

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 2.30pm.

### Members

Chairman - \* Mr M J Scott

Mr P H Ash	* Mr W E Harborow
Cllr Mrs J M Ashton	* Mr F W C Holmes
* Mr J F Atkinson	* Cllr J A Kirkman
* Mr V A Barker	* Mr R Leggott
* Cllr P Bedford	* Mr E I Needham
* Mr E Bettinson	* Cllr Mrs A Parker
* Cllr C Brotherton	Mr J Pocklington
* Cllr M Brookes	* Mr A H Proctor
Mr J G Casswell	Mr M E F Richardson
* Mr K C Casswell	Cllr O Snell
Cllr P Craven	* Mr C M Smith
Cllr A Day	* Mr R J Watts
* Cllr D R Dickinson	* Mr R Welberry
Cllr S Forster	Mr A S Whitehead
* Cllr C A Fretwell	* Mr G S Woodward
* Cllr F E Gilchrist	* Mr J R Wray
* Mr D J Graves	

\* Members Present

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

### 175 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P H Ash, Cllr Mrs J M Ashton, Mr J G Casswell, Cllr A Day, Cllr S Forster, Mr J Pocklington, Cllr O Snell, and Mr A S Whitehead.

### 176 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005, 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.

177 MATTERS ARISING

a) Pay & Conditions Advisory Committee – Minute No. 147d

The Chairman reported that the first meeting to discuss the 2006/07 pay award would take place in March 2006.

b) Report and Presentation on Boston Waterways Link – Minute No. 147g

The Chief Executive reported that he was awaiting a report from the Environment Agency on the combined strategy for Boston Flood Defence and Waterways, and asked for approval for the Executive Committee to make a response on this document. This was AGREED.

c) Engineer's Report: Maintenance of Watercourses – Minute No. 152a

The Senior Engineer reported on the efficiency of the two GPS tracking systems for monitoring the length of roding carried out.

It was RESOLVED to purchase two further GPS tracking systems in the next financial year.

d) Six House Bank, West Pinchbeck – Minute No. 152h

The Chief Executive reported that he had not yet received a response from Lincolnshire County Council on an offer to purchase a strip of land to enable drain relocation works to be carried out south of Leaveslake Drove.

e) Drain 2/25 near Fruitex at Donington – Minute No. 152i

The Chief Executive reported that he had met Mr Grimer of Fruitex on site at Donington and no joint objectives were identified. This area would be visited by the Southern Works Members on their Inspection in March.

f) Report on Finance, Administration and Rating – Minute No. 153

The Senior Finance Officer reported that George Wisz of the Audit Commission would be attending a Lincolnshire Branch meeting of ADA on the following day.

He also reported that 14 cases of unpaid drainage rates had been taken to County Court on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

g) Database of Culverts – Minute No. 154

The Chief Executive reported on a request by a farmer to repair a brick arch culvert. The farmer was surprised to learn that in general culverts in Board drains did not belong to the Board and was unhappy that he should pay anything towards its repair.

Discussion took place on this and it was RESOLVED that the Board's guidelines and policy on culverting should be adhered to, and if the farmer wished repairs to be undertaken he should make a contribution towards the cost of the work, and agree to take over the maintenance of the culvert in the future.

h) Inspection of EA Banks – Minute No. 158

The Chief Executive reported that a meeting had been held with Martin Shilling of the Environment Agency to discuss the Board's investigations into low lengths of bank on the South Forty Foot Drain and the highland carriers. He had been informed that works could be carried out to raise the banks and improve the standard of defence. He agreed to look into the possibility of the EA undertaking this work, which could be financed from the local levy fund.

i) ADA Meeting – Minute No. 159

The Chief Executive reported that the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Branch of ADA would be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board offices at Manby.

