

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 1.00pm.

#### Members

Chairman - \* Mr M J Scott

* Mr J F Atkinson	* Cllr R Austin (from Minute 493)
* Mr V A Barker	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr K C Casswell	* Cllr J Blaylock (from Minute 493)
* Mr J Fowler	Cllr M Brooks
* Mr F W C Holmes	Cllr G Curley
Mr R Leggott	* Cllr D Dickinson
* Mr P Robinson	Cllr A Puttick
* Mr R J Watts	Cllr B Rush
* Mr R Welberry	Cllr B Russell
* Mr J R Wray	* Cllr J Rylatt

\* Members' Present

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

Before commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Mr J Fowler to his first Board Meeting.

#### RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD

Notice has been received from the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 3 to the Land Drainage Act 1991 has now confirmed the Reconstitution of the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Order made on 25 March 2008 confirming the Scheme submitted by the Environment Agency Anglian Region for confirmation under section 3(1) of that Act.

The Scheme provides provision for the reconstitution of the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board so that the number of members elected in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the Land Drainage Act 1991 is altered from 22 members to 11 members.

#### 475 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

On the proposition of Mr R J Watts, seconded by Mr J F Atkinson, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M J Scott be appointed Chairman of the Board.

476 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

On the proposition of Mr M J Scott, seconded by Mr K C Casswell, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr R J Watts be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

477 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Brooks, Mr Leggott, Cllr Curley, Cllr Puttick, Cllr Russell.

478 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 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.

479 MATTERS ARISING

a) Investment in the Construction of Wind Turbines – Minute No 425b

The Chief Executive reported that Cetis are still working on the scoping report which has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council.

b) Monthly Accounts - Minute No 435

Following a question from Mr Robinson, regarding Grouped Purchasing Schemes, the Senior Finance Officer reported that there were clauses in these schemes which required members to cover others in cases of default. Therefore the Board could not join these schemes as should a payment of this nature be required, it would be deemed ultra-vires.

480 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

a) Executive Committee

It was AGREED that the existing committee of Mr M J Scott, Mr R J Watts, Mr R Leggott, Mr K C Casswell and Cllr P Bedford should continue.

On the proposition of Mr M J Scott, seconded by Mr P Robinson it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr J R Wray, the Chairman of the Environment Committee should become an additional member of the Executive Committee.

b) Finance Committee

The Chairman recommended that with the smaller Board the Executive Committee could take on the role previously fulfilled by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

It was RESOLVED and fully agreed by the Board, that the Finance and General Purpose Committee be abolished.

c) Northern Works Committee

A full list of members of the above committee was circulated with the Agenda including co-opted members.

It was RESOLVED and fully agreed by the Board.

d) Southern Works Committee

A full list of members of the above committee was circulated with the Agenda including co-opted members.

It was RESOLVED and fully agreed by the Board.

e) Environment Committee

The Chairman stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the number of members of this Committee should be increased. He suggested that the Northern and Southern Works Committees should appoint three additional members each, at their next meetings. This was AGREED.

481 TO APPOINT THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEES

a) Northern Works Committee

On the proposition of Mr P Bedford, seconded by Mr P Robinson, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr R Leggott be appointed Chairman of the Northern Works Committee.

b) Southern Works Committee

On the proposition of Mr K Casswell, seconded by Mr J Atkinson, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr R J Watts be appointed Chairman of the Southern Works Committee.

c) Environment Committee

On the proposition of Mr M J Scott, seconded by Mr R Welberry, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr J R Wray be appointed Chairman of the Environment Committee.

482 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 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.

483 MINUTES OF SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr R J Watts, presented the Minutes of the Southern Works Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

484 MATTERS ARISING

a) Purchase of Land at Six House Bank – Minute No 440a

Mr Barker asked whether there was any possibility of the new Fens Waterways Link being routed along the route of Hammond Beck south of Gosberton Clough. This would involve deepening and widening the drain at Six House Bank.

The Chief Executive explained that the EA were proposing to appoint Consulting Engineers to look into the construction of the next phase of the link, which involved forming a link from the navigable part of the South Forty Foot Drain to the River Glen. It was envisaged this report would be completed by the end of 2009.

He considered that it was unlikely that the link would be routed as far east as the Hammond Beck. It was more likely that a route closer to the South Forty Foot Drain would be chosen.

The Chief Executive reported that Pinchbeck Parish Council has offered to sell 2 acres of land north of Black Hole Drove to allow this section of Dovehurn Drain to be relocated. They have appointed Longstaffs' as their agents who have suggested the price should be £6,000 per acre. He recommended that the Board should proceed with negotiations to purchase this area of land. Mr P Robinson proposed that the Board purchase the land, seconded by Mr F Holmes. All AGREED.

b) Slacker at Gosberton Pumping Station – Minute No 442(a)

The Chief Executive recommended that the existing wind down door and the flap valve should be removed and replaced with a cast iron double hung flap door similar to the refurbishments carried out at many of the Board's pumping stations. It was estimated that this work would cost approximately £10,000.

