



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Branch Chairman: Robin Buxton
Branch Vice Chairman: Sir Edward Greenwell
Branch Honorary Secretary: Emma Dixon

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Association of Drainage Authorities Eastern Branch AGM and Meeting

Date: 1 November 2021

Time: 10.30 – 15:00

Venue: Pavilion, Kirton Recreation Ground, IP10 0NJ

Tea & Coffee: 10.00 – 10.30

MINUTES

10.30 Branch AGM

Welcome and introductions

Present: Innes Thomson (ADA), Matt Hullis (SCC), Robert Cauldwell (ADA), Rob Wise (NFU), David Kemp (EA), Giles Bloomfield (WMA), Daniel Wade (SWT), Emma Dixon (WMA, Branch Secretary), Sir Edward Greenwell (ESIDB, Branch Vice Chair), Robin Buxton (BIDB, Branch Chairman, Chris Mutton (WLYLIDB, ADA Eastern Director), John Carrick(NRIDB), Jane Marson (ESIDB), Andy Smith (RFCC)

Apologies for absence: Nancy Smith (WRE), Karen Thomas (CPE), Sharon Bleese (CPE), Cllr. Andy Grant (NCC), Mark Johnson (EA), Hamish Carrie (WLYLIDB), Jonathon Glerum (AW), Andrew St Joseph (Esse)

Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:

Robin Buxton was voted back in as Chairman. Sir Edward Greenwell was voted back in as Vice Chair. Emma Dixon was voted in as Secretary and Treasurer for another term.

Election of ADA Eastern Director:

Chris Mutton was voted in for another three year term.

Minutes of previous AGM:

The minutes were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Approval of Branch Accounts:

The current balance is £569

The AGM was closed

10.45 Branch Meeting

1. ADA National Update – Innes Thomson

ADA offices working virtually as normal now, with flexible arrangements for staff allowing them to mix home working with attending the office.

Eastern Branch members were asked to support the revised ADA Memorandum and Articles which will be put before the AGM for approval on 10th November. Changes are largely updates to reflect the current business of ADA.

ADA to work on streamlining Branch constitutions and very supportive of Eastern Branch combination of formal meeting with site visits.

Environmental good governance guide for IDBs in its final stages of editing and should be published in early 2022.

ADA plans to create an All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management and Eastern Branch members were asked to recommend MPs or Peers who they thought might be interested in taking part. First meeting planned in early 2022.

ADA plans 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 is still to be determined. The AGM would remain as an event in its own right roughly around the same time as this year. The third events angle will be through the APPG and increased contact with politicians.

ADA is moving forward with plans for a live Demo event in July 2023, in partnership with Dyson Farms, near Boston, Lincs.

There is considerable current ADA activity with a number of consultations, notably on water abstraction, beavers, river basin management plans and spending review plans. All Eastern Branch members are encouraged to respond to the beaver consultation which closes on 17th November.

ADA has made strong representation to HM Treasury about the ending of exemption of the use of red diesel and we await response from them.

ADA expects the Environment Bill to be enshrined into law very soon, with important clauses relating to the possible expansion of IDB activities where there is local consensus. Work is being done in the background on the secondary legislation required to set drainage rates where there have previously been none in existence.

The Autumn budget has shown a very modest increase to money allocated for river maintenance (£22m) which, when divided between all areas, will not be a significant change. There are concerns that resource pressures may divert revenue spending from delivery of work on the ground and ADA will continue to challenge how any revenue allocations are most efficiently spent.

All Eastern Branch members were invited to consider opportunities for bringing forward spending plans to strengthen the capital programme, which is currently showing an underspend.

2. Water Resources East Update – submitted by Nancy Smith

See attached.

3. Environment Agency update – David Kemp

The Environment Agency continues to exercise its functions as a Risk Management Authority and its Strategic overview.

