

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Joint Meeting of the
Northern and Southern Works Committees

held at the Offices of the Board on
1st October 2024 at 2pm

Northern Works Members

Chairperson - * Mr P Holmes

* Cllr P Bedford	* Mr D Casswell
* Cllr N Drayton	Cllr A Dorrian
Mr J Emerson	* Cllr A Hagues
* Cllr A Iazard	Mr J Fowler
* Mr M Leggott	* Cllr D Middleton
* Mr R Needham	Cllr B Pierpoint
* Mr J E Pocklington	Mr P Robinson
* Cllr C Rylott	* Cllr D Scoot
Cllr S Welberry	* Mr R Welberry

Southern Works Members

Chairperson - * Mr M Rollinson

* Mr W Ash	Mr J F Atkinson
* Mr V A Barker	* Mr K C Casswell
* Mr J Casswell	Mr R Dorrington
Mr C Dring	* Cllr M Geaney
Cllr Z Lane	* Mr A Mair
* Mr M Mowbray	* Mr M Taylor
* Mr C Wray	

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)
Mr K Methley (Pump Engineer)
Mr I Warsap (SLWP Consultant)

Mr P Holmes chaired the meeting.

2373 Recording the meeting – Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2374 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Dorrington, Mr J Fowler, Cllr Z Lane, Cllr A Dorrian and Mr P Robinson and Cllr S Welberry.

2375 Declarations of interest - Agenda Item 3

Mr J Casswell declared an interest in Minute 2380(jj) - Donington Northings Pumping Station Alternative Access Track - £185,430.

Mr J Pocklington declared an interest in Minute 2381 - Update on the Lincs Reservoir.

2376 Minutes of the last meeting of the Southern Works Committee - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 9th April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Southern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

2377 Matters arising from the Southern Works Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 5

(a) Dunsby Fen Pumping Station - Minute 2298(j)

The Chief Executive explained to the committee that he has raised concerns through the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee regarding the Environment Agency's (EA) plans for bank repairs at Dunsby and Quadring. Their plan is to restore the bank to the level it was previously. However, this means that during the next rainfall event which reaches the same level, the overtopping and erosion will occur again in these same places. The EA do not want to repair the bank to any higher level as they believe it would just move the problem of overtopping to the next lowest point. The Chief Executive has suggested that if the level keeps getting built up in these different locations, then it will become more resilient.

There is also the suggestion that the level of response for national assets won't be replicated in the same way it has been previously in future events. Priority is focused on urban areas and the concern that this rules out the majority of Lincolnshire has been fed back to the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee. Mr K Casswell noted that if it isn't dealt with in rural areas, it won't be long before the water reaches urban areas.

Mr V Barker suggested the bank levels at Dunsby and Quadring could be increased by the Board, it was noted it isn't the Board's bank, it is EA.

Mr M Brookes noted that himself and a few others sit on the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee and so can ensure it gets the required attention from the committee.

Mr M Leggott added that it is regrettable that the EA see the protection of properties as their only job, noting the amount of Grade One and Two crop production land in Lincolnshire that is holding no value in the eyes of the EA.

Mr C Wray questioned if protecting national infrastructure is within the protection of urban areas / property? Noting the new infrastructure at Bicker Fen. It was explained that anything built after 2012 (both domestic and commercial) is not classed as 'at risk' because it should have flood resilience measures within the build design.

Mr C Wray questioned if those companies with infrastructure would perhaps be willing to contribute to the raising of the bank? The Chief Executive noted that he didn't think the EA would allow it, although noting that a Quarry has been given the go ahead to complete repairs in Tumbly. Mr M Rollinson added that Bicker Fen, where the infrastructure is, is a known low spot.

Mr I Warsap suggested that bank levels are surveyed, and data provided to the EA and then be re-surveyed once the EA has completed the work. It was confirmed that the initial levels have already been surveyed.

2378 Minutes of the last meeting of the Northern Works Committee - Agenda Item 6

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 2nd July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Southern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record, with the following amendment:

- Minute 2345 – References site visit to Dowsby Pumping Station, this should be Damford Pumping Station.

2379 Matters arising from the Northern Works Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 7

(a) 9 metre byelaw - Residential development works – Minute 2344(a)

The Chief Executive noted that this matter was discussed further with the Executive Committee, who's suggestion was to write to local conveyancers about the 9-metre byelaw in the hope that the message will become part of the discussion when purchasing the house.

