

Minutes of the South West Branch of the Association of Drainage Authorities Meeting, held at The Oaktree Arena, Highbridge on Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 10.30am
Chairman: Mr Jeff Fear

		Action
1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register.	
2	Chairman's Introduction: J Fear welcomed Innes Thomson, Martin Rogers, Mike Murphy and all Boards within the South West. Comments from the Chairman (this list is not exhaustive):	
3	Secretary's Report: C-A Porter (C-AP) In May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation will come into force with a two year compliance period. SWADA are working with ADA to understand the implications to IDB's. The Somerset Drainage Boards are engaged with the implementation of reconstitution. The National Audit Report highlighted many Drainage Boards nationally that require greater scrutiny. ADA and SWADA have been working closely with branches to provide support and assist with governance and policy matters. Members and guests were thanked for their continued support and attendance.	
4	Guest Speakers Mike Murphy, Chairman Highbridge Chamber of Trade & Commerce Martin Rogers, National Flood Lead, NFU	
5	Report from ADA Conference 16 November 2017: Nick Stevens, CE SDBC: NWS attended the conference with a small delegate from Somerset, at which the following were invited speakers: Dr Therese Coffey MP , Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment, Cllr Derek Antrobus , Lead Member for Planning & Sustainable Development Salford City Council, Sir James Bevan , Chief Executive Environment Agency and Lord Deben , Chairman Committee on Climate Change. Hendry Cator DL OBE was presented a gift by Lord de Ramsey, from ADA members to commemorate his time with ADA.	
6	Report from ADA Board: Tony Bradford, Regional Director – this matter will be discussed in Item 11, Address by Innes Thomson.	
7	Somerset Rivers Authority update: N Stevens advised that the SRA half year report is now available from the SRA website or can be provided by the SDBC office upon request. Defra 25 year plan is expected in due course, driven by Secretary of State Michael Gove MP, as a live document rather than a draft paper for consultation.	
8	Annual Business: Financial report 2017 (appended) C-AP provided an overview of the accounts and final payment due to SDBC. Members agreed to approve the accounts and final payments. Subscriptions 2018 (appended) It was recommended to not increase subscriptions. C-AP will continue to re-charge her time via SDBC. Proposed T Bradford, Seconded Cllr R Keen 'that the SWADA 2017 Finance Report and 2018/19 Subscriptions are accepted as submitted.' Vote: All in favour RESOLUTION	
9	Minutes of the meeting held 23 November 2017: (appended) having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting held. All agreed.	
10	Matters arising: None	
11	Address by Innes Thomson, Chief Executive ADA: (this list is not exhaustive) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Board meeting: the last meeting to be chaired by Henry Cator. Business of the meeting included Health, Safety & Welfare; associated industries have high instances of H&S, therefore ADA are working with those industries by way of specialist advisors Jeremy Benn Associates. • IDB's need to be compliant with H&S procedures as Board members are culpable. ADA are willing to assist as necessary. • ADA finance: six months reserves are held for contingency purposes. • Social Media: Twitter and Facebook have proven results, therefore the accounts will continue. • Flood Ex: the event will not be held in 2018 however an enhanced Flood Ex will be held in February 2019 in collaboration with external organisations. • ADA Subscription: there will be a 1% inflationary costs increase. • Innovation: this is underway in Somerset by way of dredging. • Water vole and Great crested newt surveys could be undertaken by DNA testing of watercourses; future opportunities could produce large savings. • Defra has an enhanced interest in work of ADA and IDB's. • Water transfer and abstraction licences: Defra will address the procedure and process in 	

conjunction with ADA.

- **Mapping:** interactive map of all IDB's coming soon to the ADA website.
- **Sustainable Drainage:** this is being discussed between ADA and Defra to agree a way forward with local authorities and SUDs.
- Gratitude was expressed to the SWADA branch for assistance with work at a local level.
- If invited, Innes advised that he is willing to attend scrutiny meetings with local authorities, to highlight works of IDB's.

12 Any Other Business

Trailblazer: a national initiative for an accreditation system for field staff, to provide a national qualification supported by organisations including IDB's, Canal & Rivers Trust, EA and education service suppliers i.e. universities and NVQ accreditation.

Future meeting venue: Venues for future meetings to be discussed at the Executive meeting in April 2018.

13 Date of next meeting:

- SWADA Executive Committee Tuesday 24 April 2018
- SWADA Annual Meeting Wednesday 28 November 2018

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13.03pm

.....
Chairman

.....
Date