

WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the ninety first meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 28th April 2015 in Washingborough Village Hall at 2pm.

Present:

Mr. R.A. Fletcher - **Chairman.**
Mr. P. Gilbert - **Vice Chairman.**
Mr. E. Applewhite.
Mr. D.C. Armstrong.
Mr. S. F. Cobb.
Mr. T. Gilbert.
Mr. M.D. Harrison.
Cllr. G. Hewson.
Mr. R. Hickling.
Mr. D. Leggate.
Mr. B.S. Leggate.
Mr. S.B. Leggate.
Mr. I. Mair.
Mr. L. Maplethorpe.
Mr. S. Maplethorpe.
Mr. N. A. Osborne.
Cllr. C.R. Oxby.
Dr. V. Stanton.
Mr. E. H. Tonge.
Cllr. P. Vaughan.
Mr. A.S. Whitehead.

In attendance:

Mrs. Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive.
Mr. Martin Shilling	Director of Operations.
Mr. Garry Winterton	Consents & Enforcements Officer.
Miss Samantha Ireland	GIS and Environment Officer.
Mrs. Anna Wilson	Finance and Rating Assistant.

1901 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. R. Crust, Cllr. R. Cucksey, Mr. R. Hall, Cllr. D. Jackson, Cllr. R. Kendrick, Mr. D.R. Means and Cllr. J.F. Money.

1902 Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council in matters relating to their respective Councils.

1903 Chairman's Announcements.

- The Chairman welcomed members and officers to the meeting, the last to be held in Washingborough Village Hall before the Hall closed to bookings. He introduced Mr. David Leggate, welcoming him to his first meeting of the Board, as co-opted representative for Blankney and Martin Fen.
- The Chairman then briefed the Board on a visit to Lincolnshire from 11 representatives of Somerset Flood Risk Management and Drainage Authorities on 23rd and 24th April (including the EA, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Mendip District Council, Parrett IDB and Axe Brue IDB). The Group of 3 IDBs hosted the visit on Thursday, 23rd April which focussed on different models of partnership working, other than the establishment of a Somerset Rivers Board as a separate legal entity and precepting authority. Examples included:
 - how the 'virtual partnership' works in Lincolnshire as a Flood Risk Management and Drainage partnership (comprising the EA, ADA, LCC as the LLFA, Lincolnshire IDBs, the 7 District Councils, Natural England etc).
 - the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement all 3 Boards have signed and the scope of works undertaken.
 - the Memorandum of Understanding under which the Boards provide the consents and enforcements service for LCC (as the LLFA) in our extended rainfall catchment areas.

The group visited site at Bardney to see a Witham Third DIDB led voluntary partnership scheme, which was jointly funded by Witham Third (£10k), LCC (£10k), West Lindsey District Council (£8k) and Bardney Parish Council (£2k). The recently completed scheme provides at least 11 residential properties with a 5-fold improved level of flood protection, those properties having a previous history of internal flooding.

- Members were advised that, following phase 1 of the pumping station roof covering replacements in mid-January at Nocton Fen, Heighington Fen and Timberland at a cost of £13,250 (excl. VAT), the Board had placed an order on 23rd January for a further two at Digby and Billingham Pumping Stations. This work had started last week and was almost complete.
- Following the Board's meeting on 10th February, the order had been placed at £55,000 (excl. VAT) for the Cavalier Herder Flail to be fitted to the Board's Case Puma IH 170 tractor purchased in October 2014. The Chairman advised that the tractor was shipped out of Immingham the previous evening to Holland for the flail to be factory fitted. It would take approximately six weeks, so it was anticipated that the tractor and flail would be returned for the start of the weed cutting season.
- The Chairman was conscious that some Council nominated members of the Board were subject to local elections on 07th May. He thanked Local Authority nominated members for their service to the Board, wished them well in local elections and stated that he hoped they would be nominated to serve on the Board once again, providing some continuity of input.

1904 Minutes of the Board meeting on 10.02.15.

The minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday, 10th February 2015 were APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

1904.1 Transfer of 18 Bridges & Culverts (minute 1881.5 refers).

It was noted that following completion of the transfer of bridges and culvert assets and liabilities to LCC on 22.01.15, LCC had started a programme of upgrading, notably works on Twelve Foot Bridge at North Kyme.

