range of topics to update members:

- The ADA conference promised a good line up of speakers. The headline speaker is Sue Hayman, Shadow spokesperson on Water.
- The theme of the Conference was "incident management" and Robert Hossen from Holland was speaking together with John Curtin from the EA and Sarah Hendry from Defra
- FLOODDEX 2019 would be held in conjunction with the UK Irrigation sector and also the Association of Suds Authorities Officers (LASOO)
- The ADA OFFICE has engaged with the EA's refresh of their FCERM Strategy. David Sisson and Peter Bateson are both involved with 2 subgroups of the new strategy and North Level IDB held an IDB engagement workshop of the previous day
- The new Byelaws are being updated which is a significant piece of work and the result will be to strengthen some of the criminal compliance byelaws
- THE GOOD GOVERNANCE GUIDE is in the final stages of production and will be released in 2018 through a series of CPD seminars for Members
- A HEALTH & SAFETY questionnaire has been sent to all IDBs and ADA are looking for a 100% response
- EEL REGULATIONS – good progress is being made and Innes praised those Lincolnshire IDBs who has contributed to this project, including field trials etc. Paul Sharman asked when were IDBs likely to get a steer from the EA as action is needed by 2020, at the end of the initial 5 year grace period
- WATER TRANSFER LICENSING – ADA are pushing hard to get IDBs treated in the same way as the EA, as our use and need are the same, e.g. we are not just another commercial extractor. Andy Carrott asked whether Innes would recommend Boards waited until the new Byelaws are approved if they have applications ready to submit. His advice was to stay on the right side of the law and submit applications before any deadlines, but the aim was to get IDBs on the same priority level as the EA.
- RIVERS AUTHORITY AND LAND DRAINAGE BILL – has been submitted as a private members bill which DEFRA will support as it will give the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) a formal role.

ADA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Martin Shilling gave a summary of the last meeting which was a teleconference and despite concerns, it worked quite well. Matters covered included:

- H&S and welfare issues – attention was drawn to page 23 of the ADA Gazette which provided very useful guidance
- The H&S questionnaire had been prepared and distributed and results will be anonymous. Any nil returns would be a cause of concern
- At the EA, James Yarham (based in Exeter), had taken over from Ian Russell to develop PSCA agreements

The next meeting was scheduled for 18 December 2018.

ADA POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Innes Thomson went through the last P&F and highlighted the following:

- Tim Farr chaired his first meeting
- Defra reported that Therese Coffey was off work, and this had led to a backlog and a stand-in minister had been appointed; the Parrett/Axe-Brue reorganization had gone through; there was a research proposal on IDB membership and ADA will be part of this and finally, the future of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) was being considered
- ADA are very keen to capture and publish IDB success stories so please make ADA aware
- The EA have increased local FDGiA sign-off levels to £0.5M to speed up project delivery times

During questions Innes was asked about GDPR, he said that the effective date of 25 May 2018 was not a cliff edge but IDBs would have to show a good direction of travel towards compliance with the Regulations.

9. REPORTS FROM BRANCH COMMITTEES

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

Daniel Withnall reported from the last meeting, which was held earlier in the week:

- Geoff Keithley was introduced as the new UNISON employee representative
- Boards had agreed that they should all follow the White Book and of the 13 changes required for this to happen, 10 were accepted by the employees' representative.
- The remaining 3 points would be addressed once more feedback was obtained
- The next meeting would be in September to consider the 2019 pay award
- The following meeting would be in March 2019, to review the terms and conditions in more detail. The aim was to have a legally compliant White Book by 1 April 2019

ii) The Award-Winning Events Committee

Julian Boden was delighted to report that the Partnership Stand at the Lincolnshire Show had won the Gamekeepers' Cup for the second year running, and the cup was on display at the meeting. Julian said this was a great result and thanked the partners that were involved in making this happen. The Chalk Streams dipping tank went down very well with schoolchildren; and the Boston Barrier video display was also well received. Two ADA staff were also present (Innes and Heather) who were very welcome.

Heckington Show was on 28/29 July and volunteers to man the stand were still required.

Robert Caudwell, ADA Chairman, thanked the Events team for their hard work and said how important PR is for ADA and its members. He presented the Branch with personalized ADA mugs, celebrating the two-year award which were well received.

iii) Environment Committee

There was no one at the meeting to give this report but a meeting had not been held since the previous Branch meeting

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were 2 items of other business raised:

- 1) Ian Russell had recently retired from the EA and David Sisson made a short speech, thanking Ian for the support he had given to the IDB Community and wished him a long and happy retirement, which was echoed by Branch Members. Ian then thanked the Branch for their kind words and said he hoped that the EA would remain engaged with the Branch.

- 2) It was also Andy Carrott's last Branch meeting as he retires in September 2018. The Branch thanked Andy for the contribution he had made over a number of years, as he had just celebrated 40 years in the industry earlier that week.

Next meeting: Joint Lincolnshire Branch AGM – Thursday 18 October 2018 (venue tba)

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