

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Our Ref: IMW/DPW/B10_1

Your Ref:

Date: 24th September 2014

To all Northern Works Committee Members

Dear Member

Northern Works Meeting

Please find enclosed the papers for the Northern Works Committee Meeting to be held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday 1st October 2014 commencing at 2pm.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive and if correct sign the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th March 2014 (pages 1 to 5).
3. Matters arising
4. To receive the Engineering Works Report (pages 6 to 11).
5. To receive a verbal report on Income and Expenditure.
6. To receive a report on rainfall (page 12).
7. Any other business.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Northern Works Committee

held at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Hubbert's Bridge
5th March 2014 at 12 noon

Members

Chairman - * Mr R Leggott

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| * Cllr P Bedford | * Cllr C Brotherton |
| Mr S Bartlett | * Cllr M Brookes |
| * Mr K C Casswell | * Mr D Casswell |
| Cllr D R Dickinson | * Mr J Fowler |
| Mr R Firth | * Cllr Y Gunter |
| * Mr P Holmes | * Cllr A Lee |
| * Mr J Pocklington | * Mr R Needham |
| * Mr P Robinson | * Mr M Rollinson |
| * Mr M J Scott | Cllr Singleton-McGuire |
| * Mr R Welberry | * Cllr S Woodliffe |

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr C Richards (Pump Engineer)
Mr A Malkin (Guest - Boston Borough Council)

504 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Bartlett, Cllr D Dickinson, Cllr R Singleton-Maguire and Mr M Mountain (Guest).

505 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were raised for Minute No: 508 from Mr P Robinson.

506 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 24th September 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was agreed the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

507 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Revetment Works, North Forty Foot Drain - Minute 423e

The Operations Manager has considered the health and safety liability on the site and believes that the Board has not introduced any significant risk above what was already present before the works commenced, therefore a life preserver is not required.

(b) Pumping Station Maintenance - Minute 423m

The Operation Manager reported that the landowner of the new proposed access route to South Kyme pumping station has vehemently opposed it. The Committee therefore RESOLVED to investigate no further and to continue using the current access route.

(c) Wyberton Development - Minute 423p

The Chief Executive reported that the review process was still ongoing and it is understood now that there is not likely to be any over ground breach of the 9 metre byelaw. When the plans are finalised it will be presented to the relevant meeting for review.

(d) Triton Knoll 60 metre corridor - Minute 426b

Cllr Woodliffe enquired as to why the Board was not expressing an opinion on the proposed route of the cable from the Triton Knoll Wind Farm site. The Chief Executive responded that although the Board could influence the route there is not impact on any of the assets that we maintain as the cables would be placed 1 metre below the bed of any drain.

508 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 4

On the proposition of Mr M J Scott, seconded by Mr K Casswell it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Vice Chairman of the Northern Works Committee. There were no other nominations.

Mr P Holmes accepted the nomination and appointment.

509 TO DISCUSS INSPECTION & ENGINEERING REPORT - Agenda Item 5

Mr P Robinson declared an interest at this point and left the meeting.

The Chief Executive presented the Report on Engineering Works:

(a) Proposed land drainage improvements - Punchbowl Lane & Brothertoft Road

This site was visited on the tour and the Chief Executive introduced a proposal from the four landowners in the area for which Mr P Robinson was acting as the spokesperson. The area highlighted in the plans currently has no positive drainage and to rectify that five options have been investigated which in brief are;

Option A - Determine if there is an existing pipe under Langrick Road. No Pipe has been found and therefore this option has been discounted.

Option B - New Culvert to be constructed under Langrick Road into an existing roadside riparian drain. Construction costs c£19,600

Option C - New Culvert to be constructed under Langrick Road and dig a new drain to be adopted by Black Sluice IDB. Construction costs c£27,000

Option D - Investigate existing drain and pipework south along Langrick Road to North Forty Foot Drain. Following an inspection it was agreed the full length of pipe would require renewing and would be too expensive.

Option E - Re-grade and improve existing drain west to North Forty Foot. Following a survey it was identified major works would be required including significant land loss, this option was not considered.

The landowners are of the opinion that Option B would be the best option and request the Board install the culvert at the Board's cost and in return Mr Robinson would adopt the culvert for any future maintenance and continue maintenance of the Riparian drain it would feed into.

It was discussed by the Committee and it was **RESOLVED** that Lincolnshire County Council as the owner of some of the land that was going to benefit and the Lead Local Flood Authority, should be approached to request a contribution and with the result of these enquiries Option B should be recommended to the Board.

