

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
7th November 2007 at 2.30pm.

Members

Chairman - * Mr M J Scott

* Mr J F Atkinson	Cllr R Austin
* Mr V A Barker	* Cllr P Bedford
Mr E Bettinson	* Cllr J Blaylock
Cllr M Brookes	Mr J G Casswell
* Mr K C Casswell	* Cllr G Curley
Cllr D R Dickinson	* Mr C A Fretwell
* D J Graves	* Mr W E Harborow
* Mr F W C Holmes	* Mr R Leggott
Mr E I Needham	Mr J Pocklington
* Mr A H Proctor	* Cllr A Puttick
* Mr P Robinson	Cllr B Rush
* Cllr B Russell	* Cllr J Rylatt
Mr C M Smith	* Mr R J Watts
Mr R Welberry	Mr A S Whitehead
Mr G S Woodward	* Mr J R Wray

* 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 Cllr A Puttick and Cllr B Russell to their first Board Meeting.

383 PRESENTATION ON THE BOSTON WATERWAY LINK

The Chairman welcomed Jim Anderson of the Environment Agency who is the Project Manager for the Boston Combined Strategy, and he gave a presentation on the future plans for the lock at the Black Sluice Pumping Station, the Boston Waterway Link and the Boston Combined Strategy.

He explained in detail the construction work that was proposed. He anticipated the work would start in April/May 2008 with the gates being operational in October 2008 and the first boats able to pass through the centre of Boston in December 2008. He invited the Board to inspect the first phase of the construction work next spring.

He spoke about the management of water levels, and the funding available for the scheme, traffic management plans, diversion of footpaths, and saline intrusion, and he mentioned navigation constraints during certain weather conditions.

He explained the creation of bank habitats, improving landscape around Black Sluice PS, possibility of putting in cattle fencing and drinking troughs, fishing platforms, improving public access etc.

The Members were invited to ask questions on the scheme and general discussion took place on this.

The Chairman thanked Mr Anderson for his presentation and for consulting with the Chief Executive and Senior Engineer on this scheme.

384 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Austin, Mr E Bettinson, Cllr M Brookes, Mr J G Casswell, Mr J A Pocklington, Mr R Welberry and Mr G S Woodward.

385 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on 11th July 2007, 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.

386 MATTERS ARISING

a) Heavy Rainfall during June and Early July 2007 – Minute No. 344

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a letter from the Coningsby Branch of the National Farmers Union thanking the Board for their work during June and July.

b) Reconstitution of the Board – Minute No. 347g

The Chief Executive reported that the scheme for the reconstitution of the Board has been sent by the Environment Agency to Defra, who are now preparing a draft order for it. This is a lengthy legislative process, and once this is complete there is another three rounds of advertising to complete. This process will not be completed until the end of March at the earliest, and therefore, all existing members will be invited to the next Board meeting in February 2008.

c) Giving up Board Watercourses – Minute No. 350d

The Chief Executive reported that Drain 22-25 would be inspected at the Southern Works Inspection in February 2008.

387 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON 11th JULY 2007

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 11th July 2007, 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.

388 MINUTES OF NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE ON 3rd OCTOBER 2007

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr R Leggott, presented the Minutes of the Northern Works Meeting held on 3rd October 2007, copies of which had been circulated.

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

389 MATTERS ARISING

a) Flooding at Deldale Estate, Wyberton – Minute No. 370f

The Senior Engineer reported that the Boston Borough Council had asked the Board to carry out a CCTV survey of pipelines in this area, following the flooding of properties in July. This will be paid for from the special grant the Council has received from Government.

b) Catchment Studies – Minute No. 370m

The Senior Engineer reported that he had received a quotation in the sum of £17,500 from Jeremy Benn Associates to carry out catchment studies for Swineshead Fen and Holland Fen. He stated that an application would be made to the EA for grant aid towards the cost of these schemes, and a contribution could also be made from the Development Fund. The work would be carried out in the 2008/09 financial year.

It was AGREED the quotation from Jeremy Benn Associates should be accepted.

390 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON 23rd OCTOBER 2007

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 23rd October 2007, 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.

391 MATTERS ARISING

b) Reorganisation of Workforce – Minute No. 375

The Chief Executive reported that he had taken the advice of a consultant and decided to reorganise the workforce. He had now appointed two Works Supervisors, Paul Nicholson and Fred Bedford, from the workforce and they would each control a section of the men, with Mick Johnson being Works Manager. These new designations would be staff positions and it was also agreed to purchase two new 4wd vehicles for them. The Executive Committee had agreed that this would be an improved way of operating.

