



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 25 May 2022
Refreshments 10.00 for 10.30 start
Finish 13.00 followed by Buffet Lunch

HYBRID MEETING

Venue: CIWEM, 106-109, Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8QS
Remote Access: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Tim Farr | Committee Secretary: Ian Moodie

Present: Tim Farr (TF) Chair

Ian Moodie (IM) (Secretary), Innes Thomson (IT), Robert Caudwell (RC), Andrew McGill (AMG), Carol Tidmarsh (CT), Matthew Harrison (MH), Nigel Everard (NE), Lorna McShane (LM), Sofi Lloyd (SL), James Yarham (JY), Pete Dowling (PD), Catherine Harris (CH), Sue Crowther (SC), Peter Bateson (PB)

Apologies: Andrew McLachlan

Ref	Minute
1593	1. Welcome & Apologies - TF Welcomed everyone and introduced the recent committee appointments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catherine Harris (Wilkin Chapman LLP)• Andrew McLachlan (Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Boards)• Nigel Everard (Selby Area and IDBs) [reappointment]• Local Authority, TBC
1594	2. Declarations of interest - TF None noted.
1595	3. Approval of Minutes - TF Approved.
1596	4. Matters Arising None.
1597	5. ADA Finance & Governance IM: We have draft audited accounts for last year which are not presented as only just received so will be circulated tomorrow for comments by 9th June before Board meeting. IM: Income & expenditure - nothing exceptional from last year. Subs are maybe slightly ahead. Expenditure nothing to note beyond what was expected other than accruing KORF summit costs which is expected to almost break even. Note costs shared across all 4 partners so expecting maybe circa £200 costs for it. SC: All on track. KORF paid but not all funds received yet. Debtors compare favourably with last year. IM: Always chasing subs this time of year and waiting for IDB board approval for subs which many haven't yet taken place. LA's and associates slightly better and IDBs better than last year. Bank balance better than last year.

	<p>PB: Accountant said there is some tax to come back from last year but will keep back for demo event as a credit for next year.</p> <p>IM: events board is meeting to discuss and finalise plans inc. costs tomorrow.</p>
1598	<p>6. Red Diesel</p> <p>IM: Have received a few queries from members so think needs a bit more clarity. For example, what about red diesel use in an emergency situation? Pragmatically HMRC would not be expected to charge but we need to check. Need more than implicit interpretation.</p> <p>NE: Was told need to use white diesel for PSCA work. Raised with an EA rep at Yorks Clerks meeting with the EA and she will check but she advised to carry on with IDB rules in the meantime. JY: EA looking at this with legal teams. Brief prepared by Ian Hodge and will be discussing with Innes early June. Clause 17 requires delivery party to act in accordance with the law so IDBs will be compliant at the moment. RC: EA should be subject to HMRC rules also so should be able to use red for drainage and flood risk too. IM: Yes but if construction works under PSCA would probably need to use white. PD: In Kent it is reported that EA is going totally to white. JY: Not aware that the EA will be using red diesel, the intention is to use white or alternative fuel. PD: Is the EA expecting to up their budget to cover the costs of using white? JY: Can't answer that at this stage. IM: Inflation within our sector is a relevant conversation to be had between Innes and Ian H.</p> <p>SL: Delivered info on decarbonisation maintenance in next Gazette issue.</p> <p>PD: Will HMRC inspectors interpret the rules in the same way as IDBs? IM: We feel the rules are sufficiently clear enough at the moment and to continue as we are. If we push for further definition we may risk excluding operations.</p> <p>Action: IM to clarify all above points.</p>
1599	<p>7. Committee Work Streams</p> <p>a. <u>Education Resources (www.ada.org.uk/education)</u></p> <p>IM: All resources launched with Leaf and are on the website as teaching resource packs inc. outline risk assessments and site visits. Age range is GCSE and A-level but could be adapted for younger. Ambassador training delivered and went really well. Lower Severn did test it with a grammar school from near Birmingham and feedback was positive. Are in more discussions with LEAF so we can record a version of the training so we can put onto ADA website. Countryside Classroom online has a tool where you can invite school children to a site. CRT have populated a waterways and coast site so maybe we could explore further so IDBs can do the same. Choose the most exciting site & provide details.</p> <p>PB: would LEAF be interested in demoing at a show?</p> <p>Action: IM: Yes probably, will forward contacts.</p> <p>IM: Propose to close workstream but looking to next education stream. Suggest the theme could be resources at IDB sites on public rights of way. Will explore EA suppliers. PB: We are looking at using QR codes. IM: Will prepare a workstream proposal. SL: May link into the T&E discussions yesterday re. expanding infographics for individual IDB use. IM: Yes - we can combine. Action: IM to develop workstream proposal</p> <p>b. <u>Development Guidance</u></p> <p>IM: Since writing 2 years ago, have reviewed a few IDBs own dev. guidance and all are a bit different so will need bringing together all approaches in the guidance. Also need to explore how to work better with LAs at the appropriate stage in planning and developers. SL: Covered the need to work more with LA's yesterday in T&E around what IDBs will need to better manage BNG. Also need to work more with developers of Rivers & Streams metric to ensure drainage channels aren't overlooked in the BNG</p>