(b) Riparian Drainage Issues

The continuing issue of problems in the riparian drainage systems was outlined to the Committee using the current, ongoing situation at Station Road, Hubberts Bridge. This particular case had been ongoing for some time with two letters having been sent to the owners of the drain along the road. Some owners have been very vigilant and had maintained the section adjacent to their property but others as is always the case had not and this is where the blockages occur.

The Board currently does not have any definitive process or policy to deal with these kind of issues and the Chief Executive proposed the following approach in line with the Land Drainage Act 1991 to be communicated to the rate payers with the 2014 rate demand and residential properties through the District/Borough councils.

1. Problem brought to the attention of the Board
2. Approach the offender verbally to seek resolution
3. If resolution not obtained then write to the offenders suggesting how they could rectify the problem

4. If no works undertaken within a three month period then send a second letter with a warning that if the works have not been completed within three months the Board would complete the works with no further notice and charge the offenders as the Board saw appropriate.

Some concerns were expressed as to whether this proposed policy would be enforceable and it was suggested that a Sub-Committee of the Board should be established to consider all the different possibilities and to seek a legal opinion.

It was RESOLVED that the highlighted issue at Hubbert's Bridge should be progressed as planned but the creation of a policy should be delayed dependant on the creation of the Sub-Committee.

(c) Chain Bridge Pumping Station

During the tour it was highlighted to the Committee that Chain Bridge pumping station required a new pitched roof and this is programmed to be completed in 2015/16.

The Chief Executive also highlighted to the Committee that some remedial works are required on Pump 1 at Chain Bridge pumping station as it has developed a slight vibration. These repair works would be carried out in 2015/16.

(d) Fencing Issues

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the issues highlighted in the tour booklet and visited during the tour were in relation to fences in a poor state of repair that will hopefully be resolved in the near future by the owners of the fences.

(e) Q1 Development

The Chief Executive had given an outline of the proposal that had been submitted for planning at Tyton Lane East in Wyberton during the tour. The developer has approached the Board about re-aligning and straightening the drain which the Committee were content with assuming it was not to follow the route of the overhead lines.

(f) Boston Tidal Surge and Flooding Event

The Chief Executive gave a commentary whilst on the tour to what had happened and how the Board had responded on its own merits and under the direction of the Lincolnshire Partnership.

Part of the problem with the breach at Slippery Gowt Lane, Wyberton was that the force of the water breaching the first sea wall unblocked an 18th Century culvert in the second sea wall causing the flooding in the Wyberton Catchment.

509 (f) Cont.....

This culvert is a Grade II listed culvert and therefore despite having an order from the Environment Agency to permanently repair this culvert it is unlikely that works will be able to proceed before the end of the financial year when this funding will be lost. Cllr Bedford agreed to approach the relevant officers at Boston Borough Council to encourage them to reach an agreement with the Board to enable the permanent repair to be in place before the end of the financial year end.

The Committee were keen to see a scheme prepared that involved the widening of the system in the Wyberton area.

Further to this subject the Chief Executive reported that at last week's Lincolnshire ADA branch meeting a local landowner presented a proposal that IDB's should take over the maintenance of the Sea defences and the Wash frontages could be used as a trial for this. The general feeling of the entire branch was that as the sea defences are a national asset we should not be getting involved as we have enough on managing fluvial events.

(g) Culvert Replacement

The Chief Executive highlighted the three culverts identified that would be included in the 2015/16 Budget for replacement.

(h) Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)

The Chief Executive reported to the Committee that the Board has applied for £160,000 of FDGiA over the next two years for the replacement of culverts in the Swineshead catchment and this is expected to be awarded if sufficient benefits can be found.

(i) Holland Fen Pumping Station Weedscreen Cleaner

The Chief Executive had given an outline as to the proposals for the weedscreen and the Committee agreed to the proposal to refurbish the weedscreen cleaner to return it to a new state.

510 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 5

The rainfall figures at Swineshead were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

511 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 6

(a) Resignation from Northern Works Committee

The Chief Executive stated that a letter had been received from Mr R Firth to resign from the Northern Works Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:55pm.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - 1st OCTOBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM No 4

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. CAPITAL ASSET IMPROVEMENTS

2014/15 Defra/EA Funded Grant In Aid Schemes

Grants have been received and works are either completed or will be completed (estimate figure shown) within this financial year:

- (a) Wyberton Marsh PS resilience works £86,299
- (b) Kirton Marsh PS resilience works £30,522
- (c) Syphon Guard Protection £40,000 (estimate)
- (d) Wyberton Marsh catchment improvement study £5,000 (estimate)
- (e) Cooks Lock & Chain Bridge PS Eel pass flap valves £80,000 (estimate)
- (f) Swineshead culvert replacements £80,000 (estimate) with a further £80,000 (estimate) in 2015/16; subject to identifying suitable benefits
- (g) Kirton Meeres culvert replacement £15,500 (estimate) with a further £14,500 (estimate) in 2015/16; subject to identifying suitable benefits
- (h) Eel Passability Studies on 18No. PS £5,000 (estimate) allocation to each PS

