

## LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Wellington House, Manby Park, on Wednesday, 28th November 2012, at 9.00 a.m.

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Messrs G. Billings (Vice-Chairman) | * Cllrs H. Marfleet (Chairman) |
| W. Cooper                            | * Mrs J.P. Bradley             |
| * G. Crust                           | * S. Dennis                    |
| J.L. Dodsworth                       | * A.J. Howard                  |
| * T.H. Heys                          | T.J. Knowles                   |
| * J.M. Mowbray                       | * E.P. Mossop                  |
| * R.H. Needham                       | * R.J. Palmer                  |
| * P.W. Pridgeon                      | * W. Parkinson                 |
| D.R. Tagg                            | * M.A. Preen                   |
| * R.A.D. Unsworth                    | * J. Upsall                    |
|                                      | Mrs P.F. Watson                |
- \* Present
- \* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- \* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- M. Mitchell (Director of Technical Services)
- \* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- \* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- \* In attendance

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board.

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Forms requesting nominations for the post of Chairman were sent out for return by 19th November 2012. One was returned by Cllr Mrs J. Bradley proposing Cllr H. Marfleet for Chairman. This was seconded at the meeting by Mr P.W. Pridgeon and no further nominations were made.

RESOLVED

That Cllr H. Marfleet be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

### 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Forms requesting nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman were sent out for return by 19th November 2012. One form was returned by Mr R.H. Needham, seconded by Mr R.A.D. Unsworth proposing Mr G. Billings for Vice-Chairman of the Board. No further nominations were made.

RESOLVED

That Mr G. Billings be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs W. Cooper, J.L. Dodsworth, D.R. Tagg and Cllrs T.J. Knowles and Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson.

4a. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr E.P. Mossop and Mr R.H. Needham declared an interest in agenda item 14 (Compensation Claims).

5. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to discuss the following under any other business:

DEFRA  
Museums  
Publicity  
Website and Logo.

6. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 937 to 949)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 26th September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7:1 Minute 12:1, Page 941 - Planning Applications

In response to the Chairman, the Engineer stated that he would provide a map to East Lindsey District Council to ensure that the Planners were aware of areas where wind turbines may affect the Board's radio signals. Mr G. Crust suggested that the Council could be asked to include this on its Geographical Information System.

RECEIVED

7:2 Minute 15:2, Page 945 - Health and Safety Works at Weedscreens

The Chairman asked for an update on the grant situation and confirmation of when the work would be undertaken. The Engineer agreed to try and obtain an update before the end of the meeting.

RECEIVED

7:3 Minute 21, Page 949 - Consortium Working

The Chief Executive reported that the neighbouring Internal Drainage Board (IDB) had decided to employ a member of staff directly on a contractual basis rather than entering into a Consortium arrangement or service provision. He did, however, state that the IDB may still require Lindsey Marsh to provide some services in the future.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive continue to negotiate should any services be required in the future.

8. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2012.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and the resolutions made be approved by the Board.

9. STAFFING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

9:1 The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2012.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Resources Committee held on 5th November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and the recommendations made be approved (with the exception of Minute 8).

9:2 Minute 5:2, Page 2 - Resources

In response to Cllr Mrs J. Bradley, the Chief Executive confirmed that he had met with the architect to discuss possible alterations to Wellington House but the plans had not yet been received. The Chief Executive reported that various options had been considered, some of which had been looked at in the past. He was concerned that any major improvements to Wellington House may be cost prohibitive.

RECEIVED

9:3 Minute 7, Page 4 - Audit Report following Public Interest Report (PIR) Report on Welsh Internal Drainage Board

Mr G. Crust reported that the Report had been discussed in detail and assurance had been received from the Internal Auditor that Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board was in good order. Mr Crust stated, however, that the Board must not become complacent. The Chief Executive confirmed that Officers would continue to monitor to ensure the Board maintained the highest standards.

The Chief Executive reported that one of the points raised in the Report was representation on Committees and this would be discussed under Item 11. The Report had also highlighted the amount of business discussed by Committees and the Chief Executive stated that any important decisions must be considered by the full Board.

RECEIVED

9:4 Minute 8, Page 5 - Visit to Italy

Mr R.H. Needham felt that it was essential for members to visit other IDBs, stating that knowledge was everything to ensure that members could contribute to meetings and previous visits had been very beneficial. Mr Needham did, however, understand the reason for the decision to limit the number of members attending but stated that members must continue to keep abreast of developments. With this in mind, he suggested that a visit could be arranged to an IDB in the UK e.g. one of the Fenland IDBs.

