



86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HANDBOOK

27 September 2023
Microsoft Teams Webinar

THE 86TH ADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held online via Microsoft Teams

ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

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 2022/2023.

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 try 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, especially those who have stood down during this year; and Committee members for their time to support ADA.

This year has seen our T&E chair Trevor Purllant standing down from the committee chair, ADA vice-chair and the board. A big thank you from us all for all you have done for ADA, Trevor, and best wishes for the future.

Also a big thank you also to our long standing retiring board members, Tony Bradford, John Heading and James Hereford. I am sure we will continue to hear from them all, but again thank you on behalf of ADA for all your commitment to

water level management and drainage in your areas.

At the same time, welcome to our new T&E chair, Charles Mills, along with his deputy chair, Ed Johnson. Charles is also appointed as ADA vice-chair, alongside Tim Farr.

To enable a smooth transition to a new committee structure, Tim Farr remains as P&F chair and will oversee the move to one combined T&E and P&F committee and a smaller governance committee reporting to the board. Thank you to Tim for helping us through these changes.

The UK news is currently focused on the dumping of sewage into rivers and the sea, and the poor condition of our rivers and beaches. The war of words will solve nothing and we need long term solutions. Internationally, we have seen catastrophic wildfires across the world, hurricanes and flooding. Climate change is showing us a frightening new world and despite a wetter July and August, we are not exempt.

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 changing climate.

I am very pleased that ADA has been given the opportunity to administer a grant aid scheme for small infrastructure pilots directly from DEFRA.

This is following the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force report published in June 2023 that identified IDBs as key water level management authorities.

Thank you to Ian Moodie and all the team involved in this exciting project for ADA.

This year also saw the reintroduction of an ADA demonstration event at Dyson's farm at Carrington near Boston. This was after a ten-year gap since the last event like this.

I thought it was a highly successful event and a credit to all those involved, but a special thank you to David Sisson who definitely made everything work behind the scenes.

The board will consider all the options for a way forward for future events, to promote the industry and to showcase innovative ideas and equipment.

I am sure that the new year will be no less challenging for all of us, but ADA will continue to lobby for increased maintenance of our main rivers and flood defences. At the same time, water resources are becoming increasingly more critical for public supply,

food production and processing, and protecting our environment.

Government must address both these concerns and ADA will work with all stakeholders to find positive and pragmatic solutions, to present to ministers and shadow ministers as we work with politicians from all political parties, and both in the commons and Lords through our APPG on sustainable flood and drought management.

Thank you to you all for your support of ADA, as we achieve so much more working in partnership, and I wish you all well in the coming year and look forward to visiting as many branches and IDBs as possible.



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 28 September 2022)
- 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 2022/23
- 7. ☐ Presentation and adoption of Approved Accounts 2022
- 8. ☐ Appointment of internal auditor and audit arrangements for 2024
- 9. ☐ Notification of subscription rates for 2024
- 10. ☐ Motions/Amendments to be put to the AGM (notice required by 27 August 2023)
- 11. ☐ ADA Business Questions (AOCB)
- 12. ☐ Close

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

I reported a busy previous year in the last AGM report and it is very much the case that we have seen an even busier twelve months since I last updated you. This increase in our activities has been largely down to ADA's presence in the wider water level and flood risk management discussions, and its members commitment and enthusiasm to delivering sustainable solutions which carefully balance local economic, social and environmental considerations.

All of that activity has been thanks to the real dedication of ADA's Staff – Ian, Sue, Heather and Ryan – and I am enormously grateful to each of them for the support and sheer hard work in steering us forward. You will have noted that we are one pair of hands less than this time last year and that has challenged us in how and what we could do. But despite that, and thanks to help from across our membership and our contacts, we have managed to succeed or deliver on a range of key issues which is a credit to all involved.

The financial backdrop has become increasingly challenging, hence our hesitation in backfilling our vacant post. Over the past year and indeed for this year, the Board has authorized a planned overspend against an agreed budget which has drawn down our reserves. In this climate, it has seemed right to do that, given that ADA's existence is entirely for the benefit of its members. I will talk in more detail about the finances later, but suffice to say at this point that we must be looking to balance the books and

the Board are looking for that to happen in the next couple of years or before. That balancing involves choices between reducing our expenditure, increasing our membership fees, or a carefully thought-through mixture of both.

The important focus for us at ADA is all about working to promote the activities and public reputation of our members, and I hope that you will agree that the outputs we have achieved over the past 12 months have helped those aims. We successfully published the Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs and held an excellent Environment Day to highlight it, which was warmly received across the industry. In the face of significant energy cost increases which had to be passed on to ratepayers from certain IDBs, and with the help of Local Authority allies, we successfully persuaded Government to provide £3m in one-off support to those Districts and Boroughs most in need of financial support for their Special Levy payments. Flood & Water Live was held in almost perfect conditions in early July and has been voted a resounding success by both exhibitors and attendees alike. And following the publication of Robert Caudwell's report from the Lowland Peat Agricultural Taskforce and Defra's acceptance of all the recommendations, Defra have had the confidence to sign up to a contract with ADA to deliver £5m of small infrastructure projects to help improve the quality of peatlands in Internal Drainage Districts.

OUR MEMBERS AND OUR FINANCES

You will see from our accounts that we are largely dependent on the income from our membership fee subscriptions, with just under 83% received from that source. Staff costs form our largest single outgoing and were just under 81% of our total operating costs last year. I am delighted that the Board showed their full confidence in the staff earlier this year and awarded them salary uplifts in line with inflationary pressures. Our people are ADA's critical resource and without them, we would cease to be able to provide the depth and level of service which we can offer today. That is the primary reason ADA's Board has opted to raise membership fee subscriptions for 2024 by 6.5%, with similar rises likely to be needed for another two years for us to work to a balanced budget and allow us to backfill the vacancy we have. I am pleased to report that our general overheads have been kept in check on as many items of expenditure which we can control. It is not to everybody's liking, but online meetings, such as this AGM, significantly reduce operating costs for us. But there are items such as office rental, insurance, communications and equipment, and stationary costs which continue to rise. We will check the position in each of the future years and adjust our thinking as necessary.

I am happy to report that our membership numbers remain very stable but we do have plans to see how we can grow that membership base in collaboration with others. More on that later.

We had aspirations that financially, Flood & Water Live could have provided us with a good income stream, although right from

its conception, we have been wary of the financial risk involved and hence the reason that similar events have not been held since 2013. Over the two days, as I said earlier, the general consensus is that the show was a great success. Financially however, it has only just held its head above water, but had we had significant bad weather, there was a real risk of the event losing money. Purely from a business angle, we will be planning a future event very carefully and it is unlikely that the next one will be before 2026. Despite the above, all of us at ADA were delighted to have organised another live demonstration event for the benefit of our members, with our sincere thanks to David Sisson as the Event Manager.

ADA'S RESOURCES

As I mentioned earlier, we are a member of staff down since Sofi's departure last autumn. Financial turbulence at the start of the year guided us to take a cautious approach to backfilling her post and we have since reflected on our future needs as a business to support our members.

