

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Southern Works Committee

held at the offices of the Board
2nd March 2016 at 4pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr M Rollinson

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

(* Member Present)

In attendance at the meeting:

Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr C Richards (Pump Engineer)
Mr P Holmes (Chairman Northern Works Committee)
Cllr P Bedford (Board Member)
Cllr M Brookes (Board Member)
Mr J Fowler (Board Member)
Mr R Caudwell (Guest - Chairman Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group)
Mr G Playne (Guest)
Mr Nick Morris (Guest – Welland & Deepings IDB)

Additional attendees on Inspection:

Mr C Dring (Guest)
Mr G Corner (NFU Guest – lunch only)

902 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Mr P S Harborow, Cllr R Clark, Cllr B Russell, Mr A Mair and Mr M Richardson.

903 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) ELS Buffers

A declaration of interest was received from Mr P Holmes with regard to Minute no 905(b).

903 Cont.....

(b) Dowsby Lode Raised Bank Issue

A declaration of interest was received from Mr J Atkinson with regard to Minute no 906(f).

904 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - Agenda Item 2

The Minutes of the last Meeting regarding the Southern Works Committee at the Joint Works Committee held on 7th October 2015 copies of which had been circulated were considered and it was agreed the Minutes should be jointly signed as a true record.

905 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 3

(a) Damage Compensation - Daffodil Crop Minute No 820(y)(ii)

Mr V Barker stated that he and the Operations Manager had visited the field and there is evidence of daffodil damage and they plan to revisit in two weeks' time to assess further.

(b) ELS Buffers - Minute No 820(y)(iii)

The Chief Executive reported that the Boards critical watercourses have been identified and 100 landowners were contacted in November 2015 to obtain their views regarding the proposed scheme for the Board to lease grass margins alongside these watercourses.

48% of landowners responded in varying levels with relevant views, concerns and issues. The Chief Executive stated that he had sent out a letter on 21st December 2015 thanking landowners for their responses and that the Board will not be progressing with the grass strips option due to amongst other issues the RPA permanent pasture ruling.

The Chief Executive also explained the Entry Level Stewardship scheme rules clearly state;

"that land that is already subject to another scheme or obligation that is incompatible with the scheme must be excluded (5.4.2) and the landowner must make sure that there are no other duties or obligations on the landowner or the land that would conflict with their ELS agreement (5.4.3)".

The Chairman asked Nick Morris who stated that they had conducted a similar proposal at Welland & Deeping IDB. Nick stated that maintenance of the watercourses are carried out for the benefit of the landowners and they do not issue crop loss payments.

905 (b) Cont....

The Operations Manager stated that it will be conveyed to the workforce at the pre-cutting brief regarding alternative crops where land may look like set aside. The drivers will be instructed to contact their supervisors before assessing any uncertain crops.

(c) Boston Barrier - Minute No 823(b)

Mr V Barker declared that he was against the Boston Barrier as it is proposed to be planned. He added that storing water in the South Forty Foot drain plus the narrowing of the Haven encourages water to remain rather than it being pumped out, if adverse conditions say in a 1 in 10 or 1 in 100 year event occur we do not know what might happen.

The Chairman asked if Mr R Caudwell would like to respond. Mr R Caudwell stated that clearly following the 2013 floods something needs to be done to alleviate the risk to the town of Boston in terms of the Borough being the highest flood risk in the Country. The barrier was accepted as a way forward to alleviate the flood risk from tidal waters and Mr Barker's concerns may be the design rather than the barrier itself.

Mr V Barker answered that he is not against the barrier but the width of the opening which is not appropriate to evacuate the volume of water which will need to exit through it from the basin.

The Chief Executive added that modelling provided by Mott MacDonald have proven that the quantities of water combined with the barrier opening will expend the volume of water. He stated that to a certain degree he agrees that the addition of a lock gate alongside would benefit but FDGiA funding is only available for the construction of a tidal surge protection barrier.

906 TO RECEIVE THE INSPECTION WORKS BROCHURE - Agenda Item 5

The Operations Manager presented his Inspection of Works:

(a) Watercourse Adoption rear Cowley Road, Donington

The Operations Manager stated as outlined in the tour brochure, Donington is a large village, with a number of ongoing and future proposals for development. The number of surface water discharges into Drain 2/25 are likely to increase, and it would therefore be in the Board's interest to take the open and piped private watercourse into its control to ensure that the watercourse is maintained in a satisfactory condition to allow the continuation of flows.

