

A MEETING OF THE SOUTH HOLLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, MARSH REEVES, FOXES LOWE ROAD, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE ON TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 10.30 AM.

Elected Members	Appointed Members
* J L van Geest	South Holland D C
N J Grundy	* J M Atkin
* A G Hay	* F Biggadike
G A Hay	* S M Booth
* S A R Markillie	* A Casson
* D Sly	* P A Espin
* S Taylor	S Keeble
R C Thompson	* P S Przyszlak
J W Ward	* M R Taylor
D R Worth	* P M Walls
	* D J Wilkinson
	South Holland D C/ Boston B C
	* Mrs R M Rudkin
	* Present (71%)

Mr S A R Markillie in the Chair

In attendance:

Mr P J Camamile (Chief Executive), Mr J M Worfolk (Chief Engineer),
Mr K L J Vines (District Engineer/Health and Safety Officer),
Mr A D Price (Operations Manager/Health and Safety Supervisor)
and Mr G R Dann (Planning/Enforcement Officer).

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56/07	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
56/07/01	Apologies for absence were received from Messrs N J Grundy, G A Hay, R C Thompson, J W Ward and D R Worth. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
57/07	SCHEDULED MEETING DATES/INSPECTIONS FOR 2008	
57/07/01	It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to schedule the following meetings for the calendar year 2008, here at the Board's offices, Marsh Reeves, Foxes Lowe Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 7PA:	

5 February 2008 at 9 am
 13 May 2008 at 10.30 am
 5 August 2008 at 10.30 am
 4 November 2008 at 10.30 am

57/07/02 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to note the following Consortium Management Committee meetings for next year, which will be held at Kettlewell House, Austin Fields Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1PH:

14 December 2007 at 10.30 am
 31 March 2008 at 10.30 am
 30 June 2008 at 10.30 am
 29 September 2008 at 10.30 am

57/07/03 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to arrange for the Winter Inspection of works to take place on 5 February 2008 at 11 am after the Board meeting.

KLJV

57/07/04 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED not to arrange a Summer Inspection of works this year.

58/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING

58/07/01 The minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 7 August 2007 were approved and signed as a true record.

59/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

59/07/01 Environment Agency Precept for 2007/08 (36/07/02)

Discussions with the Environment Agency (EA) were continuing in an attempt to resolve the outstanding appeals that had been registered with DEFRA from 7 IDBs in Lincolnshire on the grounds of fairness, in accordance with section 140(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991. The Chief Executive advised members that Phil Winrow, the Environment Agency's Head of Flood Risk Finance was now involved, following the resignation of Steve Williams. RESOLVED that this be noted.

59/07/02 Bubble Curtain (37/07/07)

The Environment Agency had confirmed that the Board would need to regularly monitor the water quality in the fishery, as an alternative to running the bubble curtain. Clearly there would be a cost implication of taking any such decision, which would in itself be self defeating in that the Angling Club had only requested the Board not to run the bubble curtain, to reduce costs and thereby reduce the licence fee payable by

the Club. RESOLVED that this be noted.

59/07/03 Chief Executive's Report (39/07/04)

The Chairman advised members that following the retirement of one of the former Engineer's, a job description and application pack for his replacement had been compiled, and job adverts had been placed in the local press for the post of Assistant Engineer. The adverts would appear in the press during the coming week. RESOLVED that this be noted.

59/07/04 New Intake at Gedney Drove End (55/07/01)

The District Engineer reported that he had advised the Environment Agency about the deterioration of the sea bank: they intended to repair the defence when finances permitted but not before. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to request the Environment Agency to repair the sea bank and primary defence immediately.

KLJV**60/07 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

60/07/01 The minutes of the Conservation Committee meeting held on 2 October 2007 were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

60/07/02 The Chairman introduced Lou Mayer who was now the Board's Conservation Officer, following the formation of the Water Management Alliance on 1 April 2007.

60/07/03 Lou Mayer gave a presentation to the Board on some of the conservation work that she had been involved with as part of the King's Lynn Consortium of IDBs. Members were impressed with the variety and scope of what the other Boards in the Alliance had achieved and looked forward to working with Lou in the South Holland area. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**60/07/04 Water Management Alliance/
Role of the Conservation Officer**

As Conservation Officer Lou Mayer explained that she was not about preventing vital works from taking place or pushing up the cost of undertaking maintenance operations. Instead she saw her role in the Alliance as enabling each Board to get its drainage work done without falling foul of environmental legislation, which often surprisingly lead to reduced costs and increased awareness. RESOLVED that this be noted.