1904.2 Twenty Foot Drain (minute 1883.1 refers).

It was confirmed that a cheque for £10,748.10 (i.e. £8,939.38 excluding VAT) had been sent on 27.04.15 to Western Power for the line isolation and hire of two generators for five days. It was planned to undertake the track side bank slip repair at Twenty Foot Drain over 2 weeks, commencing Tuesday, 26th May.

1904.3 Five Mile Development (minute 1883.3 refers).

There was no further progress to report on this scheme, following two productive meetings with the new site owners on 21.11.14 and 17.12.14 and completion of some agreed works. There is very little outstanding work, but the main item was high cost involving the satisfactory completion or infill of the lagoon. The Board's Engineer had chased progress twice recently, with no response. It was NOTED that the commutation sum of £12,867 remains with the Board's Solicitor pending the 2007 Agreement terms being fulfilled and the Board agreeing to adopt the system.

1904.4 Motor Vehicles Allowances Policy (minute 1888 refers).

Following approval of the revised motor vehicles allowances policy on 10.02.15, it was confirmed that the 3 Boards were (through Capita's framework) currently running a tender exercise for commercial fleet vehicles. It was also confirmed that the reduced mileage reimbursement rates for Essential Users and Casual Users based at Witham House had been implemented at 45 pence and 65 pence per mile respectively from 01.04.15. The Board's 4 affected Operatives had, as part of the agreed implementation arrangements, been regraded to ADA White Book Craftsman B from 01.04.15.

1905 Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 14.04.15.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 14th April 2015 were proposed as an accurate record by Norman Osborne, seconded by Ron Oxby and were APPROVED by the Board.

MATTERS ARISING:

1905.1 Summer Inspection 2015 (item 10 refers).

Members noted the plan this year to have 2 Summer Inspections between the group of 3 IDBs, as follows:

- A joint inspection between the Board, Witham Third District and Upper Witham IDBs, hosted by the 3 Chairmen, showcasing recent works and improvement schemes in the 3 districts.

- A summer inspection, again between the 3 Boards, outside the 3 Districts (potentially visiting Yorkshire).

1906 Indicative 31.03.15 Financial Outturn Report for 2014/15.

A report by the Finance Manager had been circulated with the agenda which provided the indicative 31st March 2015 outturn position, prior to completion of the 2014/15 Annual Accounts. The final (unaudited) accounts and IDB1 Return would come to the Board's 16.06.15 meeting, after internal audit and prior to submission to Grant Thornton, External Auditors.

The report indicated that the bulk of work was now complete to close the 2014/15 accounts. A small number of invoices relating to the period to 31.03.15 were outstanding and Highland Water claims from the EA plus Joint Administration charges between the 3 Boards had yet to be finalised. Information from the Pension Fund Actuary was due to be received in early May, enabling the FRS17 pension calculations to be completed.

However, based on the work to date and including provisions for the matters outstanding, it was anticipated that the 31.03.15 outturn would be a small deficit of circa £9k. The Chief Executive suggested this was a healthy position, particularly given the cost pressures absorbed in 2014/15 over and above the Estimates approved in February 2014 for the year, for example:

- 50% of the total cost of the Nocton/Potterhanworth catchment study at £8.4k (the remaining 50% being funded by partner contribution), not within original budget.
- Pumping station roof covering replacement costs of £13.2k at Nocton Fen, Heighington and Timberland (not in original budget).
- Containment within budget of a £38k historical, prior year Balance Sheet adjustment, as agreed by the Board.

Other factors, positive and negative, which had impacted upon the likely outturn position included:

- Rechargeable works, including PSCA works for the EA, of £21k.
- 30% of joint administration costs across the 3 IDBs, including the reduced cost to the Board part-year for the Engineer but the increased cost part-year for a share of the Assistant Engineer.
- Completion of Twenty Foot Drain Phase 1 bank slip reinstatement at £17k from Projects Reserve (leaving £22k for the Phase 2, track side reinstatement to be done in May 2015).
- Pump lifts totalling £15k (Blankney £7.3k, North Kyme no.1 £4.3k, North Kyme no.2 £3.7k).
- 'Surplus' income of £3k on sales of plant and machinery.
- Reduced electricity costs expenditure, with expenditure of £53k against a budget of £70k.

