

Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Lincolnshire Branch

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa, and online.

In attendance:

Ancholme IDB	Mr C. Benson	Clerk
Black Sluice IDB	Mr K.C. Casswell	Chairman
	Mr I. Warsap	Chief Executive
	Mr D. Withnall	Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh DB	Mr A. McGill	Chief Executive
	Mr N. Kemble	Engineer
Middle Level Commissioners	Mr D. Thomas	Chief Executive and Engineer
North Level DB	Mr P. Sharman	Chief Executive
South Holland	Mr K. Vines	Area Manager
Welland and Deepings IDB	Mr T. Purlant	Chairman
	Mrs K. Daft	Chief Executive
Witham and Humber IDBs	Mrs J. Froggatt	Chief Executive
	Mr L. Grooby	Vice-Chairman, NELDB
Witham Fourth DIDB	Mr P. Richardson	Chairman
	Mr C. Crunkhorne	Vice-Chairman
	Mr T. Ashton	Member
	Mr P. Bateson	Chief Executive
	Mr E. Johnson	Chief Engineer
ADA	R. Caudwell	Chairman
	Mr I. Thomson	Chief Executive
Anglian Water	Mr J. Glerum	
	Mr M. Moore	
Environment Agency	Mr M. Wray	Area FCRM Manager
	Ms K. Halka	Ops. Manager (Sth Humber/East Coast)
	Mr H. Hammond	

Guests: Mr A. McLachlan (Yorkshire and Humber Boards), Dr R. Price and Ms M. Barnes (Water Resources East).

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, stating that it was nice to be able to meet face to face, he reminded those present of the Covid measures in place during the meeting. He welcomed those attending remotely via MS Teams.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I. Moodie and Ms S. Lloyd (ADA), Messrs N. Robinson, A. Clack, G. Oakes and L. Edlin (EA), Messrs D. Hickman and M. Harrison (LCC), Messrs G. Crust and T. Aldridge (LMDB), Messrs W. Gee, M. Sly and J. Stubley (NLIDB) Messrs D. Worth and P. Camamile (Welland and Nene Branch), Mr D. Branton (WDIDB) and Mr M. Shilling (W&HIDBs).

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record, proposed by Mr P. Bateson and seconded by Mr D. Withnall.

The minutes of the A.G.M. on 20th May 2021 were noted - these would be confirmed at next the next AGM.

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4. Matters Arising

Any matters arising would be covered in agenda items below.

5. Lead Local Flood Authority Update

David Hickman was unable to attend but submitted the following update from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) which was read out by the Secretary.

- Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project Through the partnership, LCC was leading the development of an outline business case as part of the national Flood and Coastal Resilience and Innovation Programme. In brief, they were focusing on groundwater, which proved a significant issue during the 2019 flood season and affected a number of localities across the county. The programme, which included pilot work in development at Scopwick, would explore means of managing groundwater flood risk from the perspective of increasing community resilience. It would especially look at how environmental betterment could be joined up with flood management and would include elements of natural flood management. The project was being developed as a Greater Lincolnshire initiative, and would, therefore, include work with colleagues in North East Lincolnshire, where similar problems with groundwater flooding were experienced in the Grimsby area. LCC expected to submit the Outline Business Case to DEFRA in April next year and the project would run for a six-year period, wholly funded by government to the amount of £7.5m. LCC had strong support from all partners in the development of the project and looked forward to continuing this throughout the delivery of what they believed would be a national exemplar project offering learning to other parts of the UK.
- Riparian Project Through the Lincolnshire partnership, LCC was looking at improving the potential risk from riparian watercourses. Having established a partnership working group, LCC had developed a shortlist of potential options for implementation across Lincolnshire. The established Agreement between LCC and IDBs to manage these responsibilities played an important part in being able to consider this subject in such depth and continued to be an essential aspect of the partnership approach. Members of ADA were aware of the potential within the Environment Act for IDBs to operate in this sphere, and LCC looked forward to developing their engagement with ADA as the ramifications of the Act worked themselves through.
- Coastal Strategy LCC, the EA and the University of Lincoln had signed a Partnership Agreement to develop a comprehensive climate change risk assessment relating to the east coast of Lincolnshire, and were hopeful that East Lindsey District Council would also join the project. This would enable a renewed strategic assessment of the future potential for managing the coast, taking forward partners' aspirations for long-term growth and prosperity in the area while also building in a realistic assessment of the type of coastal management that was necessary to anticipate future sea level rise and other long-term impacts. The focus of this work was to support the long-term resilience of coastal communities and the economy, and to establish the nature and extent of adaptation that may be required to meet future challenges. They anticipated engaging with Lindsey Marsh DB as a key advisor and partner from the start of the project and hoped to meet with Mr A. McGill and colleagues very soon to do just that.

