

# **BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

## **MINUTES**

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the  
Southern Works Committee

held at the Offices of the Board on  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 2pm

### **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 P Holmes	* 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 D Withnall (Finance Manager)

### 605 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Clark, Mr P Harborow, Mr W Ash, Mr C Fretwell, Mr M Scott and Mr M Mowbray. Mr M Richardson did not attend.

### 606 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Mr J Atkinson declared an interest Minute No: 609(q).

### 607 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 copies of which had been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 608 **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **Proposed Access Road, Donington North Ings Pumping Station - Minute No 517(a)**

The Chief Executive stated that contact has been made with Network Rail to establish if the Board are the sole users of this crossing and if a contribution is available towards the scheme. The proposal is to build an alternative access route to the pumping station.

608 (a) Cont.....

The proposed Health and Safety Scheme would result in the workmen being able to avoid the dangerous level crossing and enable Network Rail to close this rail crossing.

Mr J Casswell stated that he has not witnessed anyone using the crossing.

(b) Slipage due to Borehole fault on Dowsby Pump Drain - Minute No 517(f)

The Operations Manager presented slides showing before and after photographs, all works being completed.

(c) Riparian maintenance issues - Minute No 517(j)

The Operations Manager reported that we had contacted residents along Money Bridge Lane and the majority have completed the works to alleviate the flooding problem.

(d) Proposed new access road - Hacconby to Dunsby Fen Pumping Station - Minute No 517(i)

Mr Atkinson stated that he would welcome the Operations Manager to view this scheme and discuss a way forward.

609 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING WORKS REPORT - Agenda Item 5

The Operations Manager presented his Report on Engineering Works:

(a) Syphon Guard Protection

The Operations Manager stated that two sites in the Southern Works area have been completed and he presented a slide showing the syphon at Dunsby Fen stating that a fence will be placed around the top as a Health & Safety requirement.

(b) Horbling Fen Pumping Station weedscreen cleaner

The Operations Manager presented a slide of the completed works.

(c) Sempringham Pumping Station weedscreen cleaner

The Operations Manager stated that similar works to Horbling Fen Pumping Station are proposed for Sempringham pumping station but due to problems with over head cables it is being proposed to contact the adjacent landowner to arrange access on the other side. FDGIA funding has been split over two years subject to identifying suitable benefits.

(d) Graft Drain culvert

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the Northgate Drove with 29 culverts in poor to very poor condition.

(e) Eel Passability Studies

The Chief Executive stated that Capita Symonds have been appointed by the EA to carry out the framework to create capability studies for each pumping station. All of the eleven Black Sluice pumping stations identified have been surveyed and mitigation reports are being prepared.

(f) Siltside Improvements Works

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the site prior to the works and the completed works. Bank improvements using post and board to create a tow line and the headwall construction to protect the pipe.

Mr Barker asked whether the culvert pipe condition had been assessed, the Operations Manager stated that it was fair and that it is programmed for inspection to identify its category.

The Chief Executive stated that Welland & Deepings have been using an internal pipe lining contractor. The Chief Executive will be contacting the contractor to ascertain if this method is suitable for the Boards culvert works.

(g) Defective Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager presented slides with before and after photographs of completed works. He highlighted the broken kerb head walls construction around the end of the pipe.

		Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Remove	Removed	Replaced	Contribution
Damford	18	0	3	13	2	0	0	
South Kyme	36	3	6	19	4	1	3	3
Trinity	15	0	1	13	1	0	0	
Horbling	30	0	3	27	0	0	0	
Dowsby	37	1	7	26	0	2	1	1
Rippingale	19	0	0	19	0	0	0	
Swineshead	359	3	22	218	6	0	0	
Helpringham	55	0	10	45	0	0	0	
	569	7	52	380	13	3	4	4

In Swineshead there are 110 to be inspected.

(h) Dowsby Fen Pumping Station - New Roof

The Operations Manager stated that scaffolding is currently being erected for the works.

(i) Helpringham Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that the new motor control for the Helpringham Pumping Station is currently being installed.

(j) Donington Wykes Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that the replacement of both pumps is due to be completed by the end of the year.

(k) Development Fund

The Operations Manager stated that replacement of the 1200mm pipe with a 2100mm pipe at Wyberton Marsh Roads has been approved by the Board. The works are being programmed for later this financial year.

(l) Environmental Works

The Chief Executive stated that the study tour to Bourne Fen Borrow Pit had been very successful. Included in the Engineering Report are four environmental schemes.