2380 To receive a report on Engineering Works for 2024 - Agenda Item 8

Maintenance

The Maintenance Director gave the following updates.

(a) Annual Summer Flail Mowing / Cutting

Summer flailing commenced on 1st August, with early season flailing completed on major pump drains following Storm Henk and Babet on a four weekly basis.

From 1st September, the programme has changed as the JCB 145 LR has been removed from the cutting programme to complete major slip repairs funded through the IDB Recovery Fund. Further slips identified whilst carrying out maintenance will be repaired by the machine near site at the time. The oldest Twiga (2015) that was due to be sold has been kept to help keep up with the flailing programme. The new Hooby machine is also carrying out cutting work and a hired excavator and driver are also currently out on site (with the option for a second hired excavator if required).

Mr V Barker questioned the fuel type of the hired excavator and whether it would be beneficial to not exchange in the next one due for replacement and instead keep as a spare? It was confirmed that the hired excavators must use white diesel.

The order for the SKDC Hand Roding contract has been received only last week. The Board were hoping to set up a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement but it is currently still being reviewed by SKDC's legal team and so it will be carried out on a contract basis.

The Maintenance Director drew attention to the maps showing completed cutting and flailing works. It was asked if more differential colours could be used going forward.

(b) Prior Notice Given for Summer Cutting

It was noted that the programme has worked well in relation to crops this year. The Chairperson questioned whether, as landowners, the members are happy with how the process works? E.g. notification of coming through crops etc.

Mr R Needham noted a circumstance where he felt that his neighbour's wheat was ran on unnecessarily as it was harvested only a week later, and the adjacent field was left until a few weeks later. The adjacent side was also clear. The Maintenance Director confirmed that if the crop is wheat, the Board would usually wait until the wheat has been cleared and so will look into this.

Mr M Rollinson also referred to alternate bank cutting and that this hasn't been happening. Mr J Pocklington agreed. Mr M Leggott suggested that this may have led to some of the 9metre byelaw infringements if people think access is only required on the one side. Mr M Taylor added of a circumstance where he asked the workforce to cut the alternate side.

The Chief Executive noted that it is Board policy to alternate bank cutting where possible and so will discuss with the Operations Team about empowering the machine operators to make the decision about which side to cut.

It was also further noted from Mr J Pocklington, and others, that there had been no notification, phone calls or texts, to inform of the Board coming on land for cutting.

(c) Summer Crop Loss / Damage Compensation

This was referenced and discussed within the above.

(d) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleansing Works

These works have been put on hold due to the additional slip repair programme because of the IDB Recovery Funding achieved. A small budget has remained at the end of the financial year for if all slips are completed or all the IDB Recovery Funding has been spent. If these works are carried out, it will be the continuation of the 2023/24 season works as only 8.2km of a proposed 37km were completed due to disruptions caused by Storm Henk and Storm Babet.

(e) Bank Slips

£705,000 was achieved through the IDB Recovery Fund for major slip repair work. Currently, 16 of the original 51 identified slips have been repaired. However, more have been identified since, whilst completing maintenance work. To date, £240,000 has been spent (on budget for the original 51 identified).

Mr V Barker noted that the Board has got to consider why we are experiencing so many slips, acknowledging the amount of rainfall, but questioning if the batter of the bank is at the correct angle for the type of soil?

The Projects Director acknowledged Mr V Barker's point, noting that some slips have been known about for years but the land has been saturated and water levels high. As the land starts to dry out, it encourages the bank to slip. The Board have also recently reviewed water levels and increased where possible, which can also have an impact. The Projects Director also noted the amount of work that would be involved in doing a design profile for each one and that a bigger gradient would require more land take and therefore increase cost.

Mr M Rollinson questioned the process if the Board encounters a slip whilst completing Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) work on EA banks? It was confirmed that it is reported to the EA and then they make a decision as to whether they want the Board to carry out the repair on their behalf or if they put it out to framework. The Board have completed works previously.

Projects

The Projects Director gave the following updates.

Capital Asset Improvements – 2024/25 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) Schemes

(f) North Forty Foot cleansing / revetment & Langrick Road pipeline, lining / replacement works

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(g) Sempringham Fen Pumping Station refurbishment

Most of this refurbishment is now complete. Further contingency funding can be claimed (£25,000) which will enable some of the gravity outfall works, which is currently being looked into.

