

**SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: J E Fear
Secretary: M Hammond

Bradbury House
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MINUTES OF THE SWADA AGM HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER 30 NOV 22

Attendance:			
Mr J Fear Cllr M Riddle Mr T Bradford Mr T Bush Mr I Sturdy Mr I Moodie Mr P Burden Mr D Mitchell Mrs M Barnes Mr W Barnard Mr R Edwards Mr J Harris	SWADA & Axe Brue IDB SWADA & LSDB ADA & Parrett IDB NSLIDB SDBC ADA NSLIDB SRA EA Parrett IDB EA NSLIDB	Cllr J Keen Cllr S Kingham Mr D Mitchell Mr D Vigar Mr T Whitcombe Mr A Govier Mrs M Hammond Mr P Brewin	Parrett IDB Parrett IDB SRA Perrett IDB Axe Brue IDB EA SDBC SDBC
Apologies:			
Cllr J Cato Cllr M Crosby Cllr B Filmer Cllr A Gilling Cllr A Harley Cllr R Keen Cllr L Leavy	NSLIDB NSLIDB Axe Brue IDB Axe Brue IDB NSLIDB Parrett IDB Parrett IDB	Cllr J Pay Mr C Redding Cllr J Tonkin Mr D Tratt Mr M Watts Cllr R Westwood	Parrett IDB NSLIDB NSLIDB Axe Brue IDB Axe Brue IDB NSLIDB

Agenda Item:	Detail:	Action:
1. Attendance and Apologies	1.1 As per the above registers	
2. Election of Chair	2.1 Nominations for Chair were requested. 2.2 Jeff Fear was nominated by Tony Bradford and seconded by Stuart Kingham 2.2 No further nominations were made. 2.3 All in favour	RESOLUTION 01
3. Election of Vice Chair	3.1 Nominations for Vice Chair were requested 3.2 Matthew Riddle was nominated by Tony Bradford and seconded by Stuart Kingham 3.3 No further nominations were received 3.4 All in favour	RESOLUTION 02

	<p>3.5 The membership of SWADA was questioned. It was confirmed that Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and The Environment Agency are Associate Members. No other Authorities have paid subscriptions to SWADA. Iain Sturdy agreed to revisit the constitution again and look at subscriptions, especially as both Sedgemoor DC and Somerset CC will cease to exist from 1st April 2023</p> <p>3.6 Iain Moodie confirmed that there is a general refresh on the model constitution that will be shared by ADA early next year that may be of help to Iain.</p> <p>3.7 The new Somerset Council may have to appoint to SWADA via Full Council. David Mitchell will ask the question. SDBC are happy to help the new council in this matter.</p>	<p>ACTION 01 (22/11/2022 A01)</p> <p>ACTION 02 (22112022 A02)</p>
4. Election of Secretary/Treasurer	<p>4.1 The Finance Officer of SDBC has agreed to stand. Margaret Hammond proposed by Tim Bush, Seconded by Tony Bradford.</p> <p>4.2 All in favour</p>	RESOLUTION 03
5. Election of Director from SW Branch	<p>5.1 Tony Bradford's tenure expires in March 2023 and is not eligible for nomination</p> <p>5.2 After consideration it was agreed to vote on the item in the Spring meeting. which will allow for new Somerset Council membership to be involved</p>	ACTION 03 (22112022 A03)
6. Chair's introduction	<p>6.1 The Chair welcomed all of the guest speakers.</p> <p>6.2 The Chair advised the SDBC had lost their CEO and Deputy Clerk and that Iain Sturdy was the new CEO of the consortium</p> <p>6.3 Matthew Riddle – Chair of Lower Severn Drainage Board advised that they have appointed a new CEO, Dr Manjit Pope. She is an engineer by profession and has a wealth of other experience.</p> <p>6.4 The Lower Severn's next big task is the refurbishment of 4 remaining pumping stations largely to meet the eel regulations and improve health and safety in the build.</p>	
7. Minutes of Previous Meeting	<p>3.1. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held 23 September 2022 and the AGM held on 27 November 2019 were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the Meetings held. All agreed.</p>	RESOLUTION 04
8. Matters Arising	<p>8.1. Will be covered in further agenda items</p>	
9. Report from SWADA Executive Group and Terms of Reference	<p>9.1 The key issue is that it will be called a Management Group and will be called as and when necessary.</p> <p>9.2 The new terms of reference were accepted unanimously.</p>	RESOLUTION 05