Technically, we have a really sound base thanks to Ian's and the Technical and Environmental Committee's work. We now think that additional resource will be best allocated to helping build and manage the ever-increasing wealth of data and information which is so important in supporting campaigns and discussions with strategy and policy makers. We hope to recruit a suitable person in the coming months.

I also want to say a very big thank you to four of our departing Directors this year – Trevor Purlant, John Heading, James

Hereford and Tony Bradford. All have been stalwarts of service to the Industry and ADA and we are indebted to them for all that they have done. I am delighted to have already welcomed Charles Mills as our new Technical and Environmental Committee Chair and ADA Vice Chair, and Rebecca Horsington, replacing Tony in the SW Branch and we await final confirmation of John's and James' replacements. As part of committee strengthening (see below), Ed Johnson has also been appointed as Deputy Chair of the T & E Committee.

An important option for ADA going forward is being able to call on a wide network of expert and experienced people to assist with task and finish projects. David Sisson has been a fine example of just that, working for ADA and in charge of the meticulous preparation and management of Flood & Water Live 2023. We are also now contracting with a number of people and organisations to help us deliver other projects.

ADA'S COMMITTEES

Plans are well underway for a restructuring of our Committees. I will not go into detail here suffice to say that the reshaping of things is designed to make us more efficient in the way that we deliver outcomes to you as members. Basically, we are combining the current Technical & Environmental and Policy & Finance Committees into one Policy Committee and creating a new Advisory Committee which will scrutinize ADA's activities and provide business and governance advice to ADA's officers and Board.

Two of the first jobs of the new Advisory

Committee will be to help me prepare a new ADA Business Plan and review our ADA staff progression strategy.

COLLABORATIONS AND ALLIANCES

I have in past years mentioned the importance of working with others across the industry and this year, I have judged it even more important to dedicate a section of my CEOs report to the subject.

We cannot escape the fact that our day-to-day lives depend on a very careful - what I call gyroscopic - balance of local environmental, social and economic aspects. We also accept that we must be considering our work across whole catchments, and not just in the silos in which we have been seen to operate. Jean Venables had the wisdom to start broadening the horizons for ADA across a wider network of partners and members, and I joined ADA to help continue that good work. Today, collaboration and alliance with others is even more important and indeed efficient in delivering multiple benefit solutions with multiple partners. To that end, and after 3 successful years working with them under a service level agreement, I want to take ADA a stage further in working more closely with the Association of SuDS Authorities (ASA) who have much common ground with what we do and how we do it. The Government have made it clear that they want to enact Schedule 3 of the Floods & Water Management Act by the end of 2024 which will bring Suds Approval Bodies (SABs) into force and give additional powers and responsibilities to Local Authorities to manage sustainable Drainage. Local Authorities in IDB areas already work closely with IDBs on the subject and it seems a logical progression for ADA to strengthen

its ties with ASA for wider public benefit. Both Associations could benefit from having a wider membership base, with all the advantages that should bring.

I am also looking at a variety of other possible collaborations which may or may not develop over the next few years. If, of course, any significant moves are planned, then as members you will be fully consulted.

LOOKING FORWARD

As always, one of my important duties is to look forward, not only from a developmental point of view in growing ADA's influence and providing more support to our members, but also keeping a weather eye on issues which might affect the industry and our members.

For me, the two big "weather eye" subjects are politics and the environment. I am confident that on the subject of the environment, ADA and its members have a sound grasp of the subject and are actively working to ensure that in everything we do, the environment in which we work is left in a better state for future generations. The publication of ADA's Environmental Good Governance Guide and the holding of a focused Environment Seminar was a major step in that direction and has very much earned outside respect for the industry and ADA. Flood & Water Live and its themed approach to innovation and technology has also shown how the industry is moving towards a carbon-neutral future and ADA's continued commitment to the updated Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk management Strategy in that area remains to the forefront.

Politics, however, is a bit more of a crystal ball and it is now, more than ever, that ADA's

position of political neutrality is important to assure that the proper technical focus is given to the subject of water level and flood risk management. ADA will continue to and has always supported all political parties in supplying them with any information they require about our industry and, with a General Election around the corner, ADA will be focusing on key manifesto messages which we would like to see all parties taking heed of. ADA cannot do this alone and it is very important that members push those messages out to their local political representatives and in the coming months, we will have various materials available on our website to help you do just that.

After a few years forced break due to Covid, I am delighted that we are back at the Institution of Civil Engineers for our annual ADA Flood & Water Conference on 21st November and I hope that as many of you as possible will join us with an increased and excellent line up of keynote speakers. We have also adjusted the format to allow for all our Associate Members to be represented there if they wish to, as an added value to their membership subscriptions.

Finally, and on behalf of all the team, can I say a very big thank you to you, our members, for your continued support of ADA and we all look forward to working with you going forward.



**INNETHOMSON BSc CEng FICE
AUGUST 2023**

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

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 other contributors may attend Board and Committee meetings by invitation.

BRANCH DIRECTORS

| Branch No. | Branch | Name of Representative | End of term |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Northern | BILL SYMONS | TBC |
| 2 | Marches | TBC | N/A |
| 3 | Trent | WILL STAUNTON | 31/03/2024 |
| 4 | Lincolnshire | KEITH CASSWELL | 31/03/2026 |
| 5 | Welland & Nene | DUNCAN WORTH | 31/03/2025 |
| 6 | Great Ouse | TBC | N/A |
| 7 | Eastern | ANGIE FITCH-TILLET | 31/03/2025 |
| 8 | South Eastern | PRISCILLA HASELHURST | 31/03/2024 |
| 9 | South Western | REBECCA HORSINGTON | 31/03/2026 |
| 10 | Cymru (Wales) | JAMES WEST | 31/06/2025 |

CHAIRPERSON

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| ROBERT CAUDWELL | 31/11/2024 |
|------------------------|------------|

STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Policy & Finance | TIM FARR | 31/03/2024 |
| Technical & Environmental | CHARLES MILLS | 31/03/2025 |

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 / WILL HARRINGTON | N/A |
|-------|--|-----|

COMMITTEES

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

The Policy & Finance Committee discuss governance, legal, financial, audit and policy matters. The Technical & Environmental Committee discusses engineering, health and safety, environmental and operational matters.