60/07/05 Countryside Stewardship Scheme

ID South Holland IDB, Minute	Action
<p>It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED not to allow cattle back onto the Countryside Stewardship site, until such time as a more responsible grazier could be found.</p>	
<p>60/07/06 Barn Owl Boxes</p> <p>It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the erection of a further 4 barn owl pole boxes along the bank of the South Holland Main Drain, subject to receiving prior approval from the respective landowners.</p>	ADP/LM
<p>60/07/07 BAP recording process</p> <p>The Board were pleased to hear that the BAP recording process was being reviewed with the hope of establishing an effective and less onerous way of recording BAP data. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	LM
<p>61/07 WMA CONSERVATION POLICY STATEMENT</p>	
<p>61/07/01 The WMA Conservation Policy Statement was considered in detail and approved, subject to references to East Lincolnshire being replaced with references to South East Lincolnshire. Arising therefrom:</p>	LM
<p>61/07/02 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to adopt the revised Conservation Policy Statement, subject to detailed consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Drainage infrastructure should always be maintained sufficiently to carry the volume of water that it was designed to convey, otherwise there will be some flood risk to people, property and protected wildlife, which was considered by the Board to be unacceptable. This would inevitably mean starting the cutting season earlier in the year and increasing still further, the cost of the maintenance programme. (ii) Drainage infrastructure in South Holland Internal Drainage District did not have conservation margins built into the design and as such needed to be aggressively maintained, in order to effectively convey design flows. Given Minute number 05/07/02(i), the Board recognised that opportunities for conservation were therefore limited at the moment. (iii) When undertaking capital work the Board should consider factoring-in extra capacity, which would create opportunities for conservation and reduce flood risk. It could also lead to cost savings in that those channels would not need to be as aggressively maintained, however it was recognised that when protected species established themselves as a result, this would inevitably 'complicate' future maintenance and possibly increase costs instead. 	KLJV/ ADP/ LM

- (iv) After undertaking hydrological modelling of each of the sub catchments, the Board should also consider constructing a number of flood storage areas which would provide the extra capacity needed to increase opportunities for conservation, reduce flood risk and possibly reduce future maintenance costs. However it was recognised that in order to do this Natural England would have to agree that the Board could always flood the 'flood storage areas', regardless of the wonderful habitats and protected species that would inevitably establish themselves in future.

62/07 CONSORTIUM MATTERS

62/07/01 Unconfirmed Minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Consortium Management Committee meeting held on 1 October 2007 were considered in detail and adopted by the Board. Arising therefrom.

62/07/02 DEFRA/EA Reorganisation of IDBs (25/07/03)

- (a) DEFRA/EA had now stated their vision for IDBs: they wanted to see one Board per sub catchment by 2012, which would mean that there would be 23 'Super IDBs' remaining in England at that time. IDBs would no longer be able to amalgamate with other IDBs operating in different sub catchments but would still be permitted to jointly administer their affairs across sub catchments. The WMA currently operated over 3 sub catchments and as such constituent Boards were being requested to amalgamate with others to form 3 new Boards, within 5 years from now. This Board was shown as part of 'Welland IDB' and as such was being asked to amalgamate with Welland and Deepings IDB. RESOLVED that this be noted.
- (b) Members were concerned that the proposed sub catchment took no account of the fact that most of the Board's area was part of the River Nene catchment, as opposed to the River Welland catchment. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to write to DEFRA at the appropriate time and advise accordingly.

PJC

62/07/03 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report which was approved at the last Consortium Management Committee meeting held on 1 October 2007 was considered in detail and adopted by the Board (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

62/07/04 Financial Report

The Financial Report from 1 April 2007 to 31 August 2007 which was approved at the last Consortium Management Committee meeting

held on 1 October 2007 was considered in detail and adopted by the Board (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

62/07/05 Schedule of Paid Accounts

The Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 1 June 2007 to 31 August 2007, totalling £206,674.55, which was approved at the last Consortium Management Committee meeting held on 1 October 2007 was considered in detail and adopted by the Board (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

63/07 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE ALLIANCE TO INCLUDE THE PUTATIVE EAST SUFFOLK IDB

63/07/01 The Chief Executive's Report and agenda item setting out the proposal to include the putative East Suffolk IDB with effect from 1 April 2008 was considered in detail and noted (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book and appended to these minutes in the Minute Book). Arising therefrom:

63/07/02 The recommendation from the Consortium Management Committee to accept an application in principle from representatives of East Suffolk Group of IDBs to include the putative East Suffolk IDB with effect from 1 April 2008, subject to a number of conditions and safeguards detailed in Section 6 of the Chief Executive's Report, was considered in detail (the original motion). RESOLVED that this be noted.

