



85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HANDBOOK

28 September 2022
Microsoft Teams Webinar

THE 85TH ADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held online via Microsoft Teams

ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

at 10.30 (opens from 10.20)

HANDBOOK

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WELCOME

by ADA's Chairman, Robert Caudwell

Welcome to my report for the past year 2021/2022.

Innes has set out the work that all our staff have been involved with and the achievements on behalf of the industry, in his report and the ADA Board report.

I will endeavour not to repeat the details of the achievements of ADA and the ongoing work.

However I do want to thank all our staff members and especially Innes for his leadership, and for putting up with my suggestions sometimes on a daily basis.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Board members and Committee members for their time to support ADA.

Our two Committee Chairs are also our Vice-Chairs and a big thank you to you both.

My regular column in the gazette is a collective effort, consisting of my very rough draft, polished and improved by Innes and Ian; this is exactly how it should be as we endeavour to present a consistent message to our readers.

This year has been another year of meteorological record breaking, and I suspect next year will be no different from that point of view, but we cannot predict "what, where, and when".

I have recently been interviewed by the BBC, Guardian and Telegraph on the risk of flooding following the drought, questioning "What have we done to prepare for this and how can we stop the flooding"?

The news is currently focused on the dumping of sewage into rivers and the sea, and the many holiday beaches closed because of this.

We all know that investment in capital and revenue spending on our water management infrastructure is insufficient to meet the demand of the growth in population and housing, and the the changing climate.

There are a multitude of committees, lobby groups and plans advising government on what should be done. ADA is involved directly or is feeding information into many of these as set out in Innes' report.

But ultimately it is quite rightly elected politicians who will take the decision of how much to invest and where.

I suspect the pressure for decisions on water resources and waste water following recent events will be immense.

History often repeats itself and the risk of major flooding following a prolonged drought is high.

ADA has always lobbied for increased

maintenance spending (so often the poor relation to capital spend).

In the coming year, we will continue to lobby government and its agencies for better, smarter more efficient maintenance of our water management assets, ("Flood and Water Live 2023" will demonstrate this); but not at the expense of capital, investing in water storage, more efficient pumping and better telemetry.

We know that the cost-benefit ratio of capital investment in new flood defences is high and we need to make the case that revenue spend is equally positive for the public purse, if not more so.

My focus for the coming year will be to make the case for more, NOT LESS, investment in capital and revenue, and a properly integrated water level management sector.

We must value our water resources and invest in capturing much of the lost resource, via recycling and storing water where it is needed.

ADA members can play a vital role in this, and the regulatory barriers need to be altered to enable this to happen as soon as possible.

As Innes has set out, we work closely with the Association of SUDS Authorities and I

will continue to promote SUDS as part of the solution to surface flooding.

Politicians often talk about affordability of this level of investment; I strongly believe we cannot afford NOT to invest if we want home grown food and clean water in our homes and rivers, and the risk of flooding from all sources to be managed in a sustainable way.

ADA will oppose any cuts in funding and any new regulations that add unnecessary additional costs to the industry. All our members provide an excellent service to the public, industry and farming businesses, whilst being cost effective and affordable to the communities they serve.

I wish you all well for the coming year and it is a great pleasure to work with all our members and supporters.



ROBERT CAUDWELL
CHAIRMAN, ADA

AGENDA

Business and proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Association of Drainage Authorities Memorandum & Articles of Association (<https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Amended-Articles-of-Association-arts-15b-e-13Nov2019.pdf>).

MOTIONS / AMENDMENTS

Any Associate or Full Member of the Company who desires to submit any motion or amendment, or to place any matter on the Agenda for discussion, shall send written particulars thereof to ADA's Chief Executive not less than 30 clear days before the date of the annual general meeting, together with a certified copy of the appropriate resolution of the Associate or Full Member in support thereof.

1. Microsoft Teams Technical Familiarisation
2. Welcome
3. Report of previous AGM (Wednesday 10 November 2021)
4. Notification of ADA Officers (Chairperson, President, and Vice Presidents)
5. Report on the election of Directors to the Board
6. Report on the activities and proceedings of ADA Board, Committees and Staff in 2021/22
7. Presentation and adoption of Approved Accounts 2021
8. Appointment of internal auditor and audit arrangements for 2023
9. Notification of subscription rates for 2023
10. Motions/Amendments to be put to the AGM (notice required by 28 August 2022)
11. ADA Business Questions (AOCB)
12. Close

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Reported by ADA's Chief Executive, Innes Thomson BSc CEng FICE

So much has been happening over the past 12 months, both in the context of water level and flood risk management and, of course, in the wider world too. We are experiencing a cocktail of global pressures covering resource demand as we exit from the covid pandemic, the effects of sanctions on Russia as they wage their unjust war on Ukraine, and perhaps most significantly of all, we are starting to see some worrying climatic events with yet more records being broken and the potential for significant changes affecting everybody's lives and our environment.

With all the pressures facing us, I am delighted to say that ADA remains in rude health, thanks to my colleagues, the collective support of its members, and all the other partners we work with. I am particularly grateful for the amount of positive work the team have been able to deliver on behalf of our members, with some major results to show for it, and my sincere thanks go Ian, Sofi, Sue, Heather and Ryan for their dedication and commitment. I am also indebted to Robert for his enthusiasm and wise words, helping me to continue to steer ADA in the right direction.

Standing down at our AGM in 2021, I would also like to pay a particular and personal tribute to Lord De Ramsey for not only his unswerving support of ADA and its members over his long tenure as our President, but also the way in which he has encouraged, constructively challenged and supported me in my role. All of us at ADA extend our sincere thanks and very best wishes to Lord De Ramsey. I am also delighted that we

warmly welcomed Henry Cator to take over as ADA President from Lord De Ramsey.

This year's AGM is once again online and, for the future, our AGMs are likely to remain that way. The reasoning is simply to allow as many ADA members to be able to join in the meeting without the need to travel and stay over, and consequently this change reduces the carbon footprint for our activities. I accept that online meetings do not suit everyone and we will ensure that ADA continues to hold a mixture of online and face-to-face events going forward.

Our next face-to-face event will be the Annual Conference, which this year is being held at The Hive, which is part of Dyson Farming Ltd's headquarters at Nocton in Lincolnshire. One Great George Street in London has served us well for many years, but escalating costs and the need for ADA to demonstrate good use of public money being paid by attendees to our conferences, has led us to a revise the location and format. We will be very much retaining the quality of the event and I am confident that Dyson's conference facilities at The Hive, combined with locally-sourced, top-quality food, will make for an enjoyable networking and learning event. For those who would prefer to attend virtually there will be the option to participate online as well as in person, both at good value-for-money rates.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the increasing financial pressures on everyone, it is very humbling to know that

our members really value what we do. I am delighted to report that we have continued to maintain our membership numbers across all categories. We have for the last couple of years managed to keep increases in membership subscription rates to a minimum through cost savings in our operations. However, right now and into 2023, inflationary pressures on all of ADA's costs mean that, reluctantly, we do need to increase our rates for 2023. The increase, with effect from 1 January 2023, will be 4.5% and I very much hope you can bear with us and that we can welcome you all back as members next year.

OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

The last 12 months alone have seen some alarming and devastating climatic events not only in the UK, but worldwide too. We have, for the wrong reasons, continued to see more records broken and more human misery as the forces of nature unleash themselves in the form of floods, fires and drought. All the evidence continues to point towards increasing extremes of weather.

ADA was very much part of the discussion involved with the latest Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy update, focusing on resilience and adaptation to our changing climate. Many of you will have been brought up and engaged with our Internal Drainage Boards to do exactly what it says in the job title – drainage. Today's environment now invites us all to think about how the whole catchment plays a part in helping to reduce the effects of too much water alongside how we manage the effects of too little. It is probably less well understood that the effects of drought are far wider reaching and economically harmful than for flooding.

I am therefore very keen to help ADA members understand how they are already very well equipped to not only deal with the traditional drainage operations, but to increasingly retain more of the water that we need within the landscape. There are various obstacles to overcome, not least in terms of process, statutes and authority, but I am confident that if IDBs are willing to continue transforming their operations as water level managers, the future is indeed a healthy one for them.

We have worked to strengthen ADA's connection with Government, its agencies and parliamentarians this year, particularly through the many dedicated officers with whom we work. For instance, ADA has become the secretariat to a new All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management, chaired by Andrew Percy MP. Its stated purpose is: *"To provide a forum for the discussion and progression of lowland sustainable water level management policies and to improve preparedness in the UK for global warming and its weather extremes"*. Through these growing connections, we are able to help influence the political decisions taken on a variety of subjects and, as is ADA's continued ethos, we achieve more through constructive debate and bringing solutions to the table.

We really rely on the input and feedback from you as members, for which I am incredibly grateful. The debate on red diesel was a particular success, where your evidence helped us to persuade HM Treasury of the costs and potential environmental burdens that immediate ending of the exempted use of red diesel would bring for IDBs. Treasury accepted that more time is needed

to develop that technology and allow for a reasonable transition period.

Undoubtedly, we will all now be looking more closely at future innovation and technology to reduce our dependence on the use of diesel. As carbon emissions continue to rise, ADA is actively engaged in helping our members to reduce their carbon emissions with the ultimate goal of becoming carbon-neutral. In June we published a new carbon accounting guide for IDBs and you will be hearing more about our work in this area over the coming year.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our environment is inextricably linked to the subject of climate change. One of the largest pieces of work which ADA has been undertaking is the preparation of an Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs and I am very pleased to say that after a long time in the making, it will very shortly be published. Whilst some say that environmental obligations get in the way of “doing the job”, can I invite us all to turn that around so that environmental obligations just become a routine part of doing the job and, even better, that we build in enhancement too.

I continue to take great pleasure in seeing many ADA members going that extra mile to incorporate not only environmental obligations in their work, but seeking ways of enhancing watercourses and the water quality in them and enriching the fauna and flora through good working practices. Many of you will have also started to hear about the importance of good soils management and the implication of that will be less silt and nutrients entering our watercourses,

less maintenance costs and therefore better environmental footprints for operational activities.

