

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board
held at Hubberts Bridge Community Centre on
23rd November 2021 at 2pm

Members

Chair - * Mr K C Casswell

Mr W Ash	* Cllr T Ashton
* Mr J Atkinson (Virtual)	* Cllr R Austin
* Mr V Barker	* Cllr P Bedford (Virtual)
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Cooper
* Mr P Holmes	Cllr F Pickett
* Mr M Leggott	* Cllr P Skinner
* Mr P Robinson	* Cllr M Head
* Mr M Rollinson (Virtual)	* Cllr P Moseley
* Mr R Needham	Cllr S Walsh
* Mr C Wray	* Mr M Brookes

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr M Wray (Environment Agency)
Mr P Reilly (Environment Agency) (Virtual)

1886 RECORDING THE MEETING - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

1887 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD - Agenda Item 2

On the proposition of Mr M Brookes, seconded by Cllr M Cooper and a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr K C Casswell be appointed Chair of the Board for the next three years.

1888 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD - Agenda Item 3

On the proposition of Mr J Fowler, seconded by Mr P Robinson and a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Vice Chair of the Board for the next three years.

1889 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 4

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Ash, Cllr S Walsh

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Board, Mr M Leggott, Mr R Needham and Mr C Wray, to their first meeting and welcomed Mr M Wray and Mr P Reilly from the Environment Agency.

1890 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 5

There were no declarations of interest.

1891 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BLACK SLUICE OUTFALL & LOCK OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW AND BLACK SLUICE OPERATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (OCP) FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) – Agenda Item 6

Mr M Wray introduced himself as Flood Risk Manager at the Environment Agency (EA), and Mr P Reilly, Operations Manager at the EA.

Mr M Wray noted a document handed out to members which outlines the answers to the questions previously asked to the EA, of which are included within the meeting agenda.

The Chief Executive expressed his thanks to the EA for the positive tone taken in the response to the questions, noting the understanding that partnership is key.

Mr M Wray added that he hopes this document will provide some confidence in that the EA do follow a set procedure during emergency events.

The Operations Manager explained to the Board that he has had previous engagement with the EA around this documentation and is satisfied that as much as can be done, has been to gain an understanding of the EA's operational procedure for the Black Sluice Outfall and Lock Complex.

The Operations Manager next referred to the documentation provided by the EA to all members, focusing on a specific part of the written responses to each question as follows.

1. *'We have concerns around the statement there are 'no hard and fast rule', could the lock be set to mirror the sluice during high rainfall events (i.e., operate on open and close with each tide)?*

The Operations Manager referred to the importance of communication, highlighted in the EA's response to the above question, noting that, learning from previous emergency events, it provides a much better position when sharing information. The Operations Manager noted that he would like to see the communication between the EA and Board's Officer's during emergency events continue.

Mr M Wray acknowledged this, further highlighting that it is written into the EA's procedures that they are to liaise with the Board's Officers.

Mr P Holmes thanked Mr M Wray and Mr P Reilly for their detailed response document. Mr P Holmes further referred to a statement within their response to this question; *'the requirements of maintaining a navigable waterway are not recommendations but the law'*, questioning at what point the law is 'overlooked' and the route of the SFFD negated? Mr M Wray responded that it has to operate within navigation requirements, but that the EA have control of water levels which impacts on navigation.

2. *'These assets are as you state, 'dual-purpose assets' but when they are being used for a fluvial emergency, they require local knowledge to manage them correctly, not as has happened in the past when a regional FIDO does not know geographically where the Black Sluice Complex is and what purpose it serves, i.e. as the only significant outlet for the South Forty Foot Catchment.'*

The Operations Manager noted the 34 pump catchments and 37 sub catchments the Board maintain and the maintenance of levels in these catchments during an emergency event. The Board want to work with the EA, who can evacuate water from the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) in order to allow the Board to continue pumping and provide its service. However, the Operations Manager did note that during a previous event, at least one tide was missed, potentially due to the inexperience of the EA Duty Officer on shift. The Operations Manager therefore noted that the Board needs confidence in the EA Duty Officer on shift at the time.