A position statement on Drainage Rates outstanding as at 31st March 2015 was provided at £2,118.17 owed to the Board.

Bank Balances as at 31st March 2015, were as follows:

Natwest	£106,941.56
Nationwide Instant Access	£ 75,057.53
Co op (now transferred to Natwest)	£ 4,659.44
Total	£186,658.53

Interest has been achieved of £57.53 from February 2015 to March 2015 from the Nationwide Account. The payment of £351k had been made to LCC on 22.01.15 in respect of the Bridges & Culverts transfer, hence the significant reduction in bank balances.

Members received and NOTED the indicative financial outturn position of a deficit of circa £9k as at 31st March 2015, the end of year drainage rates income position and the bank balances as at 31.03.15.

1907 Statement of Expenditure, 01.01.15 to 31.03.15.

The Statement of Expenditure incurred for the 3 months to 31st March 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

Members noted that the query raised at the Executive Committee meeting regarding VAT payable on Worldpay Ltd charges (items 67 to 72 of the expenditure schedule) had been explained, in that not all elements of the charges are subject to VAT.

Expenditure items of note included:

- £2,130.00 (excl. VAT), ADA Subscription 2015.
- £14,665.10 (excl. VAT), EDF Energy, Electricity at pumping stations 01.12.14 to 28.02.15.
- £7,079.20 and £2,639.58 (excl. VAT) to Jeremy Benn Associates Ltd. for the Board's 50% share of the cost of the Nocton & Potterhanworth Catchment Study.
- £4,288.00 (excl. VAT) Shoebridge Engineering Ltd. for pump lift and repairs at North Kyme pumping station.
- £13,250 (excl. VAT), Wrights & Holbeach Asphalt Ltd. for replacement roof coverings at Heighington, Nocton Fen and Timberland pumping stations.

Members NOTED that expenditure totalled £191,618.94 or £168,715.71 net of £22,516.74 VAT and of this, £11,871.40 was rechargeable expenditure.

1908 Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented, the following being highlighted:

- Closure of 2014/15 Accounts and start of 2015/16 – this was progressing ahead of timetable. The DRS ratings system had been reconciled to the SAGE ledger system on 02.04.15, leaflets and Notice of Entry Letters had been printed and despatched with drainage rates invoices for 2015/16 on 08.04.15. The Internal Auditor would visit to review the 2014/15 closure process and unapproved Statement of Accounts on 19th & 20th May, to finalise his audit opinion on 2014/15 ahead of the Board meeting on 16.06.15.
- Telephones – The November 2014 switch of network provider to O² for mobile phones had not worked well within the district. Accordingly, on 17.04.15, a further change had been made to EE as the network provider. On tests, there was no one network provider that gave satisfactory coverage throughout the drainage district, but EE appeared to give best available cover at most locations within the district.
- Motor Vehicles Allowances Policy – it was reported that the 4 Operatives affected had now been regraded to ADA White Book, Craftsman B grade w.e.f. 01st April 2015 (as agreed on 10.02.15). The tenders for commercial lease vehicles were due to be returned shortly via Capita.
- Pay Award 2015/16 – Members were reminded that up to a 2% pay award was in effect included in the 2015/16 Estimates (a 1% assumed pay uplift and a further 1% pay contingency). There was, as yet, no agreed pay settlement for 2015/16, Management side of the ADA Branch Pay Committee having rejected in December a 3% Staff side pay claim and offered 1% in line with the national cap on Public Bodies' pay announced by the Chancellor in March 2014. This 1% offer had been subject to a ballot and was recently rejected by staff side. Discussion was therefore on-going to reach a pay settlement.

Norman Osborne advised, as the 3 Boards' representative on the ADA Pay Committee, that he was suggesting a meeting between both sides to seek to resolve this.