I am also delighted that Robert Caudwell has been involved as the independent chair of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force which will be shortly reporting to Government on the importance of these crucial carbon-store areas of our country. The cross-over of his work directly links to the opportunities for IDBs to get more involved in water management.

ADA'S FUTURE

ADA celebrates its 85th birthday this year, which is a considerable achievement. Looking forward, I do a lot of thinking about the medium and long term future opportunities for ADA and I will share some of these with you here.

My focus very much remains on the quality of the Association, its friendly and direct contact with its members and partners, and its power of influence at the national strategic table. Increasingly, many of the team have been invited to join various groups discussing and debating a variety of water-themed issues and this is a strong sign of the value which others see in ADA's participation. That involvement allows us to understand the bigger picture and therefore set out clearer priorities for our work in influencing government about the future of water level and flood risk management.

We continue to work closely with the Association of SuDS Authorities (ASA) and, with their Executive Board, we will be looking at ways to strengthen that co-operation over the next 12 months.

We continue to have a seat on the Board of Water Resources East (WRE) and the value of that seat helps us to positively influence strategic decisions, crucial for those ADA members directly affected by the work and plans of WRE.

We have the Environment Agency's Chief Engineer Ian Hodge, now part of ADA's Board and actively discussing with us how routine maintenance and operations of our FCERM assets are fundamental to achieving a long term flood risk and water resources management strategy.

We continue to work closely with Defra about the enabling of secondary legislation within the Environment Act to allow for the expansion and creation of IDBs.

We have just under 70 associate members, all at the forefront of technology and innovation in their field and through ADA, much of that knowledge can be shared with other members.

We continue to be members of the European Union of Water Management Associations (EUWMA) and that exchange with our continental cousins remains significant. We share and learn from each other.

ADA has particular concerns about skills and resources in our sector becoming increasingly scarce, and to help try and reverse that trend, ADA has produced a range of geography curriculum resources for secondary school and sixth form pupils to help them to explore flood risk management across lowland Britain. Working in collaboration with LEAF and the Countryside Classroom, ADA hopes to enable young people to get out and visit

our members and learn about their role in reducing flood risk. My thanks go to the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium, Lower Severn IDB, Alcester Grammar School, Lincolnshire IDBs and Lincolnshire County Council for helping to support this educational project. We will be continuing to enhance and add to these learning materials going forward.

I am happy to report that ADA remains on a financially sound footing but I will be taking a cautious approach over the next 12 months to manage our spending. We took on Sofi Lloyd a couple of years ago to add resilience to our technical resources and I have, I hope, spelt out the significant benefits of having that extra capacity. I will be considering further additional resources, but not until we have weathered the present economic situation.

I am very excited about next year's ADA Flood & Water Live 2023 event in partnership with Dyson Farming Ltd and Witham 4th IDB - Make sure you put the dates of 5th and 6th July 2023 in your diaries and I look forward to a full industry turnout for the live demonstration event.

Finally, it remains simply for me to say a very big thank you to you, our members, for your continued support and indeed input to the wellbeing of ADA and I continue to greatly enjoy leading your Association in collaboration with the rest of the team.



**INNETHOMSON BSc CEng FICE
AUGUST 2022**

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

HENRY CATOR OBE FRICS FRAGS DL

VICE-PRESIDENTS

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

DAVID RIDDINGTON OBE DL

JEAN VENABLES CBE

JOHN GROGAN MP

CHAIRMAN

ROBERT CAUDWELL

robert.caudwell@ada.org.uk

COMPANY SECRETARY

PETER BATESON BA FCCA MBA

47 Norfolk Street, Boston, PE21 6PP

ADA OFFICE

Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Office Email: admin@ada.org.uk Office Telephone: 02476 992 889

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

EUR ING J INNES THOMSON BSc CEng FICE

innes.thomson@ada.org.uk

TECHNICAL MANAGER

IAN MOODIE MSci

ian.moodie@ada.org.uk

TECHNICAL OFFICER

SOFI LLOYD BSc MBPR

sofi.lloyd@ada.org.uk

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE OFFICER

SUE CROWTHER

sue.crowther@ada.org.uk

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION OFFICER

RYAN DIXON

ryan.dixon@ada.org.uk

MARKETING & EVENTS OFFICER

HEATHER BAILEY BA

heather.bailey@ada.org.uk

DIRECTORS

Each of ADA's ten Branches appoints a single director to ADA's Board. The Environment Agency, and RFCCs each appoint a single director. A director is also appointed from ADA's Local Authority members. ADA's Chairman and the chairs of each of ADA's standing Committees are also Directors.

Defra appoints an advisory representative to attend Board meetings without voting rights. ADA's staff and Honorary Advisors may attend Board and Committee meetings by invitation.

BRANCH DIRECTORS

| Branch No. | Branch | Name of Representative | End of term |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Northern | BILL SYMONS | 31/03/2023 |
| 2 | Marches | JAMES HERFORD | 31/11/2022 |
| 3 | Trent | WILL STAUNTON | 31/03/2024 |
| 4 | Lincolnshire | KEITH CASSWELL | 31/03/2023 |
| 5 | Welland & Nene | DUNCAN WORTH | 31/03/2025 |
| 6 | Great Ouse | JOHN HEADING | 31/03/2024 |
| 7 | Eastern | ANGIE FITCH-TILLET | 31/03/2025 |
| 8 | South Eastern | PRISCILLA HASELHURST | 31/03/2024 |
| 9 | South Western | TONY BRADFORD | 31/03/2023 |
| 10 | Cymru (Wales) | JAMES WEST | 31/06/2025 |

CHAIRPERSON

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| ROBERT CAUDWELL | N/A |
|------------------------|-----|

STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Policy & Finance | TIM FARR | 31/03/2024 |
| Technical & Environmental | TREVOR PURLLANT | 31/03/2023 |

NON-BRANCH DIRECTORS

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Environment Agency | IAN HODGE | 31/12/2024 |
| LLFAs | PAUL AMBROSE | 31/06/2025 |
| RFCCs | BRIAN STEWART | 31/03/2025 |

ADVISORY REPRESENTATIVE

| | | |
|-------|----------------------|-----|
| Defra | HAZEL DURRANT | N/A |
|-------|----------------------|-----|

COMMITTEES

ADA has two standing committees who meet throughout the year to discuss issues and topics affecting our members.

The Technical & Environmental Committee discusses engineering, health and safety, environmental and operational matters.

The Policy & Finance Committee discuss governance, legal, financial, audit and policy

Our Committees complete projects, known as 'Workstreams', that they, our Board of

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

| Role | Name | End of term |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Committee Chair | TIM FARR | 31/03/24 |
| Committee Secretary | IAN MOODIE | N/A |
| Member (IDB) | PETE DOWLING | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | NIGEL EVERARD | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | JANE FROGGATT | 31/03/23 |
| Member (Associate) | CATHERINE HARRIS | 31/03/25 |
| Member (LA) | MATTHEW HARRISON | 31/03/25 |
| Member (RFCC) | RICHARD POWELL | 31/03/23 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW MCGILL | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW MCLACHLAN | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | LORNA MCSHANE | 31/03/24 |
| Member (EA) | ADRIAN RUSHWORTH | appointed |
| Member (IDB) | VACANT | N/A |
| Rep. (Defra)* | CAROL TIDMARSH | appointed |

Directors, and our Branches identify as important to the work of ADA's members.

The members of each committee are listed below. ADA's chairman, chief executive,

and company secretary are also ex officio committee members on both. Guests and standing representatives* may be invited by the Committee. ADA staff provide technical and administrative support.

TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

| Role | Name | End of term |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Committee Chair | TREVOR PURLLANT | 31/03/23 |
| Committee Secretary | SOFI LLOYD | N/A |
| Member (IDB) | PHIL CAMAMILE | 31/03/24 |
| Member (LA) | MAT JACKSON | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | ED JOHNSON | 31/03/22 |
| Member (Associate) | GARRY LEATHERBARROW | 31/03/25 |
| Member (EA) | TBC | Appointed |
| Member (IDB) | CHRIS MANNING | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | DAN MARTIN | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW MORRITT | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW NEWTON | 31/03/22 |
| Member (IDB) | OLIVER PANTREY | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | MARTIN SHILLING | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | DAVID THOMAS | 31/03/23 |
| Member (IDB) | DIANA WARD | 31/03/25 |
| Rep. (Natural England)* | MARK PHILLIPS | Appointed |

Further details and minutes of branch meetings are available from the ADA website,

WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/COMMITTEES

BRANCHES

ADA currently has ten regional branches across England and Wales where those involved in water level management can come together and share ideas with ADA and each other:

| Branch | Role | Name of Representative | Contact |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---|
| CYMRU (WALES) | Chair | HUBERT JONES | james.west@ naturalresourceswales. gov.uk |
| | Secretary | JAMES WEST | |
| EASTERN | Chair | ROBIN BUXTON | |
| | Secretary | TBC | |
| GREAT OUSE | Chair | HARRY RABY | david.thomas@ middlelevel.gov.uk |
| | Secretary | DAVID THOMAS | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | Chair | PETER RICHARDSON | andrew.mcgill@ lmdb.co.uk |
| | Secretary | ANDREW MCGILL | |
| MARCHES | Chair | ELISSA SWINGLEHURST | rlrj@ melverleyidb.org.uk |
| | Secretary | RICHARD JONES | |
| NORTHERN | Chair | IAN THORNTON | bill.symons@ yorkconsort.gov.uk |
| | Secretary | BILL SYMONS | |
| SOUTH EAST | Chair | LARRY COOKE | pete.dowling@ rsidb.org.uk |
| | Secretary | PETE DOWLING | |
| SOUTH WEST | Chair | JEFF FEAR | nstevens@ somersestdbs.co.uk |
| | Secretary | NICK STEVENS | |
| TRENT | Chair | WILL STAUNTON | andrew.mcgill@ lmdb.co.uk |
| | Secretary | ANDREW MCGILL | |
| WELLAND AND NENE | Chair | DUNCAN WORTH | phil@wlma.org.uk |
| | Secretary | PHIL CAMAMILE | |