Mr P Reilly responded by explaining that telemetry control will mean that Duty Officers are taken out of decision making as much as possible.

Both the Operations Manager and Chief Executive alluded to the concept of still learning based on the events being faced with and about learning together with the EA.

3. *'Once complete (previous statement from the EA was 'ready for the end of September 2021') we would request a complete Operational Overview Manual along with being placed on an update circular, this will become an appendix to our own Emergency Response Plan (ERP).'*

The Operations Manager questioned Mr M Wray as to when the manual will be completed?

Mr M Wray responded that the EA will be completing this over the next calendar year. He added that they are currently struggling in relation to recruitment and so other tasks have had to be prioritised. The knowledge is currently written into the Flood Incident Duty Officer (FIDO) procedure, and it is a case of building upon that.

The Chair acknowledged the difficulties around producing it, but noted that the EA said it would be produced three years ago.

Mr M Wray noted that there is already an operations and maintenance manual handbook on site, which members are welcome to come and view.

Mr M Brookes, as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, explained that the documentation is required urgently in order to satisfy the Board's Risk Register. Currently, risk 1.1(b), fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences, has a high risk score of 6 and has done for the past three years. It was noted that the Internal Auditor is also anxious about this high risk score. The documentation from the EA is required to show that the Nav Lock will be open during emergency events, in order to reduce the risk to the Board. Mr M Brookes questioned if the EA have any document that could satisfy this?

Mr M Wray questioned if a 'tidied up' version of the document presented for today's meeting would be adequate?

Mr M Brookes responded that it needs to be a document signed off by the EA outlining the procedures and trigger levels for the Nav Lock to open, even if it is just a precis or statement to that effect.

Mr P Reilly responded that a statement could be provided, noting that the 'how, why, and when' detail is held within documents that are difficult to share.

The Operations Manager noted that the Board's Officers, and potentially any interested Board Members, would like to take the opportunity proposed by Mr M Wray and visit site to view the operations and maintenance manual.

4. *'What consideration/course of action will be taken for/during a catastrophic gravity outfall failure during a fluvial event? Through liaison with the FIDO and following our own Emergency Response Plan (ERP) we can reduce/stop lifting/pumping water into the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) but the eight uncontrolled highland carriers will continue gravitating high volumes of water into the SFFD. Are the EA introducing/allowing overtopping of the armoured/non-armoured low spots along the c62Km of the SFFD raised banks?*

If this is the case, we would like to know where any planned 'over-topping' locations are and confirmation the local residents/landowners have been made aware of this. With this knowledge we can also review our pumping requirement for these locations/sub-catchments within our ERP.

What plans are in place from the EA to armour the current un-armoured low spots to help reduce the possibility of a SFFD bank breach, resulting in flooding over our catchment and our additional costs associated with the additional water? If none of the above is in place it is time for some very serious consideration and discussion between our two organisations.'

The Operations Manager made reference to the Swaton Eau and armoured low spots identified through LIDAR. The Operations Manager questioned how much LIDAR is used and whether the SFFD is reliant on LIDAR?

Mr M Wray responded that LIDAR is used extensively, noting that its accuracy has improved. He further noted that topographical surveys are also used, questioning if the Operations Manager had a specific concern?

The Operations Manager responded that it would be helpful to know the minimum crest height of the SFFD banks, as the Board work to a level of +2.7mODN at Black Hole Drove PS when pumping capacity is reduced, noting that in a previous emergency event, the level reached +3.05mODN at Black Hole Drove with potential overtopping. Mr M Wray noted that he is happy to share any survey information with the Board. Mr P Reilly added that LIDAR gives an overview and shows low spots, whereas the topographical survey gives the detail, all of which can be shared.