The Policy & Finance Committee discuss governance, legal, financial, audit and policy matters. 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) | MANJIT POPE | 31/03/26 |
| Member (Associate) | CATHERINE HARRIS | 31/03/25 |
| Member (LA) | MATTHEW HARRISON | 31/03/25 |
| Member (RFCC) | RICHARD POWELL | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW McGILL | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW MCLACHLAN | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | LORNA MCSHANE | 31/03/24 |
| Member (EA) | JAMES ADDICOTT | appointed |
| Member (IDB) | STEVE LARTER | 31/03/26 |
| 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 | CHARLES MILLS | 31/03/25 |
| Dputy Chair | ED JOHNSON | 31/03/26 |
| Member (IDB) | PHIL CAMAMILE | 31/03/24 |
| Member (LA) | MAT JACKSON | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | IAIN STURDY | 31/03/26 |
| Member (Associate) | GARRY LEATHERBARROW | 31/03/25 |
| Member (EA) | JAMES YARHAM | 31/07/24 |
| Member (IDB) | CHRIS MANNING | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | DAN MARTIN | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | ANDREW MORRITT | 31/03/24 |
| Member (IDB) | OLIVER PANTREY | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | MARTIN SHILLING | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | DIANA WARD | 31/03/25 |
| Member (IDB) | CATHERINE WEIGHTMAN | 31/03/26 |
| 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 Secretary | HUBERT JONES JAMES WEST | james.west@ naturalresourceswales. gov.uk |
| EASTERN | Chair Secretary | ROBIN BUXTON KARI NASH | kari.nash@wlma.org.uk |
| GREAT OUSE | Chair Secretary | MARC HEADING PHIL CAMAMILE | phil.camamile@ wlma.org.uk |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | Chair Secretary | PETER RICHARDSON ANDREW MCGILL | andrew.mcgill@ lmdb.co.uk |
| MARCHES | Chair Secretary | BETTON CAMBIDGE RICHARD JONES | rlrj@ melverleyidb.org.uk |
| NORTHERN | Chair Secretary | IAN THORNTON ANDREW MCLACHLAN | andrew.mclachlan@ yorkshirehumberdrainage. gov.uk |
| SOUTH EAST | Chair Secretary | LARRY COOKE PETE DOWLING | pete.dowling@ rsidb.org.uk |
| SOUTH WEST | Chair Secretary | JEFF FEAR MARGARET HAMMOND | mhammond@ somersestdbs.co.uk |
| TRENT | Chair Secretary | WILL STAUNTON ANDREW MCGILL | andrew.mcgill@ lmdb.co.uk |
| WELLAND AND NENE | Chair Secretary | DUNCAN WORTH PHIL CAMAMILE | phil.camamile@ wlma.org.uk |

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

MEETING DATES 2023-2024

ANNUAL WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 21 NOVEMBER 2023 | One Great George Street, London |
| 13 NOVEMBER 2024 | One Great George Street, London |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 27 SEPTEMBER 2023 | MICROSOFT TEAMS |
| 03 DECEMBER 2024 | MICROSOFT TEAMS |

ADA ENVIRONMENT DAY

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 02 FEBRUARY | Park Farm, Thorney |
|--------------------|--------------------|

FLOOD & COAST 2024

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| TBC | Telford International Centre |
|------------|------------------------------|

BOARD

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 | London |
| WEDNESDAY 06 MARCH 2024 | London |
| TUESDAY 02 JULY 2024 | Venue TBC |
| TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024 | Venue TBC |

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Formerly Policy and Finance)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024 | Stoneleigh Park (In Person / Online) |
| TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 | Stoneleigh Park (In Person / Online) |
| WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024 | Stoneleigh Park (In Person / Online) |

POLICY COMMITTEE (Formerly Technical and Environmental)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024 | London, Venue TBC |
| WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 | London, Venue TBC |
| WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 | London, Venue TBC |

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Officers and Professional Advisers

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

T H Farr
J E Heading
T C Purlant
D R Worth
K C Casswell
J N Hereford
R H Caudwell
W J Staunton
P Haselhurst
W R A Symons
B W Stewart
J R West
P Ambrose
Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett
R Horsington
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 2022

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| T H Farr | |
| J E Heading | |
| A E D Bradford | |
| T C Purlant | |
| D R Worth | |
| K C Casswell | |
| J N Hereford | |
| R H Caudwell | |
| W J Staunton | |
| P Haselhurst | |
| W R A Symons | |
| I Hodge | |
| B W Stewart | (Appointed 27 April 2022) |
| J R West | (Appointed 14 July 2022) |
| P Ambrose | (Appointed 14 July 2022) |
| Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett | (Appointed 11 August 2022) |
| D J Hickman | (Resigned 3 June 2022) |
| J G Markwick | (Resigned 17 May 2022) |
| D H Jenkins | (Resigned 27 April 2022) |
| C J C Mutton | (Resigned 20 April 2022) |

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 18 July 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

Year ended 31 December 2022

| | Note | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|------|-----------------|----------------|
| Turnover | | 342,985 | 328,111 |
| Cost of sales | | <u>29,784</u> | <u>18,384</u> |
| Gross profit | | 313,201 | 309,727 |
| Administrative expenses | | <u>354,941</u> | <u>316,033</u> |
| Operating loss | | (41,740) | (6,306) |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | <u>586</u> | <u>35</u> |
| Loss before taxation | | (41,154) | (6,271) |
| Tax on loss | | <u>159</u> | <u>(315)</u> |
| Loss for the financial year and total comprehensive income | | (41,313) | (5,956) |
| Retained earnings at the start of the year | | 265,390 | 271,346 |
| Retained earnings at the end of the year | | 224,077 | 265,390 |

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2022

| | Note | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 6 | 4,040 | 3,060 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 7 | 57,566 | 42,427 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 204,103 | 242,254 |
| | | <u>261,669</u> | <u>284,681</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 8 | <u>41,632</u> | <u>22,351</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>220,037</u> | <u>262,330</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>224,077</u> | <u>265,390</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>224,077</u> | <u>265,390</u> |
| Capital and reserves | | | |
| Profit and loss account | | 224,077 | 265,390 |
| Members funds | | <u>224,077</u> | <u>265,390</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 2022 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 2022

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 18 July 2023, 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 2022

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 2022

5. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 7 (2021: 7).

6. Tangible assets

| | Plant and machinery £ |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cost | |
| At 1 January 2022 | 14,237 |
| Additions | 3,290 |
| At 31 December 2022 | 17,527 |
| Depreciation | |
| At 1 January 2022 | 11,177 |
| Charge for the year | 2,310 |
| At 31 December 2022 | 13,487 |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 December 2022 | 4,040 |
| At 31 December 2021 | 3,060 |

7. Debtors

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trade debtors | 22,262 | 28,347 |
| Other debtors | 35,304 | 14,080 |
| | 57,566 | 42,427 |

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trade creditors | 9,471 | 6,202 |
| Corporation tax | 52 | – |
| Social security and other taxes | 11,566 | 10,805 |
| Other creditors | 20,543 | 5,344 |
| | 41,632 | 22,351 |

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 December 2022

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 2022

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 2022, 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 2022

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Turnover | | |
| Subscriptions | 284,060 | 282,286 |
| Gazette advertising | 43,500 | 41,559 |
| Conference fees and sponsorship | 3,822 | – |
| Consultancy and sundry income | 8,387 | 4,266 |
| Event income | 3,216 | – |
| | <u>342,985</u> | <u>328,111</u> |
| Cost of sales | | |
| Conference fees | 2,757 | 329 |
| Gazette direct costs | 18,380 | 16,672 |
| Other direct costs | 5,344 | – |
| Event costs | 3,303 | 1,383 |
| | <u>29,784</u> | <u>18,384</u> |
| Gross profit | <u>313,201</u> | <u>309,727</u> |
| Overheads | | |
| Administrative expenses | 354,941 | 316,033 |
| Operating loss | <u>(41,740)</u> | <u>(6,306)</u> |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | 586 | 35 |
| Loss before taxation | <u>(41,154)</u> | <u>(6,271)</u> |