Mr A. McGill had suggested four IDBs that may like to be part of this project. Mr M. Wray reported that the project was just getting underway but emphasised that it was important to get it right from the start.

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6. ADA National Update

6:1 Executive Board

Mr K. Casswell gave an update, stating that ADA finances were on good form with expenditure less than normal due to a reduction in face-to-face meetings during Covid. The red diesel issue had been discussed and it was noted that a letter had been sent from East Lindsey, South Holland and Boston Borough Councils to the Chancellor expressing their concerns in support of IDBs.

Regarding the red diesel issue, Mr I. Thomson stated that ADA had made strong representation to HM Treasury enlisting the support from DEFRA, requesting them to reconsider their stance. He stated that the devil was in the detail which would come out from the revised Excise Note 75 to be published by 1st April 2022 and IDBs were currently in limbo which made budgeting for the coming year challenging. In response to Mr K. Casswell, Mr I. Thomson further reported that as well as the £3m added cost for IDBs, ADA estimated it could cost the EA anywhere from £500k to £1m. It was suggested that ADA set up a meeting with representatives from the IDBs to discuss this with DEFRA and the Chairman supported this. Mr I. Thomson confirmed that ADA was trying to set up a meeting with DEFRA to discuss other matters but this was a slow process; he would include red diesel in these discussions. Mr E. Johnson stated that there were some additional areas that needed clarifying such as how stocks could be run down and tanks changed over from red to white diesel (would tanks be inspected and dipped and if traces of red diesel found, would boards be prosecuted?), also road tax, as those vehicles on red diesel were in the agricultural tax band; there would be financial implications for all of this.

Mrs K. Daft agreed, stating that there were several large diesel tanks at Pode Hole. She asked whether they would be able to use the 80k litres of fuel already in stock and stated that there would be traces of red diesel in the tank for some time unless new tanks were installed. She highlighted that the use of the pumps was dependent on the amount rain so it could be some time before existing stocks were used. Mrs J. Froggatt had also highlighted similar issues to ADA.

ADA was asked to consider obtaining Queens Counsel's (QC) opinion to clarify legal applicability and equity on how the removal of red diesel was being applied. Although there was support for the intent around the green agenda, there was concern about the inequity around the derogations given. Mr I. Thomson supported the point of view that IDBs may be able to mount a challenge as a group. He had not yet seen the updated version of HMRC Note 75 but had received a You Gov Update on 29th November which stated that legislation allowed Treasury to disapply the reforms if certain conditions were met. He stated that any residual traces must be from legitimate fuelling before the change in law. Mr Thomson said that, ideally, he did not want to mount a challenge, but agreed that this may be unavoidable if the discussions with DEFRA were unsuccessful.

Mr T. Ashton stated that some of the IDB watercourses were owned by farmers entirely and parts of the IDB network only served agricultural land. He agreed that QC's opinion would be useful. Mr R. Caudwell stated that most of the Lincolnshire IDBs were in largely agricultural areas and if they could demonstrate this, the red diesel exemption may well apply but IDBs also served some urban areas. Mr K. Casswell supported challenging the decision and contributing towards the cost of seeking QC's opinion. Mr P. Bateson suggested that ADA National could support this as cost savings had been made this year, but also supported making a Board contribution. He emphasised that local councils were generally very supportive of the work of IDBs but paid 25% of the special levies in the country and this would have a considerable impact on them. Mr T. Purlant expressed concern that this issue should have been addressed earlier and stated that QC's opinion should be sought as soon as possible, this may help to focus DEFRA too. Mrs K. Daft stated that IDBs had been deemed an agricultural support service somewhere in the past.

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There was unanimous support to seek QC's opinion on the red diesel exemption and Mr I. Thomson confirmed that ADA would take this forward.

Mr L. Grooby queried whether it be worth a delegation to DEFRA first.

