

WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the eighty eighth meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 12th August 2014 at Washingborough Village Hall.

Present:

Mr. R.A. Fletcher– Chairman.
Mr. P Gilbert – Vice Chairman.
Mr. E. Applewhite.
Mr. S.F. Cobb.
Cllr. R. Cucksey.
Mr. T. Gilbert.
Mr. R. Hall.
Mr. M.D. Harrison,
Cllr. G. Hewson.
Mr. R. Hickling
Cllr. D. Jackson.
Mr. B.S. Leggate.
Mr. L. Maplethorpe.
Cllr. J.F. Money.
Mr. N.A. Osborne.
Cllr. C.R. Oxby.
Dr. V. Stanton.
Cllr. P. Vaughan.

In attendance:

Mrs. Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive.
Mr. Martin Shilling	Director of Operations.
Mrs. Anna Wilson	Finance and Rating Officer.

1942 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Armstrong, Mr. J.R. Crust, Cllr. R. Kendrick, Mr. S.B. Leggate, Mr. J. Mair, Mr. N. Maplethorpe, Mr. S. Maplethorpe, Mr. D.R. Means, Mr. E.H. Tonge and Mr. A.S. Whitehead.

1943 Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln and East Lindsey District Councils in matters relating to their respective Councils. Mr. R. Hall declared a personal interest in item 1951 regarding Nocton Fen Middle Drain, as Director of Farms for Beeswax Farming.

1944 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

1944.1 **Environmental Newsletter & Information Sheet.**

The Chairman drew attention to the first Environmental Newsletter for the 3 IDBs, which had been circulated for information with the agenda. This had been developed by the 3

Boards' GIS Officer (Samantha Ireland) and Environment Intern (Louisa Hoyes). It captured some of the initiatives in which the Boards were involved, eg. Biodiversity action plans and staff training, species reporting, the results of this year's owl and kestrel boxes survey, a project to create kingfisher nesting habitat and a summary of the study trip to the Netherlands & Germany in May 2014.

A summary information sheet had also been circulated for members' information. Its prime purpose was to provide feedback to all 3 Boards' Operatives on good environmental practice initiatives in each Board's area and on the results of the species reporting sheets which they complete. An example was the 10-15m sections of reed beds every 300-400m along the drain bank which (on wider watercourses) had been retained during weed cutting. These were long enough to provide environmental gains, without impacting adversely on watercourse capacity. The reed margins would be used by wildfowl for shelter and act as a retreat for water voles.

1944.2 Members' Contact Details.

The Chairman asked members to check and update their contact details, particularly email addresses.

He also asked members to indicate whether they would prefer to receive their future Board agenda and papers in hard copy by post, as now, or by email (potentially as a 'Bookmarked PDF' agenda and enclosures). The latter would require members to download the agenda and all papers prior to the Board meeting, as there is no Wi-Fi access in the village hall.

It was stressed that hard copy would be retained for all members who preferred this, but some members had indicated that they would prefer to use laptops/tablets at Board meetings.

Richard Hickling and Norman Osborne asked that thanks be conveyed to Samantha Ireland and Louisa Hoyes for their work on the Environmental Newsletter and Information Sheet.

1945 Minutes of the Board meeting, 24.06.14.

The minutes of the Board's meeting held on Tuesday, 24th June 2014 were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr. Gary Hewson and seconded by Cllr. Pat Vaughan. The minutes were APPROVED.

Matters Arising:

1945.1 Summer Inspection 2014 (minute 1918.4 refers).

Cllr. Pat Vaughan thanked the Chairman, on behalf of members, for hosting an informative and enjoyable Summer Inspection on 27th June to Middle Level Commissioners' St. Germans Pumping Station. Thanks had been conveyed, on behalf of the Board, to David Thomas, Chief Engineer for Middle Level Commissioners.

1945.2. Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (minute 1919.1 refers).