(m) Drain Maintenance

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing a screenshot of the Summer Cutting. With 80% of the mechanical works completed and 90% of the flailing completed.

The summer cutting commenced three weeks early on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, high profile watercourses are constantly being monitored to determine whether a second flail and/or cut is required.

Mr Barker raised the issue of continually cutting one side of the bank, leaving the other side to become heavy with sapling growth. Particular reference was made to the Risegate drain. The Chief Executive stated that it had been identified and a review for alternative bank cut rotation to certain watercourses would be undertaken before the next cutting season. The Weir Dyke drain in Bourne Fen was highlighted by another Committee Member.

(n) South Kesteven District Council

The hand roding contract works commenced in early July, the first visit on the Sewer Dykes has been completed along with the water courses cut.

(o) Prior Notice Given for Summer Cutting

The Operations Manager stated that he thought that his approach had gone well, with notices in the Rating Brochure and the website giving a view of weekly updated accurate works programmes. It was recommended to continue this format of notification for the Boards approval.

(p) Summer Crop Loss/Damage Compensation

The Operations Manager stated that we have not had as many problems with obstructions on drain banks as in previous years.

(q) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleansing Works

The Operations Manager stated that 33km within the Southern Works area of desilting, bushing and cleansing works have been identified and cleansing notices have been issued to landowners. If any members are concerned about any fields they should contact the Operations Manager.

Mr J Atkinson declared an interest.

Mr Barker reported that Dowsby Lode which is a highland carrier needs more work and Mr Atkinson agreed. The Operations Manager stated that it had been identified that the channel has narrowed over the years due to the steepness of the banks sides especially on the south side. Mr Dobney's side is in a terrible condition, a raised bank which was built pre 1960 using fen material. The Operations Manager would investigate further and agree a preferred option with the landowners.

Mr James Casswell left the meeting at this point.

(r) Pumping Station Maintenance

The Operations Manager stated that at the end of August there is an over spend against budget, the budget has been reviewed and for the second half of the year adjusted to align before the year end.

(s) External Recoverable Works

The Operations Manager stated that c£40,000 has been recovered for external works to date. The remit is not to increase external income but to complete the Boards works.

(t) Health & Safety

(i) Cope Safety Management

The Operations Manager stated that Copes have been appointed as the Health & Safety consultants for a 5 year period commencing May 2014.

It had been decided to increase the security of service and to build up a relationship over a longer term contract, offering increased confidence and continuity.

An overhead awareness course is due to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November as a refresher for drivers and new operators. Workforce drivers from Welland & Deepings IDB will also be attending.

(ii) Lone Worker

The Chief Executive stated that he and the Finance Manager had met with Peoplesafe to discuss a mobile phone indicator/logging on system which will indicate green, amber or red to a remote station 24/7.

A finish time can be input and whilst the amber mode reports every ten minutes if more hazardous the situation it goes to red then an exact satellite position with alarm to respond in 60 seconds. The device identifies gradient and has to be kept in a vertical position. The water service companies have adopted this system.

The Committee discussed and felt that a report of the Staff's opinion of this device would be a recommendation.

(u) Plant

(i) JCB JS145HD

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing damage which had occurred following an incident to the JCB JS145HD. He stated that a qualified operator employed for 9 weeks was not injured. The Landowner had removed a side drain culvert because it had collapsed and the arisings were spread on his side of the field and could not be seen by the operator.

The machine is due to be delivered back by the end of the week paid for by the Boards insurers NFU.

Upper Witham IDB have fortunately got a 16 ton machine which is on the market for sale, we have hired it to continue our works. The cost will be £360 per week, the insurance will not pay the hire costs.

609 (u) Cont.....

(ii) JCB JS130

The Operations Manager presented a slide picture of the new JS130.

610 BYELAW MATTERS & PROPOSED LARGE DEVELOPMENTS

The Chief Executive stated that there are no byelaw or proposed large development matters.

611 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

(a) Public Sector Co-operation Arrangement (PSCA)

The Operations Manager presented a slide of a map detailing the cutting works performed under the PSCA for the Environment Agency. The slide shows the lengths completed, 4.5 km at Swaton Eau and South Beck.

(b) Boston Barrier

The Chief Executive stated that the Large Project Review Group have no outstanding issues on the Boston Barrier Project Appraisal Report. Mott MacDonald have been appointed as the design consultants. Today he had received a proposed model of the barrier which will be presented at three exhibitions to be held over the first weeks of November. In addition a flyer is to be sent out to the public next week.

