



POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday 8th January 2020 13.30 – 16.30

Goodenough College, Mecklenburgh Square, Holborn, London WC1N 2AB

Present: **Tim Farr (TF) chair**

Beverly Agass (BA), Robert Caudwell (RC), Karen Daft (KD), Nigel Everard (NE), Jane Froggatt (JF), Matthew Harrison (MH), Rachael Hill (RH), Carol Tidmarsh (CT), Lorna McShane (LM), Bill Symons (BS), Innes Thomson (IT), Andrew McGill (AMG), Sofi Lloyd (SL), Trevor Purlant (TP), Roger Burge (RB).

Apologies: Peter Bateson (PB), Phil Winrow (PW), Ian Moodie (IM), David Sisson (DS), David Thomas (DT)

Ref	Minute	Action
1501	Welcome & Apologies TF welcomed Beverly Agass to the Committee, who replaces Frances Bowler. Sincere thanks were recorded for all the work and support received from Frances during her time on the P & F Committee.	
1502	Declarations of interest None noted.	
1503	Approval of Minutes Minutes of meeting on 4 September 2019 approved.	
1504	Matters Arising Review of action list: 1488e - RH – Complete 1505c - RH – Complete 1505e - RH&IT – Complete	
1505	Committee Appointments All - Agreed that Tim Farr to continue as Chair for the period 1 st April 2020 to 31 st March 2022. All - Agreed to the proposal of IM to take on secretary role for P&F and SL to take on T&E. IT had also sought support from DT ahead of the meeting.	
1506	National FCERM Strategy RH – Release was delayed by election but timescales are now that it is expected to be approved by the minister by the end of the month but then might need to	

wait for budget approval in early March. Discussions are still gaining pace, meeting for ADA to discuss possible IDB delivery pledges is to be rescheduled.

IT – at this morning's meeting the T & E committee refined the IDB focus into 3 areas – funding, resilience and adaptation.

CT – each of the potential governments' manifesto's included extra spending on flooding and climate change so it is reasonable to expect that this will now take place.

IT – common message received is that existing infrastructure needs to be upgraded in a green way. **RH** – EA is relaying the same message both for inland and for coastal infrastructure.

JF – We should use the FCERM strategy update process to lobby for change in funding structure of GiA as well as mainstream funding – it needs to include agricultural land, valued as a factory without a roof. Strategy also needs to link with LLFA strategies.

MH – agreed that agricultural land should be valued and taken into consideration in the funding review.

RH – EA is strengthening the recognition of fells & low-lying agricultural land. Please note that the strategy is being written with the current funding framework in mind. FCERM strategy update is not tasked with setting policy but to reflect policy.

AMG – Priority from his IDB's perspective is 1 – resilience, 2 – adaptation and 3 – finance but the EA's perspective seems to be its 1 – finance, 2 – adaptation then 3 – resilience.

BA – We should use the opportunity that good water level management brings benefits to the economy and development, and the need to highlight the funding gap to the government, who will at this stage be looking for quick wins.

IT – Capital maintenance funding should be the focus and should be used to raise awareness.

RC – Even if land values are updated, it won't change the problems with the cost benefit ratios in current funding structures. We need a different approach and need to spend more to save in the future.

MH – The discussions around this [changes to cost benefits ration funding structures] will be difficult within the LA.

RH – There is no lack of ambition in the strategy. Now is a good time to react to the current issues and drive the strategy and James & Emma are clear that follow through is needed also.

TF – Cost benefits are different depending on which RMA is judging.

	<p>RH – Just to remind all that DEFRA & the RPA launched the farming flood recovery fund this week for 2019 events.</p> <p>JF – Emergency Cost Recovery: Our [Witham & Humber IDBs] have financial reserves but these reserves are not designed to cover the costs of moving other LLFA’s water. 2 W&H IDBs are facing £186k of extra costs as a result of the flooding issues from main rivers in 2019. Because the state of emergency only covered a few days each time and the LA incurred limited costs then there is no funding avenue to exploit via the Belwin scheme. If other external funding isn’t received to cover these emergency recovery costs then it will have serious consequences to the IDBs. This Committee should be tasked with lobbying this cost recovery. Even the funding received through insurance claims will have negative financial implications.</p> <p>BS – Beverley & North Holderness has also suffered significant costs.</p> <p>SL – ADA is gathering emergency costs information from all IDB’s to consolidate and progress. Also need a review of the criteria which allows the release of national resilience assets such as HVP’s and MVP’s (pumps). Currently they are only able to be deployed within the times and dates of an official state of emergency but were not in JF’s area and the fire service has 52+ across the country which could have been used to help in Lincs when all EA pumps were employed elsewhere. [Post – meeting note: Emergency costs consolidated and now sent to DEFRA, meeting being arranged to review]</p> <p>Action - IT to draft detail around 3 sector pledges - resilience, adaptation & funding and issue to committee for review prior to FCERM strategy meeting</p>	<p>IT</p>
<p>1507</p>	<p><u>Committee 2019 workstream reviews</u></p> <p>a) Educational resources IT - Is underway as per update – LEAF is now writing a learning resources pack aimed at Key Stage ¾ level including practical activities with a focus on water level management and possibly a pumping station visit. A visit is being arranged for LEAF in Lincs to gain better overview of industry.</p> <p>b) Developer Contributions SL - As per update attached – DS sent final draft to IM for distribution and approval so SL will aim to get it out this week so approval is ready for the board meeting in Feb. Action – SL to distribute as above to all</p> <p>c) Bylaws SL – As per update – Proposed revisions prepared by working group and shared as a formal request for change with DEFRA. Response from DEFRA awaited.</p> <p>d) Data and evidence SL – report sent out before Christmas for review and comments to be delivered at this meeting. Requests that all comments are forwarded to SL by the end of</p>	<p>SL</p>