This view was fully supported by Mr P.W. Pridgeon who suggested that members interested in visiting an IDB in Italy could fund the transport costs themselves. Mr Pridgeon stated that there was a lot to be learned from such a visit.

Mr R.A.D. Unsworth could not agree to the Board funding a visit to Italy in the current economic climate but stated that there should be some leeway on those attending if members were willing to contribute.

Mr J.M. Mowbray stated that it was essential for members to keep up to date with training, not just on legislation. He saw no reason why members should not attend if they were willing to contribute, particularly as they gave up their time freely.

The Chief Executive stated that it was not necessarily the cost of the visit but how this would be perceived.

The Chief Executive agreed that a visit to Italy would be beneficial, however, he stated that the Board must have a proper business case to justify a visit. He agreed to investigate visits in the UK which would be of use to members.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Chief Executive investigate visits to UK IDBs and report back.
- (b) That the visit to Italy be postponed and reviewed again later in 2013 with a view to a possible visit early in 2014.

#### 9:5 Minute 9, Page 6 - Staffing

The Chairman reported that the Committee had considered in detail a report prepared by Officers on the future staffing requirements for the Board. He stated that the Committee had reached the decision to appoint a full-time Mechanical and Electrical Engineer based on cost savings that would be made from undertaking the work in-house rather than employing external contractors. It was noted that this post would be for a fixed term of three years with a review after this time. The Chief Executive reported that resilience had also been a consideration when considering staffing levels.

Since the Committee meeting, interviews had been held for an Apprentice Accounts Assistant and one applicant had been invited back for a second interview. The Chief Executive reported that the Accounts Department was one area where cover was short. Consideration had been given to contracting out this service, however, it was felt that the benefits of having an in-house accountant were significant i.e. the Director of Finance was on hand to advise on plant purchases, ongoing scheme costs etc. and he had a proper understanding of what the Board was about. Members agreed that this was a service to be kept in-house essentially with the Consortium Boards sharing the cost.

Mr G. Crust stated that it was important for Lindsey Marsh to be able to provide a good service to all three Boards if it wished to retain the current Consortium arrangements.

RECEIVED

## 10. MEETING DATES

### 10:1 Board Meetings

The Chief Executive proposed the following dates for Board meetings to be held at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesdays during 2013:

30th January (Estimates)	To include guest speaker at lunch and members' training in the afternoon.
27th March	
26th June (Final Accounts)	Possible tour of inspection in the afternoon.
25th September	
27th November (Annual General Meeting)	

Mr P.W. Pridgeon expressed concern about the length of time between the March - June meetings and the June - September meetings. The Director of Finance stated that the June Board meeting was set to approve the Final Accounts within the necessary timescale.

Mr T.H. Heys enquired whether the compensation rates would require setting before the estimates were approved. The Director of Finance confirmed that this would not be necessary as he would estimate the amount of compensation based on the formula previously approved by the Board.

RESOLVED

That the above meeting dates be approved.

### 10:2 Health and Safety Committee

RESOLVED

That Health and Safety Committee meetings will be held on 5th June 2013 at 10.00 a.m. and 6th November 2013 at 8.30 a.m.

### 10:3 Plant and Compensation

The Chief Executive reported that the Terms of Reference for the Plant and Compensation Committee stated that four meetings should be held each year. It was suggested that this be amended to reduce the number of meetings to two with an option to hold Committee meetings should the need arise.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Plant and Compensation Committee meetings be held at 9.30 a.m. on 6th March 2013 (Compensation Rates) and 6th November 2013 (Estimates).
- (b) That the Terms of Reference for the Committee be amended to reduce the number of meetings from four to two in a year with

the option to hold additional meetings as required.

10:4 Staffing and Resources

The Chief Executive reported that the Terms of Reference for the Staffing and Resources Committee stated that four meetings should be held each year. It was recommended that this be reduced to two with an option to hold Committee meetings should the need arise.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Staffing and Resources Committee meetings be held at 11.00 a.m. on 5th June 2013 (Final Accounts) and 6th November 2013 (Estimates).
- (b) That the Terms of Reference for the Committee be amended to reduce the number of meetings from four to two in a year with the option to hold additional meetings as required.