There are some issues with this proposal, a section is old riparian which is maintained by the owner and is in a fairly good condition, and also the existing 300 metres of pipeline which outfalls under the railway line.

906 (a) Cont.....

This piped section will require cctv investigation to ascertain its condition. Mr P Holmes suggested that could consideration be given to reverting it to an open drain. The members agreed that the scheme should be developed and investigated.

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

The Operations Manager stated that a detailed map in the tour brochure, which outlines four piped sections which are due to be replaced. Three of these sections run under road crossing, we are awaiting response from the Environment Agency regarding an application for Grant in Aid.

(c) Donington Wykes Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that funding is in place for the replacement of the existing submersible pumps at this pumping station.

The Operations Manager presented a slide photograph which detailed two runs of piling on the approach to the pumping station which has started to fail due to rot. A budget review will need to be carried out to look into these additional works.

(d) Horbling Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that as reviewed on the tour, £11k is allocated in the 2017/18 budget for a new roof at Horbling pumping station.

The Pump Engineer requested that approval be given that the budget funds allocated be for a new roof at any pumping station as Quadring pumping station is leaking. All AGREED.

(e) Slips in Drain 31/3 - North Drove, Quadring Fen

The Operations Manager stated that this issue has been brought to the attention of Lincolnshire County Council Highways. LCC Highways stated that they have no funding available to assist in partnership works but they have no issue with the Board reducing the width of the verge to complete improvement and revetment works.

(f) Dowsby Lode Raised Bank Issue

The Operations Manager referred to the visit on the tour regarding the issue of overtopping on the southern side of the bank at Dowsby Lode.

The Chief Executive stated that from the view point on the trailer you could see the narrowing of the drain which is restricting flows.

906 (f) Cont.....

It is proposed to survey the full length and then design a scheme to include the stabilising of the bank to support the revetment works resulting in full flows towards Dowsby Lode pumping station.

Mr V Barker added that the works should be viewed in two stages, first stage up to the brick folly from the pumping station. The second until you get to the wider section of the drain, the section through Burtts land.

Mr J Atkinson declared an interest.

(g) New Dyke Improvements

The Operations Manager referred to the tour which viewed the improvement works carried out on drain 28/11. Due to a burst Anglian Water pipe in August 2015 the bank had suffered from slippage, this coincided with drain and desilting works due to be carried out. These works are due to be completed and there is just the large section of slipped bank to repair.

(h) Leaveslake Drain Improvements

The Operations Manager referred to a slide which showed a CCTV picture of the LCC culvert under Leaves Lake Drove and the condition of the pipe. He highlighted on the tour the proposed works to divert flows which involves blocking off the LCC culvert under Leaves Lake Drove, replacing the field access culvert across drain 28/2 and a section of new pipe. Mr J Atkinson asked if the pipe has the capacity for the increased flows. The Operations Manager responded yes, coming along the east section there is a chamber at the junction of drain 22/2 and drain 28/2 with a deep invert, currently the existing pipeline is at a higher invert level downstream, than those of the existing, the proposal is to decrease this invert level/lift the pipe in order to flow towards the South Forty Foot Drain.

(i) Proposed Realignment Drain 22/2 & Removal of Culvert 1973 (FX1282)

This culvert has been inspected by LCC Highways, the recommendation is Option 3:

“Demolish and replace with 3m or 3.2m diameter multi plate corrugated steel pipe (based on next arches up/down stream), based on leaving the abutments in situ and placing in between (would need to check available cover to pipe but could get round shallow cover with mesh reinforced concrete backfill).

6m running width plus say 2m each end slashed ends/revetment estimated costs £62k”

906 (i) Cont.....

The Chief Executive stated this is for information, it will be referred to the Bridges & Culvert Committee.

(j) Proposed Culvert leading to Black Hole Drove

The Operations Manager outlined a request from LCC Highways regarding proposals for the culvert leading into Black Hole Drove.

The recommendation for the Board is to relocate the culvert west and realign the watercourse. Further discussion and consultation with LCC Highways was agreed.