The Operations Manager further added that within the response document it states that there are no current plans to armour further low spots, questioning if this is the EA's policy going forward?

Mr M Wray responded that they could look at others but have got no plans to at the moment.

5. *'Once complete we would request a complete Black Sluice Operational Contingency Plan (OCP) complete with the Operational Action Plans along with being placed on an update circular, this will become an appendix to the Board's ERP.'*

The Operations Manager reflected on the final sentence of the EA response to the above question; *'We would ask the Board to recognise the importance of prioritising operational response work in terms of timescales for delivery'*. Mr M Wray noted that it refers, as previously mentioned, to lack of resources and having to prioritise.

The Chair thanked Mr M Wray and Mr P Reilly for their attendance. Mr P Reilly left the meeting.

1892 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS & CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO CONSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: - Agenda Item 7

(a) Executive

The Chair presented this Agenda Item, explaining that the Executive Committee propose no change, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

It was RESOLVED that the Executive Committee be appointed as follows:

Executive Committee	
Chair	Mr Keith Casswell
Vice-Chair	Mr Paul Holmes
Chair NW Committee	Duplicate
Chair SW Committee	Mr Mark Rollinson
Chair Environment Committee	Duplicate
Chair Audit & Risk Committee	Cllr Michael Brookes
Chair Structures Committee	Mr Jonathan Fowler
Boston Borough Council Representative	Cllr Peter Bedford

(b) Northern Works

The Chair presented this Agenda Item, explaining that the only change is to the new elected Board Members, Mr M Leggott and Mr R Needham, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

It was RESOLVED that the Northern Works Committee be appointed as follows:

Northern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Paul Holmes	James Pocklington
Peter Robinson	David Casswell
Mark Leggott	Roger Welberry
Jonathan Fowler	
Robert Needham	
Cllr Tom Ashton	
Cllr Richard Austin	
Cllr Peter Bedford	
Cllr Michael Cooper	

Cllr Frank Pickett	
Cllr Paul Skinner	
Michael Brookes (Lay Member)	
Cllr Mervyn Head	

(c) Southern Works

The Chair presented this Agenda Item, explaining that the only change is to the new Elected Member, Mr C Wray, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

The Board RESOLVED that the Southern Works Committee be appointed as follows:

Southern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Mark Rollinson	Ross Dorrington
John Atkinson	Mark Mowbray
Keith Casswell	James Casswell
Chris Wray	Chris Dring
Will Ash	Andrew Mair
Vic Barker	
Cllr Simon Walsh	
Cllr Peter Moseley	

(d) Environment

Mr P Holmes presented this Agenda Item, explaining that there are two vacancies. The Executive Committee propose that Mr R Needham and Mr M Rollinson fill these vacancies, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

The Board RESOLVED that the Environment Committee be appointed as follows:

Environment Committee	
Northern Works	Southern Works
Paul Holmes	Keith Casswell
Roger Welberry	Vic Barker
Robert Needham	John Atkinson
Mr Peter Robinson	Mark Rollinson
Cllr Paul Skinner	Will Ash

(e) Audit & Risk

Mr M Brookes presented this Agenda Item, explaining that there are two vacancies. The Executive Committee propose that Mr M Leggott and Mr J Fowler fill these vacancies, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

The Board RESOLVED that the Audit & Risk Committee be appointed as follows:

Audit & Risk Committee	
Northern Works	Mark Leggott
Northern Works	Jonathan Fowler
Southern Works	Vic Barker
Southern Works	Will Ash
Appointed Member	Michael Brookes
Appointed Member	Cllr Simon Walsh
Additional Member	Cllr Richard Austin

(f) Structures

Mr J Fowler presented this Agenda Item, explaining that there is currently one vacancy on the Structures Committee. The Executive Committee proposed that Mr C Wray fill this vacancy, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

The Board RESOLVED that the Structures Committee be appointed as follows:

Structures Committee	
Mr Jonathan Fowler	Peter Robinson
Mr Will Ash	Vic Barker
Mr Paul Holmes	Chris Wray
Cllr Paul Skinner	Cllr Michael Cooper

(g) Nominations

The Chair presented this Agenda Item, inviting any issues or questions with the proposition.