Further details and minutes of branch meetings are available from the ADA website,
WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/BRANCHES

MEETING DATES 2022-2023

ANNUAL WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 09 NOVEMBER 2022 | The Hive, Nocton, Lincolnshire |
| 08 NOVEMBER 2023 | TBC |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 | MICROSOFT TEAMS |
| 27 SEPTEMBER 2023 | MICROSOFT TEAMS |

FLOOD & WATER LIVE 2023

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 05-06 JULY 2023 | Carrington, Lincolnshire |
|------------------------|--------------------------|

FLOOD & COAST 2023

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 06 - 08 JUNE 2023 | Telford International Centre |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|

BOARD

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2022 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |

TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |
| WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 | Hybrid Meeting (Online / In Person) |

Future key dates are available from the ADA website,
WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/EVENTS-CALENDAR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Officers and Professional Advisers

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D J Hickman
T H Farr
J E Heading
A E D Bradford
T C Purlant
J G Markwick
D H Jenkins
D R Worth
K C Casswell
J N Hereford
R H Caudwell
W J Staunton
P Haselhurst
W R A Symons
I Hodge

COMPANY SECRETARY

P J Bateson

REGISTERED OFFICE

Rural Innovation Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

ACCOUNTANTS

Streets
Chartered Accountants
Potton House
Wyboston Lakes
Great North Road
Wyboston
Bedford
MK44 3BZ

SOLICITORS

Wilkin Chapman LLP
The Maltings
11-15 Brayford Wharf East
Lincoln
LN5 7AY

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors' Report

Year ended 31 December 2021

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was that of an association for water level management organisations in the United Kingdom.

ADA Branches

The board of directors of ADA includes representatives from regional branches. The regional branches are separate legal entities which report to, but are not controlled by, the board of directors of ADA.

Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| D J Hickman | |
| T H Farr | |
| J E Heading | |
| A E D Bradford | |
| T C Purlant | |
| J G Markwick | |
| D H Jenkins | |
| D R Worth | |
| K C Casswell | |
| J N Hereford | |
| R H Caudwell | |
| W J Staunton | |
| P Haselhurst | |
| C J C Mutton | |
| W R A Symons | |
| I Hodge | (Appointed 31 December 2021) |
| C F Fileman-Wright | (Resigned 31 December 2021) |

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 6 July 2022 and signed on behalf of the board by:



R H Caudwell
Director

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

Year ended 31 December 2021

| | Note | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|
| Turnover | | 328,111 | 387,815 |
| Cost of sales | | <u>18,384</u> | <u>40,382</u> |
| Gross profit | | 309,727 | 347,433 |
| Administrative expenses | | <u>316,033</u> | <u>323,875</u> |
| Operating (loss)/profit | | (6,306) | 23,558 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | <u>35</u> | <u>348</u> |
| (Loss)/profit before taxation | | (6,271) | 23,906 |
| Tax on (loss)/profit | | <u>(315)</u> | <u>782</u> |
| (Loss)/profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income | | (5,956) | <u>23,124</u> |
| Retained earnings at the start of the year | | 271,346 | 248,222 |
| Retained earnings at the end of the year | | 265,390 | <u>271,346</u> |

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2021

| | Note | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 6 | 3,060 | 2,483 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 7 | 42,427 | 24,466 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 242,254 | 269,817 |
| | | <u>284,681</u> | <u>294,283</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 8 | <u>22,351</u> | <u>25,420</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>262,330</u> | <u>268,863</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>265,390</u> | <u>271,346</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>265,390</u> | <u>271,346</u> |
| Capital and reserves | | | |
| Profit and loss account | | <u>265,390</u> | <u>271,346</u> |
| Members funds | | <u>265,390</u> | <u>271,346</u> |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

For the year ending 31 December 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

31 December 2021

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 6 July 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



R H Caudwell
Director

Company registration number: 08948603

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2021

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis and are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the entity.

Revenue recognition

The turnover comprises subscriptions and other income which are recognised on an accruals basis in the period to which they relate. All amounts are stated exclusive of value added tax.

Taxation

The company is not trading with a view to profit, but only to meet its expenses for the mutual benefit of its member organisations. As such the company's only liability to corporation tax arises on investment income received in bank deposits and on activities for non-member organisations.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery - 25% straight line

4. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company such amounts as may be required, with a maximum contribution of £1 per member.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2021

5. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 7 (2020: 7).

6. Tangible assets

| | Plant and machinery £ |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cost | |
| At 1 January 2021 | 12,220 |
| Additions | 2,063 |
| Disposals | (46) |
| At 31 December 2021 | 14,237 |
| Depreciation | |
| At 1 January 2021 | 9,737 |
| Charge for the year | 1,486 |
| Disposals | (46) |
| At 31 December 2021 | 11,177 |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 December 2021 | 3,060 |
| At 31 December 2020 | 2,483 |

7. Debtors

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 28,347 | 14,711 |
| Other debtors | 14,080 | 9,755 |
| | 42,427 | 24,466 |

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 6,202 | 10,810 |
| Corporation tax | – | 782 |
| Social security and other taxes | 10,805 | 8,386 |
| Other creditors | 5,344 | 5,442 |
| | 22,351 | 25,420 |

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 December 2021

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Chartered Accountants Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the Unaudited Statutory Financial Statements of Association of Drainage Authorities

Year ended 31 December 2021

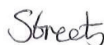
In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities for the year ended 31 December 2021, which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Association of Drainage Authorities, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31 March 2020. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF as detailed at www.icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Association of Drainage Authorities and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Association of Drainage Authorities has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and loss of Association of Drainage Authorities. You consider that Association of Drainage Authorities is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.



STREETS
Chartered Accountants

Potton House
Wyboston Lakes
Great North Road
Wyboston
Bedford
MK44 3BZ

Association of Drainage Authorities

Detailed Income Statement

Year ended 31 December 2021

| | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Turnover | | |
| Subscriptions | 282,286 | 282,033 |
| Contributions to WRE membership | – | 15,000 |
| Gazette advertising | 41,559 | 43,565 |
| Consultancy and sundry income | 4,266 | 21,860 |
| Events including Floodex | – | 25,357 |
| | <u>328,111</u> | <u>387,815</u> |
| Cost of sales | | |
| Conference fees | 329 | 745 |
| Gazette direct costs | 16,672 | 15,923 |
| Event costs including Floodex | 1,383 | 8,714 |
| WRE board membership | – | 15,000 |
| | <u>18,384</u> | <u>40,382</u> |
| Gross profit | <u>309,727</u> | <u>347,433</u> |
| Overheads | | |
| Administrative expenses | 316,033 | 323,875 |
| Operating (loss)/profit | <u>(6,306)</u> | <u>23,558</u> |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | 35 | 348 |
| (Loss)/profit before taxation | <u>(6,271)</u> | <u>23,906</u> |

Association of Drainage Authorities

Notes to the Detailed Income Statement

Year ended 31 December 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Directors' salaries | 19,678 | 19,404 |
| Directors' employer's national insurance contributions | 1,497 | 1,471 |
| Wages and salaries | 216,471 | 211,757 |
| Employer's national insurance contributions | 18,563 | 17,831 |
| Employer's staff pension contributions | 15,493 | 12,536 |
| Rent, rates and office costs | 14,633 | 13,748 |
| Insurance | 2,184 | 1,734 |
| Travel and subsistence | 4,540 | 3,836 |
| Telephone | 1,643 | 2,051 |
| Printing postage and stationery | 5,125 | 4,850 |
| Software and computing costs | 6,805 | 6,330 |
| Committee meeting expenses | 2,938 | 2,794 |
| General expenses | 1,126 | 3,328 |
| External meeting expenses | 101 | 575 |
| Advertising | – | 3,877 |
| Consultancy for Good Governance Guide | – | 6,800 |
| Legal and professional fees | 310 | 4,300 |
| Accountancy fees | 3,000 | 4,920 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 1,486 | 1,212 |
| Bad debt cost / (recovered) | (30) | (115) |
| Bank charges | 470 | 636 |
| | <u>316,033</u> | <u>323,875</u> |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | |
| Interest on cash and cash equivalents | <u>35</u> | <u>348</u> |



SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

| Subscription Area - Value Factor* | Subscription 2022 | Subscription 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0 – 999 | £571 | £597 |
| 1,000 – 1,999 | £648 | £679 |
| 2,000 – 2,999 | £721 | £755 |
| 3,000 – 3,999 | £798 | £834 |
| 4,000 – 4,999 | £875 | £915 |
| 5,000 – 5,999 | £964 | £1,008 |
| 6,000 – 6,999 | £1,040 | £1,088 |
| 7,000 – 7,999 | £1,121 | £1,173 |
| 8,000 – 8,999 | £1,214 | £1,270 |
| 9,000 – 9,999 | £1,298 | £1,357 |
| 10,000 – 19,999 | £1,528 | £1,598 |
| 20,000 – 29,999 | £1,743 | £1,823 |
| 30,000 – 39,999 | £1,948 | £2,037 |
| 40,000 – 49,999 | £2,167 | £2,266 |
| 50,000 – 59,999 | £2,377 | £2,484 |
| 60,000 – 69,999 | £2,597 | £2,714 |
| 70,000 – 79,999 | £2,810 | £2,937 |
| 80,000 – 89,999 | £3,016 | £3,152 |
| 90,000 – 99,999 | £3,252 | £3,400 |
| 100,000 – 133,333 | £3,466 | £3,624 |
| 133,334 - 166,666 | £3,681 | £3,848 |
| 166,667 – 199,999 | £3,895 | £4,071 |
| 200,000 – 299,999 | £4,109 | £4,294 |

| Subscription Area - Value Factor* | Subscription 2022 | Subscription 2023 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 300,000 – 399,999 | £4,286 | £4,480 |
| 400,000 – 499,999 | £4,464 | £4,666 |
| 500,000 – 599,999 | £4,644 | £4,853 |
| 600,000 – 699,999 | £4,823 | £5,041 |
| 700,000 – 799,999 | £5,002 | £5,228 |
| 800,000 – 899,999 | £5,178 | £5,413 |
| 900,000 – 999,999 | £5,356 | £5,599 |
| 1,000,000 – 1,099,999 | £5,536 | £5,786 |
| 1,100,000 – 1,199,999 | £5,713 | £5,971 |
| 1,200,000 – 1,299,999 | £5,893 | £6,160 |
| 1,300,000 – 1,399,999 | £6,071 | £6,346 |
| 1,400,000 – 1,499,999 | £6,249 | £6,531 |
| *Area-Value Factor = Area of IDB in Hectares x Annual Value / 1,000,000 | | |

| | | |
|---|--------|----------------------------|
| WELSH INTERNAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT ADVISORY GROUPS | | Rates as for IDBs less 20% |
| REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEES | £2,552 | £2,667 |
| NATIONAL AGENCIES: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, NATURAL RESOURCES WALES, RIVERS AGENCY, WATER COMPANIES AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR AGENCY/AUTHORITY | £687 | £718 |
| LOCAL AUTHORITIES | £344 | £360 |
| ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP | £419 | £438 |
| INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP | £38 | £40 |