Mr L. Grooby stated that a lot of plant companies were developing hydrogen and electric machines and suggested IDBs should consider this for the future. Mr I. Thomson agreed and hoped there would be some of these at the Demo in 2023. Apparently JCB were trialling a hydrogen machine.

The Chairman stated that financial support would be required for QC's opinion and some Branch funds were available. Mr Thomson confirmed that ADA may also be able to contribute and he would seek an estimate of costs, review at ADA Board level and talk to other Branch chairs as this was a National issue that affected all IDBs across the country. The Chairman emphasised that this needed to progress as soon as possible.

6:2 Technical and Environmental Committee

Mr I. Thomson updated as follows:

- Biodiversity Metrics All IDBs asked to complete template by 31st December 2021 as it was important to get as much information as possible.
- Health and Safety Survey The second survey was due to come out in the very near future to assess what progress had been made.
- Environmental Good Governance Guide In the final stages of editing and due to be published early in the new year.
- Climate Change, Adaptation and Managing Channel Sediment Work underway.
- Keeping Our Rivers Flowing Summit Planned for April 2022 in conjunction with the NFU, EA and CLA.
- Eel Research Work continuing.
- PSCA Review being updated.
- Good Governance Guide To be updated next year.
- Beaver Consultation Response issued.
- Consenting Overlapping work on lowland task force.
- Environmental Land Management (ELMS) Very little focus on water and ADA would be speaking to DEFRA about this.

Mr M. Moore reported that he had visited Finchingfield in Essex, an area that suffered from extensive flooding, where Beavers were part of a local natural flood protection scheme being trialled. Mr Thomson stated that ADA was not against Beavers but the challenge was where they caused increased risk of flooding to landowners or communities. He stressed that protocols must be in place to allow proper management of Beavers and compensation should be made available where there had been significant damage, so that IDBs and landowners did not have to bear the cost. Mr M. Moore agreed that there was a need for this and it was good to see what measures were being put in place.

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6:3 Policy and Finance

Mrs J. Froggatt updated on the workstreams which included developer contribution and education.

The work on the Byelaws had come to fruition and the new byelaws sent out to IDBs. Standardisation of the nine-metre distance with the EA was a positive move. The Climate and Carbon Reduction workstream had been signed off and Environmental Good Governance Guide and biodiversity metrics would be completed after Christmas.

Mr I. Thomson elaborated on the climate adaptation and carbon reduction - one element was the carbon calculator which would be circulated before Christmas, work on the guide to carbon reduction for lowland pumped catchments was being undertaken with the EA and would be produced next year, and adaptation reporting by 2023. Mr K. Casswell reported that concern had been raised at the Executive Board with regard to the aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 and the question had been raised at Conference as to where the money was going to come from for the capital works required to achieve this. Mr Casswell's Board was looking at the potential costs but expecting those to be high.

6:4 Further updates from ADA National

Mr I. Thomson gave the following updates:

- Offices working virtually as normal now, with flexible arrangements for staff allowing them to mix home working with attending the office.
- Work to commence streamlining Branch Constitutions and supporting Branches with their future plans and diversity of membership. Lincolnshire/Welland and Nene a good example to follow.
- Moving forward with plans for live Demo event in July 2023, in partnership with Dyson Farms, near Boston.
- Agreement in principle to extend admin support contract to Association of SuDS Authorities.
- Considerable activity with a number of consultations, notably on water abstraction, beavers, river basin management plans and spending review plans.
- Environment Act now in operation along with the Office for Environmental Protection, with important clauses relating to the possible expansion of IDB activities where there was local consensus. Work being done in the background on the secondary legislation required to set drainage rates where there were none in existence.
- Autumn budget showed a very modest increase to money allocated for river maintenance (£22m) which, when divided between all areas, would not be a significant change. There were concerns that resource pressures may divert revenue spending from delivery of work on the ground and ADA would continue to challenge how any revenue allocations were most efficiently spent.
- Branch members invited to consider opportunities for bringing forward spending plans to strengthen the capital programme, which was currently showing an underspend.

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7. Governance/Audit Issues

Mr P. Bateson reported that Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR) had been submitted on time for IDBs in both branches. There were a couple of minor audit qualifications but nothing serious. The body that appointed auditors for IDBs was seeking improvements to the process, including a change from wet signature on the AGAR form, to an electronic version. Some IDBs had volunteered to trial this.

A shortlist for the five-year contract for auditors to take effect from April 2022 was being considered.