Members NOTED the report and AGREED that wage/salary scales should remain on the ADA

Lincolnshire White Book 2014/15 scales, pending resolution of an agreed pay deal for 2015/16, but that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to implement the 2015/16 uplift, and backdate it to 01st April 2015 as and when recommended by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch, providing this uplift is in the range 1% to 2% as included in budgets.

1909 Director of Operations' Report.

The Director of Operations report for the 3 months to 30th April 2015 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented, together with an update. Highlights included:

- Planned Winter Maintenance programme 2014/15.

The winter de-silting programme had continued throughout the period and was now substantially complete. Work to clear numerous access culverts was also completed, together with removal of a number of trees and bushes (this vegetation providing an obstruction to flow and to machines/flails). A schedule of winter de-silting works was shown:

Watercourse	Length m	Length miles	Length completed	% completed
Odds Dyke	645m	0.4 miles	0.4 miles	100%
Timberland Town Dyke	4849m	4.0 miles	3.0 miles	90%
Boathouse Drain	4400m	2.7 miles	2.7 miles	100%
Cross Drain	1210m	0.8 miles	0.8 miles	100%
Causeway Drain	730m	0.5 miles	0.5 miles	100%
East Cross Drain	580m	0.4 miles	0.4 miles	100%
Dorrington Bankside Drain	1300m	0.8 miles	0.8 miles	100%
West Cross Drain	650m	0.4 miles	0.4 miles	100%
Ruskington Middle Drain	1150m	0.7 miles	0.7 miles	100%
Ruskington Roadside North	1100m	0.7 miles	0.7 miles	100%
Dorrington Middle/Elkingtons Drain	1370m	0.9 miles	0.9 miles	100%
Totals	17975m	12.3 miles	11.3 miles	97%

In addition, a short length of riparian drain had been completed which connects Dorrington Middle Drain and Dorrington Roadside North. This work had the agreement of the occupier of the adjacent field.

- Pumping Stations.

Pump no.1 at North Kyme Booster Station had been lifted and repaired at a cost of £4.3k. This had not been one of the planned pump lifts this year but the upper thrust bearing failed and had to be replaced in February 2015. As the bearing to pump no.2. was of similar age and done similar hours, this had now been removed and renewed at £3.7k. These works were therefore additional, but necessary, pump lifts.

Also on pumps, number 1 pump at Heighington had been lifted as part of the periodic programme of inspection and repair. It had last been inspected in 2000. Although the impellor showed little sign of wear and tear, other elements of the pump needed to be renewed. Various shaft sleeves and bearings were significantly worn and new parts had to be cast and re-engineered. The pipework delivering grease to the bottom bearing was completely eroded, meaning some parts received little or no lubrication.

Members noted and supported the lifting and inspection of pump no.2 at Heighington, as soon pump no.1 is re-commissioned, given the nature of the defects found on pump no.1. The repairs on pump no.2 will be part of the 2015/16 pump programme.

An update was given on the second phase of Pumping Station roof covering replacements at Billinghay and Digby, the works having just been completed.

- Plant and Machinery.

Following confirmation of an order with Mastenbroek Ltd of Boston for the supply of the Herder Cavalier HBK 418 tractor mounted flail to be fitted to the Board's Case Puma 170 tractor, at a cost of £55k plus fitting adoption costs, the tractor was indeed shipped out of Immingham to the Herder factory in Middleburg last evening. It is anticipated this will take 6-8 weeks.

An offer of £1.9k had been accepted for the Board's Bomford T81-81 flail (2009), which had been sold 'as seen'.

Members received and NOTED the Director of Operations' Report and presentation.

1910 Schedule of Planning Applications, 22.01.15 to 09.04.15.

The Engineer's schedule of planning applications considered in the period 22nd January to 09th April 2015, including a summary of comments submitted to the Local Planning Authority concerned, had been circulated with the agenda.

