

## Association of Drainage Authorities

### Joint Lincolnshire Branch and Welland and Nene Branch Meeting

A joint meeting of the Lincolnshire and Welland & Nene ADA Branches was held at South Holland IDB, Holbeach and virtually via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 23 February 2022, at 1.30 pm.

#### In attendance:

Ancholme IDB	Craig Benson *v	Clerk
Black Sluice IDB	Keith Casswell *v	Chairman
	Ian Warsap *v	Chief Executive
	David Withnall	Finance Officer
Lindsey Marsh DB	Giles Crust *v	Chairman
	Carol Davies *v	CEOs PA
North Level District IDB	William Gee	Vice Chairman
	Paul Sharman	Chief Executive
	Jon Stublely	Operations Engineer
South Holland IDB	Simon Bartlett	Vice Chairman
	Phil Camamile	Chief Executive
	Karl Vines	Area Manager
Welland and Deepings IDB	Trevor Purlant	Chairman
	Karen Daft	Chief Executive
	Nick Morris	Operations Engineer
Middle Level Commissioners	David Thomas *v	Chief Executive
Witham and Humber Drainage	Jane Froggatt *v	Chief Executive
Boards	Lionel Grooby	NEL Vice Chairman
Witham Fourth District IDB	Peter Richardson	Chairman
	Charles Crunkhorn	Vice Chairman
	Peter Bateson	Chief Executive
	Thomas Ashton *v	Member
ADA	Robert Caudwell	ADA Chairman
Lincolnshire County Council	David Hickman *v	Head of Environment
Environment Agency	Leigh Edlin *v	Environment, Planning & Engagement Manager
	Morgan Wray	Flood & Coastal Risk Manager
	Adrian Clack *v	Revenue Programme Manager
Water Management Alliance	Karen Bingham *v	Business Support Officer
	Sue Cook	PA to the Chief Executive
Port Evo	James Sutcliffe	Guest
	Stafford Proctor *v	Guest
SE Lincs Councils Partnership	Christine Marshall *v	Guest

\*v = attended virtually

Peter Richardson in the Chair

#### 1. Chairman's Announcements

Peter Richardson welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that in the absence of Duncan Worth he had agreed to Chair the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following representatives:

Black Sluice IDB	Peter Bedford
King's Lynn IDB	Brian Long
Lindsey Marsh IDB	Andrew McGill
	Cllr T Aldridge
North Level IDB	Michael Sly
South Holland IDB	Duncan Worth
Witham First, Third & Upper IDBs	Paul Carrott
Witham Third IDB	Ian Parker
Witham Fourth IDB	Ed Johnson
ADA	Innes Thomson
Environment Agency	Norman Robinson
	Kate Halka
	Peter Reilly
Lincolnshire County Council	Matthew Harrison

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Branch Meeting

With the two minor amendments below, the minutes of the last Lincolnshire Branch meeting held on 2 December 2021 were confirmed as a true record. It was noted that they would be signed by the Chairman shortly after the meeting.

Paragraph 6:1 (Page 4):

- Mr L Grooby did not suggest a delegation to DEFRA in relation to red diesel, although he felt this might be a good idea.
- Mr L Grooby stated that a lot of plant companies were developing **hydrogen** and electric machines (not hybrid and electric, as recorded in the Minutes).

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Red Diesel

Robert Caudwell reported that following a meeting the previous day, Rebecca Pow MP and Defra were both very supportive of the IDBs continuing with the use of red diesel beyond 1 April 2022 and would try to get this agreed formally. Currently the draft guidance states that red diesel can only be used if IDB works are 'solely for agricultural benefit', but are hoping that the word 'solely' be removed. However, it should be noted that if this is achieved, it is likely to be time limited.

Phil Camamile felt this would be an excellent result if achieved but pushed for a timely response given there is only one month left until the change is due to take place.

Thomas Ashton queried whether pumping stations would remain exempt from moving to white diesel. Robert Caudwell's understanding was that the move away from red diesel would be for all IDB assets, including static, which would therefore include pumping stations.

Morgan Wray reported that he was discussing novel ways to innovate diesel pump stations with Ian Moodie and would continue those conversations.