Further to discussion at the last meeting confirming that the EA had requested the Board to undertake two weed cuts on Anwick Catchwater, the first of which had now been completed, it was confirmed that the EA was requesting further work. The Chief Executive and Director of Operations had met EA colleagues on 25.07.14 and been advised that the EA had an additional £1.5 million for its 2014/15 Lincolnshire maintenance budget (on its 2013/14 budget), making a total of £6 million this year. Accordingly, a list of potential PSCA works had been tabled at the meeting and

there had been subsequent discussion and site visits. The potential PSCA works for the Board were:

- Anwick Catchwater (a second November W2A weed cut, following the first in July).
- Ruskington Catchwater (chemical control and M1 cut).
- Sandhill Beck (2 W2A cuts, machine).
- Farroway Drain (1 W5 cut, machine).

Discussion followed on the onerous nature of works on Ruskington Catchwater, which some members were aware would be problematic to access for either hand work or for a tractor mounted flail. It was felt that both banks, which are covered with mature hedgerow and ash trees, would benefit from a winter programme of tree and bush removal to enable maintenance access next season. The Chairman and Norman Osborne, having recently visited the site, advised that the Board should decline this particular PSCA work for the 2014 weed cutting season for these reasons and this was AGREED.

It was NOTED that the other works were being assessed and estimates would be provided to the EA by Friday, 15th August. An update would be provided to the next Board meeting.

1945.3 Transfer of 18 Bridges & Culverts to Lincolnshire County Council (minute 1919.2 refers).

It had been reported at the last meeting that following a meeting on 25.02.14, a revised approach to the proposed bridges and culverts transfer to LCC had been agreed which was no longer based on prior proof of title by the Board.

The Chief Executive advised that unfortunately Version 5 of the transfer agreement had been sent by Legal Services Lincolnshire (acting for LCC) to the Board's Solicitor (Gary Phillips at Sills & Betteridge) and this represented a retrograde step, introducing once again the requirement of proof of title by the Board. The matter would be progressed with a change of solicitor at Legal Services Lincolnshire and Eleanor Hoggart there had confirmed she would take a personal interest in the case in the next couple of months.

In summary, the position had not progressed satisfactorily, albeit the Board held the £350,980.92 transfer sum in anticipation of reaching agreement.

Norman Osborne suggested that the matter be pursued for a couple of months, as planned, but thereafter consideration should be given to escalating the issue. It was AGREED that progress should be assessed at the next meeting.

1945.4 Staffing and Joint Administration Agreement (minute 1921.1 refers).

The Chief Executive confirmed that all three IDBs had now agreed the recommendations from their Joint Administration Committee meeting of 28.04.14 and therefore the following actions:

- the joint administration agreement funding contributions from 01.04.15 would change to UW 40% (as now), W3rd 35% (from 30%) and W1st 25% (from 30%).
- all roles, excluding Works Supervisor, Foremen and Land Drainage Operatives would be shared between the 3 Boards.
- the role of Director of Operations, shared on an interim basis until 31.07.14, was substantively a shared post between the 3 Boards from 01.08.14.
- having agreed in principle to move to shared Engineer and Assistant Engineer roles, that the Chief Executive would progress organisational arrangements.

1945.5 IDB Annual Return (minute 1926 refers).

It was confirmed that following approval at the June Board meeting, the IDB Annual Return had been received by Grant Thornton, External Auditors, by Friday, 27th June. The Notice of Closure had not yet been received from Grant Thornton. Two queries had been raised, neither of which risked any qualification of the Accounts for 2013/14, and these would be detailed later in the meeting.

1945.6 Planned Maintenance Programme (minute 1929.1 refers).

Members were advised that Towergate, the Board's insurance broker, had asked for a future Planned Preventive Maintenance (PPM) programme for the Board's submersible pumps, wherever these were over 10 years old. This will be provided as soon as practicable but, in the interim, the Board's insurers had applied exclusion for catastrophic failure/damage on pumps over 10 years old because of IDBs' claims history during the December 2013 east coast tidal surge and floods.