8. Report from Committees

The Chairman reported that there had been no Shows in 2021 but it was hoped to attend the Lincolnshire Show in 2022.

Mr D. Withnall confirmed that the Pay and Conditions Committee had met in October and agreed a to recommend a 2.5% pay increase for 2022/23 based on the average weekly earnings. Employers had given notice to reopen the negotiation process to review the formula.

The Environment Committee chaired by Mr P. Skinner was looking for a new Secretary.

9. Update from Water Resources East (WRE)

The Chairman welcomed Dr R. Price and Ms Mhairi Barnes from WRE who gave the attached presentation.

Mr D. Thomas, Chief Executive of the Middle Level Commissioners, was ADA's representative on WRE's Board of Directors and would report back to IDBs in the region through ADA.

Mr Price reported on the overarching regional strategy for Eastern England highlighting that the amount of water being used today would need to double by the 2050s and WRE was working on balancing the needs for the future whilst protecting the environment. Water management needed to be a joint effort and was a strong regional issue. There were currently 180 members including many IDBs - a very diverse group of organisations helping to shape the plan.

WRE was running conference and training sessions for members and local focus catchment workshops were being held to start the conversation at local level and board focus groups to ensure everyone understood the role and importance of the drainage community; IDBs were represented in all groups. The Water Resources Plan for Eastern England would be published in January 2022 <https://wre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRE-Emerging-Plan.pdf>

Mr Price referred to the Felixtowe hydro cycle - an exemplar idea to bring additional water for abstraction - led by five local farmers working in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Local Authority and Drainage Board.

Two large WRE reservoir projects were also underway to deliver or enhance irrigation, wetland and habitat, recreation/tourism - this was an exciting opportunity to exploit assets for wider community benefits. Future Fens had been used to showcase what was possible at the Climate Change Conference (COP26). Discussions were underway with DEFRA regarding the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).

Ms M. Barnes reported on the Water For Tomorrow Project, being led by WRE - a cross-border partnership of five organisations in England and France which would develop and test

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innovative water management tools and decision-making support systems to enable more responsive short-term management of drought events and better long-term planning, as well as investment in water management at a local scale. This was a EU funded project covering three catchments in England (Broadland Rivers, Cam Ely Ouse and East Suffolk) and two in France. A report was due in June 2023. It would take environmental needs into consideration whilst ensuring there was no adverse impact on the community, would ensure tangible benefits for agriculture-transfers, water sharing and tie into what ELMS could fund. Discussions were ongoing with DEFRA about how this could be taken forward and be tied into the 25-year environmental plan; it would also feature in the WRE regional plan.

There would be a six-week consultation period on the Water Resources Plan from 17th January with the Final Plan due to be published in September 2023.

WRE thanked IDBs for their support and asked for ideas on what they could do to help IDBs meet their environmental objectives.

Mr R. Caudwell reported on a presentation given by Ms J. Beedon to the Peat Taskforce about the work in Norfolk. Mr D. Johns was leading a group to find the methodology into how this would equate to paludiculture and peat restoration. It was thought that in excess of ten megalitres a day could be required from peat. There was potential to use a methodology similar to that for Felixstowe.

Mr L. Grooby highlighted the issue of sea level rise and siltation of outfalls making it more difficult to discharge, therefore the answer could be to increase PS capacity as gravity outfalls would no longer work, or to store it on land. He stated that sea level was rising by 3mm per year causing a considerable issue and there was a need to manage fresh water. The second issue was increased rainfall events across the world and Mr Grooby stated that it was only a matter of time before there was a major event in the UK. He suggested that regulated storage was good and there remained a need to look at additional areas for emergency storage in such an event. Dr R. Price stated that this type of emergency storage was being discussed with Essex council.

Mr I. Thomson enquired how WRE was working with the EA Water Resources teams on abstraction and transfer licencing and addressing the potential collision course between the EA and WRE on this topic. Dr R. Price replied that it was illogical to pay to transfer water between partners, and a potential barrier to WRE and their ability to work with partners should they be charged to transfer water.