<p>10. Accounts for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>Bank Signatories</p>	<p>10.1. Maggie pointed out that the two sets of accounts had very little transactions due to Covid-19 and no meetings having taken place during the period of the accounts.</p> <p>10.2 Proposed Tim Bush, seconded Matthew Riddle that the sets of accounts be adopted. All in favour.</p> <p>10.3 At the Executive meeting it was agreed that the subscriptions for 22/23 would not be made and the charges for 23/24 would not change.</p> <p>10.4 A discussion had taken place about the accounting year and the SWADA billing period which are not the same.</p> <p>10.5 Proposed by Tony Bradford, seconded by Stuart Kingham that the accounts run in line with the billing period and that the financial year runs from 1st April each year. All in favour</p> <p>10.6 Maggie Hammond advised that the current banking arrangements were a cheque book and paying in book only. Due the changes in personnel there is inly one signatory available (Jeff Fear) so no bills can be paid at the present time.</p> <p>10.7 Maggie Hammond suggested that SWADA moved to on-line banking and that there was a person dedicated to transaction entry, who would not be able to approve them and that there be the Chair and Vice Chair as signatories as well as Mr I Sturdy, Mrs M Hammond and Mrs K Kingston from SDBC. This is an amendment to the current constitution which can be amended in accordance with Clause 10.0 the constitution All in favour</p> <p>10.8 Janet Keen asked a question re the change to a Unitary authority and the Special Levy due to the Boards. Maggie Hammond advise that the new Authority would receive the Special Levy demand from 1st April 2023 from each Board separately.</p> <p>10.9 Iain Sturdy confirmed that the Consortium was in contact with the new Authority with regards to the Levy and its expected increase so there would be no surprises.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 06</p> <p>RESOLUTION 07</p> <p>RESOLUTION 08</p>
<p>11. Report from ADA Conference</p>	<p>11.1 Iain Sturdy attended the ADA conference on 9th November 2022 in Lincoln. The attendance from the South West was Iain Sturdy, Tony Bradford, Anthony Betty and Matthew Riddle (online). Tony</p>	

	<p>Bradford suggested that while Matthew Riddle attended on-line, he also presented an agenda item on-line. Robert Caudwell opened the conference and started the conference saying that drainage boards 'are water management and the value is not just in drainage.</p> <p>11.2 The speakers were Matthew Riddle, Hazel Durant from DEFRA and Luzette Kroon from Dutch Water Authorities.</p> <p>11.3 Hazel gave an update on staffing at DEFRA and confirmed that their focus was on delivery and enabling growth and hot topics were water quality, phosphates, water supply, water resources and flooding. She also mentioned the desire to introduce an Asset Replacement Allowance for end-of-life assets. She referred to the good news of the launch of the Environmental Good Governance Guide (Iain had some copies) and it is available on-line. She also mentioned the good work from the Peat Taskforce Group.</p> <p>11.4 Matthew Riddle gave a presentation about the Special Levy which was an interesting discussion especially the disaggregation from the Council Tax calculation. Disaggregation could politicise the IDB's more than they are now. There is recognition that the local growth income outweighs the increased cost from the IDBs.</p> <p>11.5 Luzette Kroon was very measured about the challenges of water management in Holland. She gave ideas of what we need to be thinking carefully about. Iain had some sound bites that he wrote down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action needs Water Action • Food Security needs Water Security • Water Resilience needs action now. <p>11.6 This was followed by a panel session and Iain had a few bullet points from this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme Weather • Rising Operational costs • Insufficient funding for necessary maintenance • Shortage of experienced and qualified staff to deliver programmes of work 	
<p>12. Report from ADA Board of Directors</p>	<p>12.1 Tony Bradford advised that ADA had set up an all-party committee to meet and sort out some of the problems we have had. Tony expressed his preference for meetings to be held in London so M.P.s can attend.</p> <p>12.2 After nine years of representing the South West Tony advise that he will be finishing as a director. He explained that</p>	

	<p>he was finding that the changes are hard to take and a younger person would be better, someone who can embrace the changes.</p> <p>12.3 We are fortunate to have some dredging on the River Parrett thanks to the SRA but there are too many rivers that need cleaning.</p> <p>12.4 Tony believes that water shortage will be more of an issue going forward than too much water.</p> <p>12.5 Tony hopes that he has represented the Boards in the best possible way.</p> <p>12.6 Maintenance is key.</p> <p>12.7 Tony reflected that he is not technically gifted and had missed face to face meetings. He has met fantastic people which you cannot do on a screen.</p> <p>12.8 The physiological damage of flooding must not be underestimated. It is essential to keep the rivers flowing.</p>	
<p>13. Environment Agency update</p>	<p>13.1 Ross Edwards gave a general update on the Environment Agency.</p> <p>13.2 The Agency has been focusing on Winter Readiness and had been talking with the public to make sure they don't forget and how to protect themselves.</p> <p>13.3 We are still in drought and are in recovery mode. Cornwall are talking about hosepipe bans into next year.</p> <p>13.4 There is £100 million allocated to the Wessex area this year which is a significant investment Some of the highlights are the Bridgwater Barrier, Dunball Sluice refurbishments and work on reservoirs. There is a flood alleviation scheme in Taunton, being led by the Council. There will be some good news about pump replacements in the moors.</p> <p>13.5 The maintenance budget is a challenge. There is £8 million which is the same as last year.</p> <p>13.6 Ross shared some images with the attendees. These are attached to this set of minutes.</p>	
<p>14. Somerset Rivers Authority update</p>	<p>14.1 David Mitchell gave an update on SRA activities. The SRA is a partnership and the Axe Brue and Parrett Boards are partners of the SRA which is funded through Council Tax.</p>	

