



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Remote Meeting via Zoom
Monday 8th February 2021
13.30pm – 16.30pm
DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

Attendees:					
Name	Representing	Present	Name	Representing	Present
Andrew Newton	Engineer - Ely Group of Drainage Boards	Apols.	Ed Johnson	Chief Engineer - Witham Fourth IDB	Yes
Chris Manning	Environmental Officer, WMC & Doncaster East IDB	Yes	Innes Thomson	Chief Exec - ADA	Yes
David Thomas	CE - Middle Level Commissioners	Apols.	Guy Hird	Acting Head of Technical & Engineering Services- Lincoln & District IDB's	Yes
Diana Ward	Ecologist for Ely and Bedfordshire groups of IDB's	Yes	Mat Jackson	West Sussex CC	Yes
Orlando Venn	Natural England	Apols.	Martin Slater	EA – Yorkshire Area	Yes
Peter Bateson	CE - Witham Fourth IDB	Apols.	Roger Burge	CE & Clerk - Somerset IDB's	Yes
Robert Caudwell	ADA Chairman	Yes	Trevor Purllant	Committee Chairman	Yes
Phil Camamile	Chief Executive, Water Management Alliance	Apols.	Sofi Lloyd	Committee Secretary & Tech. Officer - ADA	Yes
Ian Moodie	Tech Manager - ADA	Yes	Tim Farr	ADA P&F Committee Chair	Yes
Andy McLachlan	Chief Executive - Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Boards	Apols.			

Ref	Minute
	Formalities, Regular Topics & Updates
1544	Apologies received and welcome to new members TP welcomed everyone to the meeting & put forward apologies for non-attendance
1545	Declarations of Interest - TP None noted.
1546	Approval of Minutes - TP Minutes of the Committee's previous meeting held on Sept 2020 were approved.
1547	Action Log - SL Actions progressing as detailing in the log
	Brief Workstream Updates

1548	<p>a) Biodiversity</p> <p>SL: The new Biodiversity Action Plan template and associated guidance has now been launched and is available from the ADA website.</p> <p>Several IDBs are already using the template and feedback has been positive.</p> <p>CM: Some IDBs i.e. Lincs who are consenting for LLFA's will need to work carefully together around the development and execution of BAP actions.</p>
1549	<p>b) Data and Evidence Workstream Progress Update</p> <p><i>IDB boundary layers</i></p> <p>SL: The full data package of IDB boundaries for GIS systems was finally published at the beginning of October with the assistance of the EA, and is now publicly available online for download.</p>
1550	<p><i>Infographics</i></p> <p>SL: The final full set of IDB infographics were published in mid-December and have been very well received. A sample was published in the ADA Gazette and the full versions can be downloaded from the ADA website.</p>
1551	<p><i>Biodiversity Metrics</i></p> <p>SL: A final draft of the ADA Annual Biometrics Survey has been completed and includes all of the approx. 40 suggestions received. There are 9 metrics questions now developed which are designed to collect a much wider range of information that our original approach would have enabled. The survey has been designed and will be issued as a Microsoft Excel form for ease of completion. Survey guidance is now being drafted to accompany the survey spreadsheet and both are expected to be distributed in early Feb following the completion of the Environmental Good Governance Guide. To emphasize, the completion of any part of the biometrics survey is not mandatory and will not be part of the IDB1. IDBs can choose to complete as much or as little as they wish.</p>
1552	<p><i>IDB1 Revision Recommendations</i></p> <p>SL: Now the biodiversity metrics have been finalised, work will resume to prioritise and finalise the drafted list of IDB1 revision recommendations we will approach DEFRA to discuss following consultation with the Committee.</p> <p>Some clarity over the current biodiversity metrics within the IDB1 was requested.</p>
1553	<p><i>GIS and remaining data requirements</i></p> <p>SL: As detailed above, much has been done to collect, collate, interpret and present a wide range of data around the work of IDBs. We originally proposed to also develop an in-house GIS capability to enable us to analyse and present geographical data relating to IDBs to further enhance the IDB data library. We recommend that we now allow a period for the new data we have already available to become embedded into our communications before we commit resource to progress this sub-workstream.</p> <p>All comments were in favour of holding off developing a GIS capability. Some expressed concern over the potentially costly licences and time needed for a system to be kept up to date which may be a burden to ADAs small team.</p>
1554	<p>c) HS&W</p> <p>SL: 2 of the 3 HS&W modules are now available for download from the ADA website.</p>

