

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Southern Works Committee

held at the Wishing Well, Dyke on
18th March 2015 at 12 noon

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

Vice Chairman - * Mr M Rollinson

* 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 R Leggott	* Mr A Mair
Mr M Mowbray	* Mr M E Richardson
Cllr B Russell	* Mr M J Scott
Mr J R Wray	

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr C Richards (Pump Engineer)
Mr J Mitchell (Acting Operations Manager)
Mr S Marshall (Operations Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Wray (Guest)
Mr Nick Morris (Guest – Welland & Deepings IDB)

The Chairman asked the Committee for a minute silence in respect of the late Cllr Amanda Puttick who served as the South Holland District Council representative on the Southern Works Committee for a number of years.

712 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr J F Atkinson, Mr P S Harborow, Cllr R Clark, Cllr B Russell, Mr M Mowbray, Mr R Leggott, Mr P Holmes and Mr J R Wray.

713 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr James Casswell declared an interest Minute No: 715(a)

714 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 15th October 2014 copies of which had been circulated were considered and it was agreed that the following change be made:

Minute No 615(g) the title should be changed

From: Position of Diesel
To: VOSA Licensing

With the above change it was agreed the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

715 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Proposed Access Road, Donington North Ings Pumping Station - Minute No 608(a)

The Operations Manager informed the Committee that he had met with Network Rail to discuss a new access road as an alternative access to Donington North Ings Pumping Station.

Network Rail are keen to reduce the number of crossings on their rail links, it suits both parties to not use this crossing, they are very keen to put in the new roadway at their cost. The next stage will be a meeting with the landowner.

Mr J Casswell declares an interest at this point.

The new access road will require additional security fencing.

(b) Siltside Improvements Works - Minute No 609(f)

The Chief Executive stated the iLine Lining Company has been contracted to line three culverts in the Wyberton Marsh Catchment. The re-lining uses a sock resin manufactured in Germany, the sock is pressurised into the culvert with compressed air and an ultra violet machine is used to 'set' the resin. The resin is 6mm thick and creates a solid membrane following the contours of the culvert. The ultra violet rays immediately set the resin and there is no need for a period of time for curing which reduces the time the culvert is unusable. This company is also producing a similar sock to reline Armco at 1.8m diameter and if successful this could offer substantial savings.

Mr V Barker raised the question regarding culverts with a flat bottom. The Chief Executive responded that the sock liner will line the current culvert dimensions.

If the culvert is compressed then probably it would not be suitable. Each culvert is assessed before to ascertain if this lining can be used. It also has a 50 year guarantee.

(c) Drain Maintenance - Minute No 609(m)

Mr V Barker raised the issue of only maintaining one side of the drain. The Operations Manager stated that it is beneficial to flail both sides but in some cases due to access and/or traffic issues it can be difficult, each drain is reviewed on a case by case basis.

(d) Lone Worker - Minute No 609(t)

The Operations Supervisor stated that the Workforce are now using the lone worker Peoplesafe devices which are working well. One is available if any member wishes to view.

(e) Solar Panels on Swineshead Office Roof - Minute No 615(b)

Mr V Barker congratulated the Boards ecologically mindedness. Is there a possibility that a review of other pumping stations using solar panels or wind turbines to save electric and benefit from the FIT's subsidy schemes available from Government.

The Committee discussed the use of a wind turbine at a pumping station, the Pump Engineer stated that as yet a wind turbine would not be able to generate enough power to start the pumps.

The Committee AGREED that the benefit would warrant investigation into possible viable pumping stations where solar power could be used with the appropriate land alongside or roofing. The Chief Executive stated that experts in this field would be requested to investigate and return their findings to the Board.

(f) VOSA Licensing - Minute No 615(g)

The Operations Manager stated that he had reviewed which diesel is used in the Boards machinery. The background circa 2005 initial investigations on the use of tractors on highways, different opinions from DVLA, VOSA and Police, the Board took the general opinion from ADA guidance and registered white diesel class 1 tractors on a general haulage licence. This requires a class 1 driving licence in order to drive a tractor towing a trailer on the road with the trailer falling under the same legislation as a HGV requiring 10 week safety checks and an annual test.