Capital Programme: 2021/22 is the first year in a six year cycle. In this cycle we have funding of £5.4Bn to better protect 336,000 properties. Nationally 44% of this programme will be delivered by the EA and 56% by the other RMAs. The capital programme for 2021/22 stands at £76 million of which £54million (70%) is Environment Agency projects. We are also bringing in partnership funding of about £3million; mostly at Tilbury and Great Yarmouth

Project Examples: Tilbury , Great Yarmouth, Lion Wood Norwich Property flood resilience (93 surveyed last month), Beccles, Heybridge, Canvey Island (3.2KM), World's End PS, Tilbury Piling

Revenue: Revenue spending has increased this year. We currently have a programme to spend £10.4m (up from £8.6m). Most of this is spent on grass cutting and in channel clearance. The work is tailored to local need; for example targeting the Alexander's plant on the North Norfolk sea walls.

We are rapidly progressing recovery works from last winter's floods; work at Potter Heigham and Postwick is approaching completion and work at Barsham is scheduled to begin this month.

We have significant maintenance projects on the Blyth (Buss Creek and Wolsey Bridge) The Alde and Ore and at Felixstowe Ferry.

There is also a programme of sluice clearance and maintenance across all three counties, and work to replace outfall flaps and maintain embankments.

Incident response: The winter of 2020/21 was dominated by the wet weather from December through to February, particularly over Christmas and New Year. Extensive surface water flooding and later River flooding across East Anglia but most acutely on the Great Ouse in the west and the Waveney in the East, though most rivers in Norfolk and Suffolk were affected.

In the aftermath we instituted a coordinated recovery plan across the whole of East Anglia. Having surveyed over a thousand structures, we initiated 29 recovery projects. Of these 29, 7 are complete, 8 are in construction and the remainder are all in contract.

We are enhancing and amending our contingency plans and dovetailing these with the other major responders.

Strategic Overview Examples: Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, Broadland Futures Initiative, Second Cycle of Flood Risk Management Plans, New reservoir flood maps 1865 reservoirs for summer 2022, Shoreline Management Plan refresh, Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation programme 25 national project of which 3 are here in the East (Suffolk County Council/ East Suffolk Council and Southend on Sea)

4. Member updates:

a. Water Management Alliance – Giles Bloomfield

Further to the Government announcement last year of doubling of the Flood Risk Management budget to c.£5.2bn; WMA Group Eastern have been allocated estimated capital replacements sums over the next 6 year settlement period as follows: (no of pumping stations)

Benacre and Kessingland Flood Risk Management Scheme (2)
Lower Waveney water level Management Improvements (15)
River Wensum Culvert inspections & Works project c5km of culverts in total
Upper Thurne Integrated Drainage Improvements (13)
River Bure Water Level Management Improvements (12)
River Yare Water Level Management Improvements (Shared) (17)
Stalham Staithe Surface water Flood Alleviation Scheme (study)
Alde and Ore Water Level Management Improvements (8)
Bawdsey Marshes - Deben tidal embankment works - 5.5Km of defence improvements
Upper & Lower Alde Ore Estuary Embankment improvements - 44Km of defence improvements
Tidal Blyth Water Level Management Improvements (1)
Tidal Deben Water Level Management Improvements (3)
Pevensey Water Management Improvement Scheme (8)

TOTAL c.£286m to replace 79 pumping stations

Demonstration Paludiculture (wetland farming site)

Construction of the Horsey Wetland Demonstration site is complete. The BIDB are a project partner with the Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England and Horsey Estate and acted as Principal Contractor in the delivery of the EU funded Canape Project, which looks to demonstrate a variety of wetland crops on peatland.

The new crops will filter water abstracted from Waxham Cut via a penstock-controlled inlet structure and provide building material and livestock feed resulting in cleaner water and locking carbon in the peat soil. The demonstration field is divided into a series of bunded compartments which allows a variety of water levels to be maintained as required by the selected crops.

The project builds on the growing interest in investment for peatlands, nature-based climate solutions and green jobs and helps prepare for new government and private investment in wetland farming and carbon sequestration.

WMA continues to have Officer representation on Broadland Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) Pilot, BFI, SMP review and Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance.

A number of river restoration schemes have also taken place in Norfolk, notably the River Nar and Scarrowbeck. If you would further information please contact Emma or Giles.