All Plus VAT @ 20%

MEMBERSHIP 2022

As at 26 August 2022

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND DISTRICTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Ainsty IDB | Hundred Foot Washes IDB |
| Airedale DC | Hundred of Wisbech IDB |
| Alconbury & Ellington IDB | Isle of Axholme & North Nottinghamshire |
| Ancholme IDB | WLMB |
| Axe Brue IDB | Kings Lynn IDB |
| Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB | Kyle & Upper Ouse IDB |
| Benwick IDB | Lakenheath IDB |
| Beverley & North Holderness IDB | Lindsey Marsh DB |
| Black Drain DB | Littleport & Downham IDB |
| Black Sluice IDB | Lower Medway IDB |
| Bluntisham IDB | Lower Severn IDB |
| Braunton Marsh DB | Manea & Welney District DC |
| Broads IDB | March East IDB |
| Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB | March Fifth District DC |
| Burnt Fen IDB | March Sixth District DC |
| Cawdle Fen IDB | March Third District DC |
| Churchfield & Plawfield IDB | March West & White Fen IDB |
| Conington & Holme IDB | Melverley IDB |
| Cowick & Snaith IDB | Middle Fen & Mere IDB |
| Curf & Wimblington Combined IDB | Middle Level Commissioners |
| Danvm DC | Mildenhall IDB |
| Dempster IDB | Needham & Laddus IDB |
| Doncaster East IDB | Nightlayers IDB |
| Downham & Stow Bardolph IDB | Nordelph IDB |
| Early & Salterforth IDB | Norfolk Rivers IDB |
| East Harling IDB | Northwold IDB |
| East of Ouse Polver & Nar IDB | North East Lindsey IDB |
| East Suffolk IDB | North Kent Marshes IDB |
| Euximoor IDB | North Level District IDB |
| Feldale IDB | North Somerset Levels IDB |
| Foss IDB | Old West IDB |
| Goole & Airmyn IDB | Ouse & Derwent IDB |
| Goole Fields District DB | Ouse & Humber DB |
| Haddenham Level DC | Over & Willingham IDB |
| Holmewood & District IDB | Padnal & Waterden IDB |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Parrett IDB | Strine IDB |
| Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB | Stringside IDB |
| ^Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission | Sutton & Mepal IDB |
| Ramsey First (Hollow) District IDB | Swaffham IDB |
| Ramsey Fourth (Middlemoor) District IDB | Swale & Ure DB |
| Ramsey IDB | Swavesey IDB |
| Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB | Thorn tree IDB |
| Ransonmoor District DC | Trent Valley IDB |
| Rawcliffe IDB | Upper Medway IDB |
| Rea IDB | Upper Witham IDB |
| Reedness & Swinefleet DB | Upwell IDB |
| * River Arun IDD | Vale of Pickering IDB |
| River Lugg IDB | Waldersey IDB |
| River Stour (Kent) IDB | Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB |
| Romney Marshes Area IDB | Waterbeach Level IDB |
| Sawtry IDB | Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB |
| Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB | Welland & Deepings IDB |
| Selby Area IDB | Whittlesey & District IDB |
| South Holderness IDB | Witham First District IDB |
| South Holland IDB | Witham Fourth District IDB |
| Southery & District IDB | Witham Third District IDB |
| Sow & Penk IDB | Woodwalton IDB |
| Stoke Ferry IDB | |

KEY TO LIST

- * = Administered by the Environment Agency
- ^ = The only local body in Scotland with a specific purpose to manage water levels.
- ~~Example IDB~~ = not currently ADA members
- DB = Drainage Board
- DC = Drainage Commissioners
- IDB = Internal Drainage Board
- IDD = Internal Drainage District
- WLMB = Water Level Management Board
- WMB = Water Management Board

INTERNAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT ADVISORY GROUPS

Administered by Natural Resources Wales

Bangor & Maltraeth Marsh IDD's Advisory Group
 Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels IDD Advisory Group
 Dolgellau & Borth IDD's Advisory Group
 Powysland IDD Advisory Group
 Lower Wye IDD Advisory Group
 Meirionnydd IDD's Advisory Group

REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEES

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Anglian (Northern) RFCC | North West RFCC | Thames RFCC |
| Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC | Severn & Wye RFCC | Trent RFCC |
| Anglian (Eastern) RFCC | Southern RFCC | Wessex RFCC |
| Northumbria RFCC | South West RFCC | Yorkshire RFCC |

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Bedford Borough Council | Kent County Council |
| Boston Borough Council | Kent Highway Services |
| Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council | Leeds City Council |
| Buckinghamshire Council | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Bury Council | Medway Council |
| Cambridgeshire County Council | North Devon District Council |
| Central Bedfordshire Council | North East Lincolnshire Council |
| City of York Council | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Derby City Council | Sedgemoor District Council |
| East Lindsey District Council | Somerset Rivers Authority |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council | South Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Isle of Man Dept. of Infrastructure | Suffolk County Council |
| | West Sussex County Council |

NATIONAL AGENCIES AND WATER COMPANIES

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anglian Water Services Ltd | Natural Resources Wales |
| Environment Agency | Network Rail |
| DfI Rivers | Coal Authority |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

| | |
|---|--|
| ADC (East Anglia) Ltd | Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd |
| Ainsty Timber Marketing Ltd | Meteor Communications (Europe) Ltd |
| Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd | MGF Excavation Support Systems |
| Atkins Water | Onsite Central Ltd |
| AxFlow | OTT HydroMet Ltd |
| Bedford Pumps Ltd | Ovivo UK Ltd |
| Bomford Turner Ltd | Paktronic Engineering Company |
| Breheny Civil Engineering | Panolin UK Ltd |
| CGM Group | Platipus Anchors Ltd |
| Coulstock & Place Engineering | Roythornes Solicitors |
| Coxon Brothers | SDS Ltd |
| Cumbria Rivers Authority Governance Group | Smals Dredging UK Ltd |
| DXB Pump & Power Ltd | SoluForm (Hoben International Ltd) |
| ECS Engineering Services Ltd | Spearhead Machinery Ltd |
| Engineering and Hire Ltd | Stantec UK Ltd |
| Envireau Ltd | Sulzer Pumps Wastewater UK Ltd |
| Essex Coast Organisation | Sweeting Bros Ltd |
| Fen Group | TDL Equipment |
| FenFlow Engineering | Test Products International Europe Ltd |
| Flood Management Support Services Ltd | TMS Maritime |
| Goodlad Contracting | Tony Gee & Partners LLP |
| GreenBlue Urban | Towergate Risk Solutions |
| Ground Control Ltd | Tubosider UK Ltd |
| Haskoning DHV UK Ltd | United Rentals UK Ltd |
| Inter-Lec Ltd | Van Heck |
| J N Bentley | VEGA Controls |
| Land & Water Group Ltd | VM R&A Contractors |
| Lattenbury Services Ltd | Waterfront Fluid Controls Ltd Waterman |
| Lee Dickens Ltd | Aspen Ltd |
| Liebherr - Great Britain Ltd | Water Resources East |
| Linear Ltd (HL Plastics) | Wilkin Chapman |
| McConnel Ltd | W M Plant Hire |
| Martin Childs Ltd | Xylem Water Solutions Ltd |

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021 REPORT

ADA's 84th Annual Conference took place virtually, via the Microsoft Teams webinar platform, on the morning of Wednesday 10 November with 148 delegates attending from across ADA's members and associate members.

The Conference focused on three presentations from our guest speakers.

SPEAKERS

REBECCA POW MP MP FOR TAUNTON DEANE AND MINISTER FOR NATURE RECOVERY AND THE DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT [RECORDED ADDRESS]

In her speech, Rebecca Pow spoke of the importance of working together to tackle flood incidents, and building resilience for our communities through an integrated water management approach. She highlighted the government's efforts to mitigate climate change, presidency of COP26, the 25 year environment plan and their ambition to reach net zero by 2050.

Ms Pow emphasised that how we use our land and natural processes to address these challenges will be key. In particular she welcomed the work of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force, chaired by Robert Caudwell, set up to consider how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our farmed lowland peatlands. She explained that the Task Force was exploring new solutions, including how a range of farming practices might be carried out in wetter conditions and what landscape scale changes might be required in water management. She was very much looking forward to receiving the task force's recommendations in Summer 2022.

Ms Pow stated her pride in the government's flagship environmental legislation, summarising its key changes, such as a statutory environmental improvement plan and targets, to be consulted on early next year, and the creation of a new office for environmental protection, to hold the government and public bodies to account.

