

# **BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

## **MINUTES**

of the proceedings of a Joint Meeting of the  
Northern and Southern Works Committees

held at the Offices of the Board on  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 2pm

### **Northern Works Members**

Chairperson - \* Mr P Holmes

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| * Cllr P Bedford   | * Mr M Brookes     |
| * Mr D Casswell    | * Cllr N Drayton   |
| Mr J Emerson       | * Mr J Fowler      |
| * Cllr A Hagues    | * Mr M Leggott     |
| * Cllr D Middleton | Cllr C Mountain    |
| * Mr R Needham     | Mr J E Pocklington |
| * Mr P Robinson    | Cllr C Rylott      |
| * Cllr D Scoot     | Cllr H Staples     |
| Mr R Welberry      | * Cllr S Welberry  |

### **Southern Works Members**

Chairperson - \* Mr M Rollinson

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| * Mr W Ash      | * Mr J F Atkinson |
| * Mr V A Barker | * Mr K C Casswell |
| * Mr J Casswell | Mr R Dorrington   |
| Mr C Dring      | * Cllr M Geaney   |
| * Cllr Z Lane   | * Mr A Mair       |
| Mr M Mowbray    | * Mr M Taylor     |
| * Mr C Wray     |                   |

(\* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)  
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)  
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)  
Mr K Methley (Pump Engineer)  
Mr I Warsap (SLWP Consultant)  
Mr G Atkison (Guest)

Mr M Rollinson chaired the meeting.

#### 2200 Recording the meeting – Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

#### 2201 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Rylott, Mr J Pocklington, Mr R Welberry, Mr R Dorrington, Cllr H Staples, Mr M Mowbray.

2202 Declarations of interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

2203 Minutes of the last meeting of the Northern Works Committee - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Northern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record with the following amendments:

- Minute 2129(d) – ‘...the Board will complete the *flailing* works at 50% cost to the Board and 50% paid by the landowner...’ should be ‘*bushing* works’.
- Minute 2130(a)(iii) – should read ‘...it would mean the Board *wouldn't be* competing against the EA for the same pot of funding *and therefore wouldn't be a win-win situation.*’

2204 Confidential Minutes of the last meeting of the Northern Works Committee - Agenda Item 5

The Confidential Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Northern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

2205 Matters arising from the Northern Works Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 6

(a) Residential development works - Heron Park, Wyberton - Minute 2129(e)

The Projects Director outlined the first issue; the proximity of a footpath to a Board Maintained Drain (Lincolnshire County Council will not adopt the footpath because of its proximity to the drain and it not being fit for purpose). The footpath has now had some work done to it but remains in the same place. The Projects Director will therefore be back in touch with Chestnut Homes about this.

The Projects Director next outlined the next issue; the gates that have been erected by Longhurst Housing Association are not wide enough for the Board's machine to pass through.

Cllr D Middleton (BBC Chairperson of the Planning Committee) noted that there is a new development going along there, questioning if the Board have been approached by Boston Borough Council about it? Noting that he is interested in the Board's 9 metre byelaw rule.

The Projects Director noted that within the Chestnut Homes development, there are issues with the 9 metre byelaw – they have left a 9 metre margin, but have developed it with driveways, block paving etc. The Projects Director explained that because of this, the Board has had to come to an arrangement with the Longhurst Housing Group with them providing protective matting to be laid for the Board's vehicles to run over and a commuted sum to cover the cost of using the matting over the next 20 years.

It was confirmed that the Board are initially consulted at the planning application stage, but then changes are made between that stage and the construction stage which the Board are not involved with.

It was also noted that this has been brought to the attention of the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA), as this is an issue experienced by all IDBs.

The Chief Executive further added that the Board's current position is to not relax the 9-metre byelaw at all.

Mr P Holmes noted the difficulty with the Board only having retrospective involvement and not being involved in the whole process.