Association of Drainage Authorities

Notes to the Detailed Income Statement

Year ended 31 December 2022

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Directors' salaries | 20,259 | 19,678 |
| Directors' employer's national insurance contributions | 1,632 | 1,497 |
| Wages and salaries | 228,948 | 216,471 |
| Employer's national insurance contributions | 20,574 | 18,563 |
| Employer's staff pension contributions | 16,194 | 15,493 |
| Rent, rates and office costs | 15,644 | 14,633 |
| Insurance | 2,347 | 2,184 |
| Travel and subsistence | 12,729 | 4,540 |
| Telephone | 2,140 | 1,643 |
| Printing postage and stationery | 5,481 | 5,125 |
| Staff training | 1,604 | – |
| Software and computing costs | 7,655 | 6,805 |
| Committee meeting expenses | 4,123 | 2,938 |
| General expenses | 3,913 | 1,126 |
| External meeting expenses | 1,301 | 101 |
| EUWMA meeting expenses | 1,018 | – |
| Marketing costs | 415 | – |
| Legal and professional fees | 2,836 | 310 |
| Accountancy fees | 3,267 | 3,000 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 2,310 | 1,486 |
| Bad debt cost / (recovered) | (13) | (30) |
| Bank charges | 564 | 470 |
| | <u>354,941</u> | <u>316,033</u> |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | |
| Interest on cash and cash equivalents | <u>586</u> | <u>35</u> |



SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

| Subscription Area - Value Factor* | Subscription 2023 | Subscription 2024 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0 – 999 | £597 | £636 |
| 1,000 – 1,999 | £679 | £724 |
| 2,000 – 2,999 | £755 | £805 |
| 3,000 – 3,999 | £834 | £889 |
| 4,000 – 4,999 | £915 | £975 |
| 5,000 – 5,999 | £1,008 | £1,074 |
| 6,000 – 6,999 | £1,088 | £1,159 |
| 7,000 – 7,999 | £1,173 | £1,250 |
| 8,000 – 8,999 | £1,270 | £1,353 |
| 9,000 – 9,999 | £1,357 | £1,446 |
| 10,000 – 19,999 | £1,598 | £1,702 |
| 20,000 – 29,999 | £1,823 | £1,942 |
| 30,000 – 39,999 | £2,037 | £2,170 |
| 40,000 – 49,999 | £2,266 | £2,414 |
| 50,000 – 59,999 | £2,484 | £2,646 |
| 60,000 – 69,999 | £2,714 | £2,891 |
| 70,000 – 79,999 | £2,937 | £3,128 |
| 80,000 – 89,999 | £3,152 | £3,357 |
| 90,000 – 99,999 | £3,400 | £3,621 |
| 100,000 – 133,333 | £3,624 | £3,860 |
| 133,334 – 166,666 | £3,848 | £4,099 |
| 166,667 – 199,999 | £4,071 | £4,336 |
| 200,000 – 299,999 | £4,294 | £4,574 |

| Subscription Area - Value Factor* | Subscription 2023 | Subscription 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 300,000 – 399,999 | £4,480 | £4,772 |
| 400,000 – 499,999 | £4,666 | £4,970 |
| 500,000 – 599,999 | £4,853 | £5,169 |
| 600,000 – 699,999 | £5,041 | £5,369 |
| 700,000 – 799,999 | £5,228 | £5,568 |
| 800,000 – 899,999 | £5,413 | £5,765 |
| 900,000 – 999,999 | £5,599 | £5,963 |
| 1,000,000 – 1,099,999 | £5,786 | £6,163 |
| 1,100,000 – 1,199,999 | £5,971 | £6,360 |
| 1,200,000 – 1,299,999 | £6,160 | £6,561 |
| 1,300,000 – 1,399,999 | £6,346 | £6,759 |
| 1,400,000 – 1,499,999 | £6,531 | £6,956 |
| *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 | £2,667 | £2,840 |
| NATIONAL AGENCIES: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, NATURAL RESOURCES WALES, RIVERS AGENCY, WATER COMPANIES AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR AGENCY/AUTHORITY | £718 | £765 |
| LOCAL AUTHORITIES | £360 | £383 |
| ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP | £438 | £466 |
| INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP | £40 | £43 |

All Plus VAT @ 20%

MEMBERSHIP 2023

As at 31 August 2023

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Adur and Worthing Councils | Kent Highway Services |
| BCP Council | Leeds City Council |
| Bedford Borough Council | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Boston Borough Council | Medway Council |
| Bury Council | Norfolk County 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 |
| Fenland District Council | Suffolk County Council |
| Isle of Man Dept. of Infrastructure | 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 | McConnel Limited |
| Ainsty Timber Marketing Ltd | Meteor Communications (Europe) Ltd |
| Aquaspira Ltd | MGF Excavation Support Systems |
| Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd | Onsite Central Limited |
| Atkins Water | OTT HydroMet Ltd |
| AxFlow | Ovivo UK Ltd |
| Balfour Beatty | Paktronic Engineering Company |
| Bedford Pumps Ltd | Panolin UK Ltd |
| Bomford Turner Ltd | Pioneer Pumps |
| Bosman Watermanagement | Quartzelec Ltd |
| Breheny Civil Engineering | Radio Data Networks Ltd |
| CGM Group | Roythomes |
| Coulstock & Place Engineering | SDS Ltd |
| Coxon Brothers | Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Ltd |
| Cumbria River 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 |
| Essex Coast Organisation | Sulzer Pumps Wastewater UK Ltd |
| Fen Group | Sweeting Bros Ltd |
| FenFlow Engineering (formally Shoebridge) | TDL Equipment |
| Flood Management Support Services Ltd | Test Products International Europe Ltd |
| Goodlad Contracting | TMS Maritime |
| GreenBlue Urban | Tony Gee & Partners LLP |
| Ground Control Ltd | Towergate Risk Solutions/Ardonagh |
| Haskoning DHV UK Limited | Tubosider UK Ltd |
| Inter-Lec Ltd | United Rentals UK Ltd |
| Intralox Ltd | Van Heck |
| J N Bentley | VEGA Controls |
| Land & Water Group Ltd | W M Plant Hire |
| Lattenbury Services Ltd | Water Resources East |
| Lee Dickens | Waterfront Fluid Controls Ltd |
| Liebherr - Great Britain Ltd | Waterman Aspen Limited |
| Linlar Limited (HL Plastics) | Wilkin Chapman |
| Martin Childs Limited | WM R&A Contractors |
| Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd | Xylem Water Solutions Ltd |

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022 REPORT

ADA's 85th Annual Conference took place on Wednesday 9 November 2022 in Lincolnshire at The Hive, near Nocton. After two years of virtual conferencing as a result of the COVID pandemic, a more compact, lower cost-risk venue enabled ADA to re-instate a face-to-face meeting, despite the underlying concerns of continued Covid pressures and on-the-day disruption to train travel nationally. A full-capacity turnout of 81 members and ADA staff were in attendance and 33 additional members joined the event online.

