

Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at The Old Willow Works, Beckingham, on Tuesday, 26th November 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

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

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

- * Cllr R. Allcock
- * Mr N. Arrand
- * Cllrs T. Barker
- * J. Briggs
- * Messrs R. Chapman
- * N. Culpin
- * Cllr W. Eckhardt
- * Mr J. Lee
- * Cllr D. Robinson
- * Mr J. Smith
- * Cllr Mrs L. Redfern

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)
- * M.D. Pilkington (Works Supervisor)
- * S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- Miss H. O'Callaghan (Nottinghamshire County Council)

* *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

It was proposed by Cllr R. Allcock and seconded by Mr J. Coggon that Mr M.A. Harris be elected Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED unanimously

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

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr K. Durdy and seconded by Mr R.H. Brown that Mr R. Adam be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

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

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Miss H. O'Callaghan, Messrs P. Cornish and N. Culpin, and Cllrs J. Briggs, W. Eckhardt, D. Robinson.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R. Allcock declared an interest in agenda items 18 and 21.

Mr R. Mason declared an interest in agenda items 15 and 18.

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6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Board meeting held on 24th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING

8:1 Minute 5:1, Page 144 - Data Protection Policy

It was noted that a response had been received from the solicitors and the necessary amendments would be made to the policy to ensure that it applied to members as well as officers.

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Mr A. Barker arrived.

8:2 Minute 13, Page 148 - Crowle Pumped Area

Mr R. Chapman reported that he would be meeting with the Board's Engineer to discuss the Scheme on behalf of North Lincolnshire Council.

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9. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record by Cllr R. Allcock and Mr R. Adam. It was noted that Mr G.R.J. Bramhill had given his apologies for the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr T. Barker and seconded by Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger that the minutes and recommendations be adopted by the Board.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Plant and Compensation Committee held on 5th November 2013 and the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

Minute 5:1, Page 2 - Health and Safety

The Chief Executive reported that the first part of the driver safety training had been completed and practical training would be undertaken shortly. It was noted that only 'low risk' results would be accepted and further training would be given to staff to achieve this if necessary.

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Minute 5:4, Page 2 - Emergency Support Personnel

Considerable discussion had taken place at the Committee meeting regarding payments made to emergency support personnel. Since the meeting a letter had been received from one company stating that it would be prepared to offer staff to assist the Board in the Gringley/Greenholme Bank area during an emergency situation free of charge.

The Director of Operations reported that there were 14 emergency support personnel on the list at the moment, and ten would be required to provide 24 hour cover in an emergency. In response to Mr R. Mason, the Chief Executive reported that the emergency support personnel were used to 'buddy-up' with Board's staff and would not be required to work alone. He further reported that the work undertaken by them was equivalent to Class 2 of the Association of Drainage Authorities Lincolnshire Branch Wages and Salaries and Conditions of Service. Mr S. White suggested that as the emergency support personnel were available to be called in at any time and at short notice, the Board should consider paying over this amount. Mr P. Bradwell enquired whether there were contractors that would be prepared to take on this role. Cllr Mrs L. Redfern stated that if people were prepared to volunteer to take on this role the Board should accept their offer.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs L. Redfern and seconded by Cllr R. Allcock that the role of emergency support personnel should be voluntary. Cllr Mrs H. Brand proposed an amendment that this should be reviewed after the 2013/14 winter period.

Mr R. Mason stated that the Board should write to the existing emergency support personnel to enquire who would be prepared to remain on the list without payment. He emphasised that they could not be expected to assist the Board at the expense of their own businesses.

After a vote it was RESOLVED

- (a) That the role of emergency support personnel be made voluntary and only out of pocket expenses paid.
- (b) That a letter be sent to all existing emergency support personnel informing them of the Board's decision.
- (c) That the matter be reviewed again after the 2013/14 winter.

Minute 6:2, Page 3 - Estimates

In response to Cllr Mrs H. Brand the Director of Finance confirmed that consideration had been given to hiring larger items of plant but this arrangement did not suit the Board's usage pattern and it was cheaper to purchase vehicles in the longer term. He further reported that

some items of plant, such as the weedboat, pumps and, on occasion, excavators, had been hired from other Boards within the Consortium.

Mr R. Mason queried whether it was necessary to replace the tractor with a new machine. The Vice-Chairman stated that the tractor was now 13 years old. Mr R. Mason queried the recent purchase of a second-hand van and enquired when this would need replacing. The Director of Operations stated that this would not need replacing for at least five years. This purchase had been made as employees were using private vehicles to travel to and from sites and as these had been vandalised when left in remote areas, they were now leaving them in safer places which meant time was lost getting to site. There was also a cost saving to the Board in travelling allowances as well as increased productivity. He further stated that there had been considerable down-time with the tractor recently and repairs were becoming costly.