Mr K Casswell also noted the concern that the new homeowners are probably not made aware of the Board's work when purchasing the house and so won't be aware of it until the Board's machinery is on site.

Cllr D Middleton noted that he is interested in these issues and doesn't like new homeowners to encounter these problems.

(b) Proposed piping of Drain 6/29 - Green Core, Marsh Lane - Minute 2129(f)

The Projects Director noted that Green Core have a new Site Manager, who is proving difficult to get hold of to provide clarification of the works required.

(c) Q1 Development - Wyberton Town Drains - Minute 2129(g)

The Projects Director reminded the committee of the circumstances – part of the proposal for this development was to realign the drain to gift some of the land to the adjacent playing fields.

The Projects Director has been in contact with Chestnut Homes to discuss this, the concern of the Board being that the drain will slip due to ground conditions, and offered two options as below:

- Works are completed by the Board to a high specification including revetment works.
- Works are completed by the Board to a normal specification with an indemnity.

Chestnut Homes were not agreeable to either of the above options and so this was discussed further by the Executive Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. They agreed to write to Chestnut Homes to highlight that the Board can only offer the above two options, and a third option; works are completed by a third party adhering to the Board's specification. Currently, no response has been received.

(d) Information on site inspection at Trinity College, Damford, Ewerby & South Kyme - Minute 2130(b)

The Projects Director reminded the committee that during the last high water level event, there was water inundation around the above pumping stations.

Through Environment Agency (EA) funding, investigation works were completed, the results of which showed that it was due to issues with the EA's bank. The Board have therefore requested further EA funding to complete works to rectify the issue. The EA are not forthcoming with this funding and have taken a blasé attitude towards it.

It was noted that the Projects Director and Chief Executive will be seeing Morgan Wray (EA Area Manager) next week, where they will raise this matter. Mr I Warsap encouraged them to remind Morgan Wray that the issue is with the EA's bank and not the Board's pumping station(s).

(e) Cattle at Swineshead Pumping Station - Minute 2133(a)

The Projects Director reminded the committee that the bank that is adjacent to Swineshead Pumping Station is grazed with cattle. The crossing point to the rear of the pumping station has cattle going across it from one bank to another. The cattle are leaving a mess and is a health and safety hazard.

There are already gates on site, the EA have no issue with them being closed and the landowner has also been contacted. There are also a set of kissing gates so that public access for the footpath is maintained.

2206 Minutes of the last meeting of the Southern Works Committee - Agenda Item 7

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Southern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

2207 Confidential Minutes of the last meeting of the Southern Works Committee – Agenda Item 8

The Confidential Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Southern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record with the following amendment:

- Minute 2182 – Spelling error – 'Casby' should be 'Keisby'.

2208 Matters arising from the Southern Works Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 9

There were no matters arising from the Southern Works Committee meeting minutes.

2209 To receive a report on Engineering Works for 2023 - Agenda Item 10

**Maintenance**

The Maintenance Director gave the following updates.

(a) Annual Summer Flail Mowing / Cutting

The summer flailing commenced 1<sup>st</sup> August and cutting commenced 4<sup>th</sup> August.

The 67km of high-profile watercourse assets are being monitored and will require a second cut this year.

The SKDC Hand Roding contract works remain the same as previously and are all completed.

This year, the Board have lost the Lincolnshire Housing Partnership's hand roding contract (been kept in house). The programme has been filled with ad-hoc SKDC works.

The Maintenance Director also noted the issues that have been experienced with the Twigas. At the end of last week, only one of the Twigas was serviceable. One had an issue with lift pumps and the other had an issue with a hydraulic hose (which can only be sourced from Italy). This has currently been overcome by fitting an additional part. The total bill for repairs for the three Twigas so far this season is c£20,000 (on top of budgeted maintenance costs). At the time of the meeting, two of the Twigas were serviceable, with a hope that the third would be by the end of the day.

It was noted that the oldest of the three (2015) is the one that has the least number of mechanical problems.

