



Lincolnshire

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Vice-Chairman: Giles Crust



Welland & Nene

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Chairman: Trevor Purllant
Vice-Chairman: Brian Long

JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH AND WELLAND & NENE BRANCH MEETING

A joint meeting of the Lincolnshire and Welland & Nene ADA branches was held at The Dower House Hotel, Manor Road, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6PY on Thursday, 19th October 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

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|-----------------------|--|--|
| <u>In attendance:</u> | ADA | Innes Thomson |
| | Black Sluice IDB | Peter Bedford Paul Nicholson Daniel Withnall |
| | Boston BC, East Lindsey DC & South Holland DC | Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive |
| | Environment Agency | Leigh Edlin Peter Reilly |
| | Middle Level Commissioners | Alex Miscandlon |
| | North Level District IDB | Paul Sharman |
| | South Holland IDB | Simon Bartlett Karl Vines Duncan Worth |
| | Welland & Deepings IDB | Karen Daft Jennie Head Trevor Purllant |
| | Witham & Humber DBs | Jane Froggatt Martin Shilling |
| | Witham 1 st IDB | Peter Gilbert |
| | Witham 3 rd IDB | Ian Parker |
| | Witham 4 th IDB | Peter Bateson Charles Crunkhorn Peter Richardson |

1. **Chairman’s Announcements**

Chairman, Peter Richardson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Black Sluice IDB | Keith Casswell |
| Kings Lynn IDB | Bryan Long |
| Lincolnshire CC | Matt Harrison |
| Lindsey Marsh DB | Carole Davies |
| | Andrew McGill |
| North East Lindsey DB | Lionel Grooby |
| | Julian Hargreaves |
| | Philip Hoyes |
| North Level IDB | William Gee |
| | Michael Sly |
| | Jon Stublely |
| Upper Witham IDB | Fred Myers |
| Upper Witham, Witham 1 st & Witham 3 rd IDBs | Pat Vaughan |
| Welland & Deepings IDB | David Branton |
| | Nick Morris |
| Witham & Humber DBs | Paul Carrott |
| Witham 1 st IDB | David Armstrong |
| Witham 4 th IDB | Ed Johnson |

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

The minutes of the Lincolnshire Branch AGM held on 20th April 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Report from ADA National**

Innes Thomson gave members the following update:

Key Points

- Winter Resilience – ADA had met with the Met Office and there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. With regard to temperature, precipitation and wind, all models are suggesting a standard winter, perhaps a little warmer in the first half of winter and a little cooler in the second half due to the El Niño driver.
- ADA warned to be aware of large spring tides, particularly 10th-15th February 2024 and 9-14th March 2024.
- ADA will be speaking with Defra regarding non-standard costs incurred by IDBs for recovery after an exceptional rainfall event and will update in due course.
- Giles Bloomfield has been appointed as ADA's representative on Water Resources East board.
- Subject to final ADA Board approval, ADA is combining both the Policy & Finance and Technical & Environment committees into one joint committee to provide greater focus on ADA's policy priorities and to help ADA as a business.
Ed Johnson (Witham 4th IDB) has been appointed as deputy chair of this advisory committee.
- Rating Statutory Instrument – ADA are keen to push the Government for secondary legislation. The document is currently with Minister Coffey and it is hoped that this will go to public consultation in the near future.
- Defra has awarded up to £5 million of funding for Lowland Agricultural Peat Small Infrastructure Pilot (LAPSIP). All were encouraged to get involved.

- Fens 2100+ - all were encouraged to get involved.
- The DRS rating system is owned by South Holland IDB, who developed it many years ago, and is administered by Kings Lynn IDB. ADA are currently looking at taking over the administration and a committee has been formed.
- The ADA conference is being held on the 21st November 2023.

Discussion then took place in respect of Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act, and in particular how it would impact upon IDB staff levels. Further details are included in agenda item 8 below.

6. **Report from ADA Committees**

Pay & Conditions Committee

Daniel Withnall confirmed the Pay & Conditions Committee had met earlier this year.

It had been agreed to:

- Part 1 – consolidate £1,130 of the unconsolidated payment from 2023/24 from 1st April 2024.
- Part 2 – apply a pay award to the 2023/24 salary rates and the £1,130 consolidated in Part 1 above, of 6.45% (being the 12 month average of the average weekly earnings figure for the public sector published by the Office for National Statistics).

On the Unison turnout, 69% of eligible members voted and there was a 100% acceptance of the pay award.

Show Committee

Nothing to report.

Environment Committee

A new chairman is required.

7. **Presentation by Christine Marshall, Deputy CEO Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland Councils**

Christine Mashall gave a presentation on the difficulties faced by Councils, given the rising levy year on year. After starting to engage with IDBs in 2021/2022 she understood the reasons for the increase.

In the 1960s drainage rates were collected from individual households, but by the 1970s this collection had passed to district councils. At that time, district councils were provided with a Revenue Support grant from Government. Over the years this has dwindled to almost nothing, therefore not covering the levy due from the councils. Ms Marshall explained services are being crippled, with some IDBs falling in very small councils with particularly small budgets. This is an ongoing issue and she is liaising with MPs to try and resolve the situation.

