



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Branch Chairman: Charles Pudge
Branch Director: James Hereford
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ADA Marches Branch

Date: Thursday 26th November 2019

As part of the EA/IDB Annual Liaison meeting at Mercure Bewdley The Heath Hotel,
Habberley Road, Bewdley DY12 1LA

Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Present
Innes Thomson (Chair)	IT	ADA	√
Charles Pudge (Chairman)	CP	River Lugg IDB	Apologies
James Hereford (ADA marches Branch Director)	JH	River Lugg IDB	Apologies
Raymond Sutherland	RS	Sow and Penk IDB	Apologies
Richard Blackwell	RB	Water Resources West	√
Adrienne Davies (Hon Sec)	AD	River Lugg IDB	√
Mike Barnes	MB	Lower Severn IDB	√
James Thomas	JT	Lower Severn IDB	√
Kate Mayne	KM	Strine IDB	√
Jim Dale	JD	Rea IDB	√
Betton Cambidge	BC	Melverley IDB	Apologies
Richard Jones	RJ	Rea / Molverley IDB	√
Beth Lewis	BL	Herefordshire Council	√
David Lesser	DL	Gloucestershire County Council	√
Lucinda Lycett	LL	Telford and Wrekin Council	√
John Bellis	JB	Shropshire council	√
Mark Bowers	MB	Environment Agency	√
Dave Edwards	DE	Environment Agency	√
Barry Killner	BK	Environment Agency	√
Paul Ardill	PA	Environment Agency	√
Hermes Carlyon	HC	Environment Agency	√
Andrew Bebb	AB	Rea IDB	Apologies

1. Welcome

IT welcomed everyone to the ADA Branch AGM.

IT thanked the EA for arranging the meeting and for agreeing to incorporate the ADA Marches Branch AGM within the EA meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Charles Pudge, James Hereford, Raymond Sutherland, Betton Cambidge, Andrew Bebb.

Announcements

IT thanked the EA for arranging the meeting and for agreeing to incorporate the ADA Marches Branch AGM within the EA meeting.

3. Election of Branch Chairman

RJ proposed that CP continue as chairman for the forthcoming 12 months, this was seconded by KM this unanimously agreed.

Following a conversation with CP ahead of the meeting, IT mentioned that whilst CP was willing to continue as Chair for a further year, he has intimated that he would like to formally stand down next year. IT therefore asked the group to consider nominations for the position of Chair prior to the next meeting.

4. Election of Branch vice-chairman

No nominations were forthcoming at the meeting and attendees requested some time to reflect on the matter.

IT reminded the group that while a vice-chairman does not have to be appointed that the group should prior to the next meeting consider nominations for the post of chairman and vice-chairman.

5. Minutes of the last meeting and update on actions

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, all actions were complete

6. Marches Branch Director on the ADA Executive Board

RJ proposed that JH be re-elected as the Marches Branch Director, this was seconded by KM.

This was unanimously agreed. IT reminded the group that an election takes place every three years and that JH's re-appointment for a second term was now valid until the Branch AGM in the autumn of 2022.

7. Appointment of Branch Secretary

IT was very grateful that AD has agreed to continue as the Secretary to the Branch for the forthcoming 12 months but stated that, like CP, she has intimated that she would like to stand down at the next meeting. Branch Members were therefore asked to consider a new Branch Secretary for appointment at the next AGM.

8. ADA national update

IT highlighted ADA's asks of parliamentary candidates, with specific focus on policy change targeting the following 7 points;

- 1. Long term investment horizons in the face of climate change challenges** – Flood risk management delivers enduring benefits and authorities involved need to be able to plan ahead financially over multiple years and need to receive a sensible balance of capital and revenue funding, spread across the river catchments, in order to find efficiencies through climate change adaptation and resilience, and attract business investment.

- 2. Promote co-operation and partnership working to manage the water environment and reduce flood risk** – Close cooperation between flood risk management authorities, water companies, communities, business and land managers needs the continued strong support of government to deliver adaptive and resilient flood risk maintenance and similar activities more efficiently and affordably.
- 3. Total catchment management** – Total catchment management is now the widely accepted approach to managing our water and now is the time to increase and empower local professionals and communities to manage and operate these catchments together.
- 4. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)** – The next government needs to fully implement Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, to ensure future development can keep pace with the challenges of the changing climate, by ensuring that SuDS are maintained over the lifetime of a development.
- 5. Support local governance in flood and water level management decision making** – In some parts of England there is an appetite for greater local maintenance delivery on watercourses and flood defence assets than that currently afforded from national investment. This can be achieved via the careful transfer of some main river maintenance to local bodies or the expansion of areas maintained by those local bodies, such as Internal Drainage Boards, where there is local support and transitional funding.
- 6. Local Government Finances** – It is vital that Special and Local Levy funding mechanisms for drainage, water level and flood risk management continue to be part of this funding landscape to maintain the democratic link with local communities affected.
- 7. Brexit: Ensuring a resilient regulatory framework for the water environment** – The next government needs to provide clear policy messages about how they wish to make the delivery of environmental improvements to the water environment easier and more effective as we transition from European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.

IT concluded by highlighting that river conveyance and ensuring that rural communities were not left unsupported were the two top priorities that any government now needs to address.

9. Discussion / AOB.

None.

10. Date and venue of next Branch AGM

It was agreed that combining the annual EA and ADA branch meeting worked well and to continue this next year.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.