

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

At a Meeting of the Board held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday
5th November 2008 at 2:30pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr M J Scott

* Mr J F Atkinson	Cllr R Austin
* Mr V A Barker	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr K C Casswell	Cllr J Blaylock
Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr F W C Holmes	* Cllr D Dickinson
* Mr R Leggott	Cllr A Puttick
* Mr P Robinson	Cllr B Rush
* Mr R J Watts	* Cllr B Russell
* Mr R Welberry	* Cllr J Rylatt
* Mr J R Wray	

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr S M Hemmings (Chief Executive)
Mr S Brown (Senior Finance Officer)

515 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Austin, Cllr Blaylock, Mr Fowler, Cllr Rush, and Cllr Puttick.

516 **MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on 9th July 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

517 **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Wind Turbines – Minute No 479**

The Chief Executive stated that William Mollett had informed him that various consultants were continuing with environmental and other reports that were required to satisfy the Planning Department at South Kesteven District Council.

b) Mink Traps- Minute No 488

The Chief Executive reported that the Board's Works Supervisor had caught three mink over the last two months. He was continuing with setting traps at Swineshead and South Kyme Pumping Stations. However it is only possible to carry out a small amount of this work because traps need to be checked if possible twice each day.

c) RSPB Revaluation 423 Acres of land at Frampton Marsh - Minute No 494

The Chief Executive stated that he had informed the Executive Committee that a further letter had been received from Mr J Badley of RSPB concerning the request to revalue their assessment at Frampton Marsh. He reported that the Committee confirmed that the value of the land should not be reduced.

d) Culvert at Church Lane - Minute No 496

The Chief Executive reported that the reconstruction of the culvert at Church Lane had now been completed by Lincolnshire County Council's contractor.

518 MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE
24TH OCTOBER 2008

The Chairman of the Northern Works Committee Mr R Leggott presented the minutes of the last meeting held on 24th October 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

519 MATTERS ARISING

a) Azolla – Minute No 504(a)

The Chief Executive reported on the "Azolla" weed which was infesting parts of the North Forty Foot Drain. He recommended to the Board that if the weed returned next year that it should be addressed early. He confirmed that a press release has been sent to the Boston Standard.

b) Wyberton Low Road Minute No 504(f)

The Chief Executive thanked Cllr Austin for informing him that it may be possible to dispose of some of the soil to be used to repair the wash banks at Kirton Marsh.

The District Valuer has recommended that £1,500 should be paid for compensation for loss of land for this scheme. He explained that this figure was higher than usual as the land has development potential.

c) Pipeline across Calders & Grandidge - Minute No 504(k)

The Chief Executive reported that he had received complaints about high water levels in the dyke behind Woodside after heavy rainfall on Saturday evening. Calders and Grandidge were using their temporary pump to reduce the water level in the dyke.

The Board have designed a relief pipeline which would connect the Anglian Water surface water sewer, which presently discharges into the dyke, into a Board's piped drain. However the EA require a number of issues with regard to contaminated land to be satisfied before they will allow the Board to proceed with the construction of the pipeline. A meeting has been planned with the EA to discuss the issues on Wednesday 12th November. Cllr Austin has also arranged a public meeting when all parties had been invited to attend.

d) Sleaford Bottom Lock - Minute No 505(a)

The Chief Executive reported to the Board that the Board's workforce was currently undertaking rechargeable work for the Sleaford Navigation Trust at the Bottom lock. The Board have hired Witham Fourth's crane to install a temporary dam and lift in new timber doors.

e) Black Sluice Pumping Station - Minute No 505(c)

The Chief Executive presented to the Board pictures of an incident that took place recently at the new lock whereby a gate was jammed open allowing sea water to flow back into the South Forty Foot Drain. Mr Leggott stated that there had been no investigation into any pollution impact.

520 REPORT ON WORKS IN THE SOUTHERN AREA

The Chief Executive presented a report on the Works in the Southern Area copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

521 ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH & SAFETY

The Chief Executive presented a report on Health & Safety copies of which had been circulated.