63/07/03 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to accept the application in principle from representatives of East Suffolk Group of IDBs to include the putative East Suffolk IDB with effect from 1 April 2008, subject to a number of conditions and safeguards detailed in Section 6 of the Chief Executive's Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book and appended to these minutes in the Minute Book as before stated). Votes were recorded as follows:

11 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention, (the Chairman did not exercise his vote or his second/casting vote).

64/07 OPERATIONS REPORT

64/07/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

64/07/02 Sutton Bridge

Mr S M Booth expressed concern as to who was responsible for cutting back the trees overhanging the new road at Sutton Bridge

ADP

ID South Holland IDB, Minute	Action
<p>because they were becoming a danger to road users. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Operations Manager to establish responsibility with the County Council and if the trees were in the drain the Board would undertake the necessary maintenance, in accordance with the tree policy.</p>	
<p>64/07/03 Access to Lutton Leam Sluice</p>	
<p>It was noted that road users appeared to be driving down the river bank to the Board's sluice at Lutton Leam. The Engineer confirmed that the Board owned the land and therefore had primary responsibility should an accident occur. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised access by erecting a gate if necessary.</p>	KLJV
<p>65/07 ENGINEERING REPORT</p>	
<p>65/07/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:</p>	
<p>65/07/02 Exeter Drain Pipeline upstream of Halmergate – Cleansing and Inspection (2.1)</p>	
<p>It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to undertake further investigations and report back to the Board in due course.</p>	KLJV
<p>65/07/03 Second Line Sluices (3.3)</p>	
<p>It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to scope the extent of deterioration of the Board's second line infrastructure and report back to the Board in due course.</p>	KLJV
<p>66/07 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT</p>	
<p>66/07/01 The Environmental Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:</p>	
<p>66/07/02 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to support the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership and consider the proposed service level agreements at the appropriate time.</p>	PJC/ LM
<p>67/07 PLANNING REPORT</p>	
<p>67/07/01 The Planning Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.</p>	

68/07 20 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 68/07/01** The District Engineer presented the 20 year capital programme which was submitted to the Environment Agency in September 2007, as requested. The schemes included were considered in detail and approved (as listed in Appendix A of the Board's meeting papers).
- 68/07/02** Members were advised that the programme had taken some considerable time to put together. However it was vitally important that this was done because the Board would be most unlikely to receive any grant aid in future for schemes not included in the 20 year programme. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**69/07 WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
DESIGNATION OF WATER BODIES**

- 69/07/01** The Environment Agency had recently consulted the Board regarding the designation of water bodies as part of the EU Water Framework Directive, (an extract from which was noted by members in Appendix C of the Board's meeting papers). RESOLVED that this be noted.
- 69/07/02** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the response to the consultation, as submitted by the District Engineer (a copy of which is appended to the minutes in the Minute Book).

70/07 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 70/07/01** The Financial Report from 1 April 2007 to 15 October 2007 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

71/07 SCHEDULE OF PAID ACCOUNTS

- 71/07/01** The Schedule of Paid Accounts from 16 July 2007 to 15 October 2007, totalling £446,418.37 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

72/07 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- 72/07/01** The Members' Code of Conduct, as required by the Audit Commission, was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising therefrom.

ID South Holland IDB, Minute	Action
73/07 PERFORMANCE SUB COMMITTEE	
<p>73/07/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to arrange a meeting of the Performance Sub Committee on Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 9 am here at the Board's offices, Marsh Reeves, Foxes Lowe Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The main purpose of the meeting would be to review performance during 2007/08 and establish objectives for 2008/09 for the Board to consider.</p>	PJC
74/07 ESTIMATES 2008/09	
<p>74/07/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to allow for an increase of 4% in wages and salaries when preparing the Annual Estimates for 2008/09.</p>	PJC
<p>74/07/02 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to arrange a meeting of the Chairman's Committee on Tuesday, 15 January 2008 at 10.30 am here at the Board's offices, Marsh Reeves, Foxes Lowe Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The main purpose of the meeting would be to consider the draft Estimates for 2008/09 as prepared by the Chief Executive and make recommendations for the Board to consider.</p>	PJC
75/07 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2006/07	
<p>75/07/01 The Chief Executive provided each member present with a copy of the Board's Annual Governance Report for 2006/07, which had just been received from the Audit Commission. There were no matters to bring to the Board's attention and it was envisaged that the Final Opinion would be ready for members' consideration at the next meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	PJC