10. Presentation Andy Maclachlan

The Chairman introduced Mr A. McLachlan, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire and Humber Boards. Mr McLachlan gave a presentation on the importance of channel conveyance and maintenance which had been prepared based on evidence gathered across the eight IDBs he managed covering an area from Danvm to Pickering. He emphasised that many of the issues faced were the same for IDBs across the country. The presentation can be viewed on <https://youtu.be/T8J3QpbV5z8> or <https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Keeping-our-Rivers-Flowing-Andrew-McLachlan.pdf>

In Summary, Mr A. McLachlan indicated that during the 2019 floods and then again in 2020, the River Aire had overtopped causing a vast amount of flooding with 90 properties under water and businesses adversely affected; there remained a need to change the focus in the approach to water level management and maintenance. In the lowland systems, there was a requirement to move water effectively and improve on past performance. The lowland systems were engineered, man-made and improved over time with raised embankments etc. but in almost all cases had been in effect for hundreds of years. Case studies had been undertaken on the River Went and the River Don and these confirmed that effective channel maintenance could be achieved within existing budgets and would effectively reduce flooding. There was a considerable catching up to do to bring the main rivers back to a

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serviceable condition and to their design standards, but it was recognised that lowland systems/catchments benefitted the whole of the hydraulic catchment.

Other means could be effective in delaying the peak flows such as Natural Flood Management but issues such as how to maintain these measures in years to come remained.

Mr R. Caudwell emphasised that over the last 50 years large areas had been developed in flood plains without sufficient flood protection. Natural flood management measures would not solve all these problems and the need to maintain the whole system - lower middle and upper - needed to be put across and accepted by the policy makers. The amount spent on recovery was enormous and would continue to increase if no action was taken. Mr A. McLachlan emphasised that for national flood management (NFM) to be effective, work was also required in the rest of catchment and regular management of systems needed funding, it was essential to ensure they were sustainable through appropriate revenue streams.

Mr L. Grooby stated that the three phases were fine but queried what could be done about maintaining the outfalls as there was a considerable issue in North East Lindsey DB with siltation and tide locks. The Board would like to dredge these but a whole array of organisations did not want this work undertaken. Mr A. McLachlan reported that the Yorkshire and Humber Boards maintained 80 pumping stations, a number of which were on the Humber in SSSI and protection areas and a change in legislation to counter all this red tape would be welcomed. Mr Grooby agreed stating that dredging the outfall was not environmentally harmful.

Mr A. McLachlan reported recovery costs to be in the region of £1.5m per incident in his area whereas sensible maintenance would have saved this expenditure.

Mr I. Thomson stated that the Government had to pay attention to data and evidence, so the more information gathered to support this case the better. He stressed the importance of the flood risk and water level management authorities working together to get the message through to central government. Engagement was needed with politicians to get their support and he felt that people were starting to listen.

Mr M. Wray stated that the recent work undertaken on the River Steeping was a good evidenced example of partnership working and what could be achieved.

There was considerable discussion on this topic.

The Chairman thanked Mr McLachlan for attending.

11. Report from Environment Agency

Morgan Wray gave a presentation focussing on strategic work, emphasising that there was a lot of work going on in the Lincolnshire and Welland and Nene areas:

- Humber Strategy (Humber 2100 Plus) Since the 2013 tidal surge, tidal rivers had been included. Various scenarios had been presented to the partnership e.g. on climate change and they had asked for more local detail, such as what would happen on the ground. Further evidence was being gathered.
- Ancholme Middle Catchment Partnership Modelling with IDB.
- Alton Marshes Partnership with North Lincolnshire Council connected with a drive for green tech base on the Humber, free ports and related industries which would tie in too. Working with North East Lindsey DB who would be taking on the pumping station.

