

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 24th November 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

\* Messrs M.A. Harris (Chairman)  
\* R. Adam (Vice-Chairman)  
\* A. Barker  
\* P. Bradwell  
\* G.R.J. Bramhill  
\* J. Coggon  
\* P. Cornish  
\* K. Durdy  
\* R. Mason  
\* M. Wagstaff  
\* S. White  
\* vacancy

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

\* Cllr R. Allcock  
\* Mr N. Arrand  
\* Cllr J. Briggs  
\* Mr R. Chapman  
\* Mr J. Lee  
\* Cllr Mrs J. Reed  
\* Mr J. Smith  
\* Cllr D. Robinson  
\* Cllr D.J. Rose  
\* Mr G. Wilson  
\* vacancy

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

\* Cllr Mrs H. Brand  
\* Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger

\* *Present*

\* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
\* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)  
\* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)  
\* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)  
\* R.A. Brown (Engineering Manager)  
\* *In attendance*

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It was proposed and seconded and agreed unanimously that Mr M.A. Harris be elected as Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED

That Mr M.A. Harris be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

*Cllr Mrs J. Reed arrived.*

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It was proposed and seconded and agreed unanimously that Mr R. Adam be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED

That Mr R. Adam be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Barker, J. Lee, Cllrs J. Briggs, D. Robinson, G. Wilson.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R. Allcock declared an interest in agenda item 9.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A date for a tour of the Board's area would be discussed with new members after the Board meeting.

7. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 254 to 266)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22nd September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Minute 1, Page 254 - Cllr Mrs J. Reed had attended the meeting and her name was deleted from the list of apologies.

Minute 8, Page 256 - replace 'Godnow Pumping Station' with 'the Belton Village Scheme'.

8. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

9. EXTRAORDINARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Pages 267 to 269)

Officers presented the minutes of a meeting held on 3rd November 2015.

9:1 River Idle

Mr S. White was concerned that the River Idle had not been covered. The Chief Executive explained that the River Idle was not covered by the Strategy, however, a study into the River Idle had been carried out over last two years and the Board's Engineer and Environmental Officer had been involved in this. At the Environment Agency (EA) liaison meeting last week the Environmental Officer had also given a presentation. The Chief Executive stated that it was clear that the whole river needed looking at and he would ensure that this was taken into account. Investigations were ongoing and a further meeting would be held on 4th December. The Chairman reported that modelling was scheduled to be undertaken in 2017 but that the river was still deteriorating. Members stated that confirmation was needed that the EA would continue to maintain the whole river.

The Vice-Chairman understood from the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Annual Conference that the EA was awaiting reports on nine river projects (including the River Idle) and these were due back before Christmas. He enquired whether the Board could see these reports as soon as they were available. The Engineer reported that the reports would be available but the key finding from the Idle Project was that the whole system required managing as one and it was unlikely therefore that it would be handed back to the riparian owners.

It was agreed that a presentation on the River Idle would be made at the January Board meeting.

9:2 Isle of Axholme Strategy

The Engineer had presented the Board's recommendations on the structure and these had been accepted in principle. The Group would meet and sign off before Christmas and a formal start-up meeting would be held in the new year.

The Chairman reported that at the ADA Conference Mr R. Stewart MP (Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs) had asked what interest there was from IDBs in taking over more main rivers. The Chairman stated that there would be changes in the future and the Board must grasp the opportunity to take on more work if there was an opportunity.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the extraordinary Board meeting held on 3rd November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

10. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2015. Confirmation of the details on the buy-back of the Energreen were still awaited.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Plant and Compensation Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Officers presented the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2015.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

12. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Chief Executive presented the attached Statement of Members elected in accordance with the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 as amended by the Land Drainage (Election of Internal Drainage Boards)(Amendment) Regulations 1977.

There were two vacancies on the Board: in the Althorpe and the West Axholme Electoral Districts. These had been advertised and an expression of interest in the Althorpe vacancy had been received from Mr M.T. Smith. The Chief Executive had also approached Mr A. Barker who had confirmed that he would be prepared to continue as representative for the West Axholme district.

RESOLVED

That Mr M.T. Smith be appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy in the Althorpe Electoral District and that Mr A. Barker be appointed to fill the vacancy in the West Axholme Electoral District.