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10. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minute 5:2, Page 2 - Works on Environment Agency Main Rivers

The Chief Executive reported that due to severe revenue budget cuts the Environment Agency (EA) had given notice that they would only be undertaking maintenance on pumping stations and rivers in high priority areas in 2014/15; this work only being possible by using all the IDB precept they received.

Mr J. Coggon confirmed that the EA would not be receiving any money for maintenance in the Board's area. He stated that discussions were ongoing with DEFRA, however, it was expected that only the bare minimum of work would be undertaken on the high risk parts of main rivers. Mr J. Coggon reported that the Board may have to consider picking up more work to ensure that a reasonable standard of protection was achieved.

The Engineer stated that working parties had already been set up at a local level to ascertain exactly what work would be undertaken by the EA and what work would need to be picked up by others and at what cost. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had made it clear that the Board needed this information as soon as possible to ensure provision was made in the estimates. He had also asked for a 3/5 year plan of proposed works. The Board's officers were also discussing with neighbouring internal drainage boards to see how we could work together to take this forward.

Cllr R. Allcock stated that this was much worse than originally anticipated and would have a detrimental effect on all internal drainage boards both sides of the Trent. He stated that the North Soke and South Soke Dyke were important watercourses and it was essential that the whole length of these was properly maintained. Cllr Mrs L. Redfern suggested that the Board should write to Mr A. Percy, M.P. to enlist his support. The Chief Executive suggested that a request should be made to the Chairman of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) to ensure that this matter was included on the agenda for its next meeting in January. The Engineer stated that this was a national issue and the Association of Drainage Authorities was seeking a rational solution for funding etc. and lobbying at Government level to have the balance between EA capital and maintenance spend re-addressed.

Minute 5:3, Page 2 - Consortia Arrangements

The Chief Executive reported that the Association of Drainage Authorities would be writing to all internal drainage boards to confirm what options to run drainage Boards were available and legal and this would include consortium working.

Minute 8, Page 3 - Dates of Meetings

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive had given a presentation to Bassetlaw District Council on 22nd November and this had been well received. The Vice-Chairman was to have a follow up meeting with one of the councillors to explain in more detail the work of the Board. Cllr Mrs H. Brand had also attended the presentation in her capacity as a councillor and stated that this should lead to better communication in the future. The Chief Executive stated that he would be happy to do a similar presentation to North Lincolnshire Council.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5th November 2013 and the recommendations made be adopted by the Board subject to the amendment of the word 'would' to 'may' in the first sentence of minute 7, page 3.
- (b) That the Chief Executive write to Mr A. Percy, M.P. regarding the lack of funding for maintenance of EA assets and that a request be made to the RFCC for this matter to be discussed at its January meeting.

11. MEETING DATES

The Chief Executive confirmed that additional committee meetings would be called as and when necessary.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Board meetings be held at 10.00 a.m. on 28th January, 25th March, 24th June, 23rd September and 25th November 2014.
- (b) That the Plant and Compensation Committee meet at the Epworth office on 4th March 2014 at 10.00 a.m. and on 4th November 2014 at 9.30 a.m.
- (c) That the Finance Committee meet at the Epworth office on 3rd June and 4th November 2014 at 11.00 a.m.
- (d) That the Standards Committee meet at the Epworth office on 3rd June 2014 at 10.00 a.m.
- (e) That Consortium Committee meetings be held at 10.00 a.m. on 10th April and 23rd October 2014.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED That the following members be appointed to Committees:

- (a) Standards Committee - Chairman, Vice-chairman, Mr J. Coggon, Cllrs R. Allcock, J. Briggs and W. Eckhardt (the Chairman would not attend hearings to enable him to hear an appeal if necessary).
- (b) Plant and Compensation Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs G.R.J. Bramhill, P. Cornish, R. Mason, S. White, Cllrs R. Allcock, W. Eckhardt and Mrs H. Brand.
- (c) Finance Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs J. Coggon, P. Cornish, K. Durdy, Cllrs R. Allcock, W. Eckhardt and Mrs J.M. Sanger.
- (d) Consortium Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Cllr R. Allcock to act as substitute.

13. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that 90.20% of drainage rates had been collected as at 12th November 2013 and final instalment payments were due at the end of the month. The special levies had been collected in full.