10:5 Standards Committee

The Chief Executive reported that the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee stated that a meeting should be held once every six months. It was recommended that this be reduced to one meeting a year.

RESOLVED

That the number of meetings for the Standards Committee be reduced from two to one a year and that the Terms of Reference be amended accordingly.

10:6 Senior Officer Performance Review

The role of the Senior Officer Performance Review Committee's was to appraise the performance of designated senior officers, to clarify what the officers were expected to achieve and to identify any continuing development needs to maintain a high level of performance. The Committee would also review Terms and Conditions for designated senior officers.

RESOLVED

That Senior Officer Performance Review Committee meetings be held at 11.00 a.m. on 6th March 2013 and 4th September 2013.

10:7 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee would meet every six months prior to the Performance Review Committee to discuss the strategic direction of the Board. This meeting would be attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairmen of all Committees.

RESOLVED

That Executive Committee meetings be held on 6th March 2013 at 8.30 a.m. and 4th September 2013 at 9.00 a.m.

10:8 Consortium Committee

The Consortium Committee is made up of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Board. A meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 7th February 2013.

RECEIVED

10:9 Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Events

The Chief Executive reported the following 2013 dates for information:

21st February - Lincolnshire Branch Meeting (tbc)  
17th April - Lincolnshire Branch Meeting (tbc)  
19th and 20th June - ADA Lincolnshire Branch exhibition at Lincolnshire Show  
27th June - Lincolnshire Branch Meeting (tbc)  
17th July - ADA Working Demonstration (Wisbech)  
17th October - Lincolnshire Branch Meeting (tbc)  
13th November - ADA Annual Conference (London)

RECEIVED

11. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

11:1 Representation

The Chief Executive referred to the a audit report which had highlighted that the proportion of representation on Committees should equally reflect the nominated and elected membership of the Board. He stated that it was essential for the Board to be seen to equally represent both the elected members and the interests of the local authority taxpayers.

Members were asked to bear this in mind when appointing members to Committees in the future. Terms of Reference for the Committees was circulated for information.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon agreed with this in principle but stated that it was also important that those members appointed to the Committee had the relevant skills and knowledge to contribute and make informed decisions.

RESOLVED

That, wherever possible, the membership of Committees equally reflects the nominated and elected membership of the Board.

11:2 Plant and Compensation Committee

It was proposed by Mr P.W. Pridgeon and seconded by Mr R.H. Needham that the Committee be re-elected en-bloc but that Cllr S. Dennis be appointed as an additional member.

RESOLVED

That nine members be appointed to the Plant and Compensation Committee; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs T.H. Heys, J.M. Mowbray, R.H. Needham, P.W. Pridgeon, Cllrs S. Dennis, E.P. Mossop and R.J. Palmer.

11:3 Staffing and Resources Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs G. Crust, P.W. Pridgeon, D.R. Tagg, Cllrs T.J. Knowles, R.J. Palmer and Mrs P.F. Watson be appointed to the Staffing and Resources Committee.

11:4 Standards Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs G. Crust, R.H. Needham, Cllrs E.P. Mossop, R.J. Palmer and Mrs P.F. Watson be appointed to the Standards Committee.
- (b) That the Chairman of the Board be excluded from any grievance or disciplinary hearings to enable him to hear an appeal.

11:5 Senior Officer Performance Review Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Staffing and Resources Committee be appointed to the Senior Officer Performance Review Committee with an external facilitator being employed to provide advice when necessary

11:6 Executive Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairmen of all Committees be appointed to the Executive Committee.

12. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Drainage rates and special levies collected up to 8th June amounted to £2,495,193.04; 76.2% of the total due for the year. Reminders regarding second instalment payments had been posted.

It was noted that four summonses for non-payment of drainage rates remained unpaid.

RECEIVED

13. FINANCE

The attached report was presented by the Director of Finance. It was noted that considerable additional expenditure was expected with regard to electricity costs at pumping stations and some additional staff costs due to the recent heavy rainfall.

The Chief Executive reported that some members of the Board's workforce had been deployed to the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB area to assist during the



recent wet weather; the cost of this would be recharged.

The Director of Finance reported that the cash reserves showed a healthy balance, having just received the final special levy payment from East Lindsey District Council.