### 13. MEETING DATES

#### 13:1 Board and Committee Meetings

The following dates for Board and Committee meetings in 2016 were presented:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
26th January	10.00 a.m.	Board (estimates and rate setting)
29th March	10.00 a.m.	Board
6th April	2.00 p.m.	Consortium Committee
28th June	10.00 a.m.	Board (final accounts)
7th September	2.00 p.m.	Consortium Committee
27th September	10.00 a.m.	Board
1st November	9.30 a.m.	Plant and Compensation Committee (estimates)
1st November	11.00 a.m.	Finance Committee (estimates)
22nd November	10.00 a.m.	Board (Annual General Meeting)

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#### 13:2 Other Dates

The following external meeting dates were presented for information:

Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch - 11th February 2016  
Local authority workshop - 24th February 2016  
Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch AGM - 7th June 2016  
Lincolnshire Show - 22nd and 23rd June 2016  
Association of Drainage Authorities Annual Conference - 17th November 2016

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### 14. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

#### 14:1 Standards Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr J. Coggon, Cllrs R. Allcock, J. Briggs and D. Rose continue as members of the Standards Committee (the Chairman would not attend hearings to enable him to hear an appeal if necessary).

#### 14:2 Plant and Compensation Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs P. Bradwell, G.R.J. Bramhill, P. Cornish, R. Mason, S. White, Cllrs R. Allcock and Mrs H. Brand continue as members of the Plant and Compensation Committee.

#### 14:3 Finance Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs J. Coggon, P. Cornish, K. Durdy, Cllrs R. Allcock, D. Rose and Mrs J.M. Sanger continue as members of the Finance Committee.

14:4 Consortium Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board represent the Board on the Consortium Committee with Cllr R. Allcock as substitute.

15. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 16th November 2015 totalled £39,793.23; special levies had been paid in full. Court dates were being arranged to recover outstanding amounts.

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16. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report which showed expenditure at 31st September 2015 of £891,034; 23% favourable to budget.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's financial position be noted.
- (b) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

17. OPERATIONS REPORT

The attached report was circulated for information.

The Vice-Chairman expressed concern about the delay in undertaking weedcutting in the Rivers Idle and Ryton area. It was agreed that he would discuss this with the Engineering Manager after the meeting.

The Engineer reported that the Soil Moisture Deficit was currently dropping by around 1" per week and it was expected that the area would be at flood capacity by Christmas; this meant that any rainfall after then would require pumping.

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18. BYELAW APPLICATION - DODDS DYKE, EASTOFT

Officers reported that application had been made to erect 1.5m high timber hit and miss lattice fencing along the bank top of the Board maintained Dodds Dyke in the parish of Eastoft. This would replace the existing 1.0m high timber post and rail fence and was required to improve safety and to shield the applicant's property from lights from vehicles travelling along the highway.

The watercourse was currently maintained from the roadside where the grass verge was sufficient for a machine. Access through the property gardens for maintenance work was considered unlikely as this section of the bank was supported by gabion baskets. There were no other structures or obstructions within 9m of the drain bank top.

The Engineering Manager reported that the applicant had already commenced work but had been made aware that this was at his own risk.

RESOLVED

That consent be granted for the erection of a 1.5m high timber hit and miss lattice fence along the Board maintained Dodds Dyke at national grid reference SE 80906 18490 in the parish of Eastoft subject to all works being carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Engineer and subject to the agreement of the applicant to remove all or part of the fence should the Board require access to the watercourse in the future.

19. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

19:1 Crowle Pumped Area

(a) Bewcarrs Pumping Station Upgrade (620614)

Detailed design was currently being progressed by the Consortium staff in conjunction with Bedford Pumps Limited.

In response to Mr P. Cornish, the Engineer confirmed that 3m high palisade fencing with a rotating top was proposed for installation around the site to increase security and that planning permission would be required for this. CCTV would also be installed; the cost of this was included in the budget. The Engineering Manager explained how the existing security for the pumping stations was set up and monitored. It was agreed that officers should contact SSE who was responsible for the nearby wind turbine site to discuss the possibility of sharing security systems.

