**MINUTES**

**ADA MARCHES BRANCH AGM**

**HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

**(AS PART OF THE EA/IDB ANNUAL LIAISON MEETING)**

**HELD AT KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS FOOTBALLCLUB**

**AND ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS**

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|  | **Attendees** |
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|  | As per the attendees list attached. |
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|  | **Welcome** |
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|  | The Chair Bettan Cambidge welcomed those attending in person and also those online.  |
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|  | **Apologies for Absence** |
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|  | Andrew Bebb, James Dale, Rea IDB. |
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|  | **Announcements** |
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|  | There were none. |
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|  | **Minutes of Previous Meeting** |
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|  | The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2022 were approved by Board members, proposed by Kate Mayne and seconded by Hermes Carlyon. |
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|  | **Election of Branch Chair** |
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|  | Betton Cambidge of Melverley IDB was proposed by Kate Mayne and seconded by Hermes Carlyon. In the absence of any other nominations, Betton was elected as Chair. |
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|  | **Election of Vice Chair** |
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|  | Kate Mayne of Strine IDB was proposed by B Cambidge and seconded by R Jones. In the absence of any other nominations, Kate was elected as Vice Chair. |
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|  | **Appointment of Branch Secretary** |
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|  | Richard Jones of Melverley and Rea IDBS was reaffirmed in this role. |
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|  | **Appointment of Branch Director to ADA** |
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|  | James Hereford, after many years’ service as Director to SWADA and in more recent years its successor ADA Marches Branch, has stepped down from this role. Members thanked James for his long service to the Branch and to ADA. No nominations for the post had been received and none were put forward at the meeting, and a vacancy therefore exists. The Chair/Secretary would write to all member IDB Clerks asking for nominations. As Director to ADA former Marches Branch, the role involves attendance at three ADA Board meetings per annum, which are normally held in London, representing our views and reporting back to the membership. ADA pays travel expenses. The next ADA Board meeting will be held in February/March 2024. Nomination from Lower Severn IDB could be considered subject to other Marches Branch IDBs agreement and confirmation from Lower Severn that their voting rights would relate to the ADA Marches Branch and not the South West Branch. |
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|  | **Report on Branch Meeting Held at Melverley, Shropshire, on 27 June 2023.** |
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|  | R Jones gave a report on this meeting held at the Royal Hill Inn, Edgerley. Approximately 30 people were present, representing several IDBs within the Branch, together with some from Powysland IDB and a wide number of organisations involved in water level management. The morning comprised four talks. Richard Jones started by giving an overview of Melverley IDB’s activities and in particular, how the Board is much affected by regular flooding from the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy. Neil Adams of Seven Valley Water Management Partnership gave a talk explaining the work to date on this scheme, which seeks to take a catchment-wide approach using principally natural flood management techniques to slow flows and reduce peak flood levels on the River Severn. Richard Blackwell from Water Resources West gave an address on their long term water resource planning for the West area, including the n River Severn’s potential for exporting water to the Thames. Pete Lambert of Shropshire Wildlife Trust spoke on his hopes for increasing biodiversity and wildlife and for this to be very much part of all organisations’ work in water level management. After lunch a tour of the area was undertaken which included viewing the New Cut sluice gate structure, where all the flood water which enters into the Melverley Basin discharges back into the River Severn, the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy, flood embankments known as argaes, Melverley Bridge, the River Morda to view issues over maintenance concerns, Edgerley Sarn sluice gate maintained by the Board and Shropshire Wildlife Trust’s Holly Banks Nature Reserve. Ian Moodie of ADA who attended, commented it had been a very successful meeting and hoped that further branch meetings, perhaps visiting other IDBs within the Branch, could be arranged. |
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|  | **ADA National Report** |
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|  | Ian Moodie gave an update on matters of current interest at ADA nationally. Amongst items referred to were:1. LAPSIP lowland peat small infrastructure pilot. A good number of applications had been received from IDBs by the 31 October deadline and these were now being evaluated by DEFRA.
2. ADA Committee structure is to change with one main committee covering all aspects of drainage boards work and a small committee relating to the business of ADA itself.
3. The Duke of Gloucester had become the Royal Patron of ADA.
4. ADA Conference in central London on 21 November. A new format was being tried, but it would not be operating online this year.
5. A free event on 2 February 2024, Environment Day, to be held at Thorney near Peterborough.
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|  | **Discussion** |
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|  | 1. B Cambidge said at the last Liaison Meeting it had been agreed that the MIDB could be represented on the SVWMP. However, he had not received any invites to meetings as yet. Rhys McCarthy ( EA), agreed to look into this.
2. Anne-Clare Landolt (Lugg IDB), commented that their PSCA with the EA for work on the River Lugg had been cancelled. There seem to be mixed messages from the EA over the use of PSCAs. Lugg IDB were producing a leaflet for farmers explaining what work could be done without any permissions in a SSSI and what was involved in getting permission should that be required. She also reported that she had been using spot spraying of weeds in channels, but Natural England had challenged her over this.
3. Kate Mayne, Strine IDB and Lucinda Lycett, Telford & Wrekin Council, commented over their problems in getting Severn Trent Water to take responsibility for the maintenance of the northern surface water interceptor drain. This is a critical asset for the future long term development of North Telford.
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|  | **Date and Venue of Next Meeting** |
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|  | It was agreed this should be held again as part of the EA/IDB meeting in November 2024 at a venue to be agreed, preferably in the Kidderminster area. It was felt best if the ADA Marches Branch AGM was the last item on the agenda. |
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| There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:15 pm. |