178 MINUTES OF LAST FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING  
Agenda item No. 4

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr M J Scott, presented the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

179 MATTERS ARISING

a) Revenue Account Expenditure for 2006/07 – Minute No. 166  
Flailmowing and Grass Cutting Contracts

The Senior Engineer recommended that the Board should continue to employ the existing contractors who carry out flailmowing and grass cutting and that they should receive an increase of 3% on the rates paid last year. This was AGREED.

b) Five Year Estimates and Budget Forecast of Income, Expenditure and Balances – Minute No. 167

The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee had considered the five year budgets and had recommended the increase in the rate by 0.89% to 11.3p for 2006/07. This was AGREED.

c) Bourne Fen Farm Account – Minute No. 168

The Senior Finance Officer reported on recent transactions, as detailed below, which had been authorised by the Executive Committee.

Shares Sold

J P Morgan Fleming .....	£9,898
Sainsbury .....	£1,985
Marks & Spencer .....	£2,766
Lloyds TSB .....	<u>£2,989</u>
	£17,638

Shares Purchased

Smiths Group .....	£5,962
HSBC .....	£5,978
Tesco .....	<u>£6,096</u>
	£18,036

d) Adoption of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders – Minute No. 171

The Chief Executive reported that the website would be updated shortly and the forthcoming dates of Board Meetings would be shown. It was also agreed that the names of all Board members should be placed on the website.

It was RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders should be received and adopted, and that Nos. 15 and 17 of the Standing Orders should be as follows:-

No. 15

“Every proposal or amendment, other than a proposal for the approval of a Committee or Sub-Committee, shall be proposed and seconded and shall, if absolutely necessary, be written out and handed to the Chairman who shall read it out before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.”

No. 17

“If any member has any interest, direct or indirect, in a matter to be discussed, he shall, while it is under consideration withdraw from the meeting unless the interest is trivial in manner.”

180 ENGINEER’S REPORT – Agenda item No. 5

The Chief Executive presented the Engineer’s Report, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

## Matters Arising

a) Pipeline in Drain 4/37 at Drayton alongside A52

Discussion took place on the reinstatement of the open drain at Drayton and this site would be included on the Northern Works tour of inspection.

b) Private Pipeline, Peck Avenue, Boston

Discussion took place on the flooding that occurs in this area and it was AGREED that the Northern Works Committee should inspect the area to decide whether a section of piped drain should be adopted by the Board.

c) Proposed Weedscreen Cleaner at South Kyme Pumping Station

The Chief Executive recommended that orders should be given to Bracket Bosker in the sum of £47,750 for them to supply and erect the weedscreen cleaner at South Kyme Pumping Station, and MBE Fabrications in the sum of £3,950 for the new weedscreen. This was AGREED.

d) Request to Pipe a Length of Drain No. 4/44 at Swineshead

It was AGREED that the Northern Works Committee should be delegated power to decide whether consent should be given to pipe a section of drain alongside Villa Road.

e) Bye-Law Relaxation at Fern Cottage, Woodside Road, Kirton

The Chief Executive read a letter he had received from Mr Willett, the owner of Fern Cottage, who was appealing against conditions shown in the Engineer's Report.

After discussion it was RESOLVED that consent should be given to relax the Bye-Law to allow the construction of an extension, but the following conditions recommended in the report should apply:-

- i) That if the Board requires access at any time in the future, and given reasonable notice, the owner of the property shall demolish the extension at his own expense.
- ii) The owner agrees to the Board drawing up a Deed of Covenant which will be recorded at the Land Registry.
- iii) The owner pays the Board's expenses of £250 plus VAT for the above.

f) Relocation of Drain 28/6, Bourne North Fen

It was AGREED that this site should be visited by members on the Southern Works Inspection.

g) Refurbishment of Pumping Stations

It was RESOLVED that the following tenders should be accepted:-

Dowsby Lode Pumping Station

Electrical refurbishment ..	Parkinsons Electrical	£28,763.00
Pump refurbishment .....	Perry's Pumps Ltd	£3,600.00

Pinchbeck Fen Pumping Station

Electrical refurbishment ..	Parkinsons Electrical	£27,903.00
Pump refurbishment .....	Perry's Pumps Ltd	£3,500.00

Billingham Fen Pumping Station

Electrical refurbishment ..	Parkinsons Electrical	£26,028.00
Pump refurbishment .....	Perry's Pumps Ltd	£3,450.00

181 REPORT ON NEW VALUATIONS – Agenda item No. 6

The Chief Executive presented a report on new valuations, copies of which had been circulated.