The Conference attendees received presentations from our three guest speakers. A welcome additional feature of this conference after the morning's agenda was the opportunity for delegates to visit the nearby Dunston Beck Improvement Project, delivered by Dyson Farming Ltd.

SPEAKERS

HAZEL DURANT - HEAD OF RESILIENCE AND FLOOD INNOVATION POLICY, DEFRA

Hazel described the current priorities for Defra's Flood and Waterways Team. She said that the focus of ministers remained on delivery for communities on the ground. She went on to talk about the importance of maintaining existing assets, and not just limited to hard engineered assets, but the wider range of flood management assets used throughout our catchments. She recognised that making sure gullies, culverts and drains are kept clear throughout the year might not grab the headlines. As she addressed ADA members present from IDBs, local authorities and Environment Agency, Hazel was keen to stress that Defra really appreciate the work being carried out locally to help communities with water level and flood risk management. Appreciating that many flood risk assets are now close to their design life or life-expired, Hazel said

that Defra was working up the detail for an FCERM asset replacement allowance for the Environment Agency to help them address the replacement of life-expired assets. She recognised that other risk management authorities also had assets that would be better off replaced with more efficient solutions, rather than be allowed to fail with the unpredictable cost of an emergency . and said that Defra would be looking at how they might be able to support a broadening of the asset replacement allowance.

Defra had also ring fenced a hundred million pounds to help boost projects for communities suffering repeated flooding. Applications to the new frequently flooded properties allowance were being assessed by the Environment Agency, with the first beneficiaries expected to be announced soon.

An asset review was ongoing looking at which delivery bodies and riparian owners owned and managed which assets, whether they knew that they owned them, and the legislative framework around managing those assets. The study was planned to report in 2024.

Hazel concluded her speech by taking the time to thank ADA for the work that it had undertaken with Defra and she added that members should be proud of what they do

and how ADA strongly represents them at a national level. Hazel went on to say that all of the Defra team recognise the efficiency, quality and dedication to delivering work which benefits a wide range of local communities and local economies. She finished by calling upon Internal Drainage Boards to do more to proudly advertise their work and tell their local communities about the essential work they do.

**CLLR MATTHEW RIDDLE - CHAIR,
LOWER SEVERN IDB & COUNCILLOR,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE
COUNCIL**

Cllr Matthew Riddle's online presentation focused on making the case for reforms to the special levy charged by IDBs annually to local authorities. Alongside drainage rates, special levies contribute towards the funding of the flood and water level management work undertaken by IDBs on behalf of non-agricultural property within each drainage district.

He started with the background to the special levy, explaining that, prior to its existence, IDBs directly billed households and non-agricultural businesses within their area. Councils bringing in the special levy therefore made sense given that they were already collecting precepts on behalf of other bodies.

However, the problem for some special levy paying councils is that the precept is absorbed into their general expenses and that the special levy for smaller district councils may be a substantial proportion of the council's expenditure. This also had the effect of spreading the payment across a bigger area and to all ratepayers

in the council area, because those areas are normally much larger than the internal drainage district area.

Cllr Riddle went on to say that Eric Pickles, when he was Secretary State for communities and housing, had introduced a further complexity, the council tax rate cap, which included the special levy. He said that this means that any increase in the costs of an IDB has a direct effect on how much a local district or borough council can put their council tax up by.

Cllr Riddle argued that the answer to these challenges was obvious, to disaggregate the special levy and put another line on council tax bills to show the amount of money being collected on behalf of the IDB. There is already precedence for this in Somerset where, under a notional settlement from HM Treasury, an additional levy is raised to fund the activities of the Somerset Rivers Authority.

He concluded that this change would bring greater transparency to local government finance, ensuring residents understand what they were contributing to, and raising awareness of the flood and water level management works being undertaken by IDBs.

**LUZETTE KROON - CHAIR,
WETTERSKIP FRYSLÂN WATER
BOARD & BOARD MEMBER FOR
INNOVATION & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, DUTCH WATER
AUTHORITIES**

Luzette Kroon described the Dutch water management system and the role of the Netherlands' 21 water boards who manage

and maintain dikes, treat all the wastewater from Dutch households and businesses, and regulate the water levels across the country. The water boards' work is funded by a wastewater tax on households and a special taxation to manage the watercourses, dikes and water system as a whole.

Centuries of water drainage practices had made it possible to use almost every free centimetre to build houses, to intensify farmlands or to create nature. However, Luzette explained that the water system is progressively reaching its physical limit.

Increasingly, saltwater intrusion and oxidation of the soil is necessitating adaptation of water management in the Netherlands to conserve soil and peatlands. Luzette explained that action was needed rapidly owing to climate change, with an integrated approach of changing water management agreed between water boards, government and stakeholders. Building resilience to deal with the increasingly extreme weather conditions would mean nature-based solutions are needed alongside asset management and sufficient financial capacity for investments in pumping stations and the creation of water retention areas to prevent harm from flood damage and water shortages. This would mean working closely with the zonal planning system.

In Friesland, Luzette's water board had made a start in small areas by raising the water table by making agreements with farmers and investigating future business cases for them. This had already brought benefits during recent prolonged dry weather, with farmers requesting higher water levels to keep the grass growing.

Luzette concluded by saying that continuing to work together across our national boundaries was very important as we prepare for the future towards a climate resilient water management model and a strong water management governance.

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM

A panel of Innes Thomson (ADA), Luzette Kroon (WF-NL), Ian Hodge (EA), Hazel Durant (Defra) and David Thomas (MLC) answered a variety of questions from delegates covering a wide range of topics.

Of particular concern to attendees was the question of energy costs and the potential consequences to IDBs if we experience a wet winter and abnormally high demands on pumps. Many IDBs expressed concern that they might simply run out of funds to pay for the pumping.

Water resources were discussed and various speakers expressed opinion that IDBs need to become a more integral part of water resources distribution and the licensing process, through a properly integrated water strategy, rather than the process being applied to them. Such a move might require legislative change which, in the current parliamentary climate could take some time.

ADA was asked about its communications strategy and attendees were told that ADA is giving more attention to getting information to politicians and other government departments. The creating of the All Party Parliamentary Group of Sustainable Flood & Drought Management is expected to help drive this approach.

SITE VISIT

Around the conference buffet lunch, delegates were split into two groups to visit the nearby Dunston Beck Improvement Project. Dyson Farming's Environmental Coordinator, Ian Willoughby, explained how the project had sought to recreate a meandering river system with a mosaic of wetland habitats, for the wider benefit of the environment and with direct positive influence on their business.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

ADA's AGM took place at 14.00 on Wednesday 28 September 2022 via an online Microsoft Teams webinar; attended by 54 people for all or part of the meeting. Some online connections may have involved multiple people making use of a single connection from, for example, an office meeting room.

REPORT OF PREVIOUS AGM 2021

Innes Thomson gave a short report of the proceedings of the previous AGM, as detailed on pages 41 – 43 of last year's AGM Handbook.

