



# Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

**Branch Chairman:** Robin Buxton  
**Branch Vice Chairman:** Sir Edward Greenwell  
**Branch Honorary Secretary:** Olivia Follen

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## ADA (Association of Drainage Authorities) Eastern Branch AGM and Meeting

Date: 18 September 2024, 10.30 – 15:00

Venue: Raveningham Barn, Beccles Road, Raveningham, Norwich, NR14 6NW

(Followed by Site Visit to Norton Pumping Station, Ferry Road, Norton Subcourse, Norfolk, NR14 6SF)

### MINUTES

#### **Branch AGM**

##### **Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Raveningham Estate for the use of Raveningham Barn for the Branch AGM & Meeting.

##### **Present:**

Robin Buxton (Chairman), Sir Edward Greenwell (Vice Chairman), Gordon Bambridge (NRIDB Vice Chairman), Giles Bloomfield (WMA/WRE), Katie Byrne (WMA), John Carrick (NRIDB Chairman), Hamish Carrie (WLYLIDB Chairman), Henry Cator (ADA President), Robert Caudwell (ADA), Aaron Dixie (EA), Angie Fitch-Tillett (NNDC), Olivia Follen (WMA), Tom Hunter (WMA), Andrea Kelly (BA), Richard Powell OBE (RFCC), Barney Richardson (ECO), Dean Shelton (NCC), Andrew St Joseph (ECO), Rob Wise (NFU)

##### **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received on behalf of Ben Blower (WLYLIDB Vice Chairman), Phil Camamile (CEO WMA), Kari Nash (WMA), John Patrick (SWS), Matthew Philpot (WMA), Innes Thomson (ADA), Graham Verrier (EA)

##### **Announcements:**

There were no announcements made.

##### **Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:**

It was proposed by Sir Edward Greenwell, seconded by Angie Fitch-Tillett and unanimously agreed for Robin Buxton to continue as Chairman of the ADA Eastern Branch. It was proposed by Robin Buxton, seconded by Henry Cator and unanimously agreed that Sir Edward Greenwell would remain as Vice Chairman. Olivia Follen was voted in as Secretary and Sallyanne Jeffrey was voted as Treasurer.

##### **Election of ADA Eastern Director:**

It was proposed by Robin Buxton and unanimously agreed to vote Angie Fitch-Tillett to remain as ADA Eastern Director.

##### **Minutes of previous AGM:**

The minutes of the previous ADA Eastern Branch AGM held 20 September 2023 were agreed as a true record.

**Matters arising:**

Olivia Follen provided an update on the Eastern Branch accounts on behalf of the WMA Finance Team. The previous bank account had been closed and the funds were in the process of being transferred across to the WMA to hold on behalf of the ADA Eastern Branch Meetings.

**Approval of Branch Accounts:**

The balance of the ADA Eastern Branch as of 18 September 2024 is to follow.

The AGM was closed.

**Branch Meeting****1. ADA National Update - Robert Caudwell (RC)**

- 1.1 RC gave an update on the £75m of Recovery Funding Bids. Tranche 1 (£25m) had been allocated and largely distributed to IDBs, however, Tranche 2 (£50m) was yet to be distributed. RC reported that this was currently sat with the DEFRA Secretary of State and it was highly unlikely that the money would be released pre-budget.
- 1.2 ADA met with Floods Minister, Emma Hardy, on 11 September and it was reported to be a very positive meeting.
- 1.3 RC highlighted the critical situation that organisations face this year if the wet weather seen in previous years was to be repeated and stressed that there was huge uncertainty and worry over another year of failures. It was estimated that there was a gap of £100m of funding per year and that despite a paper put to DEFRA, it was not supported by individuals there.
- 1.4 It was reported that ADA was playing an active role for IDB Funding from Local Government Association Special Interest Groups (LGA SIG). These were focussed on Special Levy payments. Gordon Bambridge (GBa) highlighted that he had made contact with LGA SIG and was keen to learn if Local Governments could help with the pressures that ADA faced.
- 1.5 LAPSIP Projects were progressing well, RC advised that these must prove beneficial for the future.

**2. Environment Agency/RFCC – Update from Aaron Dixey (AD)**

- 2.1 The Environment Agency's Update was considered in detail. Arising therefrom:
- 2.2 John Carrick (JC) raised concern over the difficulty he faced in contacting the Environment Agency when filling out an application form for a permit for the River Wensum. Andrea Kelly (AK) agreed that it was impossible to contact Local Officers from the EA and highlighted that this was a real issue. Rob Wise (RW) advised Branch Members that the Eastern RFCC Minutes are often useful for locating the responsible officer at a county level. AD offered JC support to complete the application by directly contacting him. RESOLVED that this be actioned.

