



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

24th May 2022

Supporting papers

5. Key Recent Business:

a) **Committee Appointments – Sofi Lloyd**

We are pleased to welcome back Ed Johnson, Diana Ward, Martin Shilling and Mat Jackson to the Committee for another term. We also welcome Dan Martin from Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Boards, Gary Leatherbarrow from Bedford Pumps and Oliver Pantry from Upper Medway IDB to their first Committee meeting and look forward to working with them on Committee matters. We currently have one vacancy on the Committee which we will be working to fill in the coming months. Please do suggest any colleagues you think may be interested who we could approach.

b) **Committee re-organisation – Sofi Lloyd**

In line with recent work re-organisation within the ADA team, we propose that the following key topics sit within each committee going forward:

T&E	P&F
Environment and biodiversity including peat (beavers with IM)	FCERM strategy, precept and HWC matters
WFD, abstraction, water quality and water resource management	IDB Governance and Accountability
Engineering	Policy & finance matters
APPG	Events
Climate & carbon (accepting cross-over between committees on this one)	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion + other related HR policies
Agri-environment & soils	H,S & welfare
PSCAs	Planning & SUDS
Data Projects	Education
Waste	Funding
	Byelaws & FCERM consenting
Common	Common
Website elements of above	Website elements of above
Consultations relevant to the above	Consultations relevant to the above
Gazette articles relevant to above	Gazette articles relevant to above

This will able ADA to gain some efficiency from reducing the areas that previously overlapped between team members.



Discussion: This has raised the wider question around whether a Committees review is needed to ensure that they are functioning as efficiently and effectively as possible for all involved and overlapping areas are minimised. For example, red diesel and carbon and climate workstreams overlap with both committees with both requiring input to discussions and proposals. One suggestion is to merge the Committees and to split out specialist areas such as finance, HS&W & HR and environmental areas into sub-committees. Your thoughts are welcome.

6. Workstream Updates

a) Biodiversity Workstream – Sofi Lloyd

Propose to close formal workstream as the objectives of developing biodiversity metrics survey and updated BAP have been achieved. Environmental Good Governance guide is in final edits.

Propose instead to retain a regular discussion topic around environment & biodiversity matters at each Committee meeting, particularly as there is so much change taking place to environmental legislation and regulation at the moment.

i. Biodiversity Net Gain

Discussion: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a key area of interest and we continue to work with the developers of the Rivers & Streams (R&S) metric to ensure that lowland drainage channels are not overlooked for enhancement through biodiversity net gain. Also with Natural England (NE) to understand the impacts of BNG on an IDBs consenting functions. For an ecologist to propose BNG measures to any watercourse they would have to be an accredited user of the R&S metric. This could suggest that those responsible for reviewing BNG plans within IDBs should also be accredited to assess the feasibility of proposed measures and their impact on water levels and flood risk management (WLFRM). SL is undertaking some BNG training in June to learn which elements would be pertinent for IDBs. This is also an opportunity to explore the potential for working with the course and metric developer to devise an IDB-centric course if necessary. ADA would have to pay for the development time for the course but IDB attendance would then be chargeable. Thoughts please?

ii. Key environmental updates

- American weevils have been released in England in an attempt to control the spread of the invasive non-native plant floating pennywort:
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/17/south-american-weevils-released-uk-waterways-tackle-invasive-weed-floating-pennywort#:~:text=South%20American%20weevils%20have%20been,and%20choking%20the%20life%20within.>



- The Levelling up and Regeneration Bill is proposing to replace the Land Drainage Environmental Impact Assessment, amongst all other EIA's with Environmental Outcome Reports: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0006/en/220006en.pdf>
 - The Nature Recovery Green Paper has put forward a number of proposals to change some key biodiversity regulations and processes. Included were proposals to simplify the way current and new protected sites are designated, named and categorised, a simplification of species licencing, reform of the Habitats Regulations and a review of where each of the functions of each of the Governments' environmental arms-length bodies should reside. Proposals to make site improvement plans (SIPs) statutory for protected sites could be good news for IDBs. The SIPS set out the priority measures needed for a site to achieve good condition and those responsible for delivering them. Currently, Where the IDB is the Operating Authority for a water level management plan (WLMP) for a designated site, they are held responsible for the condition of the site but they often have no powers to address the reasons for the site not achieving good status, for example due to poor water quality.
 - There is a now a new need to register with DEFRA as a user of professional plant protection products (PPPs) i.e. pesticides: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/professional-plant-protection-products-ppps-register-as-a-user>
 - The release of the New Eels Regulation Process (NERP) guidance has been delayed until later in the year although the EA are operating to the new process. This raises questions around the need for new exemptions for those that are in need of renewal. ADA has contacted the EA and are awaiting a response.
- **Beavers update:**

iii. Other

Discussion: What are the other current environmental / biodiversity priorities for ADA? There is significant change taking place in environmental policy and legislation so there is a good opportunity to put forward our proposals for how we would like the regulation to look.

b) Data and Evidence Workstream Progress Update – Sofi Lloyd

Discussion:

Infographics were developed from IDB1 reports data 3 years ago. Stats are still representative but would it be useful to update the figures with the latest IDB1 data again? How have the Infographics been used?

