

Association of Drainage Authorities

Joint Lincolnshire Branch and Welland and Nene Branch Meeting

A joint meeting of the Lincolnshire and Welland and Nene ADA Branches was held at the South Holland IDB office, Marsh Reeves, Foxes Lowe Road, Holbeach Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 7PA on Wednesday, 19th February 2020, at 1.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Black Sluice IDB	Mr K Casswell	Chairman
	Mr D Withnall	Finance Officer
King's Lynn IDB	Mr B Long	Chairman
Lindsey Marsh DB	Mrs C Davies	CEOs PA
	Mr N Kemble	Member
North Level District IDB	Mr P Sharman	Chief Executive
	Mr M Sly	Chairman
	Mr J Stubby	Operations Manager
South Holland IDB	Mr P Camamile	Chief Executive
	Mr K Vines	Catchment Engineer
	Mr D Worth	Chairman
Welland and Deepings IDB	Mrs K Daft	Chief Executive
	Mr N Morris	District Engineer
Witham and Humber IDBs	Mr B Fletcher (W1)	Member
	Mr P Gilbert (W1)	Chairman
	Mrs J Froggatt	Chief Executive
Witham Fourth District IDB	Mr C Hardy	Member
	Mr P Richardson	Chairman
	Mr P Bedford	Member
	Mr P Bateson	Chief Executive
Association of Drainage Authorities	Mr R Caudwell	ADA Chairman
Lincolnshire County Council	Mr M Harrison	Senior Commissioning Officer
	Mr D Hickman	Flood Risk
		Environment Commissioner
Environment Agency	Mr G Szomi	Team Leader
	Mr P Riley	Operations Manager

Mr D Worth in the Chair

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following representatives:

Black Sluice IDB	Mr I Warsap	Chief Executive
	Mr M Brooks	Member
Lindsey Marsh DB	Mr S W Eyre	Vice-Chairman
	Mr A McGill	Chief Executive
Middle Level Commissioners	Mr S Ablett	Member
	Mr S Ayres	Chair, Hundred of Wisbech IDB
	Mr D Thomas	Chief Executive
	Mr G W Lankfer	Chairman, Waldersey IDB
North Level District IDB	Mr W Gee	Vice-Chairman
South Holland IDB	Mr S Markillie	Vice-Chairman

Welland and Deepings IDB	Mr D Branton	Vice-Chairman
	Mr T Purllant	Chairman
Upper Witham IDB	Mr F Myers	Chairman
	Mr J Scarborough	Vice-Chairman
Witham Third District IDB	Mr P Hoyes	Chairman
North East Lindsey IDB	Mr L Grooby	Vice-Chairman
Witham First District IDB	Mr D Armstrong	Vice-Chairman
Witham & Humber IDBs	Mr M Shilling	Director of Operations & Engineering
Witham Fourth District IDB	Mr C Crunkhorn	Vice-Chairman
	Mr E Johnson	District Engineer
Association of Drainage Authorities	Mr I Thompson	Chief Executive
	Mr I Moodie	Senior Technical Advisor
Environment Agency	Mr A Clack	Revenue Programme Manager

2. Minutes of the Previous Branch Meeting

The minutes of the last Branch meeting held on 17th October 2019 were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the following amendments:

1). Minute number 7, paragraph 4. It was agreed to strike out the text “, stating that the Carr Dyke had overtopped again yesterday”.

2). Minute number 8, final paragraph. It was agreed to replace the final paragraph of minute number 8 regarding the work of the Grant Applications Manager, Ms N McGarry with the following text:

The new Grant Applications Manager, Ms N McGarry was introduced. She had been in post since January 2019 and felt that the role was working well with positive relationships with IDBs. Ms McGarry was currently working on six projects for five IDBs, one of which had already been submitted to the EA that included 3 x pumping station refurbishments, sluice outer-doors and flap replacements, under capacity culvert replacement, and a UVA lining replacement project. Additionally, Ms McGarry confirmed that she was also overseeing four projects for two IDBs which were consultancy led, however she had now taken the lead on the process. It was confirmed that the total grant-in-aid sought to date since being in post totalled £1.2m, which if approved would result in 147 properties and 5,000 hectares of agricultural land being better protected.