The Board RESOLVED that the Nominations Committee be appointed as follows:

Nominations Committee	
Chair	Keith Casswell
Vice-Chair	Paul Holmes
Chair Audit & Risk Committee	Michael Brookes

1893 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:
- Agenda Item 8

(a) Northern Works

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Chair of the Northern Works Committee for the next three years.

(b) Southern Works

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M Rollinson be appointed Chair of the Southern Works Committee for the next three years.

(c) Environment

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Chair of the Environment Committee for the next three years.

(d) Audit & Risk

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M Brookes be appointed Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for the next three years.

(e) Structures

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr J Fowler be appointed Chair of the Structures Committee for the next three years.

(f) Ex Officio Members

It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair are Ex-officio members of all the Committees of the Board by virtue of their Office held, except the Audit & Risk Committee.

1894 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 9

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 30th June 2021, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

1895 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 10

The Confidential Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 30th June 2021, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

1896 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 11

(a) OVERDRAFT / SHORT TERM LOAN FACILITY – Minute 1824(i)

The Finance Manager presented the facilities presented in the agenda, highlighting that the only potential option, if needed, would be the Public Works Loan Board.

(b) POLICY No. 11: BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – Minute 1824(a)(ii)

Mr M Brookes noted his request at the previous meeting that the Butterfly Sanctuary at Amber Hill be included, the Chief Executive confirmed this has been completed.

(c) TRINITY COLLEGE PUMPING STATION WATER SEEPAGE FROM LONG SKIRTH – Minute 1824(b)(aa)

The Chair questioned if there was any update on this? The Operations Manager responded that a quotation has now been received for the investigation works and that he has been in touch with Adrian Clack (Environment Agency) who will be providing some funds towards the cost.

1897 TO RECEIVE THE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS: - Agenda Item 12

(a) NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Northern Works Committee Chair presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Northern Works Committee Meeting held on the 7th September 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

MATTERS ARISING:

(i) BREACH OF BOARD CONSENT – COLES LANE, SWINESHEAD

The Chief Executive informed the Board that meetings, both on site and in the office, have been held with the landowner. A Deed of Grant for the property has been looked into and suggested to the occupiers, as introduced at the Northern Works meeting. The solicitors cost for this will be £825 + VAT. The Chief Executive noted that, if the Board are agreeable, he will write to the occupiers informing them of the cost that will require reimbursing to the Board.

All AGREED to inform the occupier of the cost relating to the Deed of Grant for their property.

(b) SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Southern Works Committee Chair presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Southern Works Committee Meeting held on the 28th September 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

(c) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Chair presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 29th September 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

(i) 2021/22 CAPITAL SCHEMES BUDGETS

It was noted that this has already been presented to both the Northern and Southern Works committees.

(ii) 2022/23 PLANT BUDGET

The Chair questioned whether the 8” pump ordered had arrived yet?

The Operations Manager informed that it has arrived and was on site last week.

(iii) FUTURE RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD

The Chair explained to the Board that in 2023 the Special Levies (council) will be more than the agricultural drainage rates and so the Board will have to change to reflect this. To adjust this without reviewing the electoral districts, it would require two additional appointed members, which would increase the size of the Board to 23. If not, the Board would reduce to 15. There were mixed opinions at the Executive Committee meeting around this.

Cllr T Ashton noted that if the Board was reduced to 15, it may not leave many in attendance at meetings if some were absent. The Finance Manager noted that 18 of 21 members were present at the current meeting.

The Chair noted that it is not for a decision today, but to make the Board aware of it and that the Executive Committee will have further conversation about it.