It was further confirmed that the new flail machine, Hooby, that has been ordered is expected April 2024 onwards.

Mr K Casswell questioned whether the Board should consider selling the most unreliable of the Twigas, as opposed to the oldest, when it is changed? The Projects Director noted that it is definitely something to consider.

Mr I Warsap noted that for how far through the programme the Board is, they have not had to expend a lot of crop loss compensation (£305.48). The Maintenance Director noted that the programme has worked well, starting earlier, in terms of avoiding standing crops. It was also noted, for the benefit of new appointed members, that the Board is one of the only Board's locally that pays crop loss compensation.

The Projects Director noted that perhaps some of the 67km of high-profile watercourses could be done earlier to give a bit more flexibility within the cutting programme around weather conditions.

(b) Prior Notice Given for Summer Cutting

The Works Supervisor continues to contact as many landowners as possible prior to entry on to land, which works well.

(c) Summer Crop Loss / Damage Compensation

It was noted that the maps included within the agenda, and displayed on screen, are the maps now being uploaded to the website, which were felt to be more beneficial than the previous interactive map.

(d) Winter Crop and Land Loss Compensation

The Board's written intention of improvement cleansing works will be issued to landowners in October 2023 for the works to be undertaken throughout December 2023 to April 2024.

(e) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleansing Works

The total length of proposed watercourse for 2023/24 is 37km, shown on the map within the agenda and displayed on screen. This incorporates some that couldn't be done last year, one of which being Damford Pump.

It was also noted that a new approach is being taken towards identifying and prioritising watercourses for desilting, as the new Site Engineer has now taken receipt of some new GPS surveying equipment which will be used for drain surveys to inform prioritisation of desilting.

**Projects**

The Projects Director gave the following updates.

**Capital Asset Improvements – 2023/24 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) Schemes**

(f) North Forty Foot cleansing / revetment & Langrick Road pipeline, lining / replacement works

These works are now completed.

Part of this scheme involved the construction of a silt lagoon (cutter suction dredger used to desilt from Cooks Lock Pumping Station to Rosebery Avenue). The landowner of the land used for the silt lagoon was not satisfied with the condition of the drain following the desilting process and so it was agreed that the Board would rectify this to ensure the drain was in the same condition it was prior to the works. Machine access was required in order to complete this work and so some vegetation and trees required clearing for this, completed by a contractor.

Photos were displayed on screen showing the tree line prior to the works and the tree line following the works. The property owner adjacent had been notified by the landowner and the Board about these works prior to them taking place.

Following the works, another tree has fallen. Photos were displayed on screen, showing the tree still standing at the completion of the works compared to it since having fallen. The property owner has contacted the Board seeking to recover their costs in relation to the damage to their fence line. It has been passed to the Board's insurers. The view of the insurer's is that because the tree is on their property, it will be their responsibility to get an arborist to assess whether the works done by the Board's contractor have attributed to the tree falling.

It was noted that a lot of the vegetation providing cover for the tree was removed and there have been high winds lately which could have attributed to the tree falling, however, the property owners were away at the time the tree fell.

Mr M Leggott questioned the total cost to the Board for these works? It was confirmed it was £1980, of which the Board paid 50%.

(g) Sempringham Fen Pumping Station refurbishment

Funding has been achieved to install a new weedscreen cleaner at Sempringham Fen Pumping Station. The Board have created a new access to the pumping station, using Environment Agency (EA) funding (their land). All the civils works are now completed, and an additional amount of funding has been agreed due to increase in costs and materials. The weedscreen is expected for delivery in December and the Board will use a dam in the drain to block the watercourse for installation.

(h) Allan House Pumping Station outfall repair

The Projects Director reminded the committee that Allan House Pumping Station was re-sited (1997/98) when ASDA was built. Since the re-siting, it is not known where the outfall pipe runs from the pumping station to the main river, and it has no inspection chambers. It was further noted that the pipe is an old Anglian Water main.