She recognised the role of ADA's members in protecting and enhancing our diverse wildlife and biodiversity. She was grateful for ADA's work on a new Environmental Good Governance Guide and the recent biodiversity survey of internal drainage boards. She said that the government "*can strengthen the duty of all public authorities to take action, to enhance biodiversity and introduced a reporting duty for designated authorities. And this will likely include internal drainage boards.*"

She also said that the government was "*supporting local choice and support for water management by removing a barrier to the creation of new internal drainage boards and the expansion of existing ones. And my officials are working with stakeholders on the secondary legislation with the aim of consulting on it as soon as possible.*"

Ms Pow said that Defra would be reviewing legislative powers, roles and responsibilities

in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management assets, and wanted to ensure that they are clear and understood. This review would include riparian owners who have a key role and responsibility in helping protect communities to raise awareness and clarity on this and the Environment Agency would be creating a new product for risk management authorities to support effective engagement.

On surface water flooding and development control, Ms Pow reported having commissioned a new national infrastructure commission study on the effective management of surface water flooding in England and was committed to reform local flood risk management planning. Defra had published the terms of reference for a new advisory group and approached a broad range of stakeholders to join, including ADA.

Rebecca Pow concluded with a challenge for ADA members to go further in their efforts in tackling climate change and preventing biodiversity loss, and being champions for sustainable water level and flood risk management.

PROFESSOR SIR DIETER HELM [RECORDED ADDRESS]

One of Britain's foremost experts on 'green' economics, Dieter Helm is a Professor at Oxford University, a Fellow of New College, Oxford, and previously chaired the Natural Capital Committee. In his most recent book, *Net Zero*, he addresses the action needed to take to tackle the climate emergency.

In his presentation, Professor Helm recognised that our water systems, catchments, coastlines, and drainage

arrangements have all been manmade, and man-managed for a very long time, but are built upon the consequences of billions of years of natural processes. This highlighted how we are all leaseholders of our landscape and not freeholders, and our responsibilities are to maintain and enhance those natural assets for future generations. He said we should be looking at this challenge in terms of assets - At what natural capital assets there are, what manmade capital assets there are, and what human capital assets there are - and then make sure that we and future generations end up with a set of assets at least as good as the ones we inherited.

For drainage and water systems, he said it was enormously practical to think in this way, and that river catchments gave you an integrated ecosystem approach to assessing these systems, *"because once you start looking at the world through the lens of assets, rather than through the lens of utility, you start to think about the natural capital that we have and what we have to do to maintain those natural capital and pass them on to future generations."*

He equated our natural environment to being natural capital assets in perpetuity, but in need of maintenance by us to ensure this. He argued therefore that capital maintenance of these assets comes first before moving on to enhancements. Here he said that we need to look at the effects of those enhancements across the system as a whole, so that the next generation gets something better than we have currently got.

He strongly argued against exporting our carbon costs around the world, and that we

must make sure that our carbon footprint includes all the stuff that we import.

Around water management, he highlighted that a number of the things that you might do to reduce carbon emissions and increase sequestration, turn out to be things that provide multiple benefits and are good for biodiversity, such as planting trees along riverbanks [in the right places], which may improve the water quality of those rivers, slow down flows, and improve flood management.

Professor Helm concluded that when putting together our future business plans and thinking about carbon, we should first consider the baseline of those systems and assets (natural, manmade and human), then recognise the capital maintenance they need, before looking at the sequestration, offsets and enhancements that we could make to improve them for future generations, and the multifunctionality that those enhancements could bring to other natural capital.

LORD DE RAMSEY
PRESIDENT, ADA
[VALEDICTORY ADDRESS]

Ladies and gentlemen – good morning. This is my last AGM as your President – it has been an honour for two generations of my family to have served you.

On a farm visit in the West Country, I invited the group to ask questions and not to worry if they felt it might be a stupid one because it was probably just the one that no-one else dared ask. “I think I may have got the stupid question” one visitor said – “Why do you farmers always put the

gateway in the muddiest part of the field?”

However, if you think about it, this gives practical people like us an enormous advantage which we must not waste – more of that later.

There are two iconic mementoes on my desk. One is a brightly painted piece of concrete from the Berlin Wall – I showed it to one of our local builders who was impressed by the quality of East German concrete. We went to Berlin two years ago and were taken aback by still unrestored bomb sites, by Putin’s KGB house and by distressing holocaust reminders. I recommend a visit – the evidence between east and west is still obvious to see as West Berlin still sneers at the East.

The second is my father’s World War 2 dog tag with his name on it - one side in English and on the other in Japanese. In 1962, not that long after the end of the war in the Far East, I went to Singapore with my father and visited the derelict camp site at Changi where he had been imprisoned for three and a half years. Standing in the dust and destruction of a civilian gaol built for 900 which was crammed with 10,000 prisoners of war he said “I ran the camp piggery for the sick in the hospital and when we killed a pig, I got some of the blood which helped to keep me alive. Unless you have actually starved, you can have no idea what starvation is like.” That is why every one of China’s five year plans starts with food, currently something that does not headline for Defra, or Dieter Helm.

No-one is imagining self-sufficiency, but we must retain our skills and continue to

develop our knowledge and technology for the long term. To lose them would be a mistake, because we have seen where technology can take us. Do not forget the results of Norman Borlaug's green revolution, which reformed India's wheat and rice crop production and saved the country from starvation. That is the sort of brilliant research that will deliver the technology we need for zero carbon farming. We are extremely fortunate that we have remarkable research stations such as John Innes and Rothamsted – the oldest research station in the world. Both of them are owned by charities who think long term as opposed to politicians who can only think until the next election. Both would have been privatised and sold if they had been in the public sector.

Rothamsted at Harpenden has Broad Balk and Park Grass fields where the research plots were laid out in 1862. They are even more relevant today thanks to 160 years of research. There is a childish belief in the media promoted by some NGOs that if we wind the clock back, nature will solve all. Let me give you an example of why we need solutions based on sound science. After the War, road transport increased from five million to over 40 million vehicles. Nitrogen Oxides from their exhausts raised the deposition of N on Park Grass and shrank the diversity of plants. In the late 1980s, the losses plateaued and then started to reverse, restoring some of the lost species. What caused the change – catalytic converters. We had caused the problem with our selfish technology and we reversed it the same way. What we need is sound science, not wishful thinking and greenwash.

Over the centuries, the changes in land use have been triggered by the rise and fall in population - we did not need much arable land after the Great Famine of 1315-17 and the Black Death later that century when the population halved. Self sufficiency was only needed during the Napoleonic Wars and the world wars of the 20th Century, with the result that some quite unsuitable land was ploughed out of grass – for instance Knepp Castle in Sussex with its heavy Wealden clay was ploughed up in the War; but now has had to resort to so called "Wilding" in order to survive out of tourism or even show business.

I said earlier that in these troubled times, those of us with practical expertise have an advantage. The recent changes in the politics of agriculture and the countryside have required a large intake of intelligent young graduates to Defra, fresh from university and strangers to the farming world, but well versed in theory. Some have even accepted the myth that we only have 40 harvests left. There we can help them. They can call on the help and practical knowledge of ADA and of our Chairman when it comes to soils and water.

I am lucky enough to have spent most of my life in one of the most beautiful countries in the world and I do not recognise the inaccurate description of its desolation by some authors. From 1086 we have inherited that extraordinary record called the Domesday Book. The tree cover at the Conquest was 15% - sinking to 12% by the 19th Century. What is it today? – 15%, but much less diverse because of the planting of conifers. The majority of the damage to our ancient countryside and its biodiversity has

been done since the industrial revolution and the enormous rise in population whose damage is increased by the 40+ million vehicles and by our pollution such as the run off of sewerage from water companies. Since privatisation the water companies are easy targets for anti-capitalist programmes like Panorama. They blame greedy shareholders for pollution when it is the organs of the state - the Treasury and Ofwat - who are refusing to let them spend the funds to keep sewerage out of rivers. In case you think I am an apologist for the companies, you need to realise that when I was Environment Agency Chairman, we budgeted for £12.5 billion to spent by the companies on the environment with their support. What happened? In spite of O-Jags Prescott's attempts, Gordon Brown and Ofwat cut it down to £3.5 billion and now we have Conservative MPs throwing pollution clauses out of the Environment Bill. Populism and the short term rules the day and they dare to preach greenwash to us about the natural world?

Do not forget that Ofwat's remit is to keep water charges low, so why build reservoirs when we can rob precious chalk aquifers at half the cost.

So what is ADA's role? We must build on the sound science data to protect our countryside and river banks. Our countryside is made of land and water so, of course, agriculture and the natural world are inseparable. We must match that science with our practical experiences gained over centuries and then we will be proud of what

we achieve together. Not least because there is also a spiritual side to working for the long term of the natural world.

Do not allow yourself to lose heart and despair even though we have to admit we are all in the gutter – some of us are looking at the stars!

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM

A panel of Innes Thomson (ADA), Catherine Wright (Environment Agency), and Will Harrington (Defra), chaired by Robert Caudwell (ADA) answered 29 questions from delegates covering a wide range of topics including: reducing sewage releases and stormwater overflows from sewage treatment works, ADA's response to the consultation regarding the release of beavers in England, the adoption of 'Shoreline Management Plans' into planning regulations, managing increasing flood risk to hospitals, the use of biodiesel such as HVO by RMAs and contractors, the need for multi-year revenue maintenance settlements for the Environment Agency to assist IDBs working under PSCAs to invest in long-term resources, solutions to phosphate pollution and the consequential planning issues, finding the balance between capacity and conveyance and attenuation and habitat enhancement, seeking more effort to ensure developers provide effective sustainable development and SuDS, recognising the ecological value of IDB watercourses, making use of green finance to fund improvements to watercourses, and the prioritisation of main river maintenance, particularly within rural catchments.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

ADA's AGM took place at 14.00 on Wednesday 10 November 2021 via an online Microsoft Teams webinar, attended by 50 people.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The meeting commenced with a motion for ADA to adopt new Articles of Association, which followed from a thorough review by ADA's staff and board of directors during 2021. The principal changes are updates to: membership categories (article 10), simplified voting rights (article 33), Company Objects in line with the agreed current Business Plan (article 5), officers of the association (articles 77 to 79), and a modernisation of the language used throughout.

The changes were made with the assistance of legal advice from Wilkin Chapman LLP. They were approved by ADA's Policy & Finance Committee and proposed for adoption to the AGM by ADA's Board of Directors at their meeting on 7 July 2021. The new articles of association were approved unanimously as proposed at the meeting by Andrew McLachlan and seconded by Catherine Wright. The new Articles of Association can be downloaded from www.ada.org.uk/board.