(h) Allan House Pumping Station outfall repair

The contractors are currently on-site (ASDA carpark) installing inspection chambers to enable access into the pipe to complete a camera survey to establish the condition of the pipe.

The issue with the last 12m section which outfalls into the Haven (displacement in one of the joints in the pipes) is to be completed in conjunction with these works. The first, newer, section is plastic, the older is cast iron. It is also not known exactly where the pipe is.

There is also work to the existing Pumping Station building including raising the control panel and raising the height of the building to accommodate this (within existing footprint).

(i) Black Sluice Catchment Study

Data is still being gathered for this study, there is currently a survey team of 6 out on site, employed by the subcontractor, in order to do the next stage of modelling and looking at whether decreasing to 12 pump catchments from 34 is feasible.

(j) South Forty Foot Upper Catchment Natural Flood Management (NFM)

The lead on these NFM works has been Lesley Sharpe, who has now retired, and because of this, this work has come to its natural fruition. The works that are already ongoing will be completed, but nothing further will be commenced.

(k) Bicker Fen Catchment Works

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(l) Dunsby Fen Catchment Works

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(m) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station New Transformer

Funding for this work has been approved and received (£130,000 + £37,000 contingency if required). Discussion is currently ongoing with National Grid to remove the transformer and provide an LV connection to this site and get the work completed this financial year.

(n) Ewerby Fen Catchment Works

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(o) Embankment repairs at Trinity College, Damford, Ewerby and South Kyme

The committee were reminded about the issues experienced at the four Pumping Stations named above in relation to the water running around the stations, through or over the bank, during high water levels. This has been ongoing for five years, funding has tried to be achieved through Grant in Aid and IDB Recovery Funding, the outcome of the IDB Recovery Funding Tranche 2 is not yet known.

Discussion has commenced with a contractor, Balfour Beatty, to deliver this work and they have provided a 33-week programme of work, which they could commence in May 2025.

The initial estimation was £3.8million, which following further work and detail, has now increased to a revised estimation of £7.495million. Stantec have been asked to produce a tender pack to go out to be able to understand if the quote provided by Balfour Beatty is competitive. The project will then be in a better place to commence when funding is achieved.

Committee members noted the large increase from initial estimation to the revised cost? It was noted that the initial estimation did not include for any temporary work such as platforms, access roads, etc.

Mr R Needham questioned how much was applied for in the IDB Recovery Tranche 2 Funding? It was noted that the original estimated cost of £3.8million was bid for, however, the Board have been given an indication that it won't be successful due to it being unlikely the works could be completed prior to the end of the financial year.

2024/25 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes

(p) Major Slip Repairs

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(q) Jetting to Major Pipelines – Estimate £75,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(r) General Culvert replacement contributions - £5,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

2024 DEFRA Funded Scheme

(s) Peat Restoration Project – LAPSIP (Lowland Agricultural Peat Small Infrastructure Pilot) - £172,000

The Board has secured funding (£172,000) to install tilting weirs at two sites in Bourne to hold water at a higher level. This is programmed to be completed in November. The tilting weirs will be solar powered and operated remotely.

Pumping Station Schemes

(t) Great Hale Fen Pumping Station Pump Drive Couplings – Estimate £30,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(u) Kirton Marsh Pumping Station Under Pump Inspections – Estimate £11,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(v) Rippingale Fen Pumping Station Under Pump Inspections – Estimate £25,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(w) Hacconby Fen Pumping Station Under Pump Inspections – Estimate £25,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(x) Donington Wykes Pumping Station MCC – Estimate £30,000

The control panel in this pumping station was installed in 1988 and there have been issues with the operation of this panel recently.

(y) Pumping Station various water level controllers – Estimate £30,000

This project is to eliminate the issue of existing water level readers being submerged under water during high water levels.

(z) Damford Grounds Pumping Station Refurbishment 2 x axial flow pumps and motors - £50,000

One of the pumps and motors has been refurbished with the other to be completed when those identified within Tranche 1 are completed which take priority.

(aa)Damford Grounds PS Replace MCC - £60,000

This is now completed, and a funding bid has been submitted within Tranche 2 of the IDB Recovery Fund to retrospectively fund this, if successful.