2014/15 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes

Capital Scheme works are either completed or will be completed within this financial year:

- (a) Siltside Improvement works £30,000 (estimate)
- (b) Defective culvert replacements £100,000 (estimate)
- (c) Culverts that have been identified for replacement in 2015/16. Based on what we have surveyed currently:
 - No 2428 Screddington 12m x 0.9m - £7,000(estimate)
 - No 3190 South Kyme 12m x 1.2m - £9,000(estimate)
- (d) Completed culverts in Northern Works area:
 - No 756 South Kyme 12 x 0.6m - £5,532 £5,000 (estimate)
 - No 3004 South Kyme 12 x 0.9m - £4,459 £7,000 (estimate)

- No 2987 South Kyme 12 x 1.2m - £6,987 £9,000 (estimate)
- No 1999 Trinity College removed Armco pipe new headwalls to existing £2,001 £7,000(estimate)

(e) Helpringham PS new motor control £14,000 (estimate)

(f) Swineshead PS suction bay works £39,244

(g) Ewerby PS pump refurbishment £20,000 (estimate)

(h) Bicker Eau PS pumps replacements £14,000 (estimate)

2014/15 BSIDB Development Fee Fund

Wyberton Marsh Roads Bridge replace £75,000 (estimate)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

(a) Bat surveys at 7No. Pumping Stations £2,468

(b) Owl box scheme £1,540

(c) Borrow Pit Management Plans £1,000 (estimate)

(d) Water Vole surveys £1,500 (estimate)

2. DRAIN MAINTENANCE

(a) Annual Summer Flailing/Cutting

The summer cutting commenced three weeks early on the 23rd June 2014. A sixth 13t excavator operating one of the Boards 4m cutting baskets has been hired in for twelve weeks. Therefore the Boards maximum production has three flails (Energreen with side flail and front Votex, Claas with side Herder Grenadier and John Deere with side Herder Cavalier and front Votex) flailing in front of the six cutters (JCB JS 220, JCB JS 160, JCB JS 145, 2 x JCB JS 130 and hired in CAT130) albeit the Claas does change cutting heads and cuts some watercourses.

At the end of August (period 5) the Boards overall Drains Maintenance costs were:

- £229,289 (starting three weeks early)
- £171,102 (2013 equivalent costs with a normal start date)
- £234,347 (2012 equivalent costs with an additional two week early start)

The 67km (Northern & Southern Works areas) of high profile watercourse assets are constantly being monitored to determine whether a second flail and/or cut is required, following the early start these will most probably require a second cut.

The SKDC Hand Roding contract works commenced in early July, the first visit on the Sewer Dykes cut has been completed along with the Water Courses cut, all to programme and costs and the remaining second Sewer Dykes cut will take place in early October. Other SKDC contract works have been completed whilst working in the SKDC area. All other Board hand roding watercourses are currently being completed.

The 2014 Mayflower hand roding contract works has been successfully completed for £16,500 income.

A drott has been hired in to grade out the previous year's winter cleansing arisings, these works are completed within a small window of opportunity (between harvest and drilling) and will continue as budgets dictate.

EA Waste Management exemptions have been applied for over the next two years for burning wood on site, dredging inland watercourses and spreading watercourse arisings over adjacent land.

(b) Prior Notice Given for Summer Cutting

Notice was issued within the 2014/15 Drainage Rates brochure, along with a provisional works programme, stating that all landowners/farmers can view weekly updated accurate summer cutting works programmes on the Boards web site.

Landowners/farmers were requested to contact the Board with any summer cropping issues throughout the summer cutting season.

This has been a success and recommend that the Board continue with this approach.

(c) Summer Crop Loss/Damage Compensation.

In line with the summer cutting landowners/farmers are encourage to agree to the Boards equipment travelling through their crops whereby the Board agree crop loss compensation instead of the higher costs associated with removing the machine and subsequently returning once the crop has been harvested, albeit in some cases a new crop may have already been planted.

The cutting programme in the drainage rates brochure along with the updated programme on the website will remind all landowners adjacent to all the Board maintained watercourses of the Boards intension to carry out summer vegetation flailing/cutting to the programmes identified on the Boards web site and therefore try to manage fields accordingly. At the same time the programme should be used to assist timely removal of any obstructions (electric fencing, bird scarers, irrigation pumps & pipes etc)

(d) Winter Crop and Land Loss Compensation

The Boards written intention of improvement cleansing works have been issued to landowners in September 2014 for the works to be undertaken throughout

November to May 2015. With this amount of notice being given the farmer can decide whether to plant the affected area or not, the arisings are spread and levelled by the landowner or by the Board generally the following year.