	<p>Jan as the infographic will be developed in 1st week of Feb for launch at Floodex. The numbers won't be the same as hopefully the 2018 – 2019 figures will be out by then but the analysis will be the same. ? – may be some sensitivity through naming the “top” boards in different categories as it is supposed to be anonymous. KD – transparency is good and all data is good data. ? - The biodiversity information particularly in the last section of the analysis should be for internal use and not disseminated into the public forum as may not be helpful to do so. SL – agrees and has been recognised and narrative prefacing that section states the same.</p> <p>Action – All comments by Committee members to be sent to SL by end of Jan. All</p> <p>SL – Will postpone the questionnaire issue to see how much of the info can be gained through changes to the IDB1 data collection process. Then IDB1 guidance will be improved to help with a more consistent data collection across IDB's.</p> <p>SL – Have approached EA to seek guidance on appropriate GIS platform and a meeting is in process of being arranged. RH – EA colleagues have requested that to make best use of time and the visit that the proposed IDB1 changes are prepared and discussed at the same visit. SL – agreed and will prepare as such.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>SL – It is proposed that SL takes over the biodiversity workstream with immediate effect and make some fast progress as it is recognised that it is the priority workstream.</p> <p>SL – SL is drafting a proposal to DEFRA to begin an IDB environmental support guidance project similar to the good governance project which delivered a guidance handbook and workshops. DEFRA have offered approx. £15k to undertake. If approved, work will begin in Feb and workshops likely to take place in 2021.</p>	
<p>1508</p>	<p><u>Committee workstream proposals for 2020</u></p> <p>SL – we are continuing with a number of 2019 workstreams throughout 2020, including biodiversity, education and data & evidence so focus will be on the completion of those before any others are initiated. However, due to recent flooding events, a key topic which will need to be progressed anyway is managing channel sedimentation. T&E agreed this morning with the strategy of completing existing workstreams alongside progression of the new theme of managing channel sedimentation. This topic will have proactive approaches such as working more on a catchment scale with riparian landowners to reduce siltation through run-off and investigate new or novel reactive approaches to remove sediment build-up including suction dredging and air-injection. The possibility of increasing partnership working on a catchment scale to reduce siltation from agriculture is being investigated with Stephen Briggs from I4agri, catchment sensitive farming and others and may include match funding opportunities for knowledge exchange events and/or practical measures driven by IDB's. Also will progress issues with dredging waste management.</p>	

	<p>TF – Climate change needed as a headline topic to be progressed. Channel maintenance/de-silting ought to be dealt with through T & E Committee.</p> <p>RH – Topics proposed seem tactical rather than strategic and may lack ambition. AMG – without de-siltation, there will be no future so de-siltation is strategic. SL – changing industry focus from in-channel management to a wider catchment management is ambitious when it is not the way things may have been done before. MH – supports a catchment-based approach. IT – ADA and IDB’s look to EA for strategy and policy on this. RH – focus on delivering what does good look like.</p> <p>TF – Some of the workstreams are cross-cutting across both committees and the decision on what workstreams ADA are able to progress must rest with the ADA office. RB – But managing channel sedimentation must be a focus. TF – Agree sedimentation topic be covered by T&E and that P & F Committee will continue workstreams on Educational Resources, Developer Contributions and Bylaws. Additional workstreams will be formed to cover ADA’s position on Climate Change and the public promotion of ADA activities in conjunction with policy & political engagement,</p> <p>IT – The Environment Bill is about to be introduced to parliament [post-meeting note: introduced on 30th January 2020 and a sub-group ought to be created to review its content and progress].</p>	
<p>1509</p>	<p><u>ADA Updates</u></p> <p>Budget 2020 IT - Planned to operate to a deficit this year to utilise some reserves built up over last few years. Please forward comments on budgets to ADA ASAP prior submission to board on 12th Feb. <i>Action – All - as above</i></p> <p>Business plan IT – Updated 2020 – 2023 business plan and will include climate change planning. Please forward comments to ADA ASAP prior submission to board on 12th Feb. <i>Action – All - as above</i></p> <p>EUWMA IT – Articles of Association will be changed to allow inclusion of non-EU countries such as UK and are hopeful that some other countries will join such as Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. Discussions ongoing with Romania about their interest in joining EUWMA, taking into account that water management is carried out by the state and not by devolved local authorities as with other current EUWMA members.</p> <p>ASA IT - Working and finances with ASA is positive. AMG – Where do we see the future with ASA? Is it planned that ADA and ASA “combine”? IT – No the arrangement at the moment works well so will continue as is, both organisations benefit from working with the other. The Service Level Agreement with ASA has a</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>three-year term with stop or renew clauses. LM – ASA definitely added value and interest at Floodex.</p> <p>Floodex 2020 Organisation is on-target. Discussing options for future exhibitions with the Board including a practical demo. Floodex income has reduced over the past couple of years so need to review how future events reverse that trend. KD – think the focus is wrong, should be focusing on delivering to a target audience not on income. Finds it difficult to convince own IDB staff to attend as once they have attended once, not much is gained from going again the next year.</p> <p>EA/IDB Summit RH – John Curtin, Catherine Wright and Ken Allison meeting IT on Monday to discuss and plan the summit and need to be provided with aims and outcomes expected from the meeting. IT – the main purpose is to identify what each perceive are the obstacles faced by the industry and discuss how we can overcome them. MH – LA’s not involved in summit which is understandable and fine but would like to be informed of the outcomes. [Post meeting note: Date agreed for 30th March at Stoneleigh Park].</p>	
	<p><u>AOB</u> None</p>	
	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u></p>	

UNAPPROVED MINUTES