

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Our Ref: IMW/DPW/B10_1

Your Ref:

Date: 8th October 2014

To all Southern Works Committee Members

Dear Member

Southern Works Meeting

Please find enclosed the papers for the Southern Works Committee Meeting to be held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday 15th October 2014 commencing at 2pm.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. To receive and if correct sign the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 19th March 2014 (pages 1 to 6).
4. Matters arising
5. To receive the Engineering Works Report (pages 7 to 12).
6. Proposed Piper Dam Reservoir (Mr V Barker).
7. To receive a verbal report on Income and Expenditure.
8. To receive a report on rainfall (page 13).
9. Any other business.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Southern Works Committee

held at the Fortescue Arms, Billingborough
19th March 2014 at 12 noon

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	Mr J F Atkinson
* Mr V A Barker	Mr J Casswell
Cllr R Clark	* Mr R Dorrington
Mr C A Fretwell	* Mr P S Harborow
* Mr A Mair	Mr M Mowbray
Mr A H Proctor	* Mr M E Richardson
* Cllr B Russell	* Mr M J Scott
* Mr J R Wray	Mr R Leggott

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr C Richards (Pump Engineer)
Mr M Rollinson
Mr P Holmes
Mr R Longstaff (Guest)

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Longstaff as a guest to the meeting.

512 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr J F Atkinson, Mr J Casswell, Cllr R Clark, Mr C A Fretwell, Mr M Mowbray, Mr A H Proctor and Mr R Leggott.

513 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr M Rollinson was unanimously elected to be a member of the Committee by the Members of the Committee.

514 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd October 2013 copies of which had been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

515 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Rookfield Farm - Minute No 429c

The Chief Executive reported that the latest reported position of the Environment Agency is that the proposals have been passed to their modelling department to determine if utilising the pipe with a swan neck would have any effect in a flooding situation. At the present time this matter is outside of our jurisdiction and we are in the hands of the Environment Agency.

(b) Graft Drain, Northgate - Minute No 429e

The Operations Manager updated the Committee on the progress with the FDGiA application which we hope will be awarded early in the new financial year with 100% funding.

(c) Syphon Grill Protection - Minute No 430a

The Operations Manager reported that the site surveys are to be undertaken in the next 2-3 weeks for the works to be completed immediately afterwards.

(d) Horbling Fen Pumping Station Weedscreen Cleaner - Minute No 430b

The Operations Manager reported that the civil engineering works undertaken by the Board's workforce will be completed this week and the Weedscreen Cleaner will be on site, installed and commissioned within three months.

(e) Culvert Renewals - Minute No 430c

The Operations Manager updated the Committee that there are still four culverts to be replaced in the current financial year and these will be commencing next week. Two are in Surfleet Fen and two in South Kyme.

Where a contribution is required for replacing a culvert, as per the Culvert and Bridges policy, this contribution has been reviewed and resulted in an increase of approximately £500 to £2,500.

(f) Summer Cutting - Minute No 430g

Concerns were raised by Mr V Barker that on occasion the cuttings from the drains are being left on the one metre margin along the bank top and he is concerned that the farmers may receive a RPA fine for this.

The Finance Manager informed the Committee that this was something the National ADA had been working on with the RPA and it is understood that any works involving an IDB were exempt from this policy. The Finance Manager will seek clarification from ADA and report to the Board.

516 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 4

On the proposition of Mr M J Scott, seconded by Mr W Ash it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M Rollinson be appointed Vice Chairman of the Southern Works Committee. There were no other nominations.

Mr M Rollinson accepted the nomination and appointment.

517 TO DISCUSS INSPECTION & ENGINEERING REPORT - Agenda Item 5

The Operations Manager presented his Report on Engineering Works:

(a) Proposed Access Road - Donington North Ings PS

The Operations Manager stated that this scheme was being proposed as a Health and Safety Scheme as it would result in the workmen being able to avoid the dangerous level crossing. It was suggested that Network Rail be approached for a contribution towards the works as it would result in them being able to close the level crossing which they are keen to do at present.

(b) Donington Wykes Pumping Station - Pump Replacement

The Operations Manager highlighted to the Committee that the submersible pumps were nearing at the end of their useful lives and it was more economical to replace them than refurbish them. The Committee RESOLVED to recommend the replacement to the Board for inclusion in the 2015/16 budgets.

(c) Billingborough Pumping Station - New Roof

The Operations Manager highlighted that Billingborough Pumping Station was on the programme for a new pitched roof. The Committee RESOLVED to recommend the replacement to the Board for inclusion in the 2015/16 budgets.

(d) Sempringham Pumping Station - Weedscreen Cleaner

The Operations Manager highlighted that Sempringham Pumping Station weedscreen cleaner is a FDGIA Scheme in 2014/15.

(e) Dowsby Fen Pumping Station - New Roof

The Operations Manager highlighted that Dowsby Fen Pumping Station was on the programme for a new pitched roof in 2014/15.

517 Cont.....

(f) Slipage due to old Borehole fault on Dowsby Pump Drain

The Chief Executive highlighted this problem and it was viewed on the inspection tour. The Board's Officers are meeting the landowner tomorrow and it was suggested by the Committee that the homeowner opposite should also be spoken to as he has a supply off the borehole although it is no longer used as it developed a leak under the road.

(g) Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager highlighted the Culverts that have been identified for replacement in 2015/16. Based on what we have surveyed currently:

- No 1253 Horbling Fen 40 x 0.6m
- No 1302 Dowsby Fen 25 x 1.2m
- No 1303 Dowsby Fen 12 x 1.2m
- No 2072 Dowsby Fen 12 x 0.6m

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that he is proposing to the Chairman on the Bridges and Culverts Committee that a meeting be called in order to review the current policy.

