

# BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the  
Environment Committee

At a Meeting of the Environment Committee held at the Offices of the Board on  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 2.30pm.

### Members

Chairman - \* Mr M J Scott

* Mr C A Fretwell	Mr A S Whitehead
* Mr R J Watts	Mr G S Woodward
* Mr R Welberry	* Mr J R Wray

### \* Members Present

In attendance: Mr V A Barker (Board Member)  
Mr K C Casswell (Board Member)  
Mr F W C Holmes (Board Member)  
Mr P Robinson (Board Member)  
Mr S M Hemmings (Chief Executive)  
Mr M L Mitchell (Senior Engineer)  
Mr S Brown (Senior Finance Officer)  
Mr J Harpley (Environmental Consultant)  
Mr M Johnson (Foreman)

Guests: Mr R Wardle, (FWAG)  
Mr A Simpkin, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
Mr B Hancock (RSPB)

Before commencement of the Meeting, Mr Scott welcomed Roger Wardle of FWAG, Andy Simpkin of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Barry Hancock of the RSPB, who had kindly agreed to attend the meeting and give presentations on their work in the Board's area.

### 321 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr Scott proposed and Mr Welberry seconded that Mr Richard Wray should become the Chairman of the Environment Committee and all members were in favour. Mr Wray accepted the position and took the Chair.

### 322 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr G S Woodward and Mr A S Whitehead.

### 323 MINUTES OF LAST ENVIRONMENT MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006, copies of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 324 MATTERS ARISING

#### a) Owl Boxes – Minute No. 206c

Discussion took place on the benefits of the placing of owl boxes in the Board's area, and that in some areas there appeared to be fewer water voles because they were being eaten by barn owls. However Mr Wardle considered that as there were fewer trees for the owls to nest in, the Board was creating niches for them by providing the boxes.

#### b) Drain 6/31, Westfield House, St Thomas Drive, Boston – Minute No 209

The Chief Executive reported that negotiations with Calders & Grandidge on the possible purchase of a strip of land to use for access for the Board's machines to carry out drain maintenance had not proceeded any further.

#### c) Report on the Board's Application for Funding from Defra's Innovation Fund – Minute No. 212

The Chief Executive reported that the Board's application for funding from Defra's Innovation Fund had not been successful.

### 325 ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH MEETING – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006 – Agenda item 5a

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

### 326 ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH MEETING – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – Agenda item 5b

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007, copies of which had been circulated.

#### a) Diquat – Minute No. 3

The Chief Executive reported that the Witham Fourth District IDB had still not gained approval to use Diquat. He further reported that the Board had received approval to use a small amount on an experimental

basis to control algal growth in the Clay Dyke, Gill and North Forty Foot Drain and that Witham Fourth would be the contractors to do this for us.

b) Defra Biodiversity Audit and BAP Guidance – Minute No. 7

The Chief Executive reported that work was in progress, with the help of John Harpley, to improve the way that we audit and report on environmental biodiversity interests, and this would be discussed later in the Meeting under Agenda item 7. Guidance would be issued by National ADA and Natural England on this matter in due course.

327 WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT OVER THE LAST YEAR – Agenda item 6

John Harpley presented his report on work he had undertaken for the Board over the last year, copies of which had been circulated.

a) Water Vole Surveys

John Harpley compared the statistics of owl boxes in Sempringham Fen, where it had the most boxes although does not have any water voles, with Helpringham Fen where there are less owl boxes but more water voles. Mr Hancock suggested contacting the Hawk and Owl Trust to point out the lack of water voles.

b) Works at Drainside North, Kirton

John Harpley spoke about the clearance that had been carried out in order to provide access for machinery along this drain, and the planting and reconstitution of the banks that were now taking place.

c) Drain Cutting

Photographs were shown of the method of drain cutting we were encouraging the workforce to carry out in future.

328 DRAFT BLACK SLUICE IDB BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – Agenda item 7

The Chief Executive presented the draft Black Sluice IDB Biodiversity Action Plan, copies of which had been circulated, and discussion took place on this.

It was RESOLVED to recommend that this Committee should receive this Action Plan next year to review the targets we have achieved and to look at further targets for the following year.

329 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY AND DRAINWORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2007/08 – Agenda item 8

The Chief Executive presented his report on proposed work in 2007/08, copies of which had been circulated.

It was agreed that the Board needed to demonstrate that by the planting of reeds in the drains we are making a major impact on the future environment.

330 PRESENTATION BY ROGER WARDLE, FWAG – Agenda item 9a

Roger Wardle gave his presentation with the aid of slides of interest and spoke of Environmental Stewardship, Cross Compliance and HLS and the problems it has at the moment. He advised on the disposing of cott into the field if it cannot be left on the top of the bank and talked about lapwing nests, water vole and great crested newts habitat.

331 PRESENTATION BY ANDY SIMPKIN, LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST – Agenda item 9b

Andy Simpkin, the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan Co-ordinator, gave his presentation and spoke about the reissue Lincolnshire BAP and the work at the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre and local wildlife sites. He also spoke about the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership and the Chief Executive considered a recommendation should be made to the Board that we become a member of this Partnership.

332 PRESENTATION BY BARRY HANCOCK, RSPB – Agenda item 9c

Barry Hancock presented his report of his work in the area, especially work on a critical drain in Wyberton Marsh where habitat had been created on one side of the drain.

He also showed a map of the Frampton Marsh RSPB reserve and outlined plans for the future which involved applying for permission to provide hides, public access and car parks and hoped the Board would pass on to the Council favourable comments in this respect. It was agreed that the Board should support the work at Frampton Marsh wherever possible.

333 DISCUSSION PAPER ON BOARD'S CARBON FOOTPRINT – Agenda item 10

The Senior Engineer presented a discussion paper on the Board's Carbon Footprint, copies of which had been circulated.

Mr V A Barker declared an interest in the following. Discussion took place on how the Board could become a much greener authority by offsetting energy

use. He suggested the use of small direct driven wind pumps near smaller Pumping Stations as an experiment, and also spoke about large wind turbines and the expenses involved.

The Committee felt that this was a very worthwhile exercise and that more investigative work should be carried out and presented to a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED to recommend that if a suitable location could be found that a small direct driven pump at £12,000 could be installed at a smaller Pumping Station.

334 DISCUSSION PAPER ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS –  
Agenda item 11

The Senior Engineer presented a discussion document on Environmental Management Systems, copies of which had been circulated.

He considered that the Board should have some consultancy advice on this and after investigations he would make further recommendations to the Board.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.58pm.