Reference	Occupier & Location	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation
2705/24010022	W Lamyman & Son Ltd Manor Farm South Kyme	Free-range Poultry Unit	£27,719	£32,134
2459/13010092	Oaktree Nurseries Sutterton Drove Amber Hill	Nursery Site	£9,503	£12,010

It was RESOLVED that the above new valuations should be accepted and become effective at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

182 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Chief Executive presented a report on the frequency of Board and Committee Meetings, copies of which had been circulated.

A suggestion was made that members might like to receive unsigned draft Minutes of meetings shortly after a meeting had taken place, and these

could be sent by e-mail or post. The Chief Executive would invite members to indicate which method they would prefer.

It was RESOLVED that the present arrangements for Board and Committee Meetings should continue.

183 MEETING ARRANGED BY NFU AT MORTON ON 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006

The Chief Executive presented a report on the meeting that had taken place in January. He explained that presentations were made on the proposed Fens Waterways Link and on the flood defence standards of the South Forty Foot system.

Discussion took place on this and how best to keep the public informed on any decisions made on flood management. The Chairman emphasised that there were no plans at the moment to flood land in order to store water and that discussions only were taking place on what would happen if a 1 in 50 or 1 in 100 year event occurred.

184 DEFRA INNOVATION FUND

The Chief Executive presented a report on the DEFRA Innovation Fund, copies of which had been circulated.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Chief Executive should make an application to DEFRA, and report further on this to a future meeting.

185 BOARD'S BUNGALOW IN HESSLE DRIVE

The Chief Executive presented a report on the Board's bungalow in Hessle Drive, Boston, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that following his retirement in September 2006 from the Board, Mr F G H Epton and his wife should be allowed to remain in the bungalow for as long as they wish. It was AGREED that the Executive Committee should approve the level of rent for the bungalow and any increases required in future years.

186 PLANT PURCHASES

The Chief Executive presented a report on plant purchases, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the following items of plant should be purchased:-

- a) Herder MBK 120 flailmower with a 1.8m wide flail head
- b) John Deere 6620 SE Tractor
- c) 15 tonne Trailer from Richard Larrington Trailers
- d) Volkswagon 4wd van for the workshop
- e) Jetting Tanker and equipment from Major Equipment Ltd

187 NEW MEMBER TO REPRESENT ELECTORAL DISTRICT B

The Chairman reported that a vacancy had arisen in electoral district B due to the death of Mr R H Tunnard.

On a proposition by Mr E Bettinson, and seconded by Mr R Leggott, it was AGREED that Mr Peter Robinson of The Hall, Brothertoft should be invited to be a member of the Board.

188 TO SEAL THE DRAINAGE RATES FOR 2006/07

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to seal the Drainage Rates and Special Levies for the year 2006/07 as follows:-

<u>a) Drainage Rates</u>	<u>Rate in</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Estimated Amount</u> <u>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 <sup>st</sup> April 1974.	5.65p )	£921,153.06 (51.735%)
Sub-District No. 2 – Being the remainder of the Internal Drainage District	11.30p )	
<u>b) Special Levies</u>		
Borough of Boston .....	£648,330.72	
South Holland District Council .....	£109,045.22	
North Kesteven District Council .....	£51,095.55	
South Kesteven District Council .....	<u>£50,895.20</u>	£859,366.69 (48.265%)

189 TRIP TO ADA DEMONSTRATION, KENT

The Chief Executive presented the preliminary itinerary for the trip to the 2006 ADA Demonstration in Romney Marsh on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

He reported that seven members of the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board would be traveling with the Black Sluice Board Members, and depending on numbers he might open the invitation to include Witham 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> IDB also.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10pm.