The current driver behind the replacement of culverts is the landowner and not the Board and it is the landowner that makes the decision whether the culvert is still required or not.

The allocation for culvert replacements in 2015/16 is £55,000.

(h) Haconby Old Pump

The Chief Executive gave a general overview of what was at the pumping station and asked the Committee to make him aware of any heritage groups that may be interested in maintaining the pump in partnership with the Board.

(i) Proposed new access road - Haconby to Dunsby Fen Pumping Stations

The Operations Manager highlighted the proposal for the new route which would save travelling time and make access easier. To travel from one pumping station to the other by road is over 11 miles.

The Committee felt that it would be quicker and cheaper to walk from one to the other or to use one of the Board's 4x4 vehicles during the week.

(j) Riparian maintenance issues

The continuing issue of problems in the riparian drainage systems was outlined to the Committee using the recent situation at Money Bridge Lane, West Pinchbeck. 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 kinds 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 using the website.

- (i) Problem brought to the attention of the Board
- (ii) Approach the offender verbally to seek resolution
- (iii) If resolution not obtained then write to the offenders suggesting how they could rectify the problem
- (iv) 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.

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that it was suggested by the Northern Works Committee that a Sub-Committee of the Board could be established to consider all the different possibilities and to seek a legal opinion.

(k) Proposed Diversion of Drain - Leaveslake Drove, West Pinchbeck

The Chief Executive outlined the proposed scheme at Leaveslake Drove, West Pinchbeck and informed the Committee that £40,000 had been included in the 2015/16 budget for this work to be undertaken.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend the scheme to the Board for inclusion in the 2015/16 budgets.

(l) Proposed Diversion of Drain – Lane Dyke

The diversion of the Lane Dyke was considered by the Committee after the options were explained by the Chief Executive. The Committee concluded that due to the extensive costs to divert the drain the proposed Flood Defence Grant in Aid Scheme should be pursued as the best value for money.

517 Cont.....

(m) Boston Tidal Surge and Flooding Event

Although it did not affect the Southern Works area the Chief Executive gave an overview of how the Board was impacted upon during and the immediate aftermath of the Tidal surge on 5th December 2013.

518 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 6

The rainfall figures at Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

519 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 7

(a) Polythene Sheeting

The Chief Executive Officer raised a concern of the polythene sheeting being extensively used this year causing blockages and damage at pumping stations and asked the Committee members to spread the word on the problems this can cause.

(b) Board Website

The Finance Manager informed the Committee that it is hoped that the new Board website will be going live on 1st April 2014.

(c) Balancing Reservoir, Piper Dam

Mr Barker asked if the Environment Agency had done any work or modelling on constructing a balancing reservoir at Piper Dam as they had indicated they would in the past. The Chief Executive would investigate and report back.

(d) Resignation from Southern Works Committee

The Chief Executive stated that he had spoken with Mr A Proctor and he had decided to retire from the Southern Works Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:20pm

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING – 15th OCTOBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM No 4

ENGINEERING WORKS 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) Syphon Guard Protection £40,000 (estimate)
- (b) Horbling Fen PS weedscreen cleaner, access and dump area £99,559
- (c) Sempringham PS weedscreen cleaner, access and dump area £40,500 (estimate) with a further £40,500 (estimate) in 2015/16; subject to identifying suitable benefits
- (d) Graft Drain culvert replacements and re-alignment works £110,000 (estimate) with a further £150,000 (estimate) in 2015/16; subject to identifying suitable benefits
- (e) 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) Dowsby Fen PS new roof £12,000 (estimate)
- (d) Helpringham PS new motor control £14,000 (estimate)
- (e) Donington Wykes PS replacement of both pumps £25,000 (estimate)
- (f) Billingborough PS new roof £10,000 (estimate)

2014/15 BSIDB Development Fee Fund

Wyberton Marsh Roads Bridge (Northern Works) replacement £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)

3. 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 Cleansing Works

The total length of watercourse being 33 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.

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) Anglian Water services burst main New Dyke

A 600mm water main has burst adjacent to the New Dyke drain at Guthram, a quotation for 100m of bank slip revetment works and desilting of the drain, to remove approx 100 tonnes of silt at £22,054.14 has been provided. Not causing restriction to flow at present, program for November, subject to the receipt of an order from AWS.

(d) WPD culvert extension

A quotation request for an extension to the existing culvert No 3109 at Bourne Fen has been received from WPD. The sum of £7,153.95 has been accepted, this helps to facilitate the position of the new overhead network. The work is programmed for November.

(e) 16 Malting Lane, Donington

An enquiry has been received about the raised inspection chamber lid and surrounding concrete slab adjacent to 16 Malting Lane Donington. The new occupants would like to replace the existing driveway, providing better access into the property, and have asked if the Board can lower the level of the existing chamber concrete slab and lid. Estimate £1,050.00

This is part of the remaining section of pipeline to be replaced.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD Rainfall at Black Hole Drove Pumping Station

MONTH	Rainfall		Actual / Average
	Actual	25 Year Average	
	mm	mm	%
Sep-13	23.8	48.6	48.97%
Oct-13	113.2	55.7	203.23%
Nov-13	38.3	55.7	68.76%
Dec-13	39.0	48.7	80.08%
Jan-14	100.5	46.7	215.20%
Feb-14	49.8	34.6	143.93%
Mar-14	18.1	35.1	51.57%
Apr-14	20.8	44.6	46.64%
May-14	111.0	44.9	247.22%
Jun-14	37.9	55.5	68.29%
Jul-14	47.9	60.1	79.70%
Aug-14	79.9	60.9	131.20%
Totals	680.2	591.1	115.07%