(bb)Donington Wykes PS Replace MCC - £30,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

2024/25 IDB Fund Tranche 1

The committee were reminded of the Tranche 1 IDB Recovery Fund (£75million available) of which everything the Board applied for was achieved. This funding must be spent by the end of the financial year – 31 March 2025. The electricity funds (£452,936) has all been received and the initial payment for the bank slip repair funding (£705,220). Although the funding for the pumping stations has been approved (as detailed in the below), the funding has not actually been received. It is now being queried about whether a 'refurbishment' meets current regulations. For example, the Board would normally remove the pump, have it serviced / replaced serviceable parts and put it back. However, it is now being questioned whether they should be replaced with fish and eel friendly pumps. The cost of fish and eel friendly pumps are a lot more expensive / unaffordable. The Board has placed orders and commenced this work as if it is not started, it will not be completed by the deadline. Ian Cappitt (Partnerships & Strategic Overview Senior Team Leader, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, Environment Agency) has taken the lead on talking to the Environment Agency national fish and eel team about this matter.

Cllr A Izard questioned if there would be a possibility of an extension of the 31 March 2025 deadline? It was noted that ADA are lobbying for an extension of the deadline, especially in relation to Tranche 2 of the funding as the decisions on the success of the bids have not even been made yet.

The notification of the outcome won't be shared with the Board until two weeks after the budget due to the funding still being with Treasury and it not being known if it will still be available after the budget. Mr K Casswell noted that he doesn't believe Tranche 2 of the funding will be available.

The committee expressed their gratitude for the work of the Board's Officers in achieving this funding.

(cc) Helpringham Fen Pumping Station Refurbishment - £219,709

The pump is being lifted out today at Helpringham Fen Pumping Station.

(dd) South Kyme Fen Pumping Station Refurbishment - £289,709

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(ee) Dunsby Fen Pumping Station Refurbishment - £144,709

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(ff) Ewerby Fen Pumping Station Refurbishment - £359,709

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(gg) Pinchbeck North Fen Pumping Station Refurbishment - £195,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(hh) Dyke Fen Pumping Station Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner Refurb - £30,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(ii) Donington Northorpe Culvert Repairs - £155,000

It was explained that a concerned property owner contacted the Board about their driveway collapsing where it is over a piped section of Board watercourse. The pipe has been CCTV surveyed and has found that the old steel Armco has started to deteriorate and collapse. This has been repaired and we are now considering lining the remaining length of pipe not repaired, using the remaining funding.

(jj) Donington Northings Pumping Station Alternative Access Track - £185,430

Mr J Casswell declared an interest.

The committee were reminded that the current access to Donington Northings Pumping Station is across a railway line, correspondence with National Rail has been ongoing for ten years about an alternative and due to the headwall of the culvert leading up to the crossing collapsing during the winter storms, it was decided to bid within the IDB Recovery Fund for funding for an alternative access track, which has been successful. The alternative route has been plotted and plan prepared to send out for approval.

It was noted that the culvert adjacent to the railway that is used for vehicular access has collapsed and so there is currently no vehicular access to the pumping station.

Mr C Wray suggested that if the Board keep using it and crossing the railway then National Rail would have to pay the Board to stop using it, noting the bigger nuisance the Board are by using it, the quicker it would be resolved with them. Board's Officer's noted this, but also acknowledged that funding has been achieved from elsewhere to complete the work for an alternative route.

2024/25 IDB Fund Tranche 2

(kk) Horbling Town Beck Penstock installation - £225,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(ll) Mobile Pumps - £235,000

The committee were informed that the Executive Committee have agreed to the purchase of an 8" mobile pump, ahead of knowing if the bid for funding for it has been successful. This is so that the work at both Helpringham and Pinchbeck Pumping Stations can be carried out simultaneously. Board's Officers are visiting the preferred supplier this week to view the proposed pump.

It was noted that the Board's current 8" mobile pump is well used and is currently on site at Helpringham.

(mm) Damford Grounds Pumping Station Refurbishment - £90,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(nn) Great Hale Pumping Station Refurbishment - £30,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(oo) Installation of Level Controllers at Various Pumping Stations - £30,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

2024/25 Defra / EA FCERM GiA Schemes

(pp) Natural Flood Management (NFM) Studies - £150,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(qq) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station New Transformer - Estimate £50,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

2025/26 Board Funded Capital Schemes

(rr) SFFD Desilting Guthrum to Black Hole Drove PS – Estimate £105,000

The Projects Director noted that he would like to complete this work and will review how much silt there is to be removed and the most appropriate mechanism of doing so which will likely be a hired long reach excavator, placing material into a cradge with bucket and cradge.