1945.7 Request from Digby Parish Council that the Board adopts and maintains Greendykes, Digby (minute 1932 refers).

It was confirmed that following the Board's decision on 24.06.14 not to adopt and maintain Greendykes in Digby, following a request from Digby Parish Council, the Chief Executive had written to the Chairman of the Parish Council on 01.07.14 to advise him of the Board's decision and the rationale for this.

1946 Minutes of the Board's Executive Committee meeting on 29.07.14.

The minutes of the Board's Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 29th July were APPROVED as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

1946.1 IDB Annual Return 2013/14 – Restatement of Section 1, Accounting Statements (minute 6 refers).

The Executive Committee had been asked to consider a revised Section 1 of the IDB Annual Return for 2013/14, when it met on 29th July 2014. Grant Thornton had raised two issues with officers, and whilst these did not risk qualification of the Accounts, it had been agreed with them that some boxes in both the 2013/14 and the 2012/13 IDB Return should be restated. These adjustments related to:

- the treatment of £19 for bank charges which were accrued through the cash book, rather than through creditors. This required an adjustment to Box 8 and Executive Committee members had AGREED this adjustment.
- the External Auditor had now stated that the £354,480 PWLB loan taken out in December 2012 should have been included in the 2012/13 Annual Return as 'income' (in Box 3) and the balance of the loan outstanding as 'balances and reserves' (in Box 7). This was not picked up internally, by the Internal Auditor or indeed by Grant Thornton last year. However, the External Auditor had asked that this change be now restated through the accounts, with a revision to the appropriate boxes. Executive Committee had AGREED the following restatements on 29.07.14 (following which on 29.07.14 a revised Section 1 of the Annual Return had been signed by the Chairman and submitted to Grant Thornton):

2012/13

<u>Box</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Original figure</u>	<u>Revised figure</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Reason</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
3	Other Income	67,597	422,077	354,480	To reflect the PWLB as income when it was taken out in December 2012.
7	Balances c/f	293,581	648,061	354,480	To reflect total balances including PWLB loan.

2013/14

<u>Box</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Original figure</u>	<u>Revised figure</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Reason</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
1	Balance b/f	293,581	648,061	354,480	To reflect total balances including PWLB loan.
5	Loan Repayments	10,656	35,103	24,447	To include principal repayments as well as interest.
7	Balances	312,659	642,692	330,033	To reflect total balances including outstanding PWLB loan.
8	Cash and short term investments	613,213	613,232	19	Bank charges accrued

Members AGREED to ratify the decision of the Board's Executive Committee, noting the notice of closure of the 2013/14 accounts had not yet been received from Grant Thornton, External Auditors.

1946.2 **Balance Sheet Adjustment Report (minute 7 refers).**

Discussion at the Executive Committee meeting on 29.07.14 regarding a tabled Balance Sheet Adjustment Report was highlighted to members. The issue in question was identified during the closure of 2013/14 accounts, regarding £37,797.83 in the Balance Sheet under the heading of 'Rechargeable Accounts'.

On investigation, this amount dated back to 2010/11, when on 31.03.11 a provision of £37,797.83 was made for the Board's recharge to Witham Third DIDB for that Board's 50% share of the costs of the role of Director of Operations. This debited the Balance Sheet 'rechargeable accounts' and correctly credited the Income & Expenditure Account. This meant that the Board showed a 2010/11 closing balance of [£111,197] surplus, which included £90,000 for sale of a building.

On 06.07.11 an invoice was correctly raised to Witham Third DIDB. It was incorrectly allocated to sundry income in the Income & Expenditure account, not against the provision held in the Balance Sheet. This had the effect of crediting Income & Expenditure with the same income with which it had been credited in 2010/11, leaving the debit provision on the Balance Sheet.