The Engineering Manager confirmed that an inspection of the old cast iron outlet into the Warping Drain would be carried out and it would be reused if suitable.

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(b) North Soke Dyke Bank Raising (620608) and Godnow Pumping Station (620609)

J E Spence and Son Limited had completed the above works which included the bank raising, modifications to Godnow Pumping Station to allow pumping at all times, and a new higher catchment divide structure within the Paupers catchment. The final measurement/claim was awaited.

The Engineering Manager would check the bank height in the area near the railway bridge where the watercourse had overtopped previously.

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19:2 Supply and Installation of Automatic Weedscreen Cleaners at Bewcarrs and Greenholme Pumping Stations

The Engineer reported on the four tenders received. These had been adjudicated as individual installations and as package with another weedscreen cleaner required in the Lindsey Marsh area. The adjudication had compared the capital cost as well as future maintenance costs and the quality of the product. Officers considered that the tenders received from Ovivo UK Limited represented the best value for money and were

pleased to report that a cost saving had been made by purchasing the three weedscreen cleaners together.

The Engineer reported that as previous systems of cables and rollers had proven problematic at other locations in the past, a provision for an enhanced cable management system had also been offered by Ovivo as an optional extra and this option had been approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED

That the decision to award the contracts for the supply and installation of weedscreen cleaners at Bewcarrs and Greenholme Pumping Stations to Ovivo UK Limited in the amount of £169,669 be approved.

19:3 Strategy 2025 Pumping Station Refurbishments (628410)

The Engineer reported that four companies had been invited to tender for the refurbishment of the two KSB submersible pumps at Gringley Pumping Station. Two companies had declined to tender and a full adjudication of the two received had been undertaken by officers and the contract awarded to Shoebridge Engineering in the sum of £9,947.00. Shoebridge Engineering planned to refurbish one pump before Christmas and the other during the Spring.

The station comprised two Allen Gwynnes pumps as well as the two KSB pumps. Only one of the KSB pumps would be removed at any time giving a reduction of 20% in the overall capacity of the station; Officers considered this to be an acceptable risk in the period up to Christmas.

The Engineer reported that investigations at the station had highlighted severe cracking of the external brick work affecting the older section of the traditional masonry built pump house. Due to the severity of the cracking, a structural inspection had been undertaken which confirmed subsidence in the old pump house section. Underpinning of the building would address the problem, however, as the building was no longer required, Officers suggested that the cheapest option may be to demolish the section of the old pump house and repair the wall to the adjoining building. Costs were awaited and would be reported for consideration at a future meeting. The Engineer reassured members that the demolition could be undertaken without disturbing the adjoining building.

In response to Mr S. White, the Engineering Manager confirmed that water could be extracted from the River Idle for irrigation purposes through the submersible pump although this was not a suitable long term solution.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that consideration should be given to offering the old diesel engines for spares rather than for scrap.

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19:4 Carr Dyke Improvement Scheme, Retford

The Engineer reported that concerns about flooding around the Hallcroft Industrial Estate and the general state of maintenance of the Board maintained Carr Dyke had prompted an investigation of the area to be undertaken. Although not yet complete, the investigation had already indicated that improvements to the system were required and proposals were being drawn up for emergency and long term sustainable improvement works.

The Engineer stated that the landowners seemed keen to work with the Board to find a solution to the problem and he would also contact the local authority to enquire whether any partnership funding was available. The Board agreed in principal to take forward a scheme to improve the flood protection in this area.

RESOLVED

That Officers prepare a report on the various options and funding for consideration at the January Board meeting.

20. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

20:1 The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

In 2014, the Board received FDGIA funding to develop an Eel Strategy for implementation of The Eel Regulations 2009 which imposed two new statutory duties on the Board:

- Eel Passes: (Sections 14 to 16) - Required the provision of Eel passage at all IDB pumping stations, the Environment Agency had advised that the Board's pumping stations were critical barriers to eel passage.
- Eel Screens: (Section 17) - Required by 1st January 2015 on all of the Board's pumping stations, unless an exception was granted.