In response to Cllr R.J. Palmer, the Engineer reported that the Environment Agency (EA) local drainage charge was being put into the partnership fund. He stated that the Board had previously agreed to contribute a proportion of the precept towards the Louth Scheme. The Chief Executive stated that all the Consortium Boards would be suggesting that some of the 2013/14 precept should be spent on main river maintenance; the Lindsey Marsh precept was approximately £400,000. It was noted that Section 13:4 of the Water Management Act would allow the Board to undertake maintenance of the main rivers at the request of the EA. There was a growing voice that IDBs should see some correlation of where the money was being spent.

In response to Cllr E.P. Mossop, the Director of Finance confirmed that any money not spent on works during the current year would be accrued to 2013/14.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board's financial position be noted.

#### 14. COMPENSATION CLAIMS

The Chief Executive presented a schedule detailing 106 compensation claims totalling £19,057.59 which had been paid in accordance with the Board's approved rates.

#### RECEIVED

#### 15. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations presented a report detailing works completed by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) since the last meeting. This included summer maintenance works on 803,296 metres of Board maintained watercourse. Slips had been repaired in 46 metres of watercourse and 18 metres of culverting had been undertaken.

At Strubby and Manby an average of 38.35mm of rainfall had been recorded in September and 75.9mm in October. Pump run hours totalled 439 in September and 709 in October.

The Chief Executive stated that the Board's DLO had been split into two teams during the recent heavy rainfall to ensure that there was someone available 24 hours a day. The control room at Wellington House had also been manned by officers and there had been regular liaison with the Environment Agency (EA). He confirmed that the Board's systems had worked well and he was not aware of any major problems. It was noted that the Lindsey Marsh area had not suffered as much rainfall as its Consortium Partners and members were pleased that the Board had been able to assist them during the recent event.

Mr T.H. Heys expressed concern about the Great and Long Eau stating that the door had still not been repaired and it was now impossible to open. He emphasised that these watercourses served a very large area and would not take much more water. Cllr R.J. Palmer stated that he had also brought this matter to the attention of the EA two weeks ago. The Chairman stated that he had also received complaints regarding the Long Eau and confirmed that this matter would be discussed under Agenda Item 17 later. Mr G. Billings suggested that a letter should be sent to the EA.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Officers' report be noted.
- (b) That a standing agenda item be included on future Board reports for the Environment Agency.

16. SALT FLEET SOKE DYKE - ACCESS ISSUES

Whilst undertaking summer maintenance works the Board's DLO had experienced access issues along a 25 metre section of the Saltfleet Soke Dyke due to a fence having been erected.

The Engineer stated that although no formal agreement was in place, the Board historically gained access to this section of watercourse through the former East Lindsey District Council car park. Towards the end of 2011, however, the car park was sold to the owner of Beach House who then erected a fence to prevent unauthorised access to his land and as a consequence (i.e. greater than 8m), effectively sealed off the Board's access to the watercourse.

The Engineer confirmed that the fence was positioned far enough away from the watercourse and the Board's Byelaws did not apply.

Officers had discussed the issue with the landowner who facilitated access for summer weedcutting by temporarily removing a section of fencing; this arrangement was not considered suitable in the long term. The Engineer stated that during those discussions, the landowner had expressed an interest in culverting the watercourse to allow the area to be used as residential garden space. The estimated cost of culverting the 25 metre section of watercourse was £15,990 plus VAT. If the watercourse was culverted, the need for access for annual summer maintenance works would no longer be required.

If the culverting was not undertaken, the Engineer suggested that a solution would be for the Board to install gates in the existing palisade cross fencing (in the ownership of the caravan site) at the upstream end of this section at a cost of approximately £2,000.

The Engineer stated that an annual saving of £80 would be realised through the maintenance of a culverted watercourse rather than an open watercourse. He estimated this to be £2,400 over the anticipated life time of the culvert. Regarding the loss of flood storage and environmental habitat, the Engineer stated that this was negligible and any minor losses would be suitably catered for in future reforming programmes on Saltfleet Soke Dyke.

The Engineer recommended that consent be granted to the applicant to culvert the watercourse and that the Board contribute £4,400 (£2,400 savings from annual maintenance and £2,000 for the cost of new gates) towards the work subject to the applicant agreeing to enter into a Deed of Indemnity restricting the use of the land and guaranteeing the Board unrestricted access to the culvert in perpetuity.

It was proposed by Cllr R.J. Palmer and seconded by Cllr E.P. Mossop that consent be granted for the culverting and that the Board contribute £4,400 towards the works.