Link to Ms Marshall's presentation is:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7119975312586616832/>

8. **Lead Local Flood Authority Update**

In his absence, Matt Harrison, LCC Flood & Water Manager, had provided the following update prior to the meeting:

Update to Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act

Lincolnshire County Council have been working in preparation for the implementation of Schedule 3, following the Government announcement in January 2023. Schedule 3 provides a framework for:

- The approval and adoption of drainage systems.
- Establishment of an approving body (SAB).
- National standards on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS.
- The right to connect surface water run-off to public sewers, conditional upon the drainage system being approved before any construction work can start.

Government's key recommendation is that SuDS be mandatory, the approving body (SAB) should be set up within the unitary authority or, if there is not one for the area, then the county council, and should progress with the necessary implementation phase.

The Government is now considering how Schedule 3 will be implemented, subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process. A public consultation towards the end of 2023 will help to shape the new approach, with implementation expected during 2024. No firm dates for either the consultation or implementation have been determined.

In advance of the Government's public consultation later this year, Lincolnshire County Council have taken a proactive approach in commencing its consideration of likely impacts to the council. LCC have been and continue to work with affected LCC service areas through the recently established Project Team and work to create the Project Steering Group is in progress. LCC are also liaising with all other risk management authorities within the Lincolnshire's Flood Risk Partnership and other stakeholders. These project groups will focus on the development of processes, systems and working practices. IDBs are seen as key in assisting with developing a suitable framework and IDB officers have been actively involved in that process so far.

Devolution Update

Work is progressing to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire. The three councils making up Greater Lincolnshire met in May where discussions included high level timelines and expectations of the Government.

Time was also spent working through the key 'Asks' within the devolution proposals. The 'Asks' seek to achieve greater investment in education, skills and infrastructure, and ultimately help to secure higher skilled, higher paid jobs across the region. Currently the authorities are in a process with Government officials where each of these items are explored in more detail, working towards an agreed position.

In Greater Lincolnshire the authorities are seeking the highest level of devolution. As there is currently no one democratic body that covers the economic area, a county combined authority is being sought as an efficient and accountable model of leadership for levelling up Greater Lincolnshire, including an elected mayor if this is a requirement in the final legislation.

Within the devolution prospectus are a number of 'Themes' and 'Asks'. Within the infrastructure theme are a number of priority areas around investment in green growth and the environment, including a specific 'Ask' around the flood risk and water resource agenda. As part of the 'Ask' an enhanced partnership approach is being explored to take a combined strategic approach to protect the area from food shortages caused by drought and floods and co-commissioning water management programmes to support growth. There is currently no intention to pursue legislative change with regards the roles and responsibilities of risk management authorities, but to build on the existing

effective partnership frameworks that already exist and build on these to enable greater decision making across the area. The enhanced partnership approach has been supported in initial discussions with Defra.

The current indicative timeline is to work up more detail around the specific 'Asks' to go back to Government in November. If all proceeds as planned, a County Combined Authority could be in place by 2025.

Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Partnership Workshop

On 15th November a joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Partnership Workshop will be held at the Petwood Hotel. The purpose of this event is to focus on some of the core potential changes to the way the partnership is structured and operates in light of emerging themes such as Schedule 3 and Devolution.

This will be an opportunity for all Risk Management Authority partners and wider stakeholders to discuss and shape the future structure and direction of our Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership approach.

Actions to/from the Flood & Water Management Group and Strategy Group

It has been brought to the attention of the Management Group and Strategy Group about the issue of land raising as part of planning applications and to ascertain whether there should be consistency of guidance for this issue. It was noted that comments regarding finished floor levels is, amongst other things, causing displacement of flood risk and isolation of flood plains.

It has also been raised that the partnership recognises the unintended consequences of capital programme cuts until April 2027, particularly with respect to assets reaching the end of their design life. Both of these matters will be discussed in more detail through the Flood & Water Management Strategy Group.

9. Report from Environment Agency

Leigh Edlin introduced himself as the Area Director for Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. Henry Hammond has been appointed as Operations Manager. The new CEO is Philip Duffy who has a Treasury background and who proposes to streamline the EA.

With regard to the six-year programme of works, it was confirmed that inflation had caused programme slippage and certain projects would be prioritised for this six-year period. There will be further discussion about this at the RFCC meeting.

£25 million will be available in funding for "natural" flood management schemes.

Peter Reilly then went through the routine programme of works updating members as to where the EA had got to this year so far.

10. Chinese Mitten Crabs

Karen Daft gave a presentation on Chinese Mitten Crabs, an invasive species which was now overpopulating our drains and rivers. Welland & Deepings IDB have built a trap and Mrs Daft was pleased to report that two Chinese Mitten Crabs had now been trapped. Work was ongoing with Dr Paul Clark from the Natural History Museum in London to find out more about this species, food source, longevity, etc.

11. **Any Other Business**

Innes Thomson reported that ADA's second 'Good Governance Guide' will be out by November.
Post meeting update: Now expected to be published in early 2024.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 25th April 2024 at The Beonna at All Saints, Benington, Boston, PE22 0BT.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:45 p.m.

Chairman