The last section of outfall into the main river (c12 metres long) falls through gravity from the chamber on the top of the bank. The EA notified the Board that the bank was failing and questioned whether the pipe was failing, which there was no evidence of, although, there is a misplaced joint. It is expected that funding for this scheme would come from FCERM GiA subject to an approved Business Case to replace the pipe, with the challenge being to get the work completed this year. One quotation has been received at c£134,000 and another contractor has been to site and is producing a quotation. It was felt this was a high quote.

It is also believed that funding will be achievable to install access chambers along the 330 metres of pipe (every 50-60 metres) and to refurbish the site (potentially new pumps, control panels etc.).

Mr P Robinson questioned if the pipe goes underneath any properties. It was confirmed that it runs between properties, not underneath.

Mr V Barker questioned whether the Board are going to need permission from ASDA to go on their land and carry out this work? The Projects Director noted that ASDA haven't been approached as of yet, but it may form part of the business case to approach ASDA to make a contribution.

(i) Black Sluice Catchment Study

The Projects Director noted a mistake in the Capital Schemes Budget in relation to this scheme, noting that for 2023/24 it should be £200,000.

These works are in progress and have provided another order to start the modelling works to bring individual catchment studies together with the overall aim being to bring all the Board's catchment area into one study to establish the most efficient way for it to work.

The Projects Director noted the age of the Board's pumping stations, and that they were originally funded through scheme work, however, going forward, a lot of the Board's pumping stations are in remote areas and so wouldn't class as having enough 'benefit' to achieve scheme funding (which revolves around people and property).

The Projects Director continued by explaining that the Grant in Aid funding being referred to (claimed by all IDBs and Risk Management Authorities) runs in a six-year programme. It is currently three years into this programme and is now being stated that they are running out of money and, following this financial year, there will be cuts. Therefore, the Board may be forced to rethink how some of these schemes, including this one, move forward.

Mr K Casswell referred to an extra £5 billion that was expected to be added into the funding allocation? The Projects Director noted that this will be part of the conversation that himself and the Chief Executive will have with Morgan Wray next week.

It was noted that it would be beneficial to have schemes ready to go in case more funding is found and ready to be allocated.

(j) South Forty Foot Upper Catchment Natural Flood Management (NFM)

The aim of the NFM works was noted; to reduce the speed that the small tributaries flow at and therefore reduce erosion and siltation from them into the main river.

Mr R Needham noted that the main river needs putting in order in the first instance. The Projects Director acknowledged this, noting that they (EA) believe that slowing the flow is one of the ways in which they can reduce overwhelming the main rivers.

There have been 203 locations identified in the four catchments studied, the challenge being the delivery of these works. The Projects Director noted that he believes the majority of landowners were reluctant to commit to the works because of the uncertainty around Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), but now it is understood, hopefully there will be an increase in uptake. The Chairperson noted the positive thing that double funding is allowed for NFM works; Sustainable Farming Incentive can be claimed on top.

It was noted that Lesley Sharpe, the current Landowner Engagement Consultant, is retiring, but is training an understudy. The Board's Officer's will meet with the understudy and determine whether to continue with them or tender out the work.

Mr P Holmes questioned whether, of those that have been completed, have any been seen working? The Projects Director responded that there is currently no monitoring sites in place, but there is a proposal to attract funding to gather this data.



Photos and videos of some of the completed NFM works were displayed on screen.

(k) Swaton Natural Flood Management (NFM) Schemes

All three sites have been completed now through the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) with the EA. There have been five attenuation ponds put in across the three sites (c£1million).

The delays with two of the sites owned by the Crown Estate were noted.

This is a pilot study for the EA, and they have a Graduate gathering data and monitoring the site.

Mr V Barker referenced the map on screen showing these works and identified the old railway line (south of Grove Farm West), noting that there is a valley there and the railway line has a natural dam effect. Mr V Barker felt this would be an opportune place for another swale.

