



Lincolnshire

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JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH AND WELLAND & NENE BRANCH MEETING

A joint meeting of the Lincolnshire and Welland & Nene ADA branches was held at South Holland IDB, Marsh Reeves, Foxes Low Road, Holbeach on Thursday, 23rd February 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

<u>In attendance:</u>	ADA	Robert Caudwell Ian Moodie
	Black Sluice IDB	Peter Bedford Keith Caswell Daniel Withnall
	Environment Agency	Peter Reilly Amy Shaw Morgan Wray
	King’s Lynn IDB	Brian Long
	Lincolnshire County Council	Matthew Harrison
	Lindsey Marsh DB	Tom Ashton Carol Davies David Hickman Andrew McGill
	Middle Level Commissioners	David Thomas
	North Level District IDB	Paul Sharman Michael Sly Jon Stubbley
	South Holland IDB	Simon Bartlett Karl Vines
	Welland & Deepings IDB	Karen Daft Nick Morris Jane Picking
	Witham & Humber DBs	Jane Froggatt
	Witham Fourth District IDB	Peter Bateson Ed Johnson Peter Richardson

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

Chairman, Peter Richardson, welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies**

ADA	Innes Thomson
Environment Agency	Kate Halka
Environment Agency	Norman Robinson
Lindsey Marsh DB	Terry Aldridge
North East Lindsey DB	Lionel Grooby
Shire Group IDBs	Craig Benson
South Holland IDB	Duncan Worth
Welland & Deepings IDB	Trevor Purllant
Witham & Humber DBs	Paul Carrott
Witham & Humber DBs	Martin Shilling

3. **Minutes of the Previous Joint Meeting**

The minutes of the last Lincolnshire Branch meeting held on 23rd February 2022 were confirmed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Report from ADA National**

Robert Caudwell and Ian Moodie gave members the following update:

Key Points

- An Environment Day for members took place on the 2nd February 2023 at Thorney. The event was free to attend and aimed to share knowledge relevant to the management of the lowland water environment, covering topics from eel conservation to carbon accounting, and invasive species to waste management. Numbers were excellent, with over 100 people in attendance.
- Seeking a new director for WRE. WRE are keen to directly address individual Boards.
- Seeking full information from all IDBs on their rate increases and special levy figures so that Defra can break it down by authority.
- Continuing to push for the enacting of secondary legislation for the Environment Act to enable the expansion of internal drainage districts or the creation of new ones. Parliamentary process for this is expected in spring 2023. Consultation by Defra expected soon but subject to a whole range of other pressures on the department.
- Corresponding with DHLUC about cost pressures and have invited Secretary of State Michael Gove and Minister Lee Rowley to visit a pumping station.
- Continuing to be an active member of the advisory group for implementation of Schedule 3 of the FWMA for sustainable drainage.
- Actively encouraging members to engage with the Fens 2100+ project. ADA has ensured that IDBs are involved in the governance process for the project.
- An APPG meeting is likely to be scheduled before the summer parliamentary recess. Except for parliamentarians, attendance is by invitation only.
- ADA is losing touch with IDB Board members, which it is believed is largely driven by GDPR issues. Over the next few months there will be a drive to renew contacts with IDB Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the first instance. Assistance from Clerks and CEOs will be greatly appreciated.

- Charles Mills, a farmer, past Vice-Chair of Ainsty IDB and currently honorary show director for the Great Yorkshire Show, will take over from Trevor Purllant as Chairman of the T & E Committee in May.
- Future changes to committee structures are planned. Merging of P & F and T & E, with the creation of a new (small) Audit & Governance Committee to look at ADA's business.

Upcoming events

- Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit – 29th March 2023. Venue: NFU Conference Centre, Stoneleigh, CV8 2TZ. Hosted by ADA, CLA, EA and NFU.
- Flood & Coast Conference & Exhibition 2023 – 6th-8th June. Venue: Telford International Centre, Telford, TF3 4JH. Hosted by CIWEM. Some free tickets for IDBs available.
- Flood & Water Live – 5th-6th July. Venue: Dyson Farm, Carrington, PE22 7JD.
- ADA Conference – 8th November. Venue: TBC in London.

Ian Moodie updated members with the cost pressures facing ADA: there was a deficit of £44,000 in 2022 and the budget for 2023 plans a deficit of £35,000. ADA's board has committed to a balanced budget for 2024, meaning that a substantial increase in subscriptions will be required. There was also a need for ADA to look at how it was branded in order to appeal to a wider membership base to try and draw in a wider associate membership and advertising base in order to grow. These were elements that would be looked at further within ADA's next business plan.

6. Reports from committees where not covered above:

6.1 Executive Board

Nothing to report.

6.2 Policy & Finance

Last P & F Committee meeting took place on the 3rd February. Great deal of discussion about the rates and levies. Conversation around the EA and the Asset Allowance Replacement Allowance grant scheme.