RESOLVED

- (a) That consent be granted to the landowner to culvert a 25 metre section of the Board maintained Soke Dyke between national grid references TF 45612 94344 and 45629 94324 in the parish of

Saltfleet subject to the applicant entering into a deed of indemnity restricting the use of the land and guaranteeing the Board unrestricted access to the culvert imperpetuity and subject to all works being carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's Engineer.

- (b) That the Board contribute £4,400 towards the cost of the culverting.

## 17. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) MAIN RIVERS

### 17:1 River Steeping

As requested at previous meetings, Officers had continued to discuss a Partnership Approach to sustainable improvements on the River Steeping with the EA. The initial objective was to seek partnership funding to carry out "Enhanced Maintenance" of the river channel commencing in the current financial year and continuing for a period of up to five years thereafter.

The Engineer reported that the following works had been identified to improve conveyance and water level management:

- (a) Improvements to access involving bushing and tree pollarding to commence in the current financial year and continue in future years.
- (b) Re-profiling and de-silting of the channel from Wainfleet Clough to Firsby Clough and beyond.

Officers considered that the Partnership (which it was hoped would include the EA, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council and the Board) would need to adopt a sustainable approach to the works. This may include design changes to channel profile to aid conveyance, ease future maintenance requirements and take account of environmental constraints and potential enhancements and incorporate measures to ensure Water Framework Directive compliance.

The Board was asked to confirm its support to this approach and to approve the principle of making financial contributions over the next five years. Initially a contribution of up to £15,000 would be required from the Board to part fund the immediate access improvement works required to enable the dredging and re-profiling to commence in 2013. The Engineer stated that this money could be taken from the Board's Partnership Funding Budget. It was noted that the EA would also be undertaking works to clear the access during the current financial year.

The Engineer reported that, as maintenance of the river had not been carried out for some 40 years, the silt level in the river was extremely high and the depth of water was restricted; oxygen levels were also a consideration. The estimated cost of dredging the river could be in the region of £1m and would, therefore, have to be undertaken over a period of time.

The Engineer confirmed that strengthening of the bank on the Wainfleet Relief Channel had been included in the plan at an estimated cost of £1.8m to be undertaken in 2014/15. Investigations into the possibility of diverting lowland water from the Lindsey Marsh area into the Witham Fourth system was also being considered; this sluice had been closed in 1985 when the new electric station was built and if re-opened would only be used in exceptional circumstances.

In response to Mr R.A.D. Unsworth, the Engineer confirmed that the proposal was to put the river back to its original design profile and bed level. Mr Unsworth queried whether this would be sufficient to cater for climate change etc. The Engineer reported that the Relief Channel had been built to cope with this and provide extra storage capacity and that, once the work on the Steeping River had been completed, it would have sufficient capacity to cope; if any additional works were required in the future a capital scheme would have to be undertaken. He stated that the first step was to establish a plan to ensure continued maintenance of the river.

It was suggested that the Board contribute by undertaking some of the works up to the value of £15,000, however, officers stated that the Board's DLO did not have the capacity to do this at the moment and it was essential that works to clear the access began as soon as possible. Cllr J. Upsall stated that the Board must ensure it was getting value for money if it was to agree to contribute towards the work. The Engineer confirmed that work had been costed by the Board's Director of Operations and Works Supervisor in consultation with the EA.

It was also suggested that the precept money should be put towards this work.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Upsall and seconded by Mr P.W. Pridgeon that the Board supports the proposals

#### RESOLVED

- (i) That the Board approve the Partnership approach to enhanced maintenance of the River Steeping.
- (ii) That the Board commits to supporting up to a five year plan for maintenance of the River Steeping.
- (iii) That the Board contribute up to £15,000 towards works to clear an access to prepare for maintenance works on the River Steeping; the money to be funded from the Partnership Funding budget.
- (iv) That the Board's future contributions should be made in-kind if at all possible.
- (v) That Officers report back to the Board on where/how the Board's contribution had been spent to ensure value for money.

#### 17:2 Precept

The Chairman reported that he had recently spoken with Mr P. Winrow (Head of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management and Business Finance for the Environment Agency) regarding the IDB Precept. The Chairman further reported that the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) was responsible for how the Precept was spent and suggested that the Board should contact the Chairman of the RFCC (Mr R. Caudwell) to enquire where the Precept money was to be spent in 2013/14 and whether there were any longer term plans for the next five years. It was suggested that Mr Caudwell be invited to attend a Board meeting to discuss this.