The Projects Director responded that Swaton was a pilot, but that the EA are looking at it nationally.

**2023/24 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes**

(l) Major Slip Repairs

There are a number of slips to repair, which require prioritising. There is no budget allocated in this financial year for this work and so it will be something considered when setting the budget for the next financial year. A map outlining the identified slips was included within the agenda and displayed on screen.

(m) Jetting to Major Pipelines – Estimate £75,000

The purpose of jetting was noted; to clean out the pipe to enable the Board to put a camera in for inspection of the condition of the pipes that are the responsibility of the Board for maintenance.

The Projects Director noted the Wyberton area and that there are a number of long and important pipelines that require inspection.

A contractor is due to start this work next week.

(n) Alternative programme access works - Estimate £20,000

A budget has been allocated to complete bushing works and field access culverts to enable the alternative bank access.

(o) Quadrang North Fen Roadside Revetment - Estimate £24,000

The Projects Director noted that he has meet with Lincolnshire County Council Highways (LCC) to establish that the Board's drain is not contributing to the condition of the road. Part of the works will be to reduce the gradient of the bank.

Mr V Barker noted that further south to this site, there is a culvert that has had a temporary repair by the Highways, noting that the Board need to ensure this doesn't become a permanent repair and suggested it could be done at the same time.

(p) General Culvert replacement contributions - £5,000

There has been one culvert replaced that the Board are willing to contribute towards (£1,000) in South Kyme, displayed on screen. It was noted that the landowner was pleased with the work.

**Pumping Station Schemes**

(q) Dyke Fen Pumping Station refurbish 1 pump and 1 pump motor – Estimate £25,000

It was noted that the failure of the first pump is believed to be attributable to the same issue with this pump (shaft failure).

(r) Kirton Marsh Pumping Station Electrical Supply Change – Estimate £10,000

Conversations are on going with National Grid to change the location of the incoming supply to a higher level, it being proposed that this is considered for an application for FCERM GiA funding as estimated costs for this work could be £25,000.

(s) Great Hale Pumping Station Refurbishment

The weedscreen has been ordered and is expected next month.

(t) Great Hale Fen Pumping Station under pump inspections – Estimate £10,000

Connecting pump section nuts and bolts were replaced, visual inspections of wet well and intake channel, silt removed.

(u) Trintiy College Pumping Station under pump inspections – Estimate £5,000

Connecting pump section nuts and bolts were replaced, visual inspections of wet well and intake channel, silt removed.

Mr I Warsap noted that the photos displayed on screen really highlight the depth of water under the pumping stations.

**2024/25 Defra / EA FCERM GiA Schemes**

(v) Natural Flood Management (NFM) Studies - £150,000

A budget of £75,000 has been agreed for 2024/25 and the same agreed for 2025/26.

(w) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station New transformer - Estimate £50,000

Funding had been achieved to replace the transformer at Gosberton and Dowsby Pumping Station, that gave confidence that funding would be achievable at other pumping stations.

All nine of the transformers have been inspected and all are of a similar age apart from one (Black Hole Drove replaced due to a lightning strike in 2010), a similar age to the pumping stations (mid 1960's).

Consideration has been given to the location of the transformers and whether it would be beneficial to locate them externally rather than internally. At Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station, more land would be required to do this. The Projects Director proposed to continue with this within the business case to be submitted for funding.

However, the Environment Agency's preferred way forward is an LV connection to the site, although the cost difference between this and a transformer can be considerable, the LV connection wouldn't need replacing after a period of time like a transformer would. The Pump Engineer noted that the LV connection may be more favourable in this case.

### **2024/25 Board Funded Capital Schemes**

#### **(x) SFFD Desilting Guthrum to Black Hole Drove PS – Estimate £65,000**

It is proposed that the 2500m of Board Maintained section of SFFD is desilted. It is not known yet how this will be done, i.e., excavator or cutter suction dredger.