(d) AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – 12 OCTOBER 2021

The Audit & Risk Chair presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit & Risk Meeting held on the 12th October 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

(i) ANNUAL RETURN INCLUDING EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S OPINION 2020/2021

The Audit & Risk Chair highlighted to the Board that the External Auditor's opinion has returned with no issues and congratulated and thanked the management team and Board's Officers for such an achievement.

TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

(ii) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (FORMAT ONLY)

The Audit & Risk Chair presented the Annual Accounts for the format only, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 12th October 2021. The Board RESOLVED that the format of the Annual Accounts be adopted.

(iii) LAND DRAINAGE BYELAWS (POLICY (B))

The Audit & Risk Chair presented Policy (B), Land Drainage Byelaws, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 12th October 2021. The Board RESOLVED that the Land Drainage Byelaws (Policy (B)) be adopted and authorised the Chief Executive and the Board Chair to sign and seal the amended Byelaws.

(iv) FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (POLICY No. 3)

The Audit & Risk Chair presented Policy No. 03, Financial Regulations. The Board RESOLVED that the policy for Financial Regulations be adopted.

(v) PROCUREMENT (POLICY No. 4)

The Audit & Risk Chair presented Policy No. 04, Procurement, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 12th October 2021. The Board RESOLVED that the Procurement Policy be adopted.

(vi) RELAXATION OF BOARD BYELAW No. 10 (9 METRE BYELAW)
(POLICY No. 8)

The Audit & Risk Chair presented Policy No. 08, Relaxation of Board Byelaw No. 10 (9 Metre Byelaw), which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 12th October 2021. The Board RESOLVED that the Relaxation of Board Byelaw No. 10 (9 Metre Byelaw) Policy be adopted.

(vii) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY (POLICY No. 10)

The Audit & Risk Chair presented Policy No. 10, Delegation of Authority. The Board RESOLVED that the Delegation of Authority Policy be adopted.

(viii) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The Chief Executive presented Policy No. 13, the Emergency Response Plan, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 12th October 2021. He further noted that the personal information was removed for Data Protection purposes.

The Chief Executive reminded the Board that the EA documentation regarding the operation of the Black Sluice Nav Lock will form an appendix to this plan, once received.

The Board RESOLVED that the Emergency Response Plan be adopted, noting that the EA documentation regarding the operation of the Black Sluice Nav Lock, that will form an appendix to the plan, is still awaited.

MATTERS ARISING:

(ix) INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair wanted to highlight to the Board, that Mr N Scott's suggestion at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of looking at an insurance policy with £300,000 was reviewed by the Executive Committee, who felt it wouldn't be beneficial.

(e) EXECUTIVE – 2nd NOVEMBER 2021

The Chair presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 2nd November 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

An error was noted in Minute 1879(d), paragraph two, £1000,000 should be £100,000.

(i) 2021/22 QUARTER 2 FORECAST

Following the Period 6 Management Accounts, the Quarter 2 Forecast is then produced, to aim to provide an estimate about where the Board will be at the end of the financial year.

The Finance Manager reminded the Board of the law that means that, for the purposes of the accounts, all grant income must be recorded in the year it was received, and any grant expenditure recorded in the year it was spent. COVID-19 has delayed some of the works and so this has distorted the accounts.

(ii) INITIAL INDICATION OF THE 2022/23 BUDGET

The Finance Manager explained that the Quarter 2 Forecast helps to build the budget and helps give a more realistic picture for 10 year projections.

The Finance Manager noted the cost of the previous two wet winters and associated electricity costs and repairs at pumping stations, adding that it is time to start pulling it back.

The Finance Manager highlighted the increase of 7.29% in 2022/23 and the aim to increase the reserve % of expenditure to 30% over the ten year period considering the self-insurance. It was also noted that the councils have been made aware of this potential increase, adding that the ban on using red diesel has also impacted on the need for a steeper increase to secure the future of the Board.