NOTIFICATION OF ADA OFFICERS

Members were asked to note the continued appointments of Henry Cator as ADA President, Baroness McIntosh, John Grogan, David Riddington and Jean Venables as ADA Vice Presidents, and Robert Caudwell as ADA Chair.

DIRECTORS

Robert Caudwell (Chair) thanked ADA's Directors for their support and guidance through the year. Particular thanks were offered to John Markwick, Catherine Wright, David Jenkins, David Hickman and Chris Mutten who had all stood down from the Board in the past 12 months.

Members were asked to note and welcome the election/appointment of the following new Directors since the 2021 AGM.

- Brian Stewart OBE, RFCC appointee
- Ian Hodge, EA appointee
- James West, elected by ADA Cymru Branch
- Paul Ambrose, elected by LLFA officers
- Angie Fitch-Tillett, elected by ADA Eastern Branch

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, the president, vice presidents, ADA's staff, and all ADA's members for their assistance, support and advice. ADA's operations were mostly back to normal routine following the Covid pandemic, with the advantage of more flexible forms of working for staff and the use of more hybrid meetings with resulting time and cost savings for ADA. ADA's finances operated to a small deficit of just over £6k for 2021 and the Board again agreed to a deficit budget for 2022, continuing to invest some of ADA's reserves in ADA's work to the benefit of ADA's members.

IDB membership held steady at ninety four per cent of IDBs continuing as ADA members in 2022, considerably helping to retain ADA's ability to speak on behalf of the large majority of IDBs with a common voice. Innes was delighted to report that Local authorities' membership had increased and associate membership remained steady on the previous year. The number of individual memberships was also increasing.

Innes reported that ADA had been very much part of the latest Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy update

focusing on resilience and adaptation to our changing climate and has committed to deliver on a number of commitments as part of the Strategy.

ADA has organised meetings for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management, chaired by Andrew Percy MP and through these new connections, we are able to help influence the political decisions taken on a variety of subjects.

The outcome of the debate on red diesel use by IDBs was a particular success for ADA, where members' 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.

As carbon emissions continue to rise, ADA has also helped members understand how to reduce their carbon emissions with the ultimate goal of becoming carbon-neutral, with the publication of a new carbon accounting guide for IDBs.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

One of the largest pieces of work which ADA has been undertaking is the preparation of an Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs which was expected to be published at ADA's 2022 Conference. This will be supported by workshops to broadcast the main messages from the guide. Innes also reported that Robert Caudwell was the independent chair of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force which will be reporting to Government on the importance of these crucial carbon-store areas of our country.

ADA'S FUTURE

Innes reported that ADA's 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. ADA will widen its involvement with various groups discussing and debating a variety of water-themed issues and that involvement allows ADA to understand the bigger picture and therefore set out clearer priorities for their work in influencing government about the future of water level and flood risk management.

ADA continues to work closely with the Association of SuDS Authorities (ASA) and with their Executive Board, and discussions are ongoing about ways to strengthen that co-operation.

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 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 continue to be members of the European Union of Water Management Associations (EUWMA) and that exchange remains significant where 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.

Looking forward, Innes reported that a highlight of next year will be the ADA Flood & Water Live 2023 event in partnership with Dyson Farming Ltd and Witham 4th IDB and preparations were well underway. ADA will also be involved in a further "Keeping our Rivers Flowing" Summit, to be hosted and organized this time by the NFU.

FINANCES

The Company's Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 were presented, as adopted by ADA's Board of Directors on 6 July 2022. Streets Chartered Accountants were formally appointed as the company's internal auditor and external accountant for the period ending 31 December 2022 and ADA's accounts for the financial period ending December 2021 were formally adopted by the AGM, without comment. The AGM was notified that ADA's membership subscription fees for 2023 will increase by 4.5% from fees in 2022, 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 2024.

MEMBERSHIP

ADA's membership in 2022 was reported in the AGM Handbook as 107 IDBs, 5 national agencies, 1 water company, 6

Welsh internal drainage district advisory groups, 12 RFCCs, 25 Local Authorities, and 67 Associate Members.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS

The AGM concluded with a discussion session on ADA and its members' business. Items discussed included:

- promoting river conveyance and asset maintenance and repair;
- precept guidance from the Environment Agency;
- financial pressures on member authorities energy prices, and wage increases;
- insurance linked to IDBs' delivery of PSCA work;
- lack of engineering and professional staff;
- encouraging greater water retention in times of drought;
- IDBs becoming statutory planning consultees.

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



BOARD REPORT 2023

Since the last AGM, the Board has met in October 2022, February and July 2023. 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.

This report summarises some of the key topics discussed by the Board, as follows;

ADA PRESIDENT AND VICE

PRESIDENTS

ADA's President, Henry Cator, and Vice Presidents, Baroness McIntosh, Jean Venables, John Grogan and David Riddington have been actively involved with ADA business over the past 12 months and the Board is very grateful for their advice and support on a variety of matters affecting ADA members. ADA had intended to appoint another Vice President, but this has not yet taken place and ADA plans to look for an interested, enthusiastic and influential person in the coming months.

ADA BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

In the past 12 months, four Directors have resigned from the Board, namely Trevor Purlant, John Heading, James Hereford and Tony Bradford and ADA's sincere thanks were offered to them all at a celebratory event following the July 2023 Board meeting. At the time of writing this report, two posts have been refilled and ADA is delighted to welcome Charles Mills taking over as the chair of the Technical & Environmental Committee and ADA Vice Chair, and Rebecca Horsington who was elected to represent ADA's SW Branch on the Board. Vacancies in the Marches and Great Ouse Branches will be confirmed after their next meetings.

Keith Casswell has been re-elected for a third and final term representing the Lincolnshire Branch.

There has been a reduction in ADA staff numbers with the departure of Sofi Lloyd in Autumn 2022. The Board has given its approval in principle to recruit to that vacancy and ADA officers are reflecting on the exact requirements for a new member of staff.

ADA OPERATIONS

All staff are now working on a mixture of home and office-based hours to fit in with everyone's work and personal requirements.

With a number of new Board members appointed and the planned changes to our Committee structures, there have been more face-to-face meetings this year to allow for wider debate and discussion. We very much continue to operate with a hybrid option for those unable to travel to ADA meetings and some future meetings will be held entirely online.

Of note are the number of external meetings now being held online which is reducing the amount of travel and subsistence expense for ADA staff compared with pre-covid costs.

ADA have organised a number of key events this year which has demanded considerable focus by all ADA staff. A very successful Environment Day was held back in February followed by the third in the series of Keeping our Rivers Flowing seminars. The major event which has taken in-depth preparation over the past 12 months has been the highly

successful undertaking of ADA's Flood & Water Live event.

Other major operations have included the internal handling of the publication of the Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs, the Carbon Accounting Guide for IDBs and all materials for Flood & Water Live as well as dealing with an increased volume of consultations and collaborative workstreams initiated by Defra and the Environment Agency. ADA staff have also spent time collating information about rising energy costs and providing data to Government to support arguments for increased financial support.