With this transaction included in 2011/12, it generated a 31.03.12 year end surplus of [£9,381] when, without this, the position would have been a deficit of £28,416. The surplus [£9,381] was transferred to the General Reserve which therefore received the benefit of the same income twice, whereas £28,416 should have been drawn from the general reserve.

Witham Third DIDB did pay the invoice on 01.08.11 and that Board's accounts are accurate.

The original debt provision remained in the Board's Balance Sheet for 2012/13 and for 2013/14. It had been explained to Executive Committee members that this needs to be resolved.

A proposal had been discussed between the Chief Executive and Finance Manager to achieve the 'writing out' of the 'debit' held in the Balance Sheet by managing the £37,797.83 as a cost pressure in-year, 2014/15. The first contribution to this would be the £24,447 budget saving in PWLB principal and the other area for contribution is the saving of £1,662 on the EA precept increase this year, as there was a 0% increase and the budget planning assumption had been a 2% increase. If these two areas of savings were set against the sum, it leaves £11,689 to find as a budget pressure in 2014/15, through either additional income or reduced expenditure [or through reserves at 31.03.15 if either of these options is not achieved].

After discussion of options, Executive Committee had AGREED to the writing out of £37,797.83 from the Balance Sheet, writing this back to the Income & Expenditure Account. This 2014/15 budget pressure would be part funded through the budget capacity on the PWLB loan principal of £24,447 and the flexibility on EA precept inflation provision of £1,662, leaving the remaining £11,689 to be met by additional income or reduced expenditure in 2014/15 [or from reserves at 31.03.15 if this is not achieved].

Members noted the issue and were content to ratify the Executive Committee decision of 29.07.14 to treat the £37,797.83 as a 2014/15 cost pressure, dealing with it as outlined.

1947 Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee, 21.07.14.

The minutes of the 3 Board's Joint Administration Committee meeting held on Monday, 21st July 2014 were received and NOTED.

Matters Arising:

1947.1 Highland Water (minute 4.1 refers).

The discussion at the J.A.C. meeting on Highland Water Payments was highlighted, members noting that the Board's estimated claim for 2013/14 had been £15,660 but now the actual claim had been completed as at 31.03.14 it was less than this at £11,946 (a variance of - £3,714).

1947.2 Review of Joint Administration Agreement (minute 4.2 refers).

It was noted that Upper Witham Finance and General Purposes Committee intended to have internal discussion about potential rent charges to the Board and to Witham Third DIDB for Witham House. Any proposition arising would go to the Joint Administration Committee for discussion.

1947.3 Joint Administration Budget Performance (minute 5 refers).

Members noted the J.A.C. meeting discussion on 21.07.14 regarding the approved 2014/15 total budget of £364,653. Pro rata for quarter one to 30.06.14 this was £112,333 and financial performance was on target for the first 3 months of the year.

Against the approved budget, expenditure incurred totalled £111,197.72 for quarter 1, a variance surplus of only (£1,135.28) at this point in the year.

The position on the joint administration budget performance to 30.06.14 was NOTED.

1947.4 Internal Audit Service (minute 6 refers).

The Board had delegated authority to the J.A.C to market test the Internal Audit function jointly with Upper Witham and Witham Third District IDBs. Following a procurement exercise, the results were as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Response</u>
1. Audit Lincolnshire	No response.
2. Gowing Internal Audit Services	£295 per day, fixed for 3 years including expenses.
3. Clement Keys Chartered Accountants	No response
4. Streets Chartered Accountants	£395 per day including expenses.
5. Moore Stephens LLP.	No response.
6. TIAA	£325 per day.

After evaluation of tenders, based on both price and quality of service, the J.A.C. had awarded a joint contract for the Internal Audit function for the 3 Boards to Gowing Internal Audit Services from 01st August 2014 to 31st July 2017 (with an option to extend by up to a further 2 years).

Members NOTED the decision of the J.A.C. in respect of the Internal Audit contract.