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14. FINANCE

The Director of Finance reported that the Board currently had balances of £1,437,063.52 invested with four banks/building societies and loans totalling £168,221.30 outstanding with the Public Works Loan Board.

The Director of Finance presented the attached report on income and expenditure to date which showed a net surplus to date of £180,994; this mainly due to delayed capital works and above budget rate collection. However, it was noted that the forecast for the full year was for a net deficit of £442,029 which would be £4,791 adverse to budget. Officers reported in detail on the major overspends to date.

In response to the Vice-Chairman, the Chief Executive confirmed that training would be provided for staff on dealing with Freedom of Information requests in order to reduce the cost of legal advice.

RESOLVED

That the Board's financial position be noted.

15. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Director of Finance presented the attached schedule of payments made since the last Board meeting which totalled £194,376.47. In response to Mr G.R.J. Bramhill, the Director of Finance confirmed that the Consortium recharges would be less 20% VAT and also included legal fees and copying costs etc. He expected to be very close to the forecast of £88,000 for the full year.

RESOLVED

That the payments detailed on the attached schedule be approved.

16. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Works Supervisor presented a report on works undertaken since the last Board meeting and pump run hours. It was noted that summer maintenance work was virtually complete with only 5km outstanding in the Everton area. The work had been completed with an expenditure to date of £125,517 (79% of the total budget).

Desilting of the Whitgift Sluice and Adlingfleet Outfall had been undertaken by the Environment Agency. The Director of Operations agreed to review the cost of mobilising the Board's staff and hiring equipment to jet the sluice.

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17. PROPOSED OWSTON FERRY DEPOT

As instructed by the Board, Officers had been in negotiations with the Environment Agency (EA) with regard to purchasing part of the site at Owston Ferry to construct a depot and office complex to replace the current Derrythorpe depot and rented office suite at Epworth. The Chief Executive reported that the main reasons for relocating the Derrythorpe depot were access issues when entering/leaving the site and the limited size of the site. The proposed new depot and office would be 590m² and would allow all the Board's machinery to be stored under cover. Office accommodation would include a reception and three offices as well as a meeting room large enough for Board meetings. Other benefits of a new depot included co-location with the EA, having the office staff and DLO on one site, and a more centrally located depot.

Officers were pleased to report that the EA had agreed to sell the Board the land required to build the depot/offices at a cost of £15,000. Local agents had estimated a free market cost of suitable land at £40,000 per acre. The Director of Finance presented a schedule of costs for the proposal. He estimated the cost of the new build would be £475,000; this included a contingency, legal fees, land cost and moving expenses and suggested that, should the Board wish to proceed, the cost be funded by the sale of Drain Head House (£65,000), the sale of Derrythorpe Depot (£50,000), a 20 year loan from the Public Works Loan Board at 3.94% interest and the balance of £129,000 being taken from revenue (£5,850 had already been received from the sale of Grange Farm Pumping Station). The loan repayments would be £16,364 (capital and interest) per annum, giving a total repayment over 20 years of £327,280. It was noted that the estimated build cost did not include the installation/use of alternative energy sources and that further investigations would be made regarding the incorporation of wind/solar power generation if the Board agreed to proceed.

It was noted that the annual running cost for the new depot/offices was estimated to be £14,200, considerably lower than the current cost of £23,500 and although the current office rental had not increased for the last three years, it was likely that this would increase in the future.

The Works Supervisor left the meeting.

Mr R. Mason understood that there may be a site available along the A161 corridor which would be more central to the Board's area. Mr A. Barker stated that there were other sites more suitably located than the one at Owston Ferry. Mr R. Mason stated that the cost of the new build was very high for a site with limited space and the Board may require more room in the future.

Cllr Mrs L. Redfern enquired whether the Board's priority was to have a new building or new equipment and enquired what efficiencies there would be from relocating. The Chief

Executive emphasised the efficiencies listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Mr J. Coggon stated that there were also health and safety issues regarding access to and from the site at Derrythorpe as well as limitations with the size of the existing building and the site. Cllr Mrs H. Brand understood the benefits of co-location with the EA but queried whether this was the right move because of the proposed changes within the EA regarding maintenance etc. and whether the Board should be considering a site of its own. Cllr Mrs L. Redfern stated that there was insufficient information available to make a decision at this meeting and that a new depot was not a priority right now.

The Chief Executive suggested that the Board make a decision in principle, stating that he did not want to waste resources pursuing this further if there was no appetite from the Board to relocate the depot and offices.