Mr P Holmes questioned the suitability for a silt lagoon? The Projects Director noted that a lagoon or cradge would be suitable.

Mr V Barker noted the possibility of it going straight into the farmer's field, to spread without any cradges. The Projects Director acknowledged this, also noting that a cradge helps to minimise crop loss.

#### **(y) Jetting to Major Pipelines - £75,000**

It is proposed that this work will continue in the Wyberton area.

#### **(z) Graft Drain - £25,000**

This work was previously deferred, to be able to use the budget to repair slips. This is proposed for next year, although it may be that this budget is required for repairing slips again.

The £25,000 allocated for this work is to complete CCTV surveys of the longer pipeline lengths to assess their condition.

#### **(aa) Pumping Station Schemes**

##### **(i) Ewerby Fen PS Replace Control Panel – Estimate £60,000**

The control panel at this station was installed 27 years ago and so is now proposed for replacement.

##### **(ii) Kirton Marsh PS Refurbish Pump and Pump Motor – Estimate £30,000**

It is proposed that the pump and motor will be refurbished to coincide with the inspection works.

- (iii) Kirton Marsh PS under pump inspections – Estimate £11,000

It was noted that due to the location of this pumping station, a lot of silt will be built up under the station (at least a metre thick).

### **Pumping Station Maintenance**

- (bb) At the end of September (Period 05) the budget for maintenance works is £361,056 with the actual expenditure being £229,243 which includes estimated electricity payments.

### **External Recoverable Works**

- (cc) Current external recoverable income is £251,664 for rechargeable works compared to £186,427 last year.

### **Health & Safety**

- (dd) The Board appointed Cope Safety Management as Health & Safety Consultants for a five-year period in June 2019.

### **External Partnerships, Strategies & Agreements**

- (ee) EA/BSIDB Public Sector Cooperation Agreement

The Board maintain c125km on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA) through the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement. It mainly revolves around flail mowing and cutting of their watercourses. With the main rivers, the EA dictate when and how often they are to be cut. The Projects Director also added that the Board complete some bushing and bank reprofiling works on behalf of the EA.

The Projects Director also added that the EA may consider continuing with Rationalising the Main River Network, like they did previously, whereby the Board took on some of their low consequence main rivers with a commuted sum.

Mr V Barker referred to tree flailing, noting that several years ago, plugs were put in to kill the bushes, noting that he doesn't believe it has been done this time? The Projects Director noted that if it hasn't been done it's because the EA didn't ask for that to be done.

## 2210 Update on the Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR) - Agenda Item 11

Mr I Warsap gave some brief updates as follows:

### **Water transfer from origin (Trent) to the Reservoir**

Mr I Warsap referred to the transfer of water from the Witham to the reservoir site, noting that all piped routes have been discounted and, currently, the only route being considered is the open channel transfer route that the Board proposed – 'Holland Dyke', noting this is positive for the Board.

The Environment Agency (EA) have questioned why this is the only route being considered and suggested the consideration of new cut routes on the shortest points between the Witham and SFFD (Langrick Bridge to Hubberts Bridge).

Mr I Warsap noted that the Viking Link and Tritton Knoll projects runs along that route and so there would be a conflict.

#### Pipelines from the Water Treatment Plant (Treated water going downstream)

There will be a pipeline connection from the reservoir to Wilsthorpe and then piped to either Eton or Chesterton. The treated water pipeline from the treatment plant will run south through the Board's catchment on the east side of the spring line villages, Bourne, Morton, Rippingale etc.

#### Treatment Plant Site

There are three sites being considered, one to the west of the reservoir site and two to the south of the reservoir site (north of the A52). The EA have noted that they don't want any of these sites to conflict with the Natural Flood Management works, which two of the sites do.