[EA draft summary attached: Appendix 6.2.1]

6.3 Technical & Environment

T & E Committee did not meet in January; the next meeting will take place in May.

6.4 Show Committee

Peter Richardson confirmed that ADA Lincolnshire Branch will be attending Lincolnshire Show this year. However, the Show Committee will not be participating in the Heckington or Spring shows in 2023.

6.5 Pay & Conditions Committee

Daniel Withnall reported that talks had been protracted.

As previously reported:

- P & C's agreed proposal 2.1% consolidated plus £1,500 unconsolidated accepted by the Lincs ADA branch was rejected by the UNISON ballot.

- Employers offered an improved offer of 2.1% plus £1,800 (split April/September). Rejected, without ballot, following a limited meeting of UNISON officers and two/three members.

Update following a meeting held today, 23rd February:

- SHIDB appear to have withdrawn from the P & C Committee, having broken away from the recommended pay award negotiations, negotiating their own pay award for 2023/24.
- The remaining Boards (Witham & Humber, Witham Fourth and Black Sluice) wish to remain as representatives of the Committee.
- The Committee rejected the union's proposal of 5.5% consolidated plus £1,000 as it will disadvantage the lower paid compared to the employer's side existing offer.
- The Committee will respond to the union officers reaffirming the offer of 2.1% consolidated plus £1,800 unconsolidated for the one year 2023/24 (split April/September).
- As a minimum, it is intended to continue to track the Average Weekly Earnings Index in 2024/25 which is expected to be higher and will consolidate a greater percentage retrospectively.
- The Committee is concerned that the employee representatives, as officers of the UNISON branch, do not represent a majority of employees.
- Each Board has decided that the offer will therefore be put to all employees for feedback direct, in addition to any UNISON feedback.

7. **Lead Local Flood Authority Update**

Matthew Harrison, LCC Flood & Water Manager, agreed to circulate his presentation with members following the meeting which covered all aspects of his verbal update.

[LCC summary attached: Appendix 7.1]

In addition, Mr Harrison confirmed that the working group of the Common Works Programme would be re-established and that the Floods and Water Team are working closely with colleagues to ensure the effectiveness of the local drainage groups, and particularly that such meetings take place for the Boston and South Holland area.

8. **Report from Environment Agency**

Morgan Wray, EA Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, agreed to circulate his presentation with members following the meeting which covered all aspects of his verbal update.

[EA summary attached: Appendix 8.1]

Peter Riley, EA Lincolnshire Operations Manager, presented his key points:

- Currently over a third down on the staff in the asset performance teams; however, recording successfully.
- Repairs and maintenance costs currently £16M per annum.
- Environmental concerns have been raised regarding the bushing programme. Grass cutting has been delayed which means the bushing is later. National advice is to start and finish by the 15th February. Looking at a better approach and taking a sensible view.
- Looking at grasses which are used on the banks.

9. **"Fens 2100+" – a presentation from Amy Shaw (EA Flood Risk Manager – Fens)**

Amy Shaw explained to members the aim of Fens 2100+, which is to take a strategic approach to managing flood risk across the Fens and to ensure that the EA "invest in the right thing, in the right place and at the right time".

Ms Shaw's presentation illustrated the ways in how the Fens 2100+ strategy will approach managing flood risk across the Fens.

The full aims are to:

Take an adaptation pathway approach to:

- Deliver a true landscape approach to FCRM asset investment.
- Give clarity to RMAs (EA and IDBs) what FCRM investment is required in the short/medium term.
- Achieve certainty in the future FCRM capital pipeline (strategic case).
- Give the confidence that the EA's FCRM investment will:
 - Deliver long-term climate adaptation.
 - Enable the delivery of a landscape that is desired by those who live and work within it.

The project benefits will be:

- Choices:
 - Improve certainty related to asset management investments in short-term (2033+).
 - Improve clarity of choices and paths for assessment management investments in the medium-term (2050+) and long-term (2100+).
- Investment:
 - Help identify and unlock system-wide and catchment-scale investment synergies/challenges to support collaboration and joint actions, help secure future funding and finance and deliver value for money.
 - Provide a space to raise investment policy challenges across the landscape.
- Impact:
 - Directly drive future operational decisions.
 - Enhance integration and strengthening of flood risk, land drainage and water resource outcomes.

[Presentation attached: Appendix 9.1]

10. **Date of Next Lincolnshire Branch Meeting**

20th April 2023 (Lincolnshire Branch AGM).

11. **Proposed Dates for Joint Branch Meetings**

19th October 2023 (hosted by Lincolnshire Branch)

22nd February 2024 (hosted by Welland & Nene Branch)

12. **Any Other Business**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:36 p.m.

Chairman