

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
12th February 2016 at 2pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	* Cllr R Austin
* Mr J Atkinson	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V A Barker	* Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr P Holmes	Cllr R Clark
* Mr R Leggott	* Cllr Mrs J Harrison
* Mr P Robinson	* Cllr C Rylott
* Mr M Rollinson	* Cllr B Russell
* Mr N J Scott	Cllr P Skinner
* Mr J R Wray	Cllr N Welton

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)

888 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Clark. Cllr P Skinner and Cllr N Welton were non attendees at the meeting.

889 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

(a) Byelaw Application Bottom Farm, Dowsby Fen

A declaration of interest was received from Mr V A Barker with regard to Minute no 898(b).

(b) Report on Rating - Agenda Item 8

A declaration of interest was received from Mr W Ash with regard to Minute no 897.

The Finance Manager stated that a number of members declaration of interest forms have not been received and requested that these be completed and returned.

890 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 4th November 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was agreed that they should be signed as a true record with the following amendment;

Minute No 843 - Northern Works Committee

Cllr Mrs Julie Harrison should read "Cllr Mrs Julia Harrison".

891 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

The Chairman on behalf of the Board thanked Mr R Leggott and Mr J R Wray for their work as Chairman's of the Northern Works and Environment Committees respectively.

(a) Appointments on Committees - Minute No 844

The Chief Executive stated that the Chairmen of the Northern and Southern Works Committees would prefer a longer period of time to review the current and new members in order to ascertain suitability for the appointment of Vice Chairmen. It was agreed to extend the period for 12 months.

The Chief Executive stated that the works inspections will be a full day event and reminded members to wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

(b) Operation of the Environment Agency Black Sluice Pumps - Minute No 848(a)

The Chief Executive reported that two employees have been identified plus one relief to be trained in the workings of the Environment Agency's Black Sluice Pumping Station. It was also felt beneficial for Sean Marshall (Operations Supervisor) and Kevin Methley (Assistant Pump Engineer) to also receive training.

(c) Daffodil Crop - Minute No 857(a)

The Operations Manager asked for advice on the best time to investigate the claim for damage to a daffodil crop. Mr V Barker, responded that harvesting is around June/July. Mr J Fowler added that within the next two weeks when they flower will be a good time to investigate and take photographs.

(d) Unimog - Minute No 859(d)(i)

The Finance Manager reported that the Unimog engine had been estimated to cost c£20,000, this has now been replaced at a cost of £16,600. Mercedes have paid £3,118 towards the cost as a gesture of goodwill.

(e) Twiga - Minute No 859(d)(ii)

The Operations Manager reported that he had contacted the manufacturer when he ordered the new bracket for the Twiga arm. The warranty on the bracket is the same date as the original purchase of the Twiga.

The Operations Manager explained that when the Twiga is in transit on the road movements put a strain on the bracket holding the arm which attaches to the machine and the manufacturers are not sure how to stop the bolt from shearing.

Mr P Holmes asked if the machine was travelling too fast, could tyre pressures be reduced to eliminate the arm movement? Mr V Barker added that a detachable wheel could be added whilst travelling on roads.

The Operations Manager responded that once the Twiga is out of its warranty we can then investigate options, the Witham 4th has had similar experiences. Mr R Leggott suggested that we liaise with Witham 4th to see what can be designed. This was agreed.

(f) Solar Panels - Minute No 860

The Finance Manager reported that all solar panels have been installed albeit one which was installed this year after a sloping roof had been fitted, this amendment was agreed by the Executive Committee on 27th January 2016.

Mr V Barker asked if any panels were fitted facing north, the Finance Manager responded that all panels are facing as near south as possible.

(g) Wind Power - Minute No 860

The Chief Executive reported that ACE had conducted a detailed investigation into a wind pump similar to one currently being used in the Norfolk Broads.

Using the example of Dunsby pumping station: -

Wind pump - using 4m head lift, working on 12 mph wind (an average) the wind pump would deliver just over 1m³/min (1000l/min or 16.6 l/s) which equals 1,440,000 litres/day.

Wind pump quotation cost is £75,600 with £52,000 being civil works, there is a possibility that some of these civil works could be carried out by the Board which may reduce the initial outlay.

Dunsby electric pumps - on an average day pump capacity is 652 l/s, operating on average 1 hour per day this would equal 2,347,200 litres/hour.

891 (g) Cont.....

The cost of running the electric pumps at Dunsby is approximately £6.46 per hour plus maintenance and telemetry.

Conclusion - the wind pump would have to pump 24 hours per day to lift the same amount of water the electric pumps lift in 1 hour. It would take 52 years to recoup the initial cost of the wind pump. It would not be suitable for flood water management in an emergency event.

The general consensus was to continue using the electric pumps.