It was proposed and seconded that further investigations be undertaken into the availability of suitable sites within the Board's area for a new depot/office. A vote was taken and the result was 11 votes for and one against, with five abstentions.

RESOLVED

That further investigations be undertaken into the availability of suitable sites for a new depot/office centrally located within the Board's area for consideration at the January Board meeting.

18. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

18:1 Crowle Pumped Area

The Engineer reported that grant approval had been received and tenders had been sent out to seven contractors for the channel works on the downstream section of Paupers Drain including the pumping station approach improvements. Tenders were due to be returned on 20th December 2013 and work would commence on 1st February 2014.

A meeting had been held with the North Lincolnshire Historical Records Officer to agree the level of archaeological monitoring required and it had been agreed on one visit per week for the duration of the works. The estimated cost of this was £7,000, however, a desk based assessment was also required at a cost of £1,300 and an order had already been placed for this.

Officers reported that plans were being finalised to dam-off the sump at Bewcarrs Pumping Station so that it could be inspected and it would be necessary to demolish the non-operational part of the pump house to allow crane access. Quotations had been sought from three contractors for this work and were due back on 2nd December 2013.

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18:2 Cow Lane Pumping Station and Derrythorpe Pumping Station Electrical Refurbishment

The Engineer reported that installation of the new panel at Derrythorpe was complete and fabrication of the new panel for Cow Lane was underway with installation expected to be on Friday. All works were expected to be within budget.

Cllr Mrs L. Redfern left the meeting.

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18:3 Telemetry System

Officers reported that site installation was continuing as planned with the associated upgrading of components.

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18:4 Pumping Plant and Ancillary Equipment Asset Management Strategy and Forward Capital Programme / Long Term Investment Plan

The Engineer confirmed that the first version of the Long Term Investment Plan had been compiled. This would continue to be refined to take into account financial, legislative, maintenance, environmental and technical changes.

Pump Number 3 at Greenholme Pumping Station had been refurbished and the sump had been inspected by divers as the damage to the pump exhibited signs of objects entering the system. Various debris had been removed and the sump had now been certified clear, therefore, reducing the chance of obstructions and resulting maintenance in the future. The final cost of this work was expected to be in the region of £11,000.

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18:5 Bridge Replacement

The Engineer reported that all works had been completed on the Eastoft Main Parish Drain bridge replacement with an estimated budget saving of £24,816, however, it had recently come to light that a second bridge over the Paupers Drain (Bridge Number 12) owned by the Board required replacing. This bridge was used for access to Common Carrs Pumping Station and the Engineer requested the Board's consent to proceed with the work.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the replacement of Bridge Number 12 over the Paupers Drain and that the work be funded from savings made on the Eastoft Main Parish Drain bridge.

18:6 Medium Term Plan (MTP) Indicative Allocations 2014/15 Onwards

The Engineer presented the attached report detailing applications and indicative allocations for Flood Defence Grant in Aid for 2014/15 onwards. He stated that the amount available for new starts was considerably less than expected. It was noted that provision had been made for preparatory work to be undertaken to ensure that the Board was ready to start the schemes once the grant was available.

RESOLVED

That the phasing of works be approved as detailed on the attached table.

19. RIVER TRENT CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ISLE OF AXHOLME STRATEGY

The Chief Executive reported that the Environment Agency (EA) now had a copy of the signed document and this had been forwarded to the Treasury and DEFRA for funding considerations. The Board had worked with North Lincolnshire Council to achieve a Level 4 on the Strategy. Cllr R. Allcock understood that the Trent and banks would be maintained and that the impact of rises in sea level would be covered too, however, after viewing the EA map showing the high/medium/low risk areas, he feared that the level of maintenance was worse than envisaged. Cllr Allcock emphasised the need for the Board to work closely with the Council to find ways of jointly funding works. The Chief Executive stated that EA revenue funding for 2014/15 had been reduced from £7m to £0.5m for maintenance works in this area.

Mr G.R.J. Bramhill left the meeting.

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20. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive reported that on 13th November 2013 one of the Board's operatives had struck a high voltage overhead power line with the bucket of the Volvo excavator. The incident had occurred at Gringley Pumping Station and fortunately no-one had been injured. The Board's Health and Safety Advisor confirmed that the operative was competent, was aware of the Board's Safe System of Work and had been trained in the use of the Suparule and height limiters, however, this was a reportable incident and the Health and Safety Executive had been informed. The Chief Executive stated that an internal investigation into the incident would be undertaken and any necessary measures would be implemented; a review of Health and Safety and Safe Systems of Work would also be undertaken.