715 Cont.....

No other IDB's conform to this way of operating. The Black Sluice would use the tractor and trailer for removal of weed to Gosberton, transport of spoil and to carry material to slip repairs and any other works to do with land drainage.

The general cost to the Board averages c£1,800 per week, this does not include the unforeseen cost of using the Unimog to carry out this duty at £76 per hour and cannot be in more than one place at a time. The Unimog would be better used to transport plant and materials that only the Unimog can do and the tractor transport the other materials.

ADA has been contacted and we are awaiting feedback.

The recommendation is that a reclassification of the tractor license be pursued with licensing to use red diesel. The Unimog and low loader can then transfer diesel and heavy machinery and the tractor with trailer can be used for other materials.

The Committee AGREED to recommend to the Board the reclassification of the tractor license.

716 TO RECEIVE THE INSPECTION WORKS BROCHURE - Agenda Item 5

The Operations Manager presented his Inspection of Works:

(a) Black Sluice IDB Extended Area

In 2012 the Board took on delegated responsibility for all matters regarding ordinary watercourses on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) - Lincolnshire County Council. Where necessary the Board carry out enforcement action on LCC's behalf.

There is an issue of historical flooding from the Town Beck drain along Donington Road in Horbling. During prolonged rainfall the Town Beck is prone to flooding onto the highway and in some cases has affected some of the lower properties. Matters can be improved along the Town Beck in particular with the number of pipes and ducts either under or beside the property accesses along Donington Road. It is hoped that negotiations with the relevant utilities will result in the removal of these pipes and ducts which will allow better flow of water and reduce the likelihood of flooding.

(b) Drain 2/11, Malting Lane, Donington

The Operations Manager highlighted the map detailing the proposed pipe sections to be replaced. At the end of the first section a raised manhole cover will be replaced once works progress to this position.

(c) Billingham Fen Slip

The Operations Manager presented a photograph of a slip in Billingham Fen, at present it is not compromising the watercourse if it does it will be repaired and if not it will be scheduled into maintenance works.

(d) Roadside Slips in the Bank

The Chief Executive highlighted photographs of a number of road side slips. They are not compromising the watercourse at the moment and will be scheduled in for repair.

The Chief Executive asked the Committee for feedback and general discussion. The increase in heavy traffic use of roads alongside drains is causing slips which once repaired can and do occur further along the watercourse.

Alternative solutions such as spreading, levelling, building up bank, reinforcing banks with posting, piping drains. All these would involve considerable costs to the Board.

The Committee asked if costs could be recouped from Highways, also could ADA be contacted to ascertain other drainage boards who may have a similar problem.

(e) Dowsby Lode Raised Bank Issue

The Operations Manager outlined the background to the question raised regarding why it is maintained from the north side. Historically there were raised banks on both sides and between 1967 and 1978 when the pumping station was built the south side was levelled out.

The question was raised as to whether the northern side could be levelled and soil put on the southern side bank as there is more risk of overtopping. Mr Barker stated that land to the north is some of the lowest in the fen. The Committee considered that on a future inspection that this be included to view the site.

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(f) Leaves Lake Drove Improvements

The Chief Executive responded to Mr M Richardson regarding the scheme proposed for completion in 2015/16. The design brief for the redirection of flow to reline the corrugated culvert with the possible addition that the drain may need to be widened. An application for FDGiA will be completed.

(g) Anglian Water - Guthram Gowt Slips

The Chief Executive stated that Anglian Water have received quotations from the BSIDB to reinstate the bank after an AWS main pipe burst in July 2014. Anglian Water Insurers' seem to be taking a long time to agree to the works bearing in mind that these works really need to be completed soon.

717 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 4

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

718 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 5

(a) Chairman of the Southern Works Committee

Mr K Casswell stated that this will be his last meeting as Chairman of this Committee. He proposed that Mr M Rollinson his Vice Chairman be appointed. Mr K Casswell will remain as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr V Barker seconded and all AGREED.

Mr K Casswell stated that Mr R Leggott has stepped down as Chairman of the Northern Works Committee and his Vice Chairman Mr P Holmes has been appointed.

Mr M Rollinson thanked Mr K Casswell on behalf of the Committee for his 6 years as Chairman and all AGREED.

(b) Black Hole Drove

Mr V Barker requested that a strategy be looked into in the future regarding bank levels between Black Hole and Dunsby.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 13:30.