Administrative support for ASA has also increased this year with accelerated attention on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Floods & Water Management Act in relation to sustainable drainage systems.

Branch meetings have seen a re-invigoration over the past 12 months with almost all Branches back to a normal routine of meetings. Lincolnshire and Northern Branches were also well represented at the Lincolnshire and Driffield Agricultural shows with two excellent stands and ADA was directly involved this year in the Schools Challenge as part of the Lincolnshire 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.

For the year 2022, the Board authorised officers to operate to an agreed budget with a deficit of up to £45,450 and the actual

reported deficit in our final accounts was just over £41,000. Cost management for 2022 was very difficult with spiralling interest giving rise to a plethora of increasing costs for ADA. Of most significance was the necessary salary support to ADA staff in November to help them through a difficult period, which was then consolidated into the pay awards made earlier this year.

Despite our members once again experiencing difficult operating conditions in 2022, ADA's membership income held up. Advertising revenues from the ADA Gazette increased slightly, and advertising revenues in 2023 are already very promising as a result of Flood & Water Live.

ADA's operating overheads and running costs remained just below budget for the year. Debt owed at the end of 2022 was just over £24k, but only approximately £2k of that debt was judged to be unrecoverable, primarily from some Local Authority member subscriptions not renewing.

Whilst the Board 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, that movement has not yet taken place whilst further consideration is given to the funds in which to safely invest ADA's money. Interest rates on offer have increased significantly from this time last year and further direction will be taken from the Board before final investment is made.

Cash Reserves at the end of 2022 were just over £194,000 and the Board noted that ADA's cash reserve policy is to retain at least 6 months operating reserve which,

against turnover in 2022, is £171,000. ADA was therefore approaching that baseline at the end of the year and that is why the Board is asking that ADA heads towards a balanced budget as soon as possible through a careful mix of membership rate rises and cost controls.

ADA's audited accounts for 2022 were recommended for approval by the Board at the 18 July 2023 meeting.

ADA MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Once again, membership levels have once again remained reasonably stable. Over 94% of IDBs continue to be members of ADA and the number of Associate Members has also remained stable. Local Authority Membership also remains stable.

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

At its meeting on 18th July 2023, the Board approved that, following an increase of 4.5% in the subscription rates for 2023, an increase of 6.5% would apply for 2024 as a result of inflationary pressures. The Board agreed in principle to apply that rate in the subsequent two years unless there was evidence of significant change in economic circumstances, with a review decision to be taken at the July Board meeting each year.

ADA ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The last 12 months have seen a significant increase in ADA's advocacy and

communications work. Direct contact with Defra has increased on a number of fronts and the Board has continued to appreciate Defra's participation at Board meetings throughout the year. Whilst we had started the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Drought and Flood Management back in 2022, momentum was lost earlier this year as a result of all the other work pressures upon the reduced ADA team. It is hoped to restart the APPG again later this year. ADA continues to recognise that through the APPG, ADA is able to help influence the political decisions taken on a variety of subjects which will become increasingly important as the next General Election approaches.

We have seen further increases this year on calls for ADA's involvement in other strategic groups discussing a wide range of issues, all 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
- Fens 2100 Group
- Water Resources National Framework Senior Steering Group
- Water Leaders Group
- National Infrastructure Commission
- Rural Resilience Partnership
- Lowland Futures North West
- 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 and conferences 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 Defra Ministers and Officers, National Audit Office, 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 2024. Both ADA and ASA have commenced discussions 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 as work accelerates to enact Schedule 3 of the Floods & Water Management Act.

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 holds a seat on the Board of Water Resources East and their appointed Director has changed from David Thomas to Giles Bloomfield. The importance of WRE's work to a large number of ADA IDB members is increasingly evident, with IDBs having a crucial role in the transfer of water in lowland areas.

ADA EVENTS

Following the publication of the Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs, ADA hosted an Environment Day in February which was well supported with enthusiastic calls for such an event to be repeated. In March, and working with the NFU, ADA was pleased to be able to be a part of the third Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit at Stoneleigh Park, along with CLA and the EA.

Flood & Water Live took place in July in excellent weather conditions and was judged to be a resounding success, including the event dinner held at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa. The Board were most grateful to partners Witham 4th IDB and Dyson Farming Ltd, the various event sponsors and the Event Manager, David Sisson.

After the forced absence of a face-to-face conference because of COVID, ADA decided to make a cautious return and organised a smaller-than-usual event at The Hive, in Nocton, near Lincoln on 9th November. The event was fully booked with a range of excellent speakers but feedback encouraged ADA to reconsider holding the conference back in London for 2023. With the Board's support, it will be held this year on 21st November 2023 back at the

Institution of Civil Engineers with a revised format to allow for increased networking and more speaker slots.

ADA has continued to be represented on the advisory group for Flood & Coast which once again held their event at Telford in Shropshire. ADA will be continuing to support Flood & Coast into 2024 and discussions are taking place about how ADA and its members can be a more prominent part of the event.

EUWMA ACTIVITIES

A technical meeting focussing on saline intrusion was held in Belgium in May and the EUWMA AGM will be held in October with the Presidency passing over to Italy.

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;

- Environment Improvement Plans
- FCERM Asset Review
- SuDS Schedule 3
- Levelling Up Bill
- Capital and revenue budget spending and settlements
- NIC Surface Water Flooding Report
- Lowland Peat Agricultural Taskforce Report
- River Maintenance and Asset Replacement Allowance funding
- IDB ratings reform through the Land Drainage Statutory Instrument.
- National FCERM Strategy,
- Water resources and abstraction licencing
- PSCAs,
- Rural Resilience Partnership
- Precept Guidance,
- New EA Asset Management Strategy,
- Winter Flooding preparedness,
- Energy, Labour and Materials cost increases



REPORT OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee has met three times in 2023. Details of the Committee's constitution, membership, vacancies, and approved meeting minutes are available from www.ada.org.uk/committees. With the exception of the Chair who serves for two years at a time, all Committee members serve 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 2023.

FINANCIAL PRESSURES & SPECIAL LEVY CHARGES

Significant inflationary pressures for, in particular, energy and constructions costs, and also wage increases have driven some IDBs to have to increase their special levy charges by, in some cases, in excess of 30%. The Committee has worked to collate the necessary information to help inform Defra and Government of the evidence leading to those increases. Working with others such as the Local Government Association and the most affected Local Authorities, agreement was secured from Government for a one-off supporting fund of £3m for those Local Authorities most affected by the Special Levy increases.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Committee has been working with the EA and Defra to argue for a widening of the scope of the proposed Asset Replacement Allowance which currently has been allocated only to the EA for the replacement of life-expired flood risk assets.

At the time of writing this report in late August 2023, no final decision had been made about the widening of the Asset Replacement Allowance to other Risk Management Authorities but there were

strong indications that Defra was supportive of the move and that some funding would be made available.

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 has been drafted by Defra and awaits Ministerial sign off to enable it to be issued for public consultation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

Detailed discussions were engaged with the Committee about future ADA subscription levels ahead of making proposals to the

Board. The Committee assisted ADA officers in guiding them towards developing a number of argued choices for the Board's consideration.