Mr G. Crust agreed that it may be useful to meet Mr Caudwell but suggested that, in the first instance, the Board write to the RFCC. Cllr E.P. Mossop agreed and suggested that it may be more beneficial for Officers to meet with Mr Caudwell before he was invited to a Board

meeting. Cllr Mossop reported that there would be a meeting of the RFCC on 11th January 2013 and the Precept may be discussed there.

Cllr Mossop emphasised that the Board must be careful not to prejudice what had already been achieved and the progress being made on the River Steeping. He stated that the best proof of success could be the River Steeping and once this was well underway other works could be investigated.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Officers continue to negotiate with the EA and the RFCC with a view to an improved working relationship in the future.
- (b) That the Chief Executive inform the EA that the Board was pleased with the progress on the River Steeping, to have been consulted last year on where the precept money was spent and suggest some areas that could be considered for precept expenditure in the coming financial year, and offer the Board's services to undertake some of the work under Section 13(4) of the Water Management Act.

17:3 Donna Nook

Cllr R.J. Palmer expressed concern regarding the works being carried out at Donna Nook by the Environment Agency (EA) stating that the sea defence had been compromised. He reported that the sea defence had been re-profiled but the bevel had not been included and in his opinion the angle was wrong. He also stated that the soil put back on top did not appear to be suitable and was being washed away; flood water was also coming in under the bank. Cllr Palmer stated that he was concerned that the ground conditions had not been fully taken into account, that the bank seemed unstable and that flooding may occur if there was an adverse tide. Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that the Board had been promised improvements to its Pumping Station and queried whether this was now vulnerable to flooding.

RESOLVED

That the Board's officers investigate the works being carried out by the EA at Donna Nook (including whether these had increased the flood risk to the Board's Pumping Station) and report back to the next meeting.

18. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

18:1 Delegated Authority

The Engineer reported that officers had consulted on 22 planning applications within the Board's area since the last Board meeting. Appropriate observations had been made. Objections had been made to the following applications:

- N004/02160/12 Erection of house and garage at Alvingham.
- N031/01943/12 Change of use of land to provide extension to existing curtilage.
- N089/01616/12 Extension to cottage at Sutton-on-Sea.
- N110/01850/12 Extension to house at Mablethorpe.
- N089/01978/12 Erection of wind turbine at Huttoft.

Planning applications N004/02160/12 (objection since withdrawn), N031/01943/12,

N089/01616/12 (since withdrawn) and N110/01850/12 contravened the Board's byelaws (no development within eight metres). Negotiations with the applicants and the Board's Officers was ongoing.

Objection was made to application N089/01978/12 as it would impeded radio signals to and from the Board's base station mast at Manby and Anderby Pumping Station.

RECEIVED

18:2 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and DRAFT Core Strategy

As requested at the last Board meeting, the Board's Officers were currently reviewing the above documents and would submit comments to East Lindsey District Council on the Board's behalf.

The Strategy Housing Land Availability Assessment sought to identify land that could be made available for housing development over the next 15 years. The DRAFT Core Strategy would set out the vision and strategic policies for growth and development.

RECEIVED

19. SECTION 23 CONSENTS

The Engineer reported that the following consent had been granted under delegated authority since the last meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2012/013 Installation of a six linear metre culvert within a private watercourse between O.S. field numbers 0087 and 0073 at national grid reference TF 33847 96727 in the parish of Fulstow.

He further reported that the following consents had granted by the Board acting on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (the Local Lead Flood Authority):

LMDB/LDC/2012/014 Installation of a water main using an open fill cut technique in a private watercourse at national grid reference TF 36857 69835 in the parish Aswardby.

LMDB/LDC/2012/015 Installation of two culverts within a private watercourse along the eastern side of Willoughby Road at national grid reference TF 45531 75302 in the parish of Alford.

RECEIVED

20 BYELAW APPLICATIONS

The Engineer reported that consent had been granted under delegated authority for the following works:

B073-2012 Re-surfacing of Trusthorpe Public Footpath No. 863 within eight metres of the Board maintained Trusthorpe Main Drain between national grid references TF 51589 83509 and TF 51662 83550 between St Peters Lane and The Promenade in the parish of Trusthorpe.

B075-2012 Demolition of a bridge over the Board maintained Mablethorpe Urban Cut at national grid reference TF 50415 85818 on Quebec Road in the parish of Mablethorpe.