What other data and evidence is required for the sector? Carbon data is certainly lacking but engagement with the Carbon Accounting Guide should help. Should we review what data is submitted as part of the IDB1?



c) H,S&W Workstream (Sub-Committee) – Sofi Lloyd

Propose to close for this Committee as the workstream is to be transferred to Policy and Finance Committee workstream in line with recent review of committee and role responsibilities. IM will progress the development of further H&S awareness modules in line with the priorities set by the H&S workstream sub-committee & re-circulate the H&S questionnaire to members in the autumn.

d) Climate Change (IDB adaptation and carbon reduction) – Sofi Lloyd

Carbon calculator for IDB operations now published and will look forward to feedback. Work will now begin to develop carbon reduction policy and a carbon vision templates for IDBs.

The development of the guide to carbon reduction for lowland pumped catchments will commence later in the year.

The Carbon & Climate page is live on the website.

e) Managing Channel Sedimentation – Sofi Lloyd

ADA is continuing to urge policy-makers to allow ADA to join the DEFRA ELMS development working group to ensure that lowland water-level and flood risk management approaches are prioritised for early inclusion and roll out in all 3 ELM schemes. We continue to be frustrated at the lack of progress to this and the lack of information on such future measures being made available to us. IT will continue to lobby for greater representation of the sector in the scheme.

Discussion: What other strands of this workstream could be progressed for the benefit of our members? Could we make more case studies available on the website for example of successful de-siltation strategies?

7. Other Business

Discussion: What are the other main technical areas of focus, aside from carbon reduction technologies for ADA to progress? Are there any pressing topics or areas which need to be addressed?

8. Summary of other T&E recent work progressed

a) All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management - Sofi Lloyd



New date will be arranged and will progress the key take-away points raised at the recent Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit.

b) Consultations

It has been consultation season and ADA has responded to quite a few: See the new Consultations page on the ADA website: <https://www.ada.org.uk/category/consultations/>

9. Other T&E work to be progressed in 2022 – Sofi Lloyd

a) PSCA amendments – Sofi Lloyd

The communication of river maintenance statistics by the Environment Agency at the Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit has revealed the potential opportunities for IDBs to deliver more river maintenance work through PSCA's with a reported £70 million funding gap for main river maintenance. ADA has been working with the EA over the past 2 years to improve some of the terms and guidance within the PSCA including the need for an improved complaints / breaches & disputes process but has been unsuccessful so far. While the EA have shown a preference for less prescriptive guidance for their regional teams in relation to PSCA's in recent years, their own recent internal risk audit recommended that improved guidance was developed in a number of areas to improve risk exposure for both parties.

Discussion: Can ADA help to remove some of the barriers for uptake by IDBs for more PSCA work be tackled? If so how? Is there an appetite to deliver more work under PSCA's?

b) Environment Forums

Well supported so will continue

c) Environmental Stewardship

ADA will continue to seek input to existing regulation and guidance for current stewardship schemes and to developing ELM schemes. Clarification is being sought around the implications for landowners around the need for IDBs to access to riparian margins for maintenance and how all parties can better manage the requirement fairly to minimise conflict. Current process could be a disincentive to uptake of riparian measures.

10. Summary of last ADA Board meeting – Innes Thomson

a) Board Member Changes

New Members Ian Hodge (EA) replacing Catherine Wright and Brian Stewart (RFCC) replacing David Jenkins. Also, Chris Mutton (Eastern Branch) has resigned and David Hickman (LA representative) stands down in early June.



b) ADA Finances

Finance report was accepted, ending the year with just over £232k in the bank and reporting an operating deficit of just over £8k for 2021. An adjusted budget for 2022 was also accepted by the Board, allowing ADA to operate to a deficit budget of £38k. A number of additional cost items were tabled which require approval from the Board before being able to proceed, for example, launch and marketing costs associated with Flood & Water Live 2023.

The Board has also approved in principle the investment of some of ADA's reserves (up to £165k) in appropriate funds, subject to further scrutiny.

The Remuneration Sub-Committee recommended ADA staff remuneration changes to the Board which were accepted.

c) ADA Events

The Board was updated on planned ADA events for 2022 as well as supporting discussions with Dyson Farming Ltd for the Flood & Water Live event in 2023. See details of other ADA events below

d) Defra and EA updates

Discussions centred on red diesel, delays in agreeing PSCAs, concerns about revenue funding and national resource issues

11. P&F update – Ian Moodie

a) ADA Events

Please take a look at the new events page on the ADA website including booking links for events and supporting papers.

- First meeting of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management was held on 28 February 2022.
- The second Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit was held on 12th May at Stoneleigh Park
- ADA have secured a contra-deal to attend Flood & Coast 2022 on 7th to 9th June at Telford.
- ADA to have a presence through its branches at the Lincolnshire Show and Driffield Show in 2022. Decision taken not to take a stand at the Great Yorkshire Show.
- ADA AGM will be held online on 28th September.
- ADA to hold a combined meeting to include an ADA Board meeting with a networking overlap with an IDB Clerks Think-tank.
- ADA Annual Water Management Conference to be held on 9th November, provisionally in Peterborough.



- ADA Flood & Water Live 2023 - Agreement in principle has been reached with Dyson Farms to hold a joint demonstration event in first week of July 2023 based around their Carrington headquarters and the drainage channels there maintained and managed by Witham 4th District IDB.

b) Other in brief - Ian Moodie

- Educational Resources
- Red Diesel
- Development Guidance
- Byelaws
- IDB Remote/Hybrid Meeting Guidance
- IDB Elections Guidance
- Precept Guidance
- ADA Good Governance Guide update – Ian Moodie

12. AOB - All

Discussion: Gazette & website feedback and recommendations