The Chair questioned if the Board were happy to increase the reserve % of expenditure to 30%. All AGREED.

Mr V Barker questioned the legality around the Board self-insuring and whether the Board is big enough to do so?

The Chair responded that other IDBs already self-insured, with the Finance Manager adding that he sees no problems around the legality of self-insurance, technically we are just not insuring the pumping stations.

Mr V Barker further questioned third parties in pumping stations being insured? The Finance Manager confirmed this would be covered by the Board's Public Liability Insurance.

The Chair added that the Board are hoping to be able to get reasonable insurance going forward.

Mr P Holmes added that the Board are insuring everything they are legally obliged to insure.

Cllr P Moseley noted that he appreciates the ambition of 30%, but questioned what modelling has been used in regard to the electricity and whether the current volatility in the electric supply market has been considered?

The Chair acknowledged this point, noting that the only thing the Board can do is mitigate against it.

The Finance Manager added that the electricity is supplied through Woldmarsh, the contract renewal is 30th September 2022, at which time, hopefully, it will have calmed down.

Cllr P Mosley expressed his concern that the Board may see a big increase at renewal due to have being at a set rate, noting that energy levels tend to increase quickly, but decrease slowly.

Cllr T Ashton noted, in relation to the increase in rate, that if the Council try to get the Board to decrease it, it is simply 'deferring the pain' from one year to the next. He further added that Boston Borough Council will have to find the extra from within the system and hopes that his colleagues understand that the increase is no more than what is necessary for the Board to continue operating.

The Chair reflected on the aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 but highlighted that there is no capital to implement the change that will be required.

Cllr P Mosley noted that in relation to electricity, the grid is continually decarbonising and so when considering carbon budgets and how to meet net zero targets, the vast majority of electricity will be decarbonised electricity.

Mr M Leggott added that he has read that high energy prices will stay until the end of 2023.

Cllr M Cooper highlighted the possibility of power cuts and rationing during the winter, questioning how the pumps would operate if required?

It was confirmed that some pumps can be driven by a tractor if necessary, and the larger stations have generator connections.

1898 REVIEW OF THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 13

The Chair presented the Risk Register.

It was noted that Risk 1.1(b) (Risk Score 6), fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences, had been reviewed and discussed in Minute 1891.

It was noted that Risk 1.8 (Risk Score 6), loss of senior staff, is in relation to the current circumstances of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Register be accepted.

1899 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & RATING - Agenda Item 14

(a) PERIOD 07 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The Finance Manager presented the Period 07 accounts, highlighting that there is currently extensive analysis ongoing in relation to the pumping station maintenance overspend and more information will be presented once the issue has been identified.

(b) DRAINAGE RATES REPORT

Account Ref	Location of Revaluation	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation	Write Off
3702	Town Dam Lane, Donington	Glass houses removed	£20,059	£1,080	£2,340.23

The Finance Manager noted that he has been to site, and it is now being fully developed. All AGREED the above write off.

1900 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT INLCUDING NEAR MISSES - Agenda Item 15

The Operations Manager presented the annual Health and Safety Report, noting the six reportable accidents, as shown in the agenda, also noting that there are no near misses to report.

The Operations Manager added that further training is currently being considered, as COVID-19 has impacted on training.

Mr M Leggott questioned if the workforce complete a self-audit of risks before starting any task? Adding that Witham 4th IDB have an online process in which all of the workforce have to complete an audit of all the risk before commencing any task, which is then sent electronically to the office and so it can be immediately identified if they are not being completed.

The Operations Manager responded that the Board don't do that, but all of the workforce do have access to a paper risk assessment. The Operations Manager noted that he can look into it and discuss further with Witham 4th IDB.

Mr M Brookes noted his concern for no near misses being reported. The Chair felt that the dry weather may have helped.