The Members discussed the concerns of Witham 4<sup>th</sup> regarding the raised banks on the north side of the Haven. The Chief Executive stated that the barrier will not be lifted between 1<sup>st</sup> November and Easter unless there is a tidal flood warning in place.

(c) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy

The Chief Executive also added that the Environment Agency have appointed Mott MacDonald as their consultants on this strategy. Mott MacDonald and EA officers have attended a meeting at the Boards offices for an introduction to the Board's operations and catchments.

At the same time BSIDB, the EA and Mott MacDonald will continue to review and appraise the 'Asset Transfer' option agreement. A brief report will be presented to the Executive Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

(d) Fens Waterways Link

The Chief Executive stated that due to financial constraints these works have currently been suspended.

612 PROPOSED PIPER DAM RESERVOIR - Agenda Item 6

Mr Barker introduced the site as a possible holding area following heavy rain as a natural valley that always used to flood before drain improvements around Billingborough with swallow holes towards the western end.

Following detailed discussion the Chief Executive stated he would pass all the information onto the EA to incorporate into the Black Sluice Strategy.

613 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON INCOME & EXPENDITURE - Agenda Item 7

The Finance Manager presented a slide detailing figures to the end of August. The Collection of drainage rates are £77k ahead of budget. There is an overspend of £55k on drain maintenance primarily due to works in schemes that could not be completed at the beginning of the year. The forecast for the end of the year is a small overspend.

The Finance Manager stated that the Environment Agency have changed the budgeted scheme works and approval will be sought at the next Board meeting in November to re state the budget and forecast.

614 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 8

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

615 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 9

(a) Entry Level Schemes (ELS) and Higher Level Schemes (HLS)

The Chief Executive stated that the guidance leaflet is in the process of being prepared by ADA. It is proposed that the following information be placed on the Board's website:

- *Ditches managed by IDB's are not eligible for the EB6 Ditch Management option.*
- *Putting an ELS or HLS option alongside an IDB maintained ditch does leave the agreement holder exposed to a risk that the IDB will breach the rules of the scheme through their normal duties.*
- *Cross Compliance rules; it is the farmers responsibility to apply to the RPA for an exemption where they believe a body that has a legal duty to carry out work will do so (e.g IDB's covered by the Land Drainage Act 1991).*

*A 'Ditch Management Guidance' leaflet is being prepared by ADA (currently in a draft form), this will be published on the web site.*

The Committee members discussed and stated their concerns regarding the inconsistency of how you interpret the rules, ie the cross compliance 1 metre strip of grass which is not to have anything placed/stored on it.

The Members proposed that in addition to the above the Farmers could be asked if they require anything different than what has been done in the past to contact the BSIDB regarding cuttings.



(b) Solar Panels on Swineshead Office Roof

The Finance Manager stated that the solar panels have been fitted to the office roof. The feed in tariffs have generated as of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 39kva which equates to £3,366 generated fees since installation on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The 160 panels which cost £47k recoverable budgeted within 8 years.

(c) Anglian Water services burst main New Dyke

The Operations Manager stated that a 600mm water main has burst adjacent to the New Dyke drain at Guthram, a quotation for 100m of bank slip revetment works and desilting of the drain, to remove approx 100 tonnes of silt at £22,054.14 has been provided. He will be meeting with Anglian Water to discuss and review the quotation.

(d) WPD culvert extension

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

(e) 15 Malting Lane, Donington

The Operations Manager presented a slide with photographs of a raised inspection chamber lid adjacent to 15 Malting Lane, Donington.

The Committee agreed that the new occupants be made aware of the proposed works due to be commenced next year whereby this chamber will be replaced.

(f) Proposal to Amalgamate Southern & Northern Works Committee Meeting for an Autumn Report Meeting only

The Chief Executive proposed that the Southern & Northern Works Committee hold a joint Autumn meeting as most of the information is the same, it would be cost effective and Works Committee Members would see both sides. The Members discussed and agreed.

Cllr B Russell left the meeting at this point.

(g) Position of Diesel

The Chief Executive highlighted an issue regarding which diesel is used in the Boards machinery. VOSA legislation regarding the towing of trailers with tractors on highways, the information on the registration document and how the machinery is registered. The Members discussed whether direction should be sort from ADA regarding other IDB's methods of running machinery. The Chief Executive stated that advice would be sourced and a full report prepared for the Board.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:30pm.