(e) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleaning Works

The total length of watercourse being 46 km.

The total length of watercourses cleansed over the 2013/14 season was 76km, this will maintain a 1 in 10 year cleansing programme over the entire catchments.

Letters have been sent to landowners/occupiers adjacent to the drains above giving notice that the Board intend to bush where required and de-silt during the winter months.

Letters will also be sent to occupiers where the Board proposes to carry out other bushing works in preparation for next year's de-silting. We are currently employing Scarborough Nixon Associates as an external Environmental Consultant to carry out surveys of any relevant drains on our desilting programme.

4. PUMPING STATION MAINTENANCE

At the end of August (Period 5) the budget for maintenance works is £106,804 with the actual expenditure being £121,512 (£85,087 maintenance works and £36,425 electricity costs) resulting in a current over spend of £14,708.

5. EXTERNAL RECOVERABLE WORKS

Current external recoverable income is £40,320 which is significantly lower than this time last year, due to the reduced number of rechargeable works.

6. HEALTH & SAFETY

The Board appointed Cope Safety Management as their Health & Safety consultants for a 5 year period from May 2014.

All employees and contractors to the Board required to work alone report to their Supervisor upon completion of the daily shift, if no contact made within 10 minutes of expected the Supervisor will contact the operative. An automated system is available using mobile phone technology, which is currently being investigated.

7. PLANT

A new JCB JS130 LC T4 with telescopic extending dipper arriving in June 2014 ready for the cutting season.

The JCB JS-145HD has had an accident causing the machine to overturn into an open side dyke.

8. BYELAW MATTERS

To be presented at the Meeting.

9. PROPOSED LARGE DEVELOPMENTS

To be presented at the Meeting.

10. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY STUDIES, STRATEGIES & AGREEMENTS

(a) Boston Barrier

The EA have been notified by the Large Project Review Group (LPRG) that they have no outstanding issues on the Boston Barrier Project Appraisal Report (PAR).

Mott MacDonald have been appointed as the design consultants.

(b) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy

The Environment Agency have appointed Mott MacDonald as their new consultants on this strategy. Black Sluice PS will continue to operate with the navigation lock, gravity channel and two pumps until a time when any plans of action or justifications for decommissioning will be identified within an evidence report.

Twelve EA and Mott MacDonald's officers have attended the Board's offices for a brief overview and introduction to the Board's operations and catchments.

At the same time BSIDB, the EA and Mott MacDonald will continue to review and appraise the 'Asset Transfer' option agreement, with Mott MacDonald in position this should now pick up momentum.

(c) EA/BSIDB Collaborative Agreement

Maintenance orders for EA main river works are being received for works on systems within the Board's catchments.

NB: the EA have moved their offices out of the depot, it is now only used as a stores compound.

(d) Fens Waterways Link, Phase 3: Donington to Surfleet Seas End

Due to financial restrictions these works have currently been suspended.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Entry Level Schemes (ELS) and Higher Level Schemes (HLS); information to be placed on the Board's web site:-

- Ditches managed by IDB's are not eligible for the EB6 Ditch Management option.

- Putting an ELS or HLS option alongside an IDB maintained ditch does leave the agreement holder exposed to a risk that the IDB will breach the rules of the scheme through their normal duties.
- Cross Compliance rules; it is the farmers responsibility to apply to the RPA for an exemption where they believe a body that has a legal duty to carry out work will do so (e.g IDB's covered by the Land Drainage Act 1991).

A 'Ditch Management Guidance' leaflet is being prepared by ADA (currently in a draft form), this will be published on the web site.

- (b) Solar panels have been fitted onto the Swineshead building roof.
- (c) Proposal of amalgamation of both Works Committees for an Autumn Report meeting only. Independent Works Committee inspections and meetings to remain.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD Rainfall at Swineshead Depot

MONTH	Rainfall		Actual / Average
	Actual	25 Year Average	
	mm	mm	%
Sep-13	20.1	48.6	41.36%
Oct-13	105.1	58.4	179.97%
Nov-13	38.4	55.2	69.57%
Dec-13	27.5	52.0	52.88%
Jan-14	102.4	48.1	212.89%
Feb-14	37.6	36.3	103.58%
Mar-14	23.5	36.4	64.56%
Apr-14	20.9	44.8	46.65%
May-14	109.4	43.7	250.34%
Jun-14	30.5	53.2	57.33%
Jul-14	84.5	61.6	137.18%
Aug-14	79.3	63.5	124.88%
Totals	679.2	601.8	112.86%