1901 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SOUTH Lincs WATER PARTNERSHIP (SLWP)

The Chief Executive explained, that after being involved with the SLWP, for six years, they are now approaching the stage of site selection, whereby they are looking at a total area of approximately 500 ha / 1236 acres. Further adding that the aim is to be moving water by 2035.

The Chief Executive reminded the Board of the current principle proposals to take huge quantities of water from the Trent and Witham and transfer down the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD), noting that there is no proposal to bring water north at this time.

The Chief Executive added that the aim is to have a single site identified by March 2022. Also adding that he is now part of the 'Water Farming Reservoir Group' and that Water Resources East (WRE) are going to re-imburse upto £600 a month, from May 2021, for the administrative duties provided by the Board for the SLWP.

The Chief Executive next explained that Mr J Atkinson, in virtual attendance, had sent some questions prior to the meeting to be answered as below:

1. *You need good subsurface geology to save costs and starting at the very south of our boundary there is a lot of unstable and peaty land near to the Bourne Fen boundary. This peaty and unstable land certainly extends as far as Dunsby Fen. Anybody doubting that should see the state of Dunsby fen road. The Fens that I am familiar with the geology seems to get far more suitable in Rippingale, Dowsby, and Aslackby Fens I freely admit.*

The Chief Executive responded that the ground geology has been identified as a very important factor when identifying possible SLR site locations, very large quantities of clay will be required during the construction phase, therefore Bourne Fen for example is not a suitable location.

2. *Road infrastructure without having to undertake a further vast expense and losing further land. The roads that fit into this category are :- Bourne Fen Dowsby Fen and Donington Road*

The Chief Executive responded that existing highway infrastructure to and around the proposed SLR site are important factors.

3. *Electricity substation by Dowsby Fen Pumping Station could also save money and is adjacent to the good road infrastructure.*

The Chief Executive responded that existing power supplies adjacent to the proposed SLR site are important factors.

The Chief Executive also added that 24 organisations have been asked to sign a confidentiality Memorandum of Understanding, to be involved with the identification of the single site. The Chair noted that by signing it, it means the Chief Executive and himself can influence and be kept informed of the site selection process.

The Chief Executive also noted that he encourages members to see this as a positive, noting that Grafham Water is a good example of what is hoping to be achieved in South Lincolnshire, with lots of different opportunities.

The Chief Executive also highlighted that the SFFD will be widened and deepened, but that the Board don't want to lose the facility to gravitate.

The Chair highlighted that there are a lot of partners with the SLWP, who are focused on water becoming an asset, further noting that this should make the Board's catchment more secure.

Mr M Leggott questioned whether it will be compulsory purchase, or whether they will be looking to identify voluntary sales of land? Adding that if it is compulsory purchase, you don't receive a lump sum, it is 'drip fed' and so not enough is received to reinvest.

The Chief Executive responded that he, along with the NFU, have tried to convince that it would be far easier to negotiate with willing landowners.

Mr V Barker presented the following:

'In 1815 John Rennie considered that no effective drainage could be obtained unless the Highland Water could be stopped from mixing with the fen water and proposed a 'catchwater drain'. Not long after, a Reverent Kingsman Foster a Commissioner said that the waters from the south part of the Black Sluice should go into the Glen and the Welland. Sir John Rennie in 1843 proposed making the Carr Dyke into a Catch water drain. In more recent times, our Engineer F H Tomes OBE in 1938 and again after the flood in 1958 a further report proposing each time a catch water drain one of the outfalls was to be just above Langrick. They were too expensive. What did the Rivers Board do? Built two new pumps at Boston, making 5, that do not work now. The third proposed reservoir is our chance, not in a generation, or a life time, but in the history of the Fens, to be able to take excess water from between 30% and 50% of the Highland water away from our system during flooding. We have three pumps at Black Hole, these could well be used to fill the reservoir in times of high flows and at other times, with balancing reservoirs on major high land carriers this is our chance to improve our drainage with others funding it. Personally, I would have put the reservoir on the other side of the SFFD, but I do not think it matters, as with the success of the new reservoir and more demand for water, there is a good possibility, in 100 years or less there would be one on the other side also. If, Mr Chair, we do not take this chance, future Board Members will criticise us for not doing our job as Board Members. If a reservoir is to go ahead, we should support the third option.'