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Cllrs T. Barker and Mrs H. Brand left the meeting.

21. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

21:1 Byelaw Applications

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

IANNB024-2013 - Increased flow of surface water to the Board maintained Stockwith Village Relief Drain Branch from highway gullies on North Carr Road at national grid reference SK 78982 94863 in the parish of West Stockwith.

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21:2 Section 23 Applications

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

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21:3 Planning Applications

Officers had been consulted on six planning applications since the last Board meeting and appropriate observations had been made.

Objection had been made to planning application 01/11/00242 (Erection of 49 dwellings at Retford) as the proposed planting around the development was within eight metres of a Board maintained watercourse. Negotiations were ongoing with the developers to ensure that access for maintenance was preserved. The Vice-Chairman asked to be kept informed of the progress, stating that it was essential to preserve access to maintain the watercourse to ensure adequate protection for the area.

21:4 Keadby Wind Farm Culverts

All the permanent culverts (approximately 50) had now been installed and all but five had been inspected by the Board's officers and were confirmed satisfactory.

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22. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

22:1 Plan for Implementing the Eel Regulations 2009

The Board's Flood Defence Grant in Aid application for £9,000 to prepare a Plan for Implementing the Eel Regulations 2009 had been approved. The Engineer reported that some of the money would be used to undertake 'electro fishing' to supplement the Board's records; this would help prioritise the catchments for eel access improvements. Officers believed that priority works would secure external funding.

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22:2 Environmental Stewardship and Cross Compliance

An article had been published in the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Gazette detailing the information provided to the Board at its last meeting on environmental stewardship. ADA was seeking a meeting with Natural England to further examine this issue.

The Engineer reported that discussions were taking place on the interpretation of the Agriculture (Cross Compliance) (No. 2) Regulations 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2010 which extended the existing exemption to all statutory works and connected activities. It was believed that this covered the Board's works which were undertaken by virtue of the Land Drainage Act 1991. The specification for the strip alongside the watercourse (GAEC 14) was described as "green cover" and Officers were of the opinion the Board's maintenance mowing which deposited mid channel vegetation on the green strip did not conflict with this requirement although confirmation was being sought.

The Engineer understood that Natural England would be developing new guidance to be issued to all inspectors confirming when landowners might be at risk.

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22:3 Humberhead Level Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

One of the NIA projects was to investigate the potential of biomass production and, as part of this research, evaluation of the volume and nutrition status of the vegetation removed by the Board during the annual maintenance cutting had been undertaken. Samples were assessed from rodings on Eastoft Moors Drain, Luddington Main Drain and South Moor Drain.

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22:4 Humberhead Levels Partnership

The Engineer reported that the Partnership's bid for £1,913,300 to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership Scheme called "Humberhead Levels Landscape Partnership Scheme: Isles, Moors and Meadows" had been successful. The total budget for the scheme was £2,663,305, the balance to be met from matched funding.

As a member of the Partnership, there was an opportunity for the Board to secure some of these funds for suitable projects, e.g. environmental enhancements to the Keadby Warping Drain. A project for recording of industrial archaeology (including the drainage history) and all pumping stations within the area had already been approved. The Board's Environmental Officer would submit suitable applications on behalf of the Board and report back on progress.

RECEIVED

22:5 Floating Pennywort

The Engineer reported that Floating Pennywort was probably the most detrimental of the invasive species to flood risk management as it spread rapidly over watercourses and in flood conditions floated downstream in huge quantities causing a danger of blockage in culverts and other structures. Confirmation had been received that Floating Pennywort had been found in a watercourse near Lincoln and the Board's operational staff had been notified and asked to report any occurrences.

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23. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Annual Conference was held on Wednesday 13th November 2013 in London. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive and Engineer had attended on behalf of the Board. One of the main topics for discussion was Partnership Working.

Speakers included Mrs A. McIntosh, MP (Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee), Mr M. Cullen (Policy Advisor: Flooding, Association of British Insurers) who gave a presentation on the Future of UK Flood Insurance, and Mr E. Kraaij (Secretary General of EUWMA and Director of Unie van Waterschappen). Members of the Question Time panel were Messrs L. Baker (Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team at DEFRA), R. Cathcart (Senior Specialist Freshwater and Wetlands, Natural England), P. Fox (Head of FCERM Strategy and Investment, Environment Agency), and Mrs J. Venables (Chief Executive of ADA).

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CHAIRMAN