ELECTIONS

Lord De Ramsey stood down as ADA president having served from 1991 to 1994 and 2001 to 2021. Lord De Ramsey gave a valedictory address to ADA's Conference (see opposite) and was presented with a specially commissioned painting gifted by ADA's members. To mark the

occasion, ADA and Lord De Ramsey were honoured to receive a recorded address from His Royal Highness Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, recognising Lord De Ramsey's substantial contribution to the water environment.

Former ADA chair (2006-2017), Henry Cator OBE DL was elected to ADA's presidency, proposed by Peter Bateson, seconded by Tony Bradford. He thanked ADA members for the honour, and promised to do his very best to serve all of our members and ADA as president. His speech highlighted the challenges faced by the flood and water management sector in 2021 and echoed the words of Lord De Ramsey last year that the sector will: *"always need unwavering cooperation, partnership, and determination, because otherwise we will fall foul of divide and rule. So stick at it and stick together."*

DIRECTORS

Robert Caudwell (Chair) thanked ADA's Directors for their support and guidance through the year.

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS

Innes Thomson, ADA's Chief Executive, reported on the key initiatives that ADA was currently working on. He offered his sincere thanks to ADA's directors, past president, current president, vice presidents, ADA's staff, and all ADA's members

for their assistance, support and advice. ADA had continued to operate normally throughout the covid pandemic, albeit with staff working from home. The unexpected operating conditions had saved ADA some money, helping to maintain ADA's financial position. That said, the Board had agreed to a deficit budget for 2022, reinvesting some of ADA's reserves in ADA's work to the benefit of ADA's members.

Ninety four per cent of IDBs were in ADA membership in 2021, and such a high proportion of membership was important to retain ADA's ability to speak on behalf of IDBs with a common voice. Local authorities' membership had slightly reduced, and associate membership had continued to increase.

ADA's communication had increasingly focused on digital formats, with greater focus on social media and ADA's website. ADA's events in 2021 were largely held online, including an inaugural Keeping Our Rivers Flowing Summit with the CLA, a second event was being planned for 2022.

ADA was developing plans to launch an All Party Parliamentary Group in 2022 for sustainable drainage and flood management, acting as an avenue for political engagement. To be chaired by Andrew Percy MP for Brigg and Goole.

ADA had continued to work well with the Association of SuDS Authorities and Water Resources East. WRE membership and fees related to IDBs in that regions were now to be paid directly to WRE by those IDBs in order for them to have that

direct linkage and ensure value for money. WRE was believed to be looking at its future funding model at the time of the meeting.

The Environment Bill had now become an act of parliament, containing clauses that, once enacted, will enable a renewed valuation of non-agricultural land and therefore the expansion and creation of drainage districts. This now awaits the development of secondary legislation, which ADA would be working closely with Defra on.

ADA's committees had worked on a number of initiatives including: educational resources, new byelaws for IDBs, IDB procedures owing to covid and remote working, published biodiversity metrics to demonstrate the value of IDBs work towards the environment, new infographics about the importance of the work of IDBs, work to look closely at climate change adaptations and emissions, particularly around the pumping of water, ongoing work to finalise an Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs, and on guidance related to development. Health safety and welfare also remained an ongoing topic, with ADA set to launch a second survey of IDBs in 2022 to see how IDB performance in this area has changed. Managing channel sedimentation project would be a new work stream commencing in 2022.

ADA was in continued discussions with HM Treasury and Defra regarding the future use of red diesel, which had been a major area of work. At the time of the

meeting it was likely that the exemption for RMAs to use red diesel would end on 1 April 2022.

FINANCES

The Company's Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 were presented, as adopted by ADA's Board of Directors on 7 July 2021. Streets Chartered Accountants were formally appointed as the company's internal auditor and external accountant for the period ending 31 December 2021, proposed by James Hereford, seconded by Will Staunton. The AGM was notified that ADA's membership subscription fees for 2022 will increase by 1% from fees in 2021, as had been approved by ADA Board of Directors. Looking further ahead Innes Thomson noted that in the coming year it was likely, given the economic outlook that ADA would need to seek a larger increase in 2023.

MEMBERSHIP

ADA's membership in 2021 was reported in the AGM Handbook as 107 IDBs, 5 national agencies, 1 water company, 6 Welsh internal drainage district advisory groups, 12 RFCCs, 20 Local Authorities, and 65 Associate Members.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS

The AGM concluded with a discussion session on ADA and its members' business. Items discussed included: balancing the needs of farming and water resources, a recommendation to add a climate change section to the ADA website, how to boost local authority participation, how members can get involved in any future

All Party Parliamentary Group for water management, and ADA's action around impending regulatory changes around the use of red diesel.

The AGM Handbook can be downloaded from: www.ada.org.uk/events/ada-agm.

BOARD REPORT 2022

Since the last AGM, the Board has met in October 2021, February and July 2022. Details of Board governance, membership, meeting dates, and approved minutes, are available from www.ada.org.uk/board. The names of the Directors of the Board can be found on page 12-13. This report summarises some of the key topics discussed by the Board, as follows;

ADA PRESIDENT AND VICE

PRESIDENTS

Lord De Ramsey having served as ADA President for over 23 years, stood down at the 2021 AGM and we were honoured to have His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester providing us with a valedictory message. Lord De Ramsey has presided over considerable change in the world of Internal Drainage Boards, and in particular the threat of their demise when national policy tended towards the centralization of all water level and flood risk management operations. His influence and persuasion were key to retaining the operational basis of IDBs which we see flourishing and indeed growing from strength to strength today. He will be greatly missed by ADA, but in the knowledge that he will retain every interest in the world of water level and flood risk management.

ADA is also delighted that Henry Cator accepted the Board's invitation to stand for election as President at the 2021 AGM and received unanimous support from our members at the AGM.

Our Vice Presidents play a vital role in supporting and advising ADA on various matters and ADA's thanks are specifically extended to them all for their assistance over the past 12 months. Following the standing down of Neil Parish earlier this year, ADA will be seeking to appoint another Vice President in the coming months.

ADA BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

In the past 12 months, five Directors have resigned from the Board, namely Catherine Wright, David Jenkins, Chris Mutten, David Hickman and John Markwick and ADA's sincere thanks are offered to them all for their advice and guidance on matters of ADA Business. All of the posts have been refilled and ADA welcomes Ian Hodge taking over as the EA's nominated Director, Brian Stewart representing the RFCCs, Paul Ambrose (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) representing our Local Authority members, James West as ADA Cymru's Director and Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett as ADA Eastern Branch Director.

Two Directors have been re-elected or re-appointed, namely Tim Farr as ADA Vice Chair and Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee and Duncan Worth representing the Welland & Nene Branch.

There have been no staff changes at ADA over the past 12 months.

ADA OPERATIONS AND COVID 19

Although there was some extended consequences of the covid pandemic through last winter, ADA's operations are now largely back to normal and given the success of working flexibly through the pandemic, all staff are able to work a mixture of home and office-based hours to fit in with everyone's work and personal requirements.

We have also adopted a more flexible approach to our Committee and Board meetings with a mixture of online and face-to-face meetings. The purchase of an "Owl" by ADA has also significantly improved the quality of online meetings and has enabled hybrid versions to take place with some people in the same room and others dialling in online.

A number of Branch meetings have also been held throughout the year, with others scheduled into diaries for this Autumn. Lincolnshire and Northern Branches were very well represented at the Lincolnshire and Driffeld Agricultural shows with two excellent stands. The decision was also taken to stop ADA Northern's attendance at the Great Yorkshire Show and focus attention on the Driffeld Show.

FINANCES

The financial reporting period for ADA runs from 1 January until 31 December each year and the financial statements and details are provided elsewhere in the handbook.

Yet again and with specific reference to the COVID pandemic, the outturn for 2021 was significantly different to what we had originally planned. In summary, ADA completed the year just over £45k ahead of the original agreed budget, which means that a deficit of just over £8k versus the original agreed budget deficit for the year of £54k was reported to the Board at the February 2022 meeting.

Despite the more difficult operating conditions once again in 2021, ADA's membership income held up. Advertising revenues from the ADA Gazette, which we originally expected to rebound strongly, remained subdued at just under £42k, but nevertheless solid for the year.

With Flood & Water Live 2023 now scheduled, advertising revenues in 2022 are expected to pick up.

ADA's operating overheads have remained lower than originally budgeted due reductions in travel and associated costs. There was a significant change from last year to the amount of debt reported to the Board, with a doubling of the debt owed, to just over £29k, but only 10% of that debt (£3k) was not recoverable, primarily from Local Authority member subscriptions not renewing.

The Board has, in principle, approved the moving of up to £160k from ADA's reserves into a couple of investment funds aimed to provide some degree of return on that investment. Currently, the reserves are earning only a nominal return from the current account in which they are held. With increasing interest rates, the timing of this investment is now being more closely monitored with the Board approving an initial investment of £85k in the CCLA's Public Sector Deposit Fund.

ADA's audited accounts for 2021 were recommended for approval by the Board at the 6 July 2022 meeting.

ADA MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Once again, membership levels have once again remained reasonably stable. Over 95% of IDBs continue to be members of ADA in line with our Business Plan. We have seen losses in numbers of Associate Members over the past 12 months, but we have enjoyed seeing various companies becoming new members. Despite all the pressures facing Local Authorities, membership numbers have remained stable.

ADA very much values the membership of the Regional Flood & Coastal Committees who, through and with the Environment Agency, continue to provide a sizeable financial support to the Association's income.

At its meeting on 6th July 2022, the Board approved that, following an increase of just 1% in the subscription rates last year, an increase of 4.5% would apply for 2023 as a result of inflationary pressures.

ADA ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As we had indicated last year and, in our drive to get our industry messages across better to politicians, we have now successfully set up an All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management, chaired by Andrew Percy MP (Brigg & Goole). Through these growing connections, ADA is able to help influence the political decisions taken on a variety of water-related subjects. The first meeting was held online in February and the second meeting for this year is scheduled in October.