(h) Dates of Meetings - Minute No 866

The Finance Manager stated that the meeting date for the Audit & Risk Committee meeting has changed to 27th April 2016.

(i) RWE Triton Knoll Project - Minute No 867(a)

The Chief Executive reported that RWE Triton Koll are withdrawing from an agreement to reimburse all reasonable costs. As previous stated David Altaras (Barrister) has been appointed and the three IDBs have drafted a letter outlining that the costs in officer time, one legal team between the IDBs and the fees applied for are reasonable.

Mr M Rollinson stated that Viking Link are proposing a different pipe line coming in from Skegness. At a public meeting they offered £2,000 for surveys and £2,000 for legal fees for each claimant.

(j) Walnut House, Threekingham - Minute No 867(b)(ii)

The Chief Executive stated that he had responded to the applicant with the decision of the Board and the applicant has challenged this result. Having spoken with Stuart Hemmings, further details which date back to 1995 have been found, therefore the Chief Executive will review and report to the Board.

892 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 2015, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

893 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Period 8 Management Accounts - Minute No 871

The Finance Manager reported that pumping station maintenance includes estimates for the electricity costs due to problems switching supplier to British Gas in April/May 2015.

893 (a) Cont.....

Energy Management Services are pursuing a complaint on behalf of the Board which will include all administration costs incurred.

(b) 2016/17 Budget - Minute No 872

Mr V Barker asked if notification had been forwarded to South Holland District Council regarding the increase in the penny rate. The Finance Manager responded that all Councils in the Boards catchment will be notified when the Board seals the rate.

894 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 6

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2016, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

895 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Period 9 Management Accounts and Forecast - Minute No 879

The Finance Manager stated that the application for an investment account with the Co-operative Bank has been completed and submitted.

(b) 2016/17 Budget and Ten Year Estimates

The Finance Manager stated that the 2016/17 budget and ten year estimates were presented to the Executive Committee on the 27th January 2016.

(i) Capital Schemes - in the agenda papers page 33, the total for the Donington Wykes pumping station pumps should read £40,000 with the final total being £459,000.

(ii) Clay Dyke Cleansing - the Operations Manager stated that these works will be reviewed on the inspection tour of the Northern Works Committee on the 16th March 2016.

(iii) General Culvert Replacement – total amount is £28,500.

(iv) Drain Maintenance - Mr V Barker asked if the Board carried out any pest control, the Operations Manager responded that due to the qualifications and regulations surrounding pest control generally it is referred to the EA environmental health team.

(v) Admin Salaries - the Finance Manager reiterated that Lincolnshire ADA Pay and Advisory Committee has not yet confirmed the 2015/16 pay award. The Union have rejected the pay award insisting the 1% restriction does not apply to Internal Drainage Boards.

895 (b) Cont.....

- (vi) Administration – Mr V Barker referred to the expenditure on royal mail collection costs. The Finance Manager responded that the royal mail had changed their collection times to once a day (at 9:15am). After consultation the Boards insurers quoted a recent prosecution of a worker depositing work post without business insurance. Only officers with essential user and business insurance can take the post and organising availability on a regular basis negated the cost of a collection service which equates to £15 per week.

(c) Consider the Proposals for the Plant Account 2016/17

The Chief Executive stated that the Executive Committee had agreed to recommend the Plant & Replacement Fund Account for 2016/17. If the budget is agreed the plant will be disposed of as both machines are currently not being used and are parked up in the depot. Following the engine in the Unimog being replaced this machine will not now need to be reviewed until 2017/18.

Balance brought forward @ 1st April 2016	£117,524
<u>Proposed Purchases</u>	
Twiga SPV2	£185,630
Hitachi ZX 210LC-5B	£141,250
Weed cutting basket	£6,000
	<hr/>
	(£332,880)
<u>Proposed disposal of Plant</u>	
John Deere with cavalier	£16,000
JCB 220LR	£25,000
	<hr/>
	£41,000
Estimated generated income	£148,000
Estimated balance carried forward @ 31 st March 2017	<hr/>
	(£26,356)

The Board RESOLVED that the recommendation for the Plant Account 2016/17 be accepted.

(d) Consider the Development Consent Fee Account

The Finance Manager stated that potential schemes will be considered if identified and sent for review by the Executive Committee.

895 Cont.....

(e) Consider estimates for Bourne Fen Farm Account

The Finance Manager stated the Executive Committee in their capacity as Trustees of this account reviewed and resolved that the rate alleviation for 2016/17 should be the same as 2015/16 which is 2.4p in the £.

896 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 7

The Finance Manager presented the Risk Register. He highlighted the problems experienced by Lincolnshire County Council following a cyber-attack recently which took them a week to restore their data. He confirmed that cyber training has been disseminated to all staff. Currently the Boards IT service provider HBP are removing the main server, emails to be stored on Microsoft cloud. The new server has a 128 bit encryption, all data will be secured.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Register be accepted.