1948 Financial Performance Report for Quarter 1 2014/15.

The first financial performance report for 2014/15 had been circulated with the agenda. This covered the 3 months period 01st April to 30th June 2014 and showed the total estimates approved by the Board on 12.02.14 at £745,401, the profiled budget for 3 months as at 30.06.14 and actual spend for the 3 months as at 30.06.14.

The summary position was a profiled budget for Quarter 1 of £399,357, an actual position of £439,120 and therefore an overall positive variance of (£39,763) as at 30.06.14.

However, whilst this was positive news, members were reminded that this is relatively early in the financial year. All Special Levy income had been received until November, but the Board would incur further expenditure for 4 months. In addition, drainage rates income collection had been 80.9% as at 15.07.14. On expenditure, there had been some profiling of the budget, but on wages this was still profiled on a straight line basis. The weed cutting season having started, the rate of expenditure on wages would increase as overtime costs were now being incurred. In addition, the Board had agreed earlier to absorb the £37,797.83 cost pressure in 2014/15 to handle the Balance Sheet adjustment. Bank balances had risen to a total of £951,445.24, albeit this included the £354,480 PWLB loan monies not yet transferred to LCC.

Members noted financial performance to 30th June 2014 and the surplus variance of (£39,763) but accepted this with caution, given income and expenditure assumptions. It was also noted that, in order to spread financial risk, monies would be invested (some instant access, some slightly longer term) to spread risk.

1949 Statement of Expenditure for June 2014.

A Statement of Expenditure for June 2014 had been circulated with the agenda but a revised statement was tabled, given gross and net expenditure had been inaccurately transposed on the last 5 items.

In summary, gross expenditure incurred totalled £40,820.79 which, net of £2,424.03 VAT, was £38,396.76 net. In addition, of this net expenditure figure, £2,069.76 was rechargeable to other Boards for goods and services.

The Statement of Expenditure incurred in June was NOTED.

1950 Pumping Station Roof Replacement.

A paper had been circulated with the agenda which summarised the result of roof condition surveys undertaken by Garry Winterton, Consents and Enforcements Officer (whose background is in building construction and control), at Heighington Fen, Nocton Fen and Timberland Pumping Stations.

Whilst all of the Board's pumping stations are of a similar age, circa 35 years, and generally the flat roofs are in need of replacement, these three particular roofs are leaking water into the buildings. The reports concluded that all three flat roofs need replacing urgently and it was recommended that in each case a straight like for like replacement material (ie. bitumen/asphalt) was the preferred option. Other options were considered, eg. a modern GRP roof covering or installation of a pitched roof with Decra roof tiles, together with associated gutters.

The current bitumen/asphalt has lasted to date with no maintenance and is still widely used because of good life expectancy. It means no costly modifications would be required to existing structures and no planning approvals are required (which they would with pitched roofs).

The pre-tender estimate for the works is £4,000 to £5,000 per roof replacement, including the costs of scaffolding and guttering. However, it was highlighted that there may be further costs if, when the existing roof coverings are stripped off, there is damage to the (Straw mix) Strammit boards. If this was the case at all 3 pumping stations, it was estimated that the pre-tender budget estimate could rise from £15,000 to £30,000. There is nothing in the 2014/15 revenue budget for the works.

An option was to finance the 3 roof replacements from the Board's 'Pumping Station Renewal Reserve' which has a current balance of £75,000.

Discussion followed on the need for immediate repair of these 3 roofs with known problems and the risk that other roofs may have similar, but as yet unknown, problems.

Members AGREED that the flat roofs at Heighington Fen, Nocton Fen and Timberland Pumping Stations should be replaced at a pre-tender estimate of £15,000 to £30,000, the source of funding being the Pumping Station Renewal Reserve (which had a balance of £75,000).

1951 Director of Operations' Report .

A copy of the Director of Operations' Report for July had been circulated with the agenda. This was presented, together with a verbal update.