(ss) Jetting to Major Pipelines – Estimate £40,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(tt) Black Hole Drove PS Under Pump Inspections - £35,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(uu) North Forty Foot Desilting - £20,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

(vv) General culvert replacement contributions - £5,000

There were no further comments or questions about this work.

2025/26 Pumping Station Schemes

(ww) Dunsby Fen PS replace automatic weedscreen cleaner – Estimate £140,000

This weedscreen cleaner was installed in 2000 and so is due for replacement.

(xx) Gosberton Fen PS replace MCC – Estimate £80,000

This Motor Control Centre(MCC) was installed in 1996 and is now due for replacement.

(yy) Wyberton Marsh PS replace MCC – Estimate £80,000

This Motor Control Centre(MCC) was installed in 2000 and is now due for replacement.

Pumping Station Maintenance, External Recoverable Works, Health & Safety and External Partnerships, Strategies & Agreements were noted as per the report within the agenda, with no further comments or questions.

2381 Update on the Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR) - Agenda Item 9

The SLWP Consultant gave an update as follows:

Scheme overview – The Lincolnshire Reservoir is a project in conjunction with a second reservoir (Fens Reservoir), £30million has been spent on the two projects so far and is a £2.48billion scheme.

The Lincolnshire Reservoir has currently been delayed by two years, but it is hoped, from the learning of the Fens Reservoir, that the pre-construction phase can be condensed with commencement on site for the Lincolnshire Reservoir being 2031/32. It was noted that Anglian Water are paying for the Board's Officers time spent on developing this project. The Lincs Reservoir will have a volume of 50 million cubic metres, with a 10% additional margin if required and 500ha footprint.

Downstream Transfer - The downstream transfer will be from the Lincs Reservoir to Wilsthorpe to Chesterton.

Upstream Transfer - There will be an upstream transfer from the Trent into the Foss Dyke (hybrid transfer, both pipeline and open channel) with pumping station to pump into Foss Dyke. The water will then continue through Lincoln into the River Witham and from the River Witham to a point of abstraction into the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD).

There are two options in relation to the transfer from the River Witham to the SFFD; an open water transfer from the Chapel Hill area or piped from the Antons Gowt area. The pipeline would have one pumping station and the open transfer could have one or two pumping stations. The SLWP Consultant noted that he believes the Anglian Water team are overcomplicating the transfer, adding the potential use of gravitation flows between the River Witham and SFFD, there being a 1.5metre fall between the River Witham (Langrick Bridge) and SFFD (Swineshead Pumping Station).

The abstraction at the River Witham into the SFFD will be a maximum of 400 mega litres per day, all of which will be transferred into the Lincs Reservoir. The transfer from the River Witham to the reservoir will take one hour.

There is a proposed new lock on the Kyme Eau (east side) to protect water into the River Witham.

For an open water transfer along the Kyme Eau into the Holland Dyke, the drains would be widened, and so additional land take would be required. Conversion of Holland Dyke to enable gravitation into the Skerth will require land take, level changes and replacement or relocation of the South Kyme Pumping Station.

The SLWP Consultant next explained the increase in water levels (normal flow) for the different options:

- Location at Northing Ings Railway Bridge:
 - Piped: 50mm increase
 - Open water transfer: 40mm increase
- Location at Hubberts Bridge:
 - Piped: 140mm increase
 - Open water transfer: 90mm increase

When the SFFD is in an event situation, water would be taken out for the reservoir (minimal velocity flows).

A short pipe would be required between the River Witham and Kyme Eau with a Pumping Station with open channel transfer along the Kyme Eau, with a pipe transfer between the Kyme Eau and Holland Dyke to reduce the transfer of Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) between catchments.

However, the SLWP Officer noted that there is already a connection point at the Black Sluice Complex and is also nothing to stop INNS travelling across catchments via land or air.

Emergency Drawdown – This will include the upgrading of existing assets including the SFFD and Helpringham South Beck (widening).

Mr K Casswell referenced the point that water will be taken in an event and the concern that the reservoir would be full and so couldn't take any more? The SLWP Consultant noted that there is 10% additional capacity (5million cubic metres). Holding water in the River Witham will be controlled by Grand Sluice Doors.

There is currently an integrated water management study ongoing, involving organisations including the Environment Agency, IDB, Anglian Water, Canal & River Trust, looking at how this network would be controlled.

The SLWP Consultant highlighted the importance of having one organisation controlling it, and the potential benefit for if the Board controlled it and were funded to do so.