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- Stallingborough £3m investment on the coast.
- South Ferriby Scheme Completed and opened by Mr A. Percy and Mr J. Bevan.
- Barton to New Holland Issue around outfall at Barrow on Haven - potential to renew this but not enough benefits so taking a strategic approach to draw in more benefits and make the case along the whole length. Adaptive approach to be taken e.g. hold the frontage or move back to the railway line and take into account sea level rise for future. Developing engagement strategy and looking to start construction towards the end of this six-year programme.
- Enhancing Lincs Coast Ms D. Campbell leading this beach nourishment scheme.
- Steeping Catchment Action Plan 2020+ Four themes: improving flow through the system, resilient community and infrastructure, strengthening and maintaining defences (52km raised defences on this system), and flood water storage. Evidence based, weed control did have marginal benefits and helped make the case for dredging. Phase 2 was due to start in the new year. It was important that people understood the flood warning system. Just completed a study looking at the potential of natural flood management techniques in the upper catchment of the steeping, liaising with NFU and landowners. A funding bid would be made to the RFCC in the new year. Partnership and evidence had been the key to the success of this scheme.
- Low Witham Flood Resilience Project Winter 2019/20 enabled the EA to bring forward thinking (area between Lincoln and Boston) and update the Strategy that was completed 25 years ago to look at how flood storage and embankments could be improved. River modelling would be undertaken next year and construction was due to commence at the end of this six-year period. Would need to provide evidence and work in partnership.
- Billingham Skirth System Review Working very much in conjunction with the IDB, also National Farmers' Union - partnership important. Similar action plan to Steeping, looking at quick wins as well as longer-term work. Review finished and now moving into delivery phase.
- Upper Witham System Review (between Lincoln and Grantham) Low risk system but A1 and east coast main line running through here so potential impact on critical infrastructure. Working in partnership with IDB.
- Welland and Nene Patch Several initiatives underway Welland and Nene navigation and drainage structures, Tidal Nene Strategy, Lower Welland Strategic Approach, and South Holland Main Drain.
- Using nature to help climate change resilience.
- Fens Measure Actions Measure 1.5.4. EA working with landowners, water companies, IDBs and partners to develop a long-term plan for managing flood risk in the Fens. Working group looking at 'value' of agricultural land, heat mapping and plans for asset failure and recovery - this would all help to influence government policy.

Regarding NFM, Mr D. Withnall stated that Black Sluice IDB viewed this as making room to discharge their water as well as the highland water. Mr M. Wray stated that used together with storage areas this could possibly help with silt reduction too, indeed good quality silt was produced and in some parts of the world was bagged and sold.

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Mr A. McLachlan reported that there were lots of storage areas in his district but these were not always seen as washlands and there was no formal designation - there was an acceptance that this land would flood occasionally but no formal payment mechanism other than through local agreement. He enquired whether the EA engaged with DEFRA policy makers regarding the ELMS to allow landowners to enter into agreement with the EA to allow land to flood. Mr M. Wray had highlighted this to DEFRA and stated that there were several different types of flood areas - natural, washlands where water was pushed artificially, other areas purchased by EA, and a potential through ELMS. This would be considered when doing the Lower Witham Strategy. It was down to DEFRA to consider what ELMS would cover but this had been highlighted it.

Dr R. Price suggested a real-life case study or pilot under the WRE banner and agreed to discuss this with the EA, and also the Steeping. WRE was keen to promote turning flood risk into a water resource. Mr I. Thomson welcomed WRE picking this up and stated that ADA was pursuing this argument with DEFRA but a pilot scheme would be welcome.

12. Any Other Business

Mr I. Thomson was pleased to see Mr M. Moore and J. Glerum at the meeting as well as the representatives from WRE and Councils, stating that it was a good opportunity for open and frank discussion.

It was noted that ADA planned to split out various events next year with the Conference moving towards a more technically focussed event, still with high profile speakers. The timing of such an event was still to be determined. The AGM would remain as an event in its own right, held on-line roughly around the same time as this year.

Mr I. Thomson reported that an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood Management (APPG) was being set up with cross-party representation from MPs and Peers to increase contact with politicians. This would be chaired by Mr A. Percy and members were asked to put forward names. The first meeting would be in the new year.

Mr J. Glerum confirmed Anglian Water was keen to collaborate. He reported that there was already a National Flood Forum All Party Parliamentary Group on Flood Presentation and wanted to make sure this was not duplicated. A lot of work had been undertaken with Lord Dannatt in Norfolk and he suggested he may have a to play role in the APPG. Mr Thomson confirmed that there were now APPG Groups for Flood, Water, and Wetlands.

Dr R. Price stated that WRE would also like to be involved and confirmed that there was also a APPG Waterways. Mr Thomson stated that Internal Waterways was taking a keen stance on the River Idle could be another possible part of the brigade that could make appropriate noise at the right time in the right places. WRE confirmed that their voice was growing.

Mr M. Moore reported that AW got a lot of money from OFWAT for partnership schemes where there was mutual benefit and this could be for labour, not just funding. He would like to see more collaboration between the partners. The Department for Education had also put up money where there was a flood risk to schools. He encouraged the Branch to get in touch to discuss any schemes.

13. Future Meeting Dates

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 23rd February 2022 in the Welland and Nene area.

CHAIRMAN