In relation to North Kesteven District Council applications, no objections were raised to the following applications:

Location	Applicant	Details
• 6 Kesteven Street, Sleaford	Mr D Bell	Change from flat roof to pitched roof
• Land off Deepdale Drive, Leasingham	Mrs K Lawler	Formation of access and erection of stable
• Land to East of Scopwick Railway Level.	Network Rail	Erection of stables
• Chelworth, The Lane, Bloxholm	Mr & Mrs Brown	Domestic biomass boiler
• The Gleanings, South Drove Farm, Martin South Drove	Mr & Mrs S Woodiwiss	Conversion of two garages into additional living accommodation

Also on North Kesteven District Council applications, comments were submitted on the following:

Location	Applicant	Details
• The Drove, Sleaford West Sustainable Urban Extension.	The Drove Landowners Partnership	Request for scoping opinion in respect of mixed use urban extension of up to 1600 dwellings.
<p>Holdingham Beck to the north is known to overtop and flood properties. The area to the south will be served by a watercourse, the 'Soke Drain', that also overtops and has a restricted outfall into the River Slea. The central area that uses the 'Catchwater Drain' that may run into the Board maintained Sleaford Drove Dyke which is not free flowing at all times either. There are potential problems with the land drainage system in this area.</p>		

• Land to the East of Mill Lane, Billinghamay.	A T & P Key & Son	Revised proposals for the erection of 65 dwellings and infrastructure works.
<p><i>There are statements in the FRA that are not correct. Run-off from this area drains to a riparian gravity system that outfalls into the Board maintained Ringmoor Catchwater which in turn discharges into the Billinghamay Skirth which is EA main river. Ringmoor PS serves a small arable area and there is no hydraulic connection between the watercourses serving this site and the Board's maintained system. Riparian owners have advised the Board of drainage problems in this area caused by uncontrolled flows into the riparian gravity system where the standard of maintenance varies between satisfactory and very poor (where the channel is blocked by large trees and bushes). The standard of maintenance of both Board and EA watercourses is irrelevant as the site is well above water levels maintained by these systems. The issue is the state and capacity of the receiving riparian watercourse and its ongoing maintenance. Attenuated flows should alleviate some of the downstream riparian owners' concerns.</i></p>		

In relation to City of Lincoln applications, comments were submitted on the following:

Location	Applicant	Applicant
• The Old Pumping Station, Great Northern Terrace, Lincoln.	Cityscape Maps Ltd	Extension to and conversion of storage building to form office accommodation.
<p><i>The soakaway(s) proposed for the drainage of roof run-off should be designed in accordance with sections 3.26 to 3.29 of part H of the Building Regulations.</i></p>		

Members NOTED the report on planning applications and comments submitted.

1911 Consents and Enforcements.

A report on consents and enforcement cases within the Board's drainage district and in the extended catchment, where the Board acts for LCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority, had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Garry Winterton, Consents & Enforcements Officer, was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation which summarised some of the recent enforcement cases in which he was involved.

Following discussion, the Chairman thanked Garry for his presentation and his resolution of some complex cases.

1912 Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

The Chief Executive and Director of Operations had met with EA representatives on 13.02.15 to discuss the EA's maintenance budget for 2015/16 and what PSCA works the EA wished to commission. The Director of Operations had subsequently provided quotations to complete various work, mainly channel maintenance work, on the following watercourses:

Watercourse	Work Type	Estimate Cost
Anwick Catchwater	Grass cutting and weed control by machine	£8,392
Farroway Drain	Grass cutting and weed control by machine	£18,428
Ruskington Catchwater	Grass cutting and weed control by machine	£4,180
Sandhill Beck	Grass cutting and weed control by machine	£6,556
Digby Beck	Grass cutting and weed control by machine and by bi-monthly obstruction runs	£11,474
	Estimate Total	£49,030

The majority of works would be undertaken by the Board's workforce, using the Board's Plant and Operatives. The cutting of embankment crests would be sub-contracted to either Witham Third DIB or Upper Witham IDB, who both have more suitable plant to do this. Handwork would be sub-contracted to S. Allen of Fenton (near Newark), who have undertaken handwork on behalf of Upper Witham IDB for many years.

It was confirmed that weed control work would be programmed to coincide with the Board's work or it would be undertaken towards the end of season in October or November. The obstruction runs on Digby Beck would be completed by the Board's workforce in April, June, November and January (with July and September inspections undertaken by S. Allen).