#### Emergency Draw Down Proposals

The reservoir's emergency drawdown discharge is 57m<sup>3</sup> per second (every day for ten days). This compares to the Fenlands Reservoir being 38m<sup>3</sup> per second and the Board's largest pumping station (Swineshead – all three pumps running) capacity being 6.8m<sup>3</sup> per second, making the Lincolnshire Reservoir's discharge being over eight times the capacity of Swineshead Pumping Station. Further being compared to the capacity of all the Board's 68 pumps together being 65m<sup>3</sup> per second, meaning the discharge rate for the reservoir is 88% of that.

The reservoir must be able to draw down at this rate in order to be able to empty in an emergency to prevent a catastrophic event.

There are a number of options for the route the water would take in an emergency draw down, which will be confirmed on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The main consideration is for no uncontrolled flooding to property. There will be no singular route and it will need to be a combination of elements such as large wetland storage areas within the catchment, upgrading the SFFD with enhanced systems and banks (£86million has been attributed to enhancing the SFFD), the Risegate Eau to the Wash may be used, the SFFD into the River Glen may be used and the SFFD into the River Witham may be used.

The emergency drawdown route from the reservoir to the SFFD will take numerous routes; Swaton Eau, Helpringham South Beck and Helpringham Eau.

Mr K Casswell noted the difference in height between the Glen and SFFD and how this would work? Mr I Warsap noted that this is still to be considered, with options such as syphons.

#### South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP)

Mr I Warsap noted that he questioned the Fens 2100+ Project Lead (Amy Shaw) whether the project includes front line sea defences, it being concluded that it doesn't. The Future Fens Integrated Adaptation (FFIA), which overarches Fens 2100+, will include sea defences. The Board is also represented on the FFIA.

Mr I Warsap next referred to the SFFD Bank Pilot Scheme, being headed by a subgroup of the SLWP; the Water Farming Reservoir Group. The Projects Director and Mr M Rollinson represent the Board on this group.

It is a one-year pilot looking at enhancing and increasing storage capacity of ordinary watercourses in a sub catchment for irrigation and emergency drawn down availability.

Mr I Warsap further added that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have achieved some more funding to complete works at Bourne North Fen next Spring.

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Mr I Warsap invited questions.

Mr P Holmes noted that it looks like the problem is emptying the reservoir as opposed to filling the reservoir? Mr I Warsap noted that there is restrictive legislation in place in relation to emptying the reservoir but noted that it will be a combination of elements to overcome the emergency discharge.

Mr I Warsap also noted that there was a team assigned to look at Biodiversity Net Gain and not one of those team members had visited the site.

Mr R Needham questioned if the Holland Dyke route would be deepened, noting the conflict on that route between Tritton Knoll and Viking Link. Mr I Warsap noted that it would be widened more than deepened.

Mr I Warsap noted that the SFFD will not be as it is known today, the land take that will be required to enhance it being noted but also the business opportunities that would arise from it. Mr I Warsap also referred to Burton Waters (Lincoln) which was just a field.

Mr V Barker felt that the solution was to build not one reservoir, but multiple smaller ones. Mr V Barker noted a previously proposed scheme to put a dam in the SFFD with a new connection at Surfleet Fen to the Risegate Eau to the sea. The route was displayed on screen, Mr V Barker feeling it is a plausible route. Mr I Warsap noted that it is being considered, noting that it won't be one single route it will be a combination. Mr V Barker continued by suggesting an exit around the north side of the Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) to take more water out of the SFFD. Mr I Warsap acknowledged this, noting that the restriction with that is the tide. Flooding land and compensation for so was also noted. Mr I Warsap further noted that they do have to draw down the reservoir for one day on a set periodic frequency to prove it can be done.

Mr I Warsap noted that at September 2024, Ofwat and Anglian Water will have spent £36.8 million.

Mr C Wray noted that Anglian Water will have more superiority than other utilities such as electricity and railways etc.

2211 Report on Rainfall - Agenda Item 12

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were circulated. The Committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2212 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 13

(a) Glossary of useful Land Drainage Terms

It was noted that the above document will be circulated.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:24.

DRAFT