- Planned Maintenance Programme.

The main summer maintenance programme had commenced during this period. As requested, Canwick Fen Drain and Longstones Drain have received an 'early cut' during the first 2 weeks of July in order to reduce the adverse effects of high ground water levels in the Washingborough Fen area (attempts are still being made to get the culvert under the dis-used railway cleared by Railtrack, where the bulk of the problem

is believed to be).

- Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

As discussed, the Board had undertaken work on behalf of the Environment Agency to cut the weed from the Anwick Catchwater Drain from the Board's Anwick Soke Dyke to the Farroway Drain. This work will be repeated in November. Officers have also met Agency officers to discuss the Board undertaking similar work within the local main river system. The work is undertaken to the Agency's specification and at their cost.

- Pumping Stations.

The amount of pumping undertaken had been comparatively low due to low rainfall levels, with the exception of the occasional but intense isolated storm. Levels were being managed to accommodate abstraction, where requested.

The planned removal of pump no.2 at Blankney Fen PS was almost complete, Perry's Pumps Ltd. of Lincoln having lifted it, inspected and repaired it, it being 12 years since it was last taken out. It was in very good condition (the noise being the bell mouth). In response to members' queries, it was confirmed that pump no.1 had coped well with the heavy rainfall on occasions between 08th and 11th August, records showing it had operated for only 2.2 hours. Pump no.2 was due to be reinstated during the week commencing 25.08.14.

- Plant.

The order had been placed for the new Atlas 140W wheeled excavator. This machine will replace the Volvo EW140 as part of the approved Plant Replacement Programme. Delivery is expected in late September.

The order had been placed for the new Case Puma 170 tractor. The tractor will replace the McCormick MTX 155, as part of the approved Plant Replacement Programme. Delivery is expected in late September.

Repairs have also been undertaken to the Bomford flails. These have ranged from the replacement of worn hydraulic pipes to the welding of cracks identified in the dipper arm sleeve. These are faults that have been experienced previously on Bomford flails operated by the Board.

Members were updated on the problems with the Bomford flails. Internal parts on the dipper arm had been replaced and the arm had been welded on the outside.

Members discussed the reliability of the Bomford flails and it was felt that careful consideration would need to be given to their replacement.

- Timberland Pumping Station Open Evening.

The Board hosted an evening meeting of the Billingham & North Kyme Engine Club on 25th June. Twenty five club members visited and the Ruston & Hornsby engine and 10RB dragline were demonstrated, along with photographs of the various diesel stations demolished as part of the Witham Valley scheme in the 1970s.

- Summer Inspection 2014.

Members, guests and officers visited St. Germans Pumping Station, near Kings Lynn on 27th June. The tour of the station was hosted by Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Engineer, David Thomas, who narrated the history of the Middle Level, the Commissioners and the transformation from a gravity catchment to the 3 tiered pumped system that exists today. The 6 pumps and automated pumping station proved interesting.

- Workforce.

On the afternoon of 15th July, the Chairman presented a long service award to Kevin Rossington, in recognition of his 20 years' service to the Board. Kevin joined the Board on 7th February 1994 and requested a very low key event to mark the occasion.

- Conservation.

The annual survey of the owl boxes had been undertaken and the results show an excellent year for a variety of species that use the boxes, including 38 Barn Owls, 10 Kestrels, and 45 Jackdaw chicks.

- Winter de-silting programme 2014/15.