It is recommended that the Board should precede with these works. All AGREED.

c) Public Meeting – Minute No 442(b)

Mr Atkinson felt the suggestion by Mr Wray of a public meeting to outline what the drainage board does in this area was a good idea. It would be a good way to appraise the public of what achievement have been made by the Board and perhaps a joint meeting with the new waterways link.

485 MINUTES OF NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

The Chairman Mr Scott presented on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr R Leggott, the Minutes of the Northern Works Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

486 MATTERS ARISING

a) Bye-Law relaxation request CB Design Group 63-79 Wyberton West Road, Boston – Minute No 446

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a letter from CB Design Group responding to the Board's letter which stated that the Board were willing to relax the Bye-Law.

This matter had been discussed at the Executive Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008, when the Chief Executive had advised that it would be difficult and costly to enforce the Bye-Laws through the courts. He stated that the Executive Committee had agreed with his recommendation that the Board should accept the offer by the developer to line the pipe which should ensure the pipe has a future span of 50 years, and then retrospectively relax the Bye-Law.

Mr Holmes considered that this would be giving the Board a precedence to other developers to build structures which contravened the Boards Bye-laws.

The Chief Executive responded that we endeavour to make all developers aware requirements of the Bye-Laws.

All AGREED to the proposal that the Board should put the matter with the Executive Committee to precede with these recommendations.

487 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT MEETING – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Wray presented the Minutes of the Environment Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

488 MATTERS ARISING

a) Water Vole Surveys – Minute No 454a

The Senior Engineer presented a slide detailing the results of surveys of the current population of water voles in Boards drains.

b) Mink Traps – Minute No 454e

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a telephone call from Mr Cammack at the Boston Tennis Club that a number of mink had been seen in the North Forty Foot Drain.

Mr Cammack had informed him that if the Board could set up a trap he would organise someone to monitor it, and therefore a trap would be provided.

489 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 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.

490 MATTERS ARISING

a) Reconstitution of the Board – Minute No 464

The Senior Finance Officer stated that an amendment is required to the Board's Standing Orders following the reconstitution of the Board. The current Standing Orders require 12 members to form a quorum, and it is recommended that this should be reworded to read a third of members.

It was RESOLVED that the Standing Orders be amended proposed Mr Robinson, and seconded by Mr Wray and AGREED by the Board members.

491 FINAL ACCOUNTS -YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2008 – Agenda Item 9

The Senior Finance Officer presented the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Final Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 should be received and accepted.

492 REPORT ON INTERNAL AUDIT AND SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND TO SIGN STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE – Agenda Item 10

The Senior Finance Officer presented a report on Internal Audit and Controls, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted and that the Chairman and Chief Executive should sign the Statement of Assurance.

493 DISCUSSION ADA PROPOSING THE FORMATION OF REGIONAL CATCHMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEES (RCCC's) - Agenda Item 11

Discussion took place on this and it was agreed that the Chief Executive should develop the idea of aligning our resources with Welland and Deeping IDB.

494 CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM RSPB TO REVALUE 423 ACRES OF LAND AT FRAMPTON MARSH – Agenda Item 12

The Chief Executive presented his report on the revaluation, a discussion ensued. The recommendation to refuse this application was agreed.

495 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RATING – Agenda Item 13

The Senior Finance Officer presented his report on finance, administration and rating, copies of which had been circulated, and it was RESOLVED that the Report be received and accepted.

a) Drainage Rates Write Offs and Valuation Reductions

It was RESOLVED that the following write offs and reductions be approved.

Account Balances

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>
	£		
3107	8.78		Building Plots - transfer to Special Levy.
3072	11.33		In Administration - no further settlement - property now sold
3296	109.05		Deceased - Property Repossession

Valuation Reductions

	<u>AV</u>	
2937	£624	(Villa Farm) Glass now removed
2675	£506	Glass now removed
3273	£5854	Chicken sheds removed

496 REPORT BY THE SENIOR ENGINEER OFFICER - Agenda Item 14

The Senior Engineer Officer presented his report, copies of which had been circulated, and it was RESOLVED that the Report be received and accepted.

Mr Austin raised the point that there had been a major collapse on Church Lane and the County Council had closed the road. The culvert has been due for replacement and advised that the Senior Engineer inspect the culvert.

497 LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH OF ADA AGM – Agenda Item 15

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the Lincolnshire Branch of ADA AGM held at The White Hart Hotel, Boston on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 copies of which had been circulated.

498 LINCOLNSHIRE ADA BRANCH MEETING – Agenda item 15a

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Meeting held at The Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008, copies of which had been circulated.

He reported that the Regional Finance Manager has been attending Lincolnshire ADA meetings and is looking into resolving the issue of appeals against the precept. All Lincolnshire Boards are unhappy with the calculation of the precepts.

The Chief Executive commented on the importance of the Catchment Flood Management Plans being produced by the Environment Agency. Upper Witham has produced a report on the Catchment Management Plan and the Board will make a response to the EA.

499 REPORTS

a) Monthly Accounts

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

b) Schedule of Consents

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

c) Rainfall

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

500 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the Senior Engineer, Mr Martin Mitchell has accepted an appointment with Lindsey Marsh IDB 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 3:15pm.