	<p>14.2 The flood action plan funds have been mainly directed towards dredging and resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>14.3 There has been a dip in activity due to the pandemic and this is still having an impact, however things are picking up.</p> <p>14.4 The SRA is funding a trial this winter around water storage.</p> <p>14.5 SUDS inspections have been funded.</p> <p>14.6 For the future the SRA refresh of the Flood Action Plan has been replaced by the SRA Strategy and Action Plan. We are looking about what is coming down the line. The objectives will stay broadly the same. The Action Plan methodology is relying upon partners to feed into it. This will happen in the new year online and in person.</p>	
<p>15. Address by Mhari Barnes – EA Senior Advisor</p>	<p>15.1 Mhari talked about the new Environment Land Management Schemes in relation to flooding.</p> <p>15.2 There are 3 different schemes within the Environment Land Management Aspect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable farming which is the most basic scheme • Local Nature Recovery (its current name) is the most exciting part for flood risk management. This is where you can look at your areas of land which are already wet and enter them into a scheme that will pay for that land to be wet. This could be capital and maintenance funded • Landscape Recovery – which is the largest scheme with a minimum limit of 500 hectare. <p>15.3 Natural flood management (NFM) will get a big boost</p> <p>15.4 Flood water storage is now on the table</p> <p>15.5 Land management and water management are becoming important.</p> <p>15.6 Mhari’s main aims are maximising the Environment and Land Management schemes for flood risk benefit and drought resilience and wider climate change impacts and working with risk management authorities, land owners and farmers to make sure that there are agreements in place to make it more resilient and make sure farming businesses can be more resilient as a result of a plan for flood risk management.</p>	

<p>16. Address from ADA representative</p>	<p>16.1 Ian Moodie technical manager from ADA gave an update on everything ADA has been doing with regard to its membership and over the year.</p> <p>16.2 Ian Moodie said thank you to Tony Bradford for all of his hard work and said he had been a wonderful advocate for Somerset.</p> <p>16.3 ADA have been working on increased costs due to inflation and had worked on the red diesel/white diesel issue. IDB's in Somerset do not have too many pumping stations but ADA is meeting with DEFRA to discuss the cost of electricity for those Boards (especially in the East) that have a large number of pumping stations.</p> <p>16.4 ADA have been pursuing the Asset Replacement Allowance with DEFRA and are concerned about the resource funding going forward especially under the current inflationary pressures.</p> <p>16.5 ADA has a couple of committees, Technical and Environmental Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee which both meet 3 times a year. These committees do not have any representation from the South West. Going forward it would be great to get representation.</p> <p>16.6 Bringing the Somerset Councils into a Unitary Authority will mean a change in terms of membership of the Drainage Boards. These new members may want to liaise with ADA and receive the ADA Gazette.</p> <p>16.7 A number of resources have been published in the year. An educational resources project has been completed.</p> <p>16.8 Guidance notes have been published on using a carbon calculator produced by the Local Government Association.</p> <p>16.9 An Environmental Guidance Guide has been published.</p> <p>16.10 On 2nd February an IDB Environment Day will be held and on 29th March Keeping Rivers Flowing will be held where climate resilience will be discussed.</p> <p>16.11 We have had a dry summer. There must be a role for drainage boards within their districts for retaining water safely and is a route for IDB's to justify their existence.</p> <p>16.12 Peat lands is a challenge. Fine water level management requires a monitoring and</p>	
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		<p>telemetry system to manage this. Conversations are being held with DEFRA about what comes next.</p> <p>16.13 Tony Bradford asked if ADA could apply pressure to the importance of the new Unitary Authority appointing people that are familiar with IDB's and how we operate, to lose some of the councillors with their knowledge would be difficult. There had been a national training day about 3 years ago and would it be possible to do that again for the 2 drainage boards in Somerset when there is an influx of new appointed members. NSLIDB may have new members following the May 23 elections. Ian Moodie said he would look into this as there is another Board going through a new Unitary Authority change as well.</p>	
17.	AOB	17.1 There were no AOB items	
18.	Date of next meetings	<p>18.1 The next meeting date has not been set, but should be in March/April 2023.</p> <p>There being no other business, Mr J Fear thanked all for their attendance and the meeting closed at 13:10.</p>	

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Chairman

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Date