The planned winter de-silting programme was outlined. It was confirmed that Notices of Entry had been sent out and the programme would be uploaded to the website shortly (www.witham-1st-idb.gov.uk). Some 12.3 miles of winter works was planned in the Dorrington Fen/Ruskington Fen area as follows:

<u>Watercourse</u>	<u>Length m (miles)</u>
Odds Dyke	645m (0.4 miles)
Timberland Town Dyke	4840m (4.0 miles)
Boathouse Drain	4400m (2.7 miles)
Cross Drain	1210m (0.8 miles)
Causeway Drain	730m (0.5 miles)
East Cross Drain	580m (0.4 miles)
Dorrington Bankside Drain	1300m (0.8 miles)
West Cross Drain	650m (0.4 miles)
Ruskington Middle Drain	1150m (0.7 miles)
Ruskington Roadside North	1100m (0.7 miles)
Dorrington Middle/Drain/Elkingtons Drain	1370m (0.9 miles)
Totals	17975m (12.3 miles)

- Nocton Fen Middle Drain.

The Director of Operations outlined the basis of a specification sent out to tender this week for the topographical survey and modelling of Nocton Fen. This followed a meeting with Robert Hall, in his capacity as Director of Farms for Beeswax Farming, where it had been agreed in principle that one option was to see what capacity was needed from Nocton Middle Drain, in terms of design standard for land drainage, rather than restoring it to a channel for irrigation purposes at what both parties acknowledged would be significant cost.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there is nothing in the 2014/15 budget to do this work members were aware, from the 2013 Summer Inspection, that a plan needs to be developed given the state of the watercourse. Tenders are due to be returned by 01.10.14 and a way forwards for the Study, ideally to be conducted in Autumn/Winter 2014/15, would then be considered by the Board and Beeswax Farming.

Members NOTED the content of the report and presentation.

1952 Report on Planning Applications.

A schedule of planning applications considered during the period 09.06.14 to 04.08.14 had been circulated with the agenda. This set out those where there were no objections raised on behalf of the Board and also detailed the nature of the objection (where one had been submitted).

In terms of applications to North Kesteven District Council, only one comment had been submitted:

“Deepdale Farm, Leasingham Moor, Sleaford	Deepdale Farm Solar Ltd	Solar park comprising photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, tracks, buried cable, fence, inverters and transformers, site substation
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Environment Agency Byelaw Consent will be required for all parts of the development within 9 metres of the bank top of Leasingham Beck, which is designated EA Main River”.

There were no applications to City of Lincoln Council within the Board’s drainage district on this occasion.

In terms of applications to Lincolnshire County Council, comment was submitted on one application as follows:

Anaerobic Digestion Plant / Field off, Nocton Fen Lane, Nocton	Beeswax Farming	To vary conditions 2 (documents and drawings), 3 (permitted feedstock) and 5 (landscaping) of planning permission N42/0206/10 (as amended by planning permission N42/0221/12)
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The Board supports the removal of the proposed planting longitudinally to Middle Drain, but there would appear to be some planting within 9 metres perpendicular to the Drain at both the upstream and downstream boundaries to the site. Whilst the long term intention of the Board MAY be to amend or remove the current maintenance regime, this planting should be subject to the Board’s consent and omit any within 6 metres of the bank top. The Landscaping plan comes without dimensions but these plants would grow over time and obstruct future access to the Drain. In short, Land Drainage Consent is required and nothing within a minimum of 6 metres.

Members NOTED the schedule of planning applications considered and the comments submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA).

1953 Report on Consents & Enforcements.

A schedule of consents and enforcement cases to 05.08.14 had been circulated with the agenda, both those within the drainage district and those undertaken for the LLFA in the extended catchment.

Cllr. John Money wished to put on record his thanks to the Board and officers for resolution of the enforcement case at Main Street in Scopwick. The system now appeared to be working satisfactorily and had coped in the recent heavy rainfall events.

It was noted that there continued to be an influx of new enforcement cases within the extended catchment, several cases being referred to the Board by LCC Highways Officers.

Members NOTED the schedule and the summary position on each case.

1954 Any Other Business.

There were no further items of business.

1955 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting & AGM.

The Board's next meeting and Annual General Meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 4th November 2014 at 2pm in Washingborough Village Hall.

.....Chairman.....Date
W1st BM 12.08.14