Mr Leggott stated that our staff should be congratulated on the level and number of courses attended.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

522 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RATING

The Senior Finance Officer presented his report on Finance, Administration and Rating, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

Matters arising:-

a) Model Risk Policy

The policy was discussed and adopted by the Board.

b) National Fraud Initiative

The Senior Finance Officer reported that the Audit Commission had informed the Board that they now were required to provide information for the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The Board are required to provide details of payroll and suppliers. The Chairman considered that IDB's should not be included in NFI, and asked the Chief Executive to take up this issue with ADA.

c) District Audit Governance Report

The Governance Report was received and its contents noted.

523 REPORT ON THE ADA MEETINGS – Agenda Item 8

a) ADA AGM – 18th September 2008

The Chief Executive reported on the ADA AGM held on the 18th September 2008 at the East of England Showground, Peterborough and that all the Executive Members and himself had attended.

Presentations had been made by Ms L Nola on drainage boards in Italy and other presentations included Mr Harper on the Pitt Review.

The Chairman stated that ADA proposed to make this a biannual event, with the next exhibition and conference in September 2010. Members recommended that the format of the conference needed to be changed to allow members time to look round the exhibition as well as attend the conference.

b) Lincolnshire Branch of ADA – 2nd October 2008

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the Lincolnshire ADA Branch Meeting held on 2nd October 2008 at the Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle copies of which had been circulated.

He reported that ADA has been struggling to formulate an agreement with the EA with regard to precepts. The Finance Manager, Ms S Jones has not progressed the matter any further and John Harvey attended the meeting but Lincolnshire Boards are still unhappy with the situation. The Chief Executive has a meeting with Mr Andy Baxendale on 13th November to try and move this forward.

The Chief Executive commented on the Water Framework directive, the draft river management plan will be available in December 2008 and our watercourses have good ecological potential.

c) Lincolnshire Branch of ADA Environment Committee – 29th October 2008

The Chief Executive reported on the Lincolnshire Branch of ADA Environment Committee Meeting held on 29th October 2008 at the Black Sluice IDB offices copies of which had been circulated.

524 REPORT ON THE RIVER WITHAM CATCHMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS – Agenda Item 9

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the First and Second Meetings of the River Witham Catchment Coordination Committee, on the 21st July 2008 and 27th October 2008 respectively copies of which had been circulated.

The Chief Executive explained how the Committee had agreed to make a joint response to the River Witham Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). The Environment Agency had then agreed to meet IDB and NFU representatives, and record in the CFMP that the IDB's were not happy with certain parts of the document particularly the proposal by the EA to reduce levels of maintenance inside IDB areas.

The Chairman reported that after the second meeting the Chairman of Upper Witham, Witham First and Witham Third IDB's had signed an agreement to form a joint administration. He commented that he had approached the Chairman of Witham Fourth to suggest both Boards should have discussions about whether there were any advantages in the two Boards in Boston working together more closely. However he was disappointed that Witham Fourth IDB seemed unwilling to have any discussions on this subject, even though Boards were being encouraged by Defra and ADA to consider this.

It was AGREED that the Board should write to the Chairman of Witham Fourth IDB expressing the Board's disappointment that no meaningful discussions had taken place on the subject of closer working arrangements.

525 REPORTS

a) Rainfall

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented from October 2007 to September 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

b) Monthly Accounts

The Board's monthly accounts which included July 2008 – October 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were AGREED.

c) Schedule of Consents

Schedule of consents for Bye-Law Relaxations, Culvert Consents, Development Contributions and Tile Drainage Consents issued from July 2008 – October 2008 were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

526 PROPOSED MEETINGS DATES

A list of proposed dates for the meetings of the Board were AGREED.

527 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the Board that the Finance Officer, Mr Simon Brown has accepted an appointment with Longhurst Housing and both himself and the Board would like to wish him well in his new appointment.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:20pm.