The Eel Strategy was originally developed during the period that DEFRA's and the Environment Agency's priorities for implementing the Eel Regulations were developing. This was before the current pragmatic approach was adopted. The development of the Eel Strategy allowed close examination of the technicalities, difficulties and costs of implementing the Eel Regulations and these had been shared with Environment Agency.

The final Eel Strategy had now been forwarded to the Environment Agency. It detailed the Board's current capital programme and noted that the Board had not allocated a budget for any measures under the Eel Regulations. The Environment Agency was spending 5% on eel related works when delivering Flood Risk Management works and this level of allocation was being built into the Board's future capital programme plans, only to be expended where appropriate and in conjunction with grant aided refurbishment works.

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20:2 Keadby Warping Drain - Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership

As agreed at the last Board meeting, Officers had further investigated the possibility of renting the bank adjacent to Keadby Warping Drain. The Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership had provisionally included this in the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and if successful the £8,000 grant should be available in June 2016. A local grazier had offered between £35 and £40 per acre and had confirmed that the bridle path would not be an issue. The Engineer stated that grazing the land would deter Badgers, control the scrub and create short grassland which would complement the Local Wildlife Site designation and enhance biodiversity. The Engineer reported that the current annual maintenance cost of the land was £1,980 but this would be reduced to £792 if the land was grazed. Less an income of £662 per annum from



grazing this would give a net cost of £127. Fencing of the area would cost £23,438 less £8,000 grant, giving a cost benefit to the Board over ten years of £3,122.

RESOLVED

That the bank adjacent to the Keadby Warping Drain be fenced and let for grazing subject to the receipt of £8,000 grant through the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership.

20:3 Impact of IDB Maintenance Operations on Agri-Environment Schemes

Officers reported that the Agriculture (Cross compliance) Regulations 2009 (as amended) exempt a landowner from deductions in Basic Payment Scheme payments when a failure in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition was due to the actions of a Statutory Undertaker such as an Internal Drainage Board. In a recent case in Lincolnshire, the Rural Payments Agency made a deduction to a landowner's Basic Payment Scheme as green cover was not maintained on the edge of a watercourse. The deduction was however rescinded once the Rural Payments Agency was informed that the work had been undertaken by an IDB.

The following three Countryside Stewardship options included a clause "Do not use the buffer strip as an access route for vehicles or stock":

- SW1 - 4m to 6m buffer strip on cultivated land
- SW2 - 4m to 6m buffer strip on intensive grassland
- SW4 - 12m to 24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land

Officers stated that clarification was being sought to ensure that this did not apply to IDBs accessing the watercourse during annual maintenance activities and that there was no loss of Countryside Stewardship payments. Detailed guidance was being prepared by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and the Lincolnshire Branch was encouraging Boards to issue guidance to landowners. The Board's Officers would continue to liaise with ADA and Natural England and in the meantime would ensure that landowners were aware.

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21. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

21:1 Byelaw Applications

The following Byelaw Consents had been issued under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2015/008 Installation of a 180mm HDPE main by directional drilling underneath the Board maintained North Moor Drain at national grid reference SE 79947 08466 in the parish of Belton.

IOANN/LDC/2015/009 Installation of a 180mm HDPE main by directional drilling underneath the Board maintained Motorway Drain at national grid reference SE 79927 07989 in the parish of Belton.

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21:2 Section 23 Applications

There had been no applications for consent under Section 23 since the last Board meeting.

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21:3 Planning Applications

Observations had been made on one planning application since the last Board meeting in respect of the change of use of farm buildings to three residential properties at West Drayton and Rockley.

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22. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive reported on five incidents across the Consortium since the last Board meeting; fortunately no major injuries were sustained. Operatives were being encouraged to report all incidents including near misses and these were being monitored to identify trends or particular problem areas so that any issues could be dealt with before an accident occurred. The cost of all incidents was also being monitored.

The Chief Executive further reported that Nottinghamshire County Council's Health and Safety Resources Team would be assisting with an audit of the Board's systems and policy arrangements. The audit would commence this year with briefing sessions for front line staff and managers who would be asked to complete the HSE approved climate survey tool. Once the review had been undertaken an action plan would be prepared setting out objectives and the timescale for completion. The cost would be £400 per day and it was estimated that the work would take four days to complete.

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CHAIRMAN