Members NOTED the PSCA works for 2015/16 which would be accommodated in addition to, but not at the expense of, the Board's work. It was acknowledged that it would be good to see EA main river systems being maintained.

1913 Request to adopt a watercourse downstream of a proposed housing development off Grantham Road, Sleaford.

The Board's Engineer had summarised a request he had received from the Millward Partnership, on behalf of the developer Larkfleet Homes, for the Board to consider adoption of a watercourse downstream of a proposed housing development south of Grantham Road in Sleaford.

A proposal for 200+ houses was at the pre-application stage with North Kesteven District Council, the site being on the south-east quadrant of the roundabout intersecting the A15 and the B1517, Grantham Road. The Engineer had attended a Multi-Agency Group (MAG) meeting, the main role of the Board in this forum being to advise on drainage from the development site to a maintained watercourse and the impact on the Board's drainage district.

Initial discussion was for the discharge rate to be restricted to existing greenfield, but it would mean that additional water will be brought into the district albeit at rural rates. This would be a modest amount of additional water, given the site area is circa 7.8 hectares (19.3 acres).

The developer wishes the Board to adopt 820 metres of watercourse within the district, which outfalls to the EA maintained Nine Foot River. A further 400 metres of new ditch, outside the district but immediately upstream of this 820 metres stretch, would be required. This would be formed through land also owned by Larkfleet Homes and intended for similar housing development in future. If the Board did not adopt this 400 metres additional stretch it would either become the responsibility of a large number of householders or a management company.

The options for the Board to consider were outlined as:

- retain the status quo and adopt neither the 820m stretch within the district nor the 400m stretch upstream.
- adopt only the 820m length of watercourse within the district (subject to a number of caveats).
- adopt the 820m length of watercourse within the district and a further 400m immediately outside the drainage district (the rationale being to ensure control of a watercourse as essential for the maintenance of a designated standard of flood protection impacting upon the district). This would mean adoption from the edge of the development site to confluence with the Nine Foot River.

Both the Board's Engineer and Director of Operations had visited the site, walked the watercourse and taken photographs. Some of the photographs were shown to members and the Director of Operations highlighted a number of issues which would need to be discussed and resolved, prior to the Board agreeing adoption of either the 820m or the proposed new 400m of watercourse or both:

- machine access – there is currently no obvious access route for a machine large enough to clear the full width of the channel. Also, from Drove Lane, the bridge L139 (crossing the River Slea from Drove Lane) appears not to have sufficient load carrying capacity for the Board's tracked or wheeled machines.
- existing channel condition – a full topographical survey from the access bridge at the outfall of the Fen Drain upstream to the site of the proposed attenuation lagoon is required (to confirm gradients, invert levels, falls etc). At present, the channel is not in good condition due to soil type (mix of sand/peat/silt) and ground water ingress (numerous springs within the channel bed and water seeping in through the channel batter causing slips and failures). The existing top width varies between 10-20 metres, depending on the extent of batter failures.
- existing structures – the Board would not wish to take on responsibility for any of the existing structures, e.g. the blue brick railway type access structures or the culverts.
- bushing works – significant bushing and tree works would be required towards the downstream end of Fen Drain, before its outfall into the Nine Foot River. Access here is only via the south (right) side along this reach, and even here the grass strip is obstructed by mature trees.
- commuted sum – this would need to be calculated and agreed.

There followed discussion about the merits or not in the Board considering adoption of the watercourse at all and if so, whether the full length should be adopted or just the 800 metres within the district. It was acknowledged that all the issues outlined would need to be resolved with the developer, prior to the Board adopting the system. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had both expressed reservations about the condition of the channel and the amount of work required to bring it to a satisfactory standard to enable future maintenance. Richard Hickling suggested that officers should explore these issues, bringing a recommendation to the Board in due course.

It was AGREED that these issues would be explored with the developer and further information and recommendations would come to the Board in due course.

1914 Presentation on the results of the Nocton Fen & Potterhanworth Catchwater Study.

The Director of Operations and GIS and Environment Officer gave a presentation on the results of the recent Nocton Fen and Potterhanworth Catchment Study, completed as a joint project for the Board and Beeswax Farms (Rainbow) Ltd by Jeremy Benn Associates at a total cost of £16,739.99 (excl. VAT).