Cllr A.J. Howard understood that a footbridge would be installed over the Mablethorpe Urban Cut to replace the bridge being demolished. The Engineer agreed to investigate and report back if this was the case.

RECEIVED

## 21. CAPITAL WORKS

It was agreed that there would be a change to the way in which this report was presented in the future; it would show all ongoing capital schemes, the approved scheme cost, the amount spent to date, and a progress report to include whether the scheme was on target and any issues encountered.

### 21:1 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) Applications

It was noted that the Environment Agency had published Indicative Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 and 100% grant for the amount requested had been awarded for the following:

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>	<i>2014/2015</i>
Mablethorpe Town Lane Drain Refurbishment	£375,000	
Eel Regulations Implementation Strategy		£100,000

Unfortunately the request for £16,000 towards Strategy 2025 pump refurbishments in 2014/2015 was not successful.

### 21:2 CCTV Asset Survey 2012/2013

The Engineer confirmed that the CCTV contract with ADC (East Anglia) Limited was progressing very well and should be completed by the 16th November 2012.

The Engineer stated, however, that some additional cost had been incurred to deal with buried manholes and greater volumes of silt, particularly on Jack Garth Drain which was found to be around 75% full of silt. The estimated cost for work for 2012/13 was £95,000.

The Engineer stated that the cost was still within the current approved budget for survey and silt clearance of £119,821 (£44,821 which had been accrued from 2011/12) and £75,000 (which had been allowed in the 2012/13 estimates).

It was noted that the CCTV reports had not yet been fully analysed but the following problem areas had already been identified:

Chestnut Farm Drain, Burgh Le Marsh - Approximately 40 metres of 150mm pipe required replacing with 450mm pipe.

Jockhedge Drain, Burgh Le Marsh - The pipe was in poor condition and required remedial actions.

Jack Garth Drain, Trusthorpe - The pipe was in poor condition and required some remedial actions.

Middle Drain, Trusthorpe - These pipes had been laid to false falls and this

required rectification.

The Engineer estimated that the above works would be likely to cost more than the repair budget provision available in this year. He suggested that minimum works be carried out within the pipeline remedial works budget of £20,000 (£10,000 accrued from 2011/12 and £10,000 from the 2012/13 estimates) but that the £24,821 potential underspend from the CCTV Asset Surveys be vired to this cost head to allow more of the high priority remedial work to be carried out. It was noted that any outstanding works will be taken forward into next year's works programme.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the additional cost of the survey and silt clearance be approved.
- (b) That high priority remedial repairs be undertaken on pipelines as detailed above be undertaken during the current financial year.
- (c) That any underspend from the Asset Surveys be vired to the Pipeline Remedial Works budget.

#### 21:3 Strategy 2025 - Anderby Pumping Station Pump Refurbishment (C12300)

Confirmation of grant aid was still awaited for these works.

The Engineer reported that the first pump had been refurbished by Bedford Pumps Ltd and reinstalled at a cost of £7,968.67 (original tender price) plus £4,164 (extras). The second pump had been removed and was undergoing refurbishment at an estimated cost of £7,968.67 (original tender price) plus £3,103.00 (extras). It was expected that the third pump would incur similar costs to the second pump.

The Board's Officers had held detailed discussions with Bedford Pumps Ltd regarding what was considered an excessive amount of extras on top of the original tender price. The Engineer reported that Bedford Pumps Ltd had confirmed that the extra works were necessary and unless they were carried out, no guarantee could be given on extended life. Bedford Pumps Ltd had further stated that the additional works would extend the life of the pumps to 40 years; a further refurbishment would be necessary in approximately ten years.

The Engineer reported that the estimated total cost of the works was £34,276.01. The current revenue budget for the works was £39,050 giving a potential underspend of £4,773.99. If FDGiA grant was approved, this would be treated as a windfall.

Bedford Pumps Ltd had also recommended that the pump monitor units in the control panel be replaced and upgraded as these units were no longer supported. The Engineer confirmed that the new units were more sophisticated and gave a much earlier indication of any developing problems in the pump which could potentially extend the life between refurbishments. The costs of three units was £1,950 and installation by the Board's electrical contractor would cost £2,000.

If the pump monitors were replaced additional bearing temperature sensors would be fitted in the two pumps that had not yet been reinstalled; the cost of this was already included in extras. Unfortunately this option had not been suggested until after reinstallation of the first pump.