ADA staff are increasingly being called upon to participate in other strategic groups discussing a number of issues related to flooding and water resources. A range of the key groups to which ADA is regularly invited and has actively participated over the past 12 months, in no particular order, is listed below;

- FCERM Strategy Advisory Group
- Various Defra Advisory Groups
- The Lowland Agricultural Peat Taskforce
- CaBA Water Resources Group
- Water Resources East Board and Strategic Advisory Group
- Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance

- Future Fens Group
- Water Resources National Framework Senior Steering Group
- Water Leaders Group
- RFCC Chairs group
- Flood & Coast Advisory Group
- Association of Suds Authorities Executive meetings
- Connected Coast
- ADEPT Flood & Water Management Group

ADA staff have also been invited to speak at various seminars throughout the year.

ADA continues to receive excellent feedback about the quality and content of the ADA Gazette and regular e-news updates have been sent to members in between Gazette publication months.

Various key meetings have been held including with the Secretary of State, the Floods Minister; NFU and CLA senior officers, EA senior officers, various Local Authority Directors, and Water Company Directors.

ASSOCIATION OF SUDS AUTHORITIES (ASA)

ADA continues to provide administrative services to ASA and an extension to the service level agreement has been agreed until 31st March 2023. Both ADA and ASA expect to be discussing how we can increase our co-operation in the future and discussions will take place over the next few months. The working relationship and exchange between the two Associations continues to provide very positive and constructive discussions on a number of technical issues.

WATER RESOURCES

ADA continues to take a full interest in issues of water resources across the country and enjoys contact with several of the Water Resources units countrywide. ADA continued to hold a seat on the Board of Water Resources East, given the importance of its work to a large number of ADA IDB members. 2022 is a key year for the publication of water resource plans and through the Board, ADA continues to advocate close working relationships between IDBs and the various Water Resources units across the country in the build-up of those water resources plans.

ADA EVENTS

The winter of 21/22 continued to be problematic with outbreaks of covid and face-to-face events were minimised. ADA was pleased to be able to host a second Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit at Stoneleigh Park in March, along with CLA, EA and NFU participation.

The Board have approved the detail planning and marketing stages for ADA's next live demonstration event – Flood & Water Live 2023 – to take place on 5th and 6th July 2023, supported by Dyson Farming Ltd and Witham 4th IDB at Carrington, Lincolnshire.

With us more confidently able to plan for a face-to-face event, the Board have also supported the decision to hold the next ADA Conference at The Hive, in Nocton, near Lincoln on 9th November; with significantly reduced costs and therefore risks compared to the One Great George Street venue in London. It is also planned to use The Hive for a Clerks Think Tank event linked to the next Board meeting in October.

ADA has continued to be represented on the advisory group for Flood & Coast which this year returned to a live event at Telford in Shropshire. ADA will be continuing to support Flood & Coast into 2023 and discussions are taking place about how Flood & Water Live 2023 and Flood & Coast 2023 can complement each other.

EUWMA ACTIVITIES

A technical meeting was held in the Netherlands in May and the EUWMA AGM was held in early September 2022 with the Presidency passing over to Belgium. Severe water resource shortage issues across all member nations was a common theme of the meeting.

DEFRA/ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MATTERS

Other issues that were the subject of Defra and EA discussion with the ADA Board over the past 12 months have included;

- Ending of red diesel exemption for IDBs
- Carbon reduction and climate change
- Health, Safety & Welfare
- Capital and revenue budget spending and settlements
- River Maintenance and Asset Replacement funding
- IDB ratings reform,
- National FCERM Strategy,
- IDB Bylaws
- Surface Water and SuDS
- Water resources and abstraction licencing
- PSCAs,
- Defra IDB Policy Advisory Group,

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee has met three times in 2022. Details of the Committee's constitution, membership, vacancies, and approved meeting minutes are available from www.ada.org.uk/committees. All Committee member serves a term of three years with the option to serve up to three successive terms. ADA would like to express its gratitude to the Tim Farr and all Committee members for their interest and contribution to the work of the Committee throughout 2022. ADA will be advertising for expressions of interest from members wishing to fill two posts on the Committee starting in 2023.

RED DIESEL

In the 2020 Budget, the government announced that it would remove the entitlement to use red diesel and rebated biodiesel from most sectors from 1 April 2022.

ADA worked hard to seek a practical solution to the future use of red diesel by risk management authorities in watercourse management and water control operations, such as to power pumping stations.

Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring Statement on Wednesday 23 March 2022, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) published an updated Excise Notice 75, clarifying when rebated diesel or biodiesel can be used in vehicles and other machinery from 1 April 2022. This included ditch clearing and drainage works carried out by and on behalf of a risk management authority where such works, at least in part, benefit agricultural land.

These changes were the result of close engagement by ADA with regulatory authorities to help find suitable wording that helped mitigate potentially significant cost pressures to the water management sector and their agricultural contractors.

Under Section 12 of the updated Excise Notice 75, it states the following regarding drainage work and flood risk management authorities continued use of red diesel:

DITCH CLEARING AND DRAINAGE

Ditch clearing and drainage, including work carried out by, or on behalf of a risk management authority (as specified in section 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010), is accepted as a purpose relating to agriculture, horticulture or forestry only if the work you do is intended to benefit land used for agricultural purposes (including horticulture and forestry). This means the purpose of the work must, at least in part, be to avoid agricultural land becoming unfit to grow crops or rear livestock on. Any drainage work or flood and coastal erosion management activities that have no agricultural benefit to the land are not purposes relating to agriculture, even if the work takes place on agricultural land.

The above definition would apply to works or activities (such as pumping) being undertaken directly by a risk management authority or by its contractors, and should enable a significant majority of existing IDB maintenance activities to continue to

be undertaken using red diesel.

This is an important change by the government and a recognition of the significant cost and other impacts that moving all IDB operations away from red diesel would have caused to them and their local contractors. ADA is grateful to all of those members, MPs, and officials from Defra, HM Treasury and HMRC, who have engaged with ADA to seek greater clarity on this matter. ADA will continue to work with Defra and risk management authorities towards carbon reduction within the flood and water management sector.

IDB RATINGS

The Environment Act 2021 includes powers to address the technical issue of the missing data (1990 ratings lists) which is preventing new IDBs from being created and existing IDBs from expanding their boundaries. These powers allow for an update to the valuation calculation, via regulations (secondary legislation), allowing valuation of the non-agricultural land to be calculated using up to date council tax and business rates data available from the Valuation Office Agency and valuation of agricultural land to use more up to date valuations.

Several IDBs have tested a potential valuation methodology with contemporary valuation data from the VOA. Secondary legislation is being drafted by Defra, with further engagement with a working group in September 2022, and is expected to be issued for consultation before enactment in 2023.

WORKSTREAMS 2022

Educational resources | This workstream has produced resources for GCSE and A Level (GCE) Geography around managing water and flooding in England's lowland landscape. This completes one of ADA's agreed actions towards the FCERM Strategy for England Action Plan and Roadmap to 2026.

A dedicated Education page with lots of further information and links has been created on the ADA website - www.ada.org.uk/education

Study packs, based on case studies from The Fens and Somerset Levels and Moors, and an example risk assessment for school visits to pumping stations/water infrastructure have been published by ADA with LEAF Education on the Countryside Classroom teacher resources website – www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/partners/ada/resources. These resources were tested by students from Alcester Grammar School with a field visit hosted by Lower Severn IDB in February 2022. An online training event was held for ADA members and teachers on 28 April 2022 and an online training video is in development for ADA by LEAF Education.

ADA Members can now register pumping stations and other locations where they would be willing to host field visits on the Countryside Classroom website.

Byelaws | ADA is seeking support from members who could assist in taking forward the next phase of this workstream to look at guidance around Enforcement Procedures for IDBs and LLFAs related to

the provisions within the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Development guidance | ADA has been developing a draft guide for IDBs when considering how a development might impact on the efficient flow of water through their systems, and how such adverse impacts might be mitigated and appropriately funded by the developer. The work was paused to complete other priorities at the start of 2021 and work has not yet restarted. When recommenced, the draft chapters will be reviewed alongside other guidance and policy documents relating to planning, development, and commuted sums that have been published recently.

IDB procedures | Committee has commissioned ADA to look at guidance for IDBs on:

- remote/hybrid meetings,
- election procedures, and
- members' code of conduct.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updated EA precept guidance | The Committee discussed updated precept guidance written by the Environment Agency at their January meeting. Concerns were raised noting that the advice note does not feel in keeping with partnership working. ADA has withheld its support of this advice note pending further constructive discussion with the Environment Agency.

ADA Reserves Investment | The Committee assisted the ADA Board in scrutinising options for investing ADA's

reserves, putting forwards a proposal to invest part of the reserve. With increasing interest rates, the timing of this investment is now being more closely monitored, with the ADA Board approving an initial investment of £85,000 in the CCLA's Public Sector Deposit Fund.

Accessibility regulations | Information regarding guidance on accessibility for public website has been re-issued in the Summer 2022 ADA Gazette at the request of the Committee.

IDB audit | The Committee discussed the latest SAAA report 2020/21 noting the seven qualified opinions received by IDBs and highlighted common issues in the Summer 2022 ADA Gazette.

Peer review network | The Committee is exploring the potential to create a network of IDB officers to assist other IDBs through a performance improvement programme. Such a programme has been piloted by NALC for town and parish councils, which involves a small team of local government officers and councillors spending time with a local council and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders connected to the council to help with their improvement and learning.