The SLWP Consultant noted that it is currently being argued that the reservoir doesn't offer any increased flood resilience, however the SLWP Consultant disagrees with this, noting the upgrade to main-river banks and ongoing maintenance.

Mr R Needham noted the insignificant drawdown, the SLWP Consultant noted that if the water is available from the SFFD it will come from their firstly, noting the cost involved in pumping between the River Witham and SFFD and between the River Trent and Foss Dyke, which would not be required if coming straight from the SFFD.

Mr V Barker noted the River Trent water being saline, with the SLWP Consultant noting that all the appropriate water testing has been done.

Mr R Welberry questioned if there would be a lock on the SFFD at the Skerth? The SLWP Consultant noted that it will be the renewed lock.

The SLWP Consultant further noted that Matt Pluke (Anglian Water), Adam Robinson (Anglian Water) and Darren Smith (EA SLWP Officer) would be willing to come and give a presentation about it at the November Board meeting if wanted. It was noted that it would have been helpful to have visuals on the screen to be able to visualise what the SLWP Consultant has explained.

The SLWP Consultant also noted the recent letter received from Anglian Water, detailing updates and programme schedule for the Lincs Reservoir, suggesting it be put on the Board's website. The Chief Executive noted that the letter was sent to the Board as a landowner, so suggested it shouldn't be posted on the website, but will circulate following the meeting.

The SLWP Consultant noted that feedback from the public is suggesting that the majority are in favour of the reservoir going ahead.

The next big decision to be made is whether it is an open or piped transfer from the River Witham to SFFD, the capital and maintenance cost of the open transfer are higher, but it also has more significant carbon benefits.

The SLWP Consultant also noted that by the time Lincs Reservoir is in operation (2039), four more will be required in the area.

Mr C Wray noted that he doesn't believe the homeowners are getting on well with Anglian Water due to them giving valuations for property that is below market value.

Mr V Barker questioned where the widening of the SFFD would begin and finish? The SLWP Consultant noted that it would likely be more a case of doing similar to the Boston to Peterborough Wetland Corridor and adding in bends etc. rather than being straight, for extra capacity.

The SLWP Consultant also noted that there has been some different interpretation of the Reservoirs Act and the criteria for discharging is now less than initially thought and so water levels will not require to be any higher than the current banks.

Mr M Rollinson questioned if anything further had developed in relation to the Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) through this project? It was noted that the Environment Agency aren't interested.

Mr J Pocklington questioned whether desilting of the SFFD would be carried out through this project? The SLWP Consultant noted that Anglian Water will need to maintain continual efficient flows to the reservoir through regular maintenance.

The committee thanked the SLWP Consultant for his update.

The SLWP Consultant questioned the Board's favour on whether the transfer from the River Witham to SFFD is open water transfer or piped? The Chief Executive noted that the Board supports the open water transfer for the additional benefits it brings, but ultimately it doesn't really matter to the Board how the water arrives at the SFFD. The most relevant aspect for the Board is the SFFD and potential changes to it.

It was noted that this viewpoint was outlined in the Board's response to the Phase 2 consultation, which was circulated to Board Members, and will be circulated to co-opted members following the meeting.

Mr J Pocklington, declaring an interest as an affected landowner, noted that both options would affect him but that he would prefer the piped option.

2382 Report on Rainfall - Agenda Item 10

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were circulated. The Committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2383 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 11

(a) Visit from Richard Tice MP - 12 October 2024

Cllr D Middleton noted that it has been organised for Richard Tice to sail on the Boston Belle to look at the Boston Barrier on Saturday 12th October 2024 at 11am, extending an invitation for a couple of representatives of the Board. Board's Officer's noted that they will discuss and correspond accordingly.

(b) Board Plant – Bulldozer

Mr V Barker suggested that the Board should have their own bulldozer, as opposed to hiring one, noting that he feels it is a huge waste of money and was not satisfied with what he witnessed in relation to how much and how it was used.

It was noted that it is hired in to spread after desilting, adding that the Board did consider purchasing a Drott but couldn't find one that was value for money and so it is hired in on a day rate to complete that job.

(c) Sub-committee Membership

The Chairperson noted that the new Board will sit for the first time in November and that, due to this election, sub-committee membership is currently being reviewed. The Chairperson therefore invited any appointed members to make it known if they would have an interest in joining any of the sub-committees (Audit & Risk, Environment, Structures).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:10.