The Engineer reassured members that the diesel engines had been on standby when the pumps from the electric station were removed; all three pumps would be refurbished and reinstalled before Christmas.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the additional expenditure of £10,370 be approved for extras resulting from refurbishment of the pumps.
- (b) That an additional £3,950 be approved for the installation of new monitor units in the control panel to be funded from the £4,773.99 remaining budget allocation for the refurbishment.

22. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - WINTHORPE FLOOD STORAGE AREA

At the June Board meeting it was agreed to proceed with an application for funding from the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme to develop an area for breeding waders on the flood storage area.

Discussions with the Board's letting agent have confirmed that long term rental income from the grazing was unlikely to be affected by the development.

A detailed specification for the work had been developed and the cost was estimated to be in the region of £52,000. A grant of £35,000 would be provided by Natural England leaving a shortfall of £17,932. The Board would receive an income from HLS in the sum of £3,500 per annum.

The Engineer reported that if approved he expected that Natural England would offer the Board a HLS scheme starting on the 1st December 2012 for a period of ten years. Natural England has indicated that they would not expect the capital work to commence until August 2013 when soil conditions were suitable. This would also allow the Board's grazier some access to the land in 2013 (i.e. until works commenced) and would allow time to re-seed the site and establish a new sward before the 2014 grazing season.

The Engineer presented four tenders received for the work ranging from £52,912.40 to £60,608.70.

Mr T.H. Heys stated that this seemed very expensive to create a few scrapes. The Engineer explained that the soil would have to be moved onto the bank to ensure it did not impinge on the storage capacity. Mr G. Crust had no objection to the work as long as it was not funded by the ratepayer.

In response to Mr R.A.D. Unsworth, the Engineer confirmed that the flood storage area had been a success and further investigations were being undertaken at ways of utilising this to take water from elsewhere. It had originally been designed as a flood storage area and to cater for future development in the area.

It was proposed by Cllr A.J. Howard and seconded by Mr G. Crust that the Board finance the shortfall of £17,912.40 in the 2013/14 financial year; this money to be offset by the £3,500 per annum to be received for the HLS.

A vote was taken and the result was ten votes for the proposal and four against.

RESOLVED

That the Board finance the shortfall of £17,912.40 to create a wet grassland for wading birds in the Winthorpe Flood Storage Area during the 2013/14 financial year; the cost to be offset by the £3,500 per annum received for the HLS.

23. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive presented the attached notes of a Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 5th November 2012.

RECEIVED

24. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

The Association of Drainage Authorities Conference was held on 15th November 2012 and the Chairman stated that he considered the content to be of greater relevance to that of the previous year's. He had drawn the Environment Agency (EA)'s attention to the fact that when they conducted consultation on forthcoming issues or legislation they should make certain that they weighted it correctly rather than focussing on too narrow a spectrum of opinion or lobby groups. The Chairman stated that he had attended a DEFRA Workshop along with the Chief Executive and that he had actively engaged in the Performance Indicator debate; although performance indicators were not to be avoided it was critical that they be appropriate to the industry and show a true representation of what they measured. One of the key points made by the Consortium was that our EA colleagues and other partners should be subjected to the same or similar set of performance indicators; it was felt inappropriate that the IDB world was being subjected to yet further scrutiny ahead of its partners. That said, DEFRA had indicated the use of the indicators at this time would remain at a Board's discretion.

RECEIVED

25. MUSEUMS

The Chairman reported that the review had not yet been completed; two museums had been visited and a full report would be presented during 2013.

RECEIVED

26. PUBLICITY

The Chairman suggested that the Board should put out more press releases to ensure that the public were aware of the works being undertaken. He stated that the Board had undertaken a lot of work since the 2007 flooding and this should have been reported. The Chief Executive agreed to ensure that major schemes were advertised better in the future.

RECEIVED

27. WEBSITE AND LOGO

The Chief Executive reported that work on the website was progressing but had been delayed as Officers had been busy following the recent heavy rainfall.

Members were circulated with suggestions for the new logo. The Chief Executive stated that the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board had been keen to adopt one logo for the Consortium to be used by all three boards.

Minutes of a Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board meeting held on 28th November 2012

---

Cllr S. Dennis stated that the Board must be innovative and move forward if a new brand was being designed. Mr R.A.D. Unsworth suggested that Officers take advice from the designers of the website.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to agree a logo in consultation with the three Consortium Chairmen.

CHAIRMAN