### 6. Reports from ADA National

Robert Caudwell gave members the following update:

- Ian Hodges had replaced Catherine Wright as a Board member. David Jenkins had also left, but Brain Stewart would be joining.
- The Environmental Good Governance Guide was close to being published.
- ADA are now involved in the Advisory Group Schedule 3 (Flood and Water Act).
- ADA are lobbying Defra in relation to the ELMS water management consultation/plans.
- 28 February – All Parliamentary Party Group - online and by invitation only.
- 28 April – River Maintenance Summit, this is in person and run in partnership with the NFU. The Environment Agency asked to be involved in this.
- 28 September – ADA AGM.
- 9 November – ADA Conference, which will not be held in London. This will be more focussed on issues and it is not expected that any major political figures will attend.
- Various consultations regarding river basin management plans, see ADA Gazette articles.

## 7. Reports from Branch Committees

### *Executive Board*

Nothing to update.

### *Policy & Finance*

The last meeting had received updates around work streams, so nothing to report.

### *Technical & Environmental*

Trevor Purlant reported that the last meeting had been held on 25 January 2022 and that Sofi Lloyd had driven a lot forward in her role as Secretary, such as biodiversity metrics, good governance guide and the carbon calculator. She was pulling together a carbon reduction strategy for lowlands which would be ready by 22 June, and climate change adaptation reporting for IDBs. There are also Pollinator trials taking place. The workstreams are being slimmed down to a smaller number. Historically the group had tried to be too ambitious, but delivery will be more achievable with fewer workstreams.

### *Show Committee*

Peter Richardson said that a meeting was planned to be held fairly soon and confirmed that the Committee would have a stand at the Lincolnshire Show.

### *Pay & Conditions*

David Withnall reported that two Boards had withdrawn from the Committee so now only seven Boards were represented so it needed to be discussed what impact this may have going forward.

### *Environmental Committee*

Nothing to update.

## 8. Governance/Audit Issues

Peter Bateson reported that all reports had been in on time last year and it should be noted that a special interest report was undertaken in Cambridgeshire due to a late report submission. This is the final year of the five-year contract with PKF auditors. Peter Bateson also reported that there are some funds available in the account, that could be used for the benefit of members and suggested that this could be used to support IDB Officer Governance and audit training to improve work with the AGARs. Phil Camamile suggested that if IDBs are delivering grant aided large projects they could be pushed into the higher full code audit regime, so any support to understand and assist with these requirements may be helpful.

9. Lead Local Flood Authority Update

David Hickman (LCC) provided the following update:

- The County Council Flood Team had been restructured/reconfigured, so he was pleased to officially announce that Matthew Harrison will now lead the team as the new Flood and Water Manager.
- He was currently advertising for a Flood Programme Co-ordinator, with the closing date on 28 February. This is on the ADA website and would deliver key capital programmes. Any interested parties should contact him.
- He was working on a Resilience Programme with Lincolnshire Flood Risk Partnership. The outline business case would be submitted in early April, which hopefully the Executive Committee will approve. If so, he would be looking to appoint a Programme Manager to fill the role up to March 2027.
- Andrew McGill had asked that his thanks be recorded for the support and interest in the Flood Risk Group, looking at developing better partnership and clarity of Riparian responsibilities.
- The Property Level Resilience Scheme aiming to protect up to 35 properties had been launched, but so far had limited take-up, mainly due to reluctance and fears of formally identifying that a property is prone to flooding.

10. Environment Agency Update

Morgan Wray agreed to circulate his presentation with members following the meeting which covered all aspects of his verbal update.

- Lionel Grooby asked what the budget of £5m would cover in the Barrow Haven area. Morgan Wray confirmed that the budget had been allocated but the plan was not yet confirmed until an outline business case had been undertaken and approved.
- Giles Crust requested how much money was spent following the flooding event at Wainfleet and felt that if more regular routine maintenance was undertaken, in particular on the Steeping River, this would alleviate future flooding so would be worth the investment.

11. Update from South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Christine Marshall, Finance Director, thanked members for allowing her to attend their meeting. She confirmed that a letter of support regarding the IDB position with red diesel had been drafted and stated that the Councils are very supportive of the work of the IDBs.

Mrs C. Marshall stated that IDB special levy accounted for 50% of the council tax budget (one quarter of the gross budget) and that the councils were supporting IDBs in the lobbying of Government.

12. Any Other Business

Morgan Wray highlighted the water companies initiative that Dr Robin Price is involved with, detailed in the presentation that was circulated with the agenda.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next Lincolnshire Branch meeting/AGM would be held on 21 April 2022.

CHAIRMAN