- 2.3 Branch Members were advised that GDC could be spent anywhere and that the EA prioritised areas which require funding the most. The Eastern RFCC have tried to safeguard some of the funding for lower consequence systems.
  - 2.4 Sir Edward Greenwell (SEG) was concerned over the change to EA national teams processing FRAPS due to the limited local discretion that this had since offered. AD advised that he's heard positive results and reminded Branch Members that this was a new process and the majority had been completed without issues. Andrew St Jospeh (ASJ) stated that the form was complex for non-professional applicants.
- 3. Coastal Partnership East update – Update from Angie Fitch-Tillet (AFT)**
- 3.1 The Coastal Partnership East's Update was considered in detail. Arising therefrom:
  - 3.2 AFT advised Branch Members of the work that CPE were doing with CoastWise which was a project looking into reasons for cliff slips. Mott Macdonald had completed a study to model crucial cliff slips during periods of heavy rain.
  - 3.3 Giles Bloomfield (GBI) highlighted item 4.3 of the report and suggested that rock from the Benacre Scheme may prove beneficial to residents at Pakefield who would be next in line for risk of erosion.

**Other Member updates:**

**4. Water Management Alliance – Giles Bloomfield (GBI) & Tom Hunter (TH)**

- 4.1 The Water Management Alliance's Update was considered in detail. There were no matters arising.

**5. Suffolk County Council – (no update received ahead of meeting and no representative in attendance of the meeting)**

**6. Norfolk County Council – Dean Shelton (DS)**

- 6.1.1 Norfolk County Council's Update was considered in detail. Arising therefrom:
- 6.1.2 GBa requested clarity on the thresholds for NCC to consult on a Planning Application due to the fact that LLFAs only comment on major applications. DS advised that NCC often works within Local Council Planning Teams to offer advice on minor planning applications, where resources allow. Gba stressed his view that IDBs should be statutory consultees. RC was advised to take this view back to ADA.

**7. Water Resources East – Giles Bloomfield (GB)**

- 7.1 The Water Resources East's Update was considered in detail. Arising therefrom:
- 7.2 RW suggested that GB liaised with Lindsay Hargreaves (NFU Representative of the WRE Board). RESOLVED that this be actioned.

## **8. Essex Coastal Organisation – Andrew St Joseph (ASJ) & Barney Richardson (BR)**

7.1 The Essex Coast Organisation's Update was considered in detail. There were no matters arising.

## **9. NSFA – Henry Cator (HC)**

- 9.1 HC gave Branch Members an update on the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance. Arising therefrom:
- 9.2 The NSFA is concentrating on collaborative working, preparing for another wet winter. The NSFA focuses on how local communities can help themselves and how organisations can work together.
- 9.3 The NSFA is holding a Flood & Drought Summit which is scheduled to be held on 31 January 2025.
- 9.4 HC extended the NSFA's gratitude to the EA, IDBs and the Broads Authority for their assistance.

## **10. National Farmers Union – Rob Wise (RW)**

- 10.1 RW gave an update on the work that NFU have been completing, the NFU continue to lobby nationally. There were no matters arising

## **11. Broads Authority – Andrea Kelly (AK)**

- 11.1 The Broads Authority have scheduled the following briefing and site visits to support knowledge about water management and lowland peat emissions reductions:

- **8<sup>th</sup> October: Broads Peat Watertable Monitoring Site Visit** hosted by Tim Papworth and Roger Crane and partners at Beccles Marshes. Installation of a peat camera and watertable monitors. Discussing watertable principles and modelling for the Broads and what is predicted for your land compared to your watertable sensor. All data will be freely available to you so you can see how close your watertable is to meeting SW18 CS option £1,381 ha
- **16<sup>th</sup> October: Broads Peat Watertable Modelling Briefing:** Book here: [Broads peat watertable modelling briefing Tickets, Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 3:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

*A webinar for lowland peat partnerships, farmers and landowners to find out about watertable tools, to support raising peat watertables in the Broads National Park.*

*Building on the groundbreaking Broads watertable modelling, the Broads Peat Partnership with Cranfield University is creating watertable depth and water requirement modelling and a prototype tool to assess a combination of drain freeboard, drain spacing and landuse scenarios. Our outputs are graphical for how the scenario changes the watertable depth, runoff, water movement and the additional water requirements.*

- **5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November: Tours of Horsey Wetland Filtration and Paludiculture Trial**, hosted by Robin Buxton and partners to discuss Agronomy, Harvesting and Markets (including speakers from thatching and Natural Building Systems). We will have an eventbrite booking for these two tours soon and will forward you the link.

Contact Andrea Kelly [andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk) for further information and booking.

## **12. Date and venue of next AGM and Branch meeting**

12.1. 17 September 2025, Venue TBC

### **AOB**

There was no other business to discuss.