3). Minute number 9, Pay and Conditions Committee. It was agreed to correct the financial year referred to in the first sentence from “2010/21” to “2020/21”.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership

Mr D Hickman updated members on the investigations being made by the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) into recent flooding events experienced in Lincolnshire. The investigation was being undertaken independently by Norfolk County Council and the Lincs Scrutiny

Committee would be considering their report and recommendations in due course. It was unanimously agreed that an improvement plan was needed for the River Steeping catchment as soon as possible. David also advised that the LLFA was developing a strategy for Gibraltar Point, in consultation with the constituent IDBs and other Risk Management Authorities.

Mr M Harrison advised members that the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy for the period 2019-2050 had now been approved by Lincolnshire County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

5. Environment Agency Update

Mr P Riley advised members that the Environment Agency's (EAs) key focus for the next financial year would be to develop a Recovery Plan, following the recent high rainfall events that had been experienced across the country. Mr Riley thanked Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board for their cooperation and help during and after the event at Wainfleet and advised of a new way of working which they had been compelled to develop during this crisis: Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board had agreed not to pump into the River Steeping when it needed to (so as not to exacerbate the flood risk downstream), thereby placing its own district at risk from flooding. A similar arrangement had also been operating in the Black Sluice area. It was agreed that both the EA and ADA should record how many agreements such as this were in place and how often they were being used. The EA and respective IDBs could then review how these agreements were being used and, if appropriate, refine them accordingly.

Mr G Szomi recommended that the EA/IDB liaison meetings which used to take place at least once a year be reinstated. No such meetings had taken place during the last two years. It was agreed that the annual liaison meetings be reinstated, to take place in November/December each year.

Members expressed concern about some of the changes that had been made by the EA to the latest iteration of the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA), which placed additional obligations on the Delivery Party (typically the IDB). As a result of this, no IDB in Lincolnshire had renewed its 5-Year PSCA with the EA and the original 5-year agreements had all expired. It was unanimously agreed that the original agreements should be extended temporarily, until ADA and the EA could agree on the changes that should be made to the next 5-year agreement template. This would allow the PSCA work that was already in play to continue.

6. Reports from ADA National

Robert Caudwell gave members the following update:

ADA Executive Board

- There had been a great deal of media interest in ADAs position on the causes of the recent flooding.
- There was a real possibility of fundamental change in how FCERM assets are to be managed, moving forward.
- ADA had requested additional funding to make FCERM assets more resilient (sea banks, estuary walls and pumping stations etc.).
- Defra Minister was shocked to hear that non-hazardous material used for reinstating estuary walls was considered by the EA to be waste. There was a real possibility that the definition of waste could be reclassified.

- ADAs membership was increasing and now included many new Local Authorities.
- ADA was considering reintroducing a demonstration event in future, after Flood Ex.
- ADA was nationally re-enforcing the importance of conveyance within Internal Drainage Districts and the need for a targeted approach to maintenance activities.
- ADA did not support the setting up of Rivers Authorities, in place of extended or newly formed Internal Drainage Districts.

Technical and Environmental Committee

There was nothing to report.

Policy and Finance Committee

Jane Froggatt gave members the following update:

- The Policy & Finance Committee last met on 8 January 2020 and agreed its work streams for 2020.
- Developer contributions – a Guidance paper was being prepared to give advice to IDBs in seeking contributions from Developers for increased surface water flows and on charging for preapplication advice, adoption of flood risk assets, etc.
- Byelaws and consents - ADA were discussing changes to the model Byelaws with Defra.

7. Reports from Branch Committees

Pay and Conditions Committee

Mr D Withnall gave members the following update:

- The offer to increase pay by 3.7% with effect from 1 April 2020 had been unanimously accepted by employees (100% of the Public Sector average weekly earnings three-month index July, published in September - KAC9 of EARN01, National Statistics Office).
- The Pay and Conditions Committee had also agreed that this formula be used to determine pay settlements for the next three years, and thereafter continuing unless 12 months' notice was given by either party, subject to no national legislation being introduced that stated otherwise.
- The Employee Handbook (the 'White Book') would be updated and issued to Member Boards by the end of February 2020.
- The Pay and Conditions Committee would next meet on 7 October 2020.

Events Committee

Robert Caudwell gave members the following update:

- ADA intended to be represented at a number of shows and events this year.

- ADA were actively encouraging members to stage virtual events and meetings where ever possible, as opposed to physical events and meetings, to save time money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Peter Bateson enquired as to whether ADA still needed the contribution of £1,500, which had been earmarked for running events at schools.

Environment Committee

Karen Daft advised members that the Environment Committee would next meet at the end of March 2020.

8. Any other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Branch meeting would be held on 29 April 2020 (time and venue to be confirmed).
The following Branch meeting would be held on 22 October 2020.

CHAIRMA