392 ENGINEER'S REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN WORKS AREA – Agenda Item No. 6

The Senior Engineer presented his report on the Southern Works area, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

Matters arising:-

a) Spanby Beck

It was agreed that the Southern Works Committee should inspect this section of drain on their Inspection in February 2008.

b) Replacement Dwelling Brock House, Beck Bank, West Pinchbeck – Watercourse 22/2

The Senior Engineer reported that an application had been received to relax Bye-Law No. 10 to allow a brick and glass conservatory to be constructed 3.4 metres from the centre of the Board's piped watercourse and he recommended that consent should be given with certain conditions.

Discussion took place on this and Mr Fretwell proposed that the Board should not allow the Bye-Law to be relaxed, and Mr Leggott seconded this.

Mr Watts agreed with the original recommendation, and Mr K C Casswell seconded this.

Mr Fretwell's proposition was voted on and there were four votes for the proposition and eight votes against. Therefore it was AGREED that consent should be given to allow the conservatory to be constructed with the necessary conditions.

393 ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH & SAFETY – Agenda Item No. 7

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

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

394 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RATING – Agenda Item No. 8

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) Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor's report was received and its contents noted.

b) External Audit's Governance Report

The Governance Report was received and its contents noted.

c) Accounts Committee

The Senior Finance Officer explained that for a number of reasons it would not be practical to continue with this Committee and that the Executive Committee had agreed that it was no longer necessary to have an Accounts Committee. All AGREED.

d) Long Service Awards Scheme

It was AGREED that long service awards should be implemented as follows:-

- On 20 years service – employee to choose a gift to the value of £150.
- On 30 years service – employee to choose a gift to the value of £250
- On 40 years service – employee to choose a gift to the value of £400.

395 REPORTS ON ADA MEETINGS – Agenda item 9

a) Lincolnshire Branch of ADA – 4th October 2007

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes on the Lincolnshire ADA Branch Meeting held on Thursday 4th October 2007 at the Golf Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

The Report was received and accepted.

b) Lincolnshire Branch of ADA Environment Committee – 25th October 2007

The Senior Engineer presented the draft Minutes of the Lincolnshire Branch of ADA Environment Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25th October 2007 at the Witham Fourth District IDB offices.

The Report was received and accepted.

c) ADA Conference and AGM – 31st October 2007

The Senior Finance Officer reported on the ADA Conference and AGM held on Wednesday 31st October 2007 at the East of England Showground, Peterborough and that all the Executive Members, Mr Wray, the Chief Executive and himself had attended.

Presentations had been made by David Richardson of Flood Risk Management at Defra about the IDB Review and the need for smaller Boards to form amalgamations or consortia.

Other presentations included John Oldfield of the Bedford Group of IDB's, David Rooke of the Environment Agency, and David Sisson of Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

The after dinner speaker was Phil Woolas, MP, Minister of State for the Environment and Climate Change who talked about increase funding for flood defence, the enquiry into the summer flooding, climate change and the need to look at flood defence spending over a much longer time period.

396 REPORTS – Agenda item No. 10

a) Rainfall

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented from October 2006 up to September 2007, copies of which had been circulated.

b) Monthly Accounts

The Board's monthly accounts which included July 2007 – October 2007, copies of which had been circulated, were AGREED.

c) Schedule of Consents

Bye-Law, Culvert, Development Contribution and Tile Drainage Consents issued from July 2007 – November 2007, copies of which had been circulated.

397 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2008 – Agenda item No. 11

The Chief Executive presented a list of suggested dates for Meetings to be held in 2008.

It was RESOLVED that the Meetings be held on the following dates.

Finance and General Purposes	Wednesday 16 th January
Board	Wednesday 6 th February
Southern Works Inspection	Thursday 28 th February
Northern Works Inspection	Wednesday 5 th March
Environment	Wednesday 21 st May
Board and Inspection	Wednesday 9 th July
Board	Wednesday 5 th November

398a ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Retirement of Board Secretary

The Chairman informed members that this was the last meeting at which Mrs Susan Humby would be taking notes. He thanked her for her twenty years service to the Board and presented her with a cheque and a bouquet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.35pm.