Chris Mutton formally thanks Giles Bloomfield and the WMA team for all their hard work in gaining the funding and moving this large body of work forwards.

b. Suffolk County Council – Matt Hullis

[ADA – representing drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities](#)

Member of EUWMA- the European Union of Water Management Associations

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Presentation attached

c. Coastal Partnership East – Karen Thomas

CPE, working with SCC, have now delivered the Property Level Protection Measures to 121 homes in Lowestoft. Feedback from residents and homeowners has been very positive relating to workmanship and the communications with contractors. The Velda Close pump station and flood defence are also complete. Tidal walls construction for the Hamilton Road and North Quay areas began in April and is progressing well. We plan to start the second phase of tidal wall works in November this year. The project's virtual visitor centre www.lowestoftfrmp.org.uk/consultations is also open.

The tidal barrier is being re-designed following the delayed (due to COVID) Navigation Simulation. As a result of boat 'strikes' to the 28m proposed barrier which could damage the barrier, we have had to move to a larger 40.5m mitre gate barrier that will be built into a wider part of the port entrance east of the Bascule Bridge. CPE are in positive discussions with EA national colleagues regarding funding the new option which will lead to over 1500 homes and businesses better protected from tidal flooding and aims to support wider economic growth, enhanced social opportunities and improved infrastructure for the town.

We continue to work closely with communities at erosion risk in Thorpeness and Pakefield and Corton and Gunton exploring options for short term and longer-term adaptation. Following a period of sustained erosion at Thorpeness – emergency works have been deployed using rock to hold the frontage while we develop more adaptive solutions with the community. In Southwold, we are working closely with a broad range of stakeholders to identify short, medium and long-term plans for the whole of the frontage, including the Harbour. All our urgent and routine works through our repair and maintenance programme are being delivered to time and budget. We also continue to work with landowners and remind visitors to our coast about the dangers of walking on top of and at the base of the cliffs which are highly susceptible to cliff falls. CPE have also successfully delivered the first joint conference of the Norfolk and Suffolk Coast Forums and incorporating the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coast Committee. The conference was delivered virtually with almost 300 delegates joining the event on the day and all the excellent presentations are available to watch online.

CPE have worked incredibly hard on the coastal elements of EDF's SZC DCO Examination by PINS. We have shared our views with the Examiners and continue to work closely post-examination with the wider Defra Family and EDF notably through the SZC Marine Technical Forum going forwards.

We were successful in our bid to the £150M Innovative Resilience Fund and are now developing our Outline Business Case for circa £8.4M of IRF funding for our Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Transition Programme. Our proposal focuses on how we can support coastal communities transition from where we are now to a climate resilient position in the future with a suite of funding, finance, engagement, planning and technical options to support the journey. We will build on previous Coastal pathfinder experience and the work we have progressed in Lowestoft to demonstrate how we can increase community, biodiversity, and infrastructure resilience to coastal change at pilot locations around our coast. We will be recruiting for a number of new IRF roles in Winter 2021.

Following the SMP Refresh for the Suffolk and Norfolk frontages we are now poised to progress with SMP action plans. In partnership with EA's Coastal Team, Anglian Coastal Monitoring team, the East Anglian Coastal Group and wider coastal partners and communities we will be developing the action plans with

support from a new SMP Coordinator. CPE continue to use our bespoke Collector App, and Survey 123 technology, to carry out their annual asset inspections and monthly monitoring of vulnerable frontages. CPE have now invested in SANDS, a coastal Management specific software, in order to provide project managers with contemporary analysis of geomorphological data. This software has already supported projects in Thorpeness, Southwold, Felixstowe, Pakefield, Lowestoft, Gunton & Great Yarmouth and is being considered by the EA as a tool that could be used more broadly. We are also working closely with the new round of National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping to update our coastal risk maps which will underpin coastal conversations with communities, planners and wider infrastructure providers.

The team continue to work on the national strategic, legislative and policy frameworks we need to support local delivery, notably on Adaptation, FCERM strategy and policy and Beach and Water Safety through the LGA Coastal SIG and National Coastal Group Network.

5. Date and venue of next AGM and Branch meeting

Options were put forward of visiting Norton PS or the Paludiculture site for the summer meeting. If anyone has any other suggestions please contact Emma.

The next AGM will be confirmed next year but will be early November 2022.