Consultations | All ADA responses to public consultations can now be viewed in the News section on the ADA website - www.ada.org.uk/category/consultations



REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met in February, May and September 2022 and was pleased to welcome a number of new members and benefit from the extended terms of a number of others. Meeting minutes and Committee membership details can be found on-line from www.ada.org.uk/committees. One vacancy remains on the Committee for which ADA welcomes applications. ADA wishes to thank Trevor Purlant and all members of the T&E Committee for their invaluable support, direction and contributions over the year and is very grateful for their ongoing support

WORKSTREAM UPDATES 2022

BIODIVERSITY

- The first trial National IDB Annual Biometrics Survey received a great response with almost half of IDBs submitting data. Now IDBs are familiar with the type of data being surveyed, they will be able to put measures in place to collect any further information they would like to report in the future. We can expect even more data in future years to use to strengthen the message that IDBs make a significant contribution to supporting their local biodiversity.
- ADA continues to stay abreast of, and communicate, policy, legislative and regulatory changes, and in particular the progress of provisions set out in the Environment Act 2021, as the associated regulations develop, and the impacts and opportunities they present. In particular, ADA has increased its understanding of how biodiversity net gain could be expected to impact IDBs and is initiating workstreams, with industry partners, to ensure that IDB-managed areas are properly considered, at the right time, and consistently during the planning process.

CLIMATE AND CARBON

- The Carbon Accounting Guide for IDBs was published in early 2022 to help IDBs who wish to begin their carbon emission reduction approaches, by guiding them to benchmark their current emissions and highlighting their key emission sources. The Guide, worked examples, reporting template and recommended calculator is available on the new Climate and Carbon webpage on the ADA website.
- Advances and approaches to climate change, preparedness and emission reductions continue to be reviewed and presented in the ADA Gazette as part of the now established Carbon & Climate section.
- ADA has begun the development of a carbon policy and vision template for IDBs which will be published later in the year on the Climate & Carbon webpage.
- The development of a guide to carbon reduction for lowland pumped catchments will commence later in the year.

MANAGING CHANNEL SEDIMENTATION

- ADA has been successful in securing a place on the ELM (Environmental Land Management) scheme development

steering group and is highlighting the importance of prioritising measures to reduce channel sedimentation on a landscape scale.

- A trial partnership working group between IDBs and Catchment Sensitive Farming is in the process of being established, with the aim of unblocking obstacles to the wider uptake of flood risk and water-level management stewardship options and other government-funded agricultural support schemes. The aim is to ensure that such approaches are made attractive to uptake in the forthcoming ELMS scheme.
- Focus will now be renewed on reviewing regulation and legislation around the management and classification of dredged sediment as a waste and to promote its reclassification and re-use as a beneficial and finite natural resource.

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG)

- An audience of almost 40 industry experts and politicians gathered at the inaugural meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management on the 28th February for a valuable opportunity to discuss why a better balance in flood risk management funding was urgently needed and how it could be achieved. The next APPG is scheduled to take place on the 18th October at Westminster and will table the discussion of the developing ELM scheme and if it will deliver for flood risk and water level management as intended.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD GOVERNANCE GUIDE (EGGG)

- The Environmental Good Governance Guide is about to be launched and hard copies are available from the 10th October. This has completed a long and complex workstream, which was kindly funded by Defra. It ultimately aims to help IDBs better understand the full scope of their environmental duties and provide practical advice for achieving best practice and excellence in environmental management and enhancement.
- Work will now begin on planning a series of workshops in order to help to deliver the key messages of the EGGG.

OTHER BUSINESS

- ADA has remained involved with the development of the most recently published FCERM strategy to ensure that that IDB actions and contributions are correctly represented,
- ADA now represents IDBs at the UK Agricultural Partnership, organised by DEFRA and the Soil and Land Drainage Advisory Group, organised by the NAAC. Both groups meet a number of times each year to discuss priority challenges and opportunities.
- A number of Environment Forums have been held with success and enthusiasm in the year, discussing a wide range of topics, with the next scheduled for the 3rd October:
- Consultation responses made on behalf of members include the Land Use for England Committee's call for evidence, RBMP Consultation, Biodiversity Net Gain, Landfill Tax, and Nature Recovery Green Paper.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ABI | Association of British Insurers |
| ADEPT | Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport |
| AIMS | Asset Information Management System is an inventory of assets relevant for flood risk management from main rivers, and the coast. Developed by the EA. |
| AINA | Association of Inland Navigation Authorities |
| ASA | Association of SuDS Authorities. Formerly LASOO (Local Authority SuDS Officer Organisation). |
| ASC | Adaptation Sub-Committee of the CCC. It provides independent scrutiny and advice on the Government's approach to climate change adaptation. |
| AWB | Artificial Water Body (As determined under the Water Framework Directive.) |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan is an internationally recognised program addressing threatened species and habitats. Designed to protect and restore biological systems (BAPs can be specific to an organisation e.g. IDB BAPs, or regions/countries e.g. UKBAP). |
| CAP | Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union |
| CCC | Committee on Climate Change is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act to advise the UK Government on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. |
| CDM 2015 | Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 |
| CFMP | Catchment Flood Management Plan The plans are led by the EA and aim to encourage an integrated, sustainable and strategic approach to the management of flood risk in river catchments. |
| CIWEM | Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management |
| CLA | Country Land & Business Association |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| COP26 | The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 1 to 12 November 2021. |
| CRT | Canal and River Trust |
| DCN | District Councils' Network |
| DfI Rivers | The flood defence and drainage authority for Northern Ireland. |
| Defra | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Government department, formerly MAFF). |
| EA | Environment Agency is a Defra sponsored public body with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England. It has a strategic overview role for all FCERM in England and has powers to manage flood risk from designated main rivers and the sea. |
| EFRA | Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of Defra and its associated public bodies. |
| ELM | Environmental Land Management, typically referred to in relation to the ELM scheme that will replace existing agri-environment funding from government when it is rollout from 2024-2027. |
| EPR | Environmental Permitting Regulations set out environmental permitting and compliance regime, in England and Wales, that applies to various industries and activities, including flood risk activities. Formerly known as a flood defence consent. |
| EUWMA | European Union of Water Management Associations (Of which ADA is a member). |
| FCERM | Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (Sometimes used to refer to the Defra department responsible for these functions). |
| FDGiA | Flood Defence Grant in Aid The funding from central government for managing flood risk in England. Since 2011 this is often referred to simply as 'Partnership Funding' following the implementation of a revised approach to the assessment criteria for capital funding allocation. |

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| FRA | Flood Risk Assessment |
| FRMP | Flood Risk Management Plan may refer specifically to regional plans under the European Floods Directive highlighting the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater & reservoirs. |
| FWMA 2010 | Floods and Water Management Act 2010 |
| GDPR | General Data Protection Regulation is a European Union regulation that forms part of the data protection regime in the United Kingdom, together with the Data Protection Act 2018. |
| GEP | Good Ecological Potential (As defined by the WFD) |
| GES | Good Ecological Status (As defined by the WFD) |
| GIS | Geographic information system is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data |
| HMWB | Heavily Modified Water Body (As determined under the WFD) |
| HS&W | Health, safety and welfare |
| ICE | Institution of Civil Engineers |
| ICO | Information Commissioner's Office |
| IDB | Internal Drainage Board |
| IDD | Internal Drainage District |
| JPAG | Joint Practice Advisory Group is a standing group providing guidance on Governance and Accountability for local councils and IDBs. ADA is represented on JPAG. |
| LDA 1991 | Land Drainage Act 1991 |
| LEAF | Linking Environment And Farming, registered charity |
| LEP | Local Enterprise Partnership are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses set up in England to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. |

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| LGA | Local Government Association |
| LGO | Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, which can investigate certain actions of IDBs, local authorities, RFCCs and the EA. |
| LLFA | Lead Local Flood Authority County councils and unitary authorities with flood risk management functions specified under the FWMA. |
| MHCLG | Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government |
| NALC | National Association of Local Councils |
| NAO | National Audit Office Audits most public-sector bodies in the UK and produces value for money reports into the implementation of Government policies. |
| NE | Natural England is a Defra sponsored public body responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment is protected and improved. |
| NFU | National Farmers' Union of England and Wales |
| NIC | National Infrastructure Commission |
| NRW | Natural Resources Wales is a Welsh Government sponsored public body responsible for the management of the natural resources of Wales including flood and water management. |
| Ofwat | Office of Water Services Regulates water and sewerage providers in England and Wales. |
| P&F | Policy and Finance Committee of ADA |
| PSCA | Public Sector Cooperation Agreement An agreement in relation to the flood risk management functions of two risk management authorities made pursuant to Section 13 of the FWMA. |
| RBMP | River Basin Management Plan Strategic plans for the regional implementation of the Water Framework Directive which requires standards be met in regards to water quality and biodiversity. |

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| RFCC | Regional Flood and Coastal Committee is a statutory committee established under the FWMA that brings together members appointed by LLFAs and independent members with relevant experience to ensure the EA has coherent plans and funding arrangements for FCERM within a given region. |
| RMA | Risk Management Authority as named under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. These are: EA, NRW, LLFAs, district councils, IDBs, water companies, and highway authorities. |
| SAAA | Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd is the independent company created to procure external audit services for smaller authorities, including IDBs, following the closure of the Audit Commission. ADA is represented on the SAAA. |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation is a conservation designation under the European Habitats Directive. |
| SEPA | Scottish Environmental Protection Agency |
| SMP | Shoreline Management Plan is a non-statutory, policy document that describes how a given stretch of shoreline is most likely to be managed to address flood and/or erosion. |
| SPA | Special Protected Area is a conservation designation under the European Birds Directive. |
| SRA | Somerset Rivers Authority |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest is a conservation designation denoting a protected area. |
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage Systems are designed to reduce the impact of surface water drainage discharges from developments by mimicking natural drainage patterns and features. |
| SWMP | Surface Water Management Plan outlines the preferred surface water management strategy in a given location, which helps local partners work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding, and agree the optimum way of managing the flood risk in their area. |
| T&E | Technical & Environmental Committee of ADA |

- UKIA** United Kingdom Irrigation Association
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- WFD** Water Framework Directive is an European Union directive which commits member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies by enhancing and reducing the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and reducing aquatic and groundwater pollution.
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- WLMP** Water Level Management Plan Plans produced for areas where water levels are managed, particularly some SSSIs.
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- WRE** Water Resources East a membership body, originally formed by Anglin Water, to study and collaboratively plan for the long-term water resources needs of Eastern England.



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