<p>1555</p>	<p>They cover HS&W Board member responsibilities. The 3rd to be loaded to the website soon covers risk management for Board members. Feedback is requested on the modules once they have been viewed. The next round of module development will take place if feedback is positive.</p> <p>Action: All to provide feedback on HS&W modules to SL.</p> <p>TP: is very important that the modules are kept short, no more than 10-15 mins otherwise they won't fit into the board meeting agenda. EJ: The next modules would benefit from being a little more upbeat to retain audience attention.</p> <p>d) Climate Change (IDB adaptation and carbon reduction)</p> <p>All comments in favour of focussing on carbon emission reduction approaches rather than offsetting. General concern over how IDBs will be able to meet any carbon-neutral initiatives with current technologies.</p> <p>MS: Good to work with partners and share knowledge. IM&SL: IDBs need to start with using carbon calculators to benchmark current position before moving forward with any approaches and targets. IM&IT: The focus must be on the water-energy nexus and support must be improved for investing to save long-term. MS: 17% of EA's emissions are derived from pumping stations. Carbon calculating has evolved so much so recently that the EA recalculated its emissions in line with current understanding and the emissions result increased by nearly 50%. EJ: Industry suppliers will support with developing more efficient technologies. RC&IT: Improvement steps must be facilitated by Government and the EA.</p>
<p>1556</p>	<p>e) Managing Channel Sedimentation</p> <p>SL: Will commence following the completion of the Environmental Good Governance Guide.</p>
<p>1557</p> <p>1558</p> <p>1559</p> <p>1560</p> <p>1561</p>	<p>Summary of recent work progressed:</p> <p>a) Environmental Good Governance Guide</p> <p>SL: Writing has been brought in-house and is nearing completion.</p> <p>b) Consultations</p> <p>SL: EFRA ELMS consultation was completed and submitted in Jan. Main themes were calls for greater priority for water level management measures and highlighting IDBs as well-placed to offer expertise and support for such measures.</p> <p>c) Summary of last ADA Board meeting</p> <p>As tabled, no further discussion.</p> <p>d) ADA Meetings and Events update 2020 and 2021</p> <p><i>Demo Event</i></p> <p>IM: Chris Hartley is developing a business plan for the demo event. Expected to take place in the Humber or Doncaster area in Summer 2022. TP: Important that finances stack up. RC: Aim is to not try to do too much at one event had maintain a strong focus on working demonstrations. Opportunities to deliver seminar type presentations can be sought via other events. Common support for ensuring that there is at least some indoor interest and some educational opportunities for operators.</p> <p><i>Conference</i></p> <p>RC: Will be making a decision on whether conference is on-line or face to face by May to ensure losses from bookings are minimised. Highly likely it will be online but feedback</p>