	<p>metric.</p> <p>c. <u>Bylaws/Consents - Enforcement procedures</u> IM: Asks CT: Have you had many new bylaw applications? CT: no not many. IM: Now looking at enforcement procedures so could do with establishing a working group sub-committee. Action: IM to progress.</p> <p>PD: Need to look at what approaches Boards are using at the moment. LMS: There is some good examples out there. IM: Need to ensure that we differentiate between bylaws and consent breaches. IT: West Sussex have some. CH: We can help too. We have sensed an inconsistent approach. A best practice guide would be good.</p> <p>d. <u>Climate and carbon</u> IM: Will do a vision template for IDBs and will launch. SL: Launched carbon accounting guide yesterday.</p> <p>e. <u>IDB Remote/Hybrid Meeting Guidance</u> IM: No further guidance at the moment</p> <p>f. <u>IDB Elections Guidance</u> IM: No further guidance at the moment. May need to make adjustments to code of conduct. May need volunteers to vet it.</p> <p>IM: Accessibility regulations re. accessibility of public data on websites like readability, provisions for dyslexia etc. May need to re-issue previous guidance provided as is being more closely scrutinised now. Action: IM to re-publish guidance</p>
1600	<p>8. ADA Committees' Structure IM: No particular reason for review just that we hadn't reviewed previously so we are. So we have offered some other options for consideration. There is often some repetition on what has been discussed at both committees. Suggestions include merger of both committees and then a separate governance committee. SL: T&E were happy with the way things are working but still wish to have input into some items which may be considered primarily P&F. TF: work into a proposal. Action: IM&SL to progress a proposal draft</p>
1601	<p>9. IDB Audit PB: No change to audit firms for SAAA i.e. PKF Littlejohn. 7 qualifications this year. First public interest report this year which doesn't look good. IM: Quals are largely process i.e. timescales. Quite a large number didn't meet timetables so ADA will highlight in Gazette and signpost to PKF Littlejohn guidance on FAQs and timetables. IT: Thanks to MLC for their assistance with the PIR heads-up. IM: Other comments included for website contents and official IDB email addresses need to be used. CH: can ADA provide a peer review process such as done by LA's. Could it be a paid basis? IM: We do it informally but perhaps we can do something more formally. IT: We shall consider setting up a network of peers. Somerset has received some peer support and professional advice blended and it worked well. Action: IT/IM will progress peer review scheme.</p>
1602	<p>10. Environment Agency update JY: As per update provided via email. SL: Updated on progress with PSCA proposed changes. JY: Project has commenced following the recognition there was a gap in knowledge after "Living on edge" was replaced with .gov.uk for riparian owner responsibilities.</p>
1603	<p>11. Defra Update CT: Asset review research project, contract given to Collingwood Env. Planning, or now Eunomia. Will also look at coastal authority powers and surface assets. First PSG met in May. Interviews will be conducted with stakeholders. Will identify issues related to FCERM assets. May do an evidence review but may move straight to legislative review. Review period will be approx. 2 years.</p>

	<p>CT: IDB stat. instrument - IDBs have done further testing of valuation process. Legal team at DEFRA working through outstanding issues and consultation document being developed so a release of consultation can take place. SI by middle of next year is planned.</p> <p>CT: Levelling up and Regen Bill includes lots on planning inc. EIA review is expected. Also underway is review of schedule 3 of FWMA around drainage. NIC is reporting on project progress and ADA involved in stakeholder working group. Surface water review this year later on.</p> <p>CT: IDB1 report out next month.</p> <p>CT: 4 reconstitutions and 1 boundary change application received.</p>
1604	<p>12. Consultations</p> <p>IM: Note ADA responses to recent consultations available on ADA website: www.ada.org.uk/category/consultations. None relevant to the remit of P&F.</p>
1605	<p>13. T&E update</p> <p>SL: Update as per supporting papers.</p>
1606	<p>14. Events</p> <p>a. <u>ADA Conference 2022 – Hybrid</u> IM: Risk of hosting event in London for losses. There is less interest for face to face meetings now and more interest and queries when KORF was advertised over whether it was going to be a hybrid. Nocton venue looks good and pricing is competitive and can include a field visit. Could consider charging a cheaper rate for those joining remotely. CH: Will it be rotated round the country. IM: Yes will welcome suggestions of other locations. CH: What about CPD points for engineers? SL: Will look into. Action: SL/IM to enquire about CPD with relevant prof. bodies.</p> <p>b. <u>ADA AGM 2022 – Online</u> IM: Will be a free remote meeting not linked to any other event</p> <p>c. <u>Flood & Water Live 2023 – 5-6 July 2022, Carrington, Lincs.</u> (See: www.floodandwater.co.uk) IM: Hopeful for sign-off tomorrow for go ahead. D Sisson is event mgr. Hope to a launch at flood and coast. Taking bookings 1st July. Hope that if we get a 60% take-up of exhibition space we could break even.</p> <p>IM: APPG established now, so we cover political comms.</p>
1607	<p>15. AOB</p> <p>Future meeting: 21 September 2022, CIWEM, London</p>
	<p>Meeting Close</p>