COMMITTEE RE-ORGANISATION

The Committee has been discussing the restructuring of ADA's two committees and have supported the move towards a single committee (Policy Committee) dealing with Policy, Technical and Environmental matters and a new smaller committee (Advisory Committee) formed to focus on the running and governance of ADA's business.

Changes to the Committee structures will be taking place in 2024 and current members from both the Policy & Finance and Technical & Environmental Committees will automatically be rolled forward into the new Policy Committee.

WORKING CLOSER WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SUDS AUTHORITIES (ASA)

The Committee has been working with ADA officers in developing proposals for a closer working arrangement with the Association of SuDS Authorities, to be put to both ADA's Board and ASA's Executive for consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

IDB Good Governance | The Committee has supported work towards the publication of a second edition of the Good Governance Guidance for IDBs which has included approaching the SAAA for potential funding to assist with carrying out the work. Wilkin Chapman have kindly offered to lead on the update work.

IDB procedures | There are outstanding actions on ADA set by the Committee in 2022 to look at guidance for IDBs on:

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

In addition, a new ADA business plan is now due and this and the above items are expected to be dealt with by the new Committees

Updated EA precept guidance | The Committee continued to express concerns were that the EA advice note does not feel in keeping with partnership working and further work by the EA and ADA continues to be required on this subject.

ADA Reserves Investment | Following the deferral of the decision to invest some of ADA's cash reserves as a result of the uncertain economic climate at the start of 2023, the committee has continued to support the move in principle which will be subject to the Board's final approval and authorisation.

IDB audit | The Committee discussed the latest SAAA report 2021/22 noting the nine qualified opinions received by IDBs. This is an increase of two from the previous reporting year.

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements | The Committee has discussed the reduction in the number of active PSCAs and how to work with the EA to rejuvenate enthusiasm for this way of effective and efficient partnership working.

DRS System | The Committee has been asked to consider work needed to update the current DRS rating system used by a number of IDBs. The operating platform on which the DRS system is based is now dated and in need of modernisation.

Smaller Authority Audit Thresholds | The Committee has discussed the financial and resource pressures placed on IDBs at or above the £6.5m turnover threshold for the requirement for a full audit versus a much less onerous audit under the smaller authorities scheme.

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 two times in 2023 and was pleased to welcome a number of new members and benefit from the extended terms of a number of others. With the exception of the Chair who serves for two years at a time, all Committee members serve a term of three years with the option to serve up to three successive terms. Meeting minutes and Committee membership details can be found on-line from www.ada.org.uk/committees. ADA wishes to thank 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. Particular thanks go to Trevor Purlant as the retiring chair earlier this year with a seamless handover to the Committee's new Chair, Charles Mills. The post of Deputy Chair has also been created and ADA was delighted to appoint Ed Johnson to that post.

COMMITTEE RE-ORGANISATION

The Committee has been discussing the restructuring of ADA's two committees and have supported the move towards a single committee (Policy Committee) dealing with Policy, Technical and Environmental matters and a new smaller committee (Advisory Committee) formed to focus on the running and governance of ADA's business.

Changes to the Committee structures will be taking place in 2024 and current members from both the Policy & Finance and Technical & Environmental Committees will automatically be rolled forward into the new Policy Committee. Due to the nature of business of the new Policy Committee, all future meetings will be planned as face-to-face events over a whole day and members will be encouraged to attend in person.

LOWLAND AGRICULTURAL PEAT SMALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (LAPSIP)

The Committee has encouraged and assisted ADA in preparing a bid to Defra for managing the delivery of a number of small infrastructure projects for IDBs aimed

at improving the quality of areas of lowland peat through better water management. That bid was successful and ADA is now progressing through the tendering process with the aim of awarding a number of small contracts up to a total value of around £5m in the new year.

ADA ENVIRONMENT DAY

Instead of the usual January Committee meeting, focus was placed on the organising and holding of ADA's inaugural Environment Day on 2nd February, which was hosted at Park Farm, Thorney under the expert chair of Michael Sly. As well as using the event to provide detail about the Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs and how to apply it, the very well attended event also heard from experts on Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), invasive aquatic plants, eel passage regulation, carbon accounting, local nature recovery strategies, lowland peat soils and beavers. Voted a success by all those participating, ADA will now plan to run similar events annually, with the next event scheduled for 2nd February 2024, which aptly coincides with World Wetlands Day.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

The Committee oversees matters of industry Health, Safety and Welfare and has requested ADA to carry out a second general industry H, S & W survey to follow on from the one carried out in 2018/19. There were no significant H, S & W matters reported on at the Committee in 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

Water Resources East | The Committee thanked David Thomas for his work as ADA's nominated Director on WRE's Board, following his standing down from the WRE Board in early 2022. David has been replaced by Giles Bloomfield (Water Management Alliance) and the Committee affirm their continued support for ADA being an integral part of the work of WRE in delivering a whole catchment approach to water resources involving IDBs in the East of England.

Climate and Carbon | The committee are supporting ADA working towards the development of a guide to carbon reduction by IDBs which is part of ADA's commitment to the updated FCERM Strategy. That will include a carbon reduction strategy and vision, a guide to carbon reduction for lowland catchments and an adaptation report for internal drainage boards.

Managing Channel Sedimentation | With the support of the Committee, ADA participated in the third Keeping our Rivers Flowing summit, organised and hosted by the NFU at Stoneleigh Park. Of great significance was the EA's Executive Director, Caroline Douglass, presenting evidence to show that spending on maintenance activities was providing cost benefit

returns of 11:1 against the current capital investment programme cost benefit return of 5:1. There was loud support and a call for more action to be taken to rebalance spending between capital and revenue allocations in any future spending plans.

Eel Passage | The committee have expressed concern about the looming deadline for compliance with the Eel Regulations in 2027 and the possible ending of exemptions. Concerns were also highlighted about difficulties being experienced by IDBs in obtaining exemptions for medium or low risk structures.

The Role of IDBs and Water Level Management Plans | The Committee has expressed concerns that the ability of IDBs to manage water resources, especially for environmental benefit where there are SSSIs or other designated areas, was not being fully recognised for its full potential. Discussion with Natural England was actioned to find a way forward where IDBs are better recognised for the assistance they can provide in managing water levels in and around SSSIs. The Committee has also supported ADA in making a wider case for IDBs to be more formally recognised for their increasing work in water resources management. This is also heavily linked to the work of Water Resources East and the design and operation of the Lincs and Cambs reservoirs.

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 |

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| 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). |
| DLUHC | Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Formerly MHCLG - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government) |
| 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 rolled out 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. |
| FRA | Flood Risk Assessment |

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| 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. |
| LAPSIP | Lowland Agricultural Peatlands Small Infrastructure Projects |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| OEP | Office for Environmental Protection |
| 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 |

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| UKIA | United Kingdom Irrigation Association |
| 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. |
| WLMP | Water Level Management Plan Plans produced for areas where water levels are managed, particularly some SSSIs. |
| 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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