897 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON RATING - Agenda Item No 8

Mr W Ash declared an interest in this agenda item.

The Finance Manager recommended the following revaluations be accepted by the Board for rating with effect from 1st April 2016:

Reference Number	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation
30-2029-5 Dyke, Bourne & Morton	Agricultural Land & Buildings	£53,744	£55,394
30-3387-9 Silvertoft Lane Frampton	Poultry Unit	£410	£27,215

The Board RESOLVED to accept the revaluations and Determination Notices should be sent to the occupiers giving details of the proposed changes in valuation and the appeals procedure. The new rate will be with effect from 1st April 2016.

898 REPORTS - Agenda Item 9

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 9(a)

The Board RESOLVED that the Board's monthly accounts which included October 2015 to January 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

Mr V Barker enquired about the payment to the Environment Agency, the Finance Manager stated that it is the second instalment of the precept payment.

898 Cont.....

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 9(b)

The Board RESOLVED that the schedule of consents for byelaw relaxations, culvert consents, development contributions, tile drainage consents and extended area consents issued from November 2015 to January 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 9(c)

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that these reports be noted.

899 TO CONSIDER THE BLACK SLUICE CATCHMENT STEERING GROUP - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT - Agenda Item 10

The Chief Executive stated that the Environment Agency have issued a report on the Consultation Response Document, copies are available if any members wishes to take one.

The Environment Agency have stated in this public document and identified the following:-

“historically the EA have had a maintenance programme, but we are now aware some programmed work has not been carried out. We are planning to catch up with this work”.

“work is underway to assess the condition of the channel and embankments to inform both future EA maintenance work and enforcement of riparian or tenant responsibilities.

“the modelling undertaken to look at the effectiveness of the Black Sluice Pumping Station assumed that the South Forty Foot Drain was in an optimum condition in terms of its maintenance. Which we know is not the case today.”

The Operations Manager will investigate the feasibility of driving along some lengths of the South Forty Foot Drain to review its condition on the forthcoming Southern Works inspection.

The Chief Executive stated that he has received an offer from Mr G Atkinson, Dunsby regarding retention facilities in the upper catchment area of Aslackby. He will investigate and survey the options.

It would be beneficial to integrate with the rate payers perhaps arranging meetings to talk about drainage rate increase, tax relief availability and talk about water retention reservoirs and climate change.

The Chief Executive stated that the 1991 Land Drainage Act states that maintained watercourse should offer drainage benefit to more than one ratepayer. The current lengths of drains maintained which only offer benefit to one ratepayer is over 75 km. We should identify all the different lengths in order to understand which should or should not be maintained.

Outlined in the agenda papers is the setting up of the Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group which has a number of areas for development.

Boston Barrier

The Chief Executive referred to the Boston Barrier technical questions which were put to the Environment Agency during a visit to the Boston Barrier Hub in November 2015. A response has been received today if members would like a copy sending to them please leave their details.

The Chief Executive reiterated that the barrier is being built as a tidal surge barrier with FDGiA ring fenced for this. A lock gate offers no tidal surge protection and therefore will not be constructed using FDGiA.

Mr V Barker stated that within this document it states that water can be retained within the Black Sluice IDB drainage system but this is not the intended use for the ditches to hold water and he has concerns that the water should be taken away and that no common thought or report should include these dykes as a storage water facility.

Mr V Barker also added that the existing two sluices have an overall width of 100m, this is reduced to 25m within the tidal barrier. Invariably some tides do not completely go out and half the volume will be left in the basin. If on an incoming tide on the sea-ward side of the grand sluice, the depth of the gates are narrowed, then the tide does not go out and the ability to let it go is reduced. Some tides do not go out for over a 24 hour period. In a fluvial event a high tide and neap tide it will not give the basin the chance to empty.

900 TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN AND FINANCE MANAGER TO SEAL THE RATE FOR 2016/17 - Agenda Item 11

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Finance Manager be authorised to seal the Drainage Rate and Special Levies for the year 2016/17 as follows:

(a) Drainage Rates

	<u>Estimated Amount Drainage Rates Payable</u>
Sub-District No 1 being so much of the said Internal Drainage District as: Comprises the area of the Borough of Boston as constituted and in existence immediately before 1 st April 1974	6.30p
Sub-District No 2 - Being the remainder of the Internal Drainage District	12.60p
	<hr/> £1,054,293.03

(b) Special Levies

Borough of Boston	£754,590.56
South Holland District Council	£125,930.07
North Kesteven District Council	£60,514.40
South Kesteven District Council	£58,018.34
	<hr/> £999,053.37

901 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 12

(a) Emergency Flood Plan

The Chief Executive stated that the emergency flood plan is in the process of being updated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:40pm.