<p>1562</p> <p>1563</p> <p>1564</p> <p>1565</p> <p>1566</p> <p>1567</p> <p>1568</p>	<p>from last years' event was great so we have a good template to work from to go on-line again.</p> <p><i>Other meetings / Branch meetings:</i></p> <p>RC: Face to face meetings unlikely some many months yet. SL: ADA is reviewing the situation regularly and is putting back-up plans in place wherever necessary for all events.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders & Covid:</i></p> <p>IM: Discussing with DEFRA if the temporary standing orders to allow Boards to hold remote meetings until May 2021 should be made permanent. DEFRA think it may be fairly simple to do. Feedback has been requested. EJ: Remote meetings have worked well but attention and engagement is sometimes lacking compared to round table meetings. IM: ADA may have to produce some best practice guidance including the need to turn on video where possible and meeting etiquette etc.</p> <p><i>P&F Update:</i></p> <p>IM: The potential for increasing <u>land drainage fees</u> being discussed with DEFRA. Also discussing strengthening byelaws to include assets such as attenuation ponds and SUDS. The wording is currently being defined.</p> <p>IM: <u>Education workstream</u>: 2 resource packs have been developed covering the fens and Somerset aimed at GCSE Geography level students. Risk assessments for pumping station visits done.</p> <p>RC: <u>Lowland Peat Task Forces</u> very much need IDB involvement. Expect to be mainly farmer-led but could IDBs run regional groups? Local task forces have been given 18m to write action plans. There is support for a new IDB to be created n Alt Crossens West Lancs in support of the initiative.</p> <p><u>Potential loss of Red Diesel exemption</u>: Several discussed that it is commonly accepted that use of red diesel by IDBs is currently lawful despite the ambiguity in the law. Common agreement that the law is ambiguous and has been for a long time so needs clarifying alongside current situation. EJ: Some IDBs interpretation is that provided the work is not-for profit & non-rechargeable work the use is currently lawful. IM: The area which has been unclear has been the road travel to get to the area being maintained and back. Figures on implications of IDBs having to use white diesel have been provided to Treasury. DEFRA have chased Treasury for a response. The call from ADA has been to align the phasing out of Red Diesel to that for agriculture. Concern also highlighted that IDBs could lose valued and experienced farming contractors if they weren't prepared to run separate vehicles for red and white diesel. ADA awaits response. DW: Could seek legal assistance to clarify.</p> <p><i>Environment forum:</i></p> <p>SL & DW: Really well received so more will be planned.</p>
<p>1569</p>	<p>Work to be progressed in 2021</p> <p>a) IDB Badger class licence</p> <p>SL: Badger class licence system isn't working for a number of IDBs so SL is working</p>

	<p>with NE to clarify the rules. CM&DW: Protected species licences being on-line only is proving difficult as it isn't easy to identify when changes have been made to the on-line version, what the changes are. Also can't print off licences so can't provide a copy to operatives as licence requires.</p> <p>Action: SL will raise with NE.</p> <p>b) ADA Branches reinvigoration</p> <p>1570 SL requested ideas to re-invigorate ADA Branch meetings during the current on-line restrictions.</p> <p>Action: All to send ideas to SL</p> <p>1571 c) Good Governance Guide update</p> <p>SL: Is due to be refreshed so is planned for autumn 2021. TP: Welcomed.</p> <p>1572 d) HS&W survey</p> <p>As c.</p> <p>e) Gazette discussion</p> <p>1573 SL: Requested feedback on Gazette content, subject balance, ideas for and contributions towards articles.</p> <p>Action: All: provide feedback and ideas for Gazette.</p>
<p>1574</p> <p>1575</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) Committee Appointments</p> <p>SL: Ragnar Grenar has been put forward as the new representative from Bedford Pumps following Steve Grahams' departure. All Approved.</p> <p>SL: Pleased to announce that 3 new members of the T&E committee, Andy Mclachlan - Ouse & Humber IDBs, Andy Morritt – Coal Authority & Phil Camamile – WMA. TP&IT: Delighted to welcome these new members who will be valuable to the group.</p> <p>SL: Thank-you to CM to agreeing to another term on the Committee subject to formalities.</p> <p>SL: Immediately following the meeting via email voting, TP was voted in by all members for another term as Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>IT: Martin Shilling taking a sabbatical from Committee for health reasons.</p> <p>b) Maintenance Standards</p> <p>MS: 2 area Ops Managers have expressed concern over different maintenance standards across some IDBs & has been asked to raise through the EA's IDB group. Believe it relates to weed cutting. Will gather more information to ensure information integrity. MS requests more information on what best practice approaches IDBs have and how they can be shared. IT: Right place to raise it. TF: Access to IDB ditches can be an issue. CM have to keep in mind that conveyance is the major factor determining maintenance regimes. TP: Agreed. MS: Will gather more information. SL: Env. Good Gov. Guide will help to align knowledge and approach alongside already available Biodiversity Drainage Channel Manual and other example IDB best practice manuals available through the ADA website.</p>
	<p>Future Meeting Dates 2021</p> <p>The Committee agreed the following dates for their meetings in 2021:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26th May• 14th September
	Close of meeting

APPROVED