It was explained that it was extremely helpful for future planning, FDGiA grant applications and for maintenance regimes to understand how the catchment would fare under various rainfall modelling scenarios. Ideally, over time it would be helpful to have similar information for each catchment.

Different scenarios were then explained, e.g. the Fen would have water on it in 4 places in a 1 in 10 years event. This was set against a usual land drainage design standard of protection planned for of 1 in 10 plus freeboard. The system is therefore marginally below that ideal standard. In Nocton Fen, the standard of protection is to a 1 in 7 or 1 in 8 event, that is the negative aspect of the modelling results. The positive aspect is that the model does indicate the Board and Beeswax could plan to set back Middle Drain at Nocton Fen to Middle Fen Drain.

It was AGREED that the Director of Operations would pursue discussion of options with Beeswax Farms (Rainbow) Ltd about the future of Middle Drain at Nocton, e.g. to enable the planned slip of the field side batter of the bank to a level where the drain is providing land drainage capacity only, providing there is no wish from the landowner to maintain capacity for water storage for irrigation.

1915 Presentation of "The Wonderful Witham" Film.

The Board watched a short film, "The Wonderful Witham", produced by Lincolnshire Rivers Trust. The intent of the film was to highlight publically the challenges facing the River Witham along its length, from source to outfall at the Haven into the Wash, and for partners to collectively address these.

The examples of the challenges included:

- Water quality.
- Invasive species (e.g. American Signal Crayfish) threat to native species.
- The level of silt (reducing water depth).
- Reduced fish stock and reasons for this.
- Aquatic weed growth and restrictions on chemical spraying.

1916 Environmental Issues.

Samantha Ireland, GIS and Environment Officer, gave a presentation which covered:

- An Environmental awareness seminar was held on Wednesday, 25th March at Doddington Hall, predominately for members of all 3 Boards. The Chairman of ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee attended the session (Peter Lundgren).
- Presentations had been given by Samantha Ireland, Martin Shilling, Barney Parker (Ashfield Farmed Environment Services), Amy Bouic (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership), Fiona McKenna (Lincolnshire Rivers Trust) and David Hutchinson (Environment Agency).
- The key areas identified for further improvements were:
 - Improving reporting of environmental work.
 - Identifying key areas for projects, for example:
 - Wildflower meadow planting with schools at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham (UW).
 - Identifying locations to trial maintenance regimes for example cutting alternate sides on alternate years (all 3 Boards).
 - Looking for opportunities to work with landowners on joint initiatives (all 3 Boards).
 - Better promoting environmental projects and initiatives.
 - Understanding the financial and operational implications of Eel Passability studies.
- At the end of the seminar, ADA's Branch Chairman and Environment Committee Chairman (and Secretary) met with the Chief Executive who agreed that the 3 Boards would act as a 'test bed' for taking forward best practice initiatives which the Environment Committee wishes to promote. This would be on the understanding that the 3 Boards' prime responsibility is drainage and flood protection and that the projects identified must not compromise this. To this end, an initial meeting between Peter Lundgren, Chairman of ADA's Environment Committee, Nicholas Watts the Vice Chairman and representatives of our 3 Boards is being convened.
- The three key areas of interest from the Environment Committee for joint work with the 3 Boards were stated as:
 - the flailing of bankside vegetation.
 - flailing of marginal vegetation.
 - the management of summer and winter water levels.

Finally, the work of ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee was outlined, Samantha being the Secretary to the Committee.

An invitation was extended to members to attend future meetings, which were detailed as:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>
• 17 th June 2015	South Holland Internal Drainage Board
• 9 th September 2015	Banovallum House, Horncastle, Lincs (followed by a pub meal + some bat detection in Boston).
• 9 th December 2015	t.b.c., Lincoln.
• 9 th March 2016	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

Members received and noted the presentation.

1917 Any Other Business.

There were no further items of business.

1918 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 16th June at 2pm in Branston Booths Village Hall, North Causeway, Branston Booths, Lincolnshire, LN4 1JF.

..... ChairmanDate
W1st BM 28.04.15.