The Chief Executive acknowledged Mr V Barker for this but highlighted his statement about that he would have chosen to put the reservoir on the other side. The Chief Executive confirmed that a site has not yet been identified, and that the images presented in the Strategic Solution Gate One Submission were simply superimposed onto a random satellite image area.

The Chief Executive further added that the main purpose of the SLWP is to see water as a re-useable resource.

Mr V Barker added that farmers are going to require irrigation more often and so reservoirs will help to grow crops.

Mr V Barker questioned if the levels in the SFFD are planned to stay as they are or be raised? The Chief Executive responded that he wouldn't want the levels to be raised as the Board don't want to lose the capability to gravitate.

1902 REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING: - Agenda Item 14

(a) MONTHLY ACCOUNTS (JUNE 2021 – OCTOBER 2021)

The Board's monthly accounts, inclusive of June 2021 - October 2021, were circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) MONTHLY ACCOUNTS WOLDMARSH (JUNE 2021 – OCTOBER 2021)

The Board's monthly Woldmarsh invoices, inclusive of June 2021 – October 2021, were circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

Mr V Barker questioned whether the export rate for the Board' solar panels is negotiable? The Finance Manager believed it is set nationally by government, dependant on the date the installation was installed, also noting that only one site has an export meter because the others aren't big enough.

(c) SCHEDULE OF CONSENTS (JUNE 2021 – OCTOBER 2021)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents, consisting of June 2021 - October 2021, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) RAINFALL

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

The Chief Executive noted that it has been a long time since the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) has been seen at such a consistently low level at this time of year.

Mr M Brookes left the meeting.

1903 TO CONFIRM DATES OF MEETING FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS - Agenda Item 18

The following dates for the meetings of the next twelve months were AGREED as follows:

Executive	Tuesday 18 th January 2022	2pm
Board	Tuesday 8 th February 2022	2pm
Environment	Tuesday 1 st March 2022	2pm
Structures	Tuesday 22 nd March 2022	2pm
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 12 th April 2022	2pm
Executive	Tuesday 17 th May 2022	2pm
Board	Tuesday 14 th June 2022	2pm
Southern Works	Tuesday 5 th July 2022	-
Northern Works	Tuesday 19 th July 2022	-
Executive	Tuesday 13 th September 2022	2pm
Joint Works	Tuesday 4 th October 2022	2pm
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 25 th October 2022	2pm

Board	Tuesday 22 nd November 2022	2pm
Executive	Tuesday 13 th December 2022	2pm

1904 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 19

(a) RED DIESEL

Cllr T Ashton expressed his dismay for still having to explain to the Treasury what an IDB is and what they do, highlighting that there are still political efforts to stop the ban on using red diesel for IDBs.

The Finance Manager noted that the Board has received responses from Matt Warman MP and John Hayes MP who simply sent the Treasury's response about reducing carbon.

Cllr P Skinner noted that three District Councils have written to Rishi Sunak.

(b) ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – CHARTERED ENVIRONMENTALIST

Mr M Leggott questioned if the Environment Committee is just made up of in-house knowledge? Noting that another IDB take advice from a Chartered Environmentalist.

Mr P Holmes, as Chair of the Environment Committee, responded that the Board do have specialists to undertake surveys etc. but not that advise on the Environment Committee. The Environment Committee is made up of appointed and elected members with an interest in the Environment, but that a Chartered Environmentalist could be a potential way forward. Mr M Leggott concluded that he will provide the Environment Chair with further information following the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:15.