(k) Scheme 2086 - Graft Drain Improvements

The Operations Manager highlighted the realignment works completed on a section of the Graft Drain. He reported that seven culverts will be removed which may increase to eleven once confirmation has been received from relevant land owners.

Mr V Barker asked if restrictions have been put in place to stop irrigation from this drain until the banks have stabilised. Mr P Holmes congratulated the workmanship on this drain by the 360 operatives, all agreed.

South Forty Foot Drain inspection.

The Chairman commented how useful it has been to go along the South Forty Foot drain bank top. The Chief Executive stated that has offered a valuable insight into the low bank spots and the poor maintenance which will need to be carried out, hopefully before the Board become involved with future maintenance.

The Chief Executive stated that Mr R Caudwell is at this meeting as the Chairman of the Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group which is made up of representatives from LCC, BBC, EA, GLLEP and ourselves. So far we have had the first meeting and a number of action points are due to be reported back at the next meeting on 14th April 2016.

The Chief Executive stated that the Environment Agency have issued a "Consultation Response Document", copies are available if any members wished to take one, this focuses on questions from members of the public who live and work in the catchment. The responses from the Environment Agency stated that they are planning to catch up on the maintenance works and identify the low spots along the South Forty Foot Drain.

He added that opportunities for Government funding appear limited and HMRC notes on corporate tax relief towards flood management will be displayed on the Boards website. Any growth within the catchment will attract grants and other European funding. There will be investigations into extending the Boards area into the upper catchment and there will be reviews on any tax relief benefits of water retention reservoirs.

He stated that the Operations Manager has been tasked to identify how many km's of watercourse currently maintained by the Board which benefits only one landowner.

Mr R Caudwell added that he wanted to clarify to all the Members that this group will be looking into the catchment as a whole, whilst addressing issues regarding highland water carrier's contribution. It is a partnership and some things are not going to be easy, all avenues of funding will be identified.

Mr R Caudwell also wanted to say how grateful we should be to the local staff at the Black Sluice pumping station which have kept the machinery going since the tidal surge in 2013 which has meant that it is now feasible to repair these pumps.

(l) Swaton Bank Stability 2017/18 Scheme

The Operations Manager presented slides showing slips at Spanby Beck after cleansing and revetment improvement works.

(m) Scredington North Beck Improvements 2017/18 Scheme

The Operations Manager presented slides showing slippages which have occurred since the improvement works on the bank which were envisaged to help the problems within the channel. Mr G Playne was asked his view, he responded that there have been further slips since the photographs were taken. It was agreed that the Operations Manager would contact Mr Payne for a site visit.

(n) Gosberton Pumping Station Weed Screen Cleaner 2017/18 Scheme

The Operations Manager presented slides showing the planned refurbishment of the weed screen cleaner at Gosberton Pumping Station.

(o) Culvert Surveys

The Operations Manager stated that due to staffing issues and long term sick the culvert inspections have not been progressed. These are being planned to be carried out.

907 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 5

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

908 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 6

(a) South Forty Foot Drain

Mr V Barker had made a note of at least four badger setts within the bank on the South Forty Foot Drain which should be reported to the Environment Agency.

He also stated that weed and bushing works will need to be carried out along the South Forty Foot Drain.

(b) Donington Pumping Station

Mr V Barker asked if the drain end requires sealing at Donington & Surfleet pumping station.

(c) Gosberton & Dowsby Pumping Station

Mr V Barker stated that the solar panels at Gosberton pumping station are north facing, and on Dowsby pumping station the panels are East West.

(d) Walnut House, Threkingham

The Chief Executive outlined a byelaw application which had been presented to the Board and agreed on the 4th November 2015.

“The Board RESOLVED to agree a condition be placed on the property that should the existing pipeline require replacement any time in the future then a new open watercourse would be cut through the field north west of the site. The property owner would be responsible for the full costs associated with the drain realigning and land loss. Should the Board carry out future routine pipe replacement works these works and costs would be covered by the Board”.

The Chief Executive has further investigated and ascertained communication with the previous owner dating back to 1994 when the watercourse was piped and back filled with full knowledge from the Board. In light of this the above condition would be removed.

(e) Environment Committee

The Chairman asked if any member of the Southern Works Committee would be interested in becoming a member of the Environment Committee. Mr W Ash volunteered and all AGREED.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 17:30pm.