



Reedness & Swinefleet
Internal Drainage Board

**MINUTES FROM THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23rd
JANUARY 2023 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW.**

PRESENT

Elected

Mr M Barker (C) Mr I Backhouse (VC) Mr J Cowling Mr G Cowing Mr T Reed
Mr W Gagg

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr J Drury

Appointed

ABSENCES

Appointed

Cllr L Sargeantson

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Towse – Director of Operation
Ms A Cowen – Director of Policy & Finance
Miss L Smith – Executive Assistant

Andrew McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
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184. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

184.1. The Chair welcomed members to the Board noting apologies from Mr J Drury.

185. Declarations of Interest

185.1. None.

186. Health and Safety

186.1. There were no concerns raised in relation to Health and Safety regarding staff, however the DO did advise that all operational teams had been made aware of Hogweed at the pumping station which was currently being monitored.

187. Natural Environment

187.1. The Chair highlighted the prevalence of badger setts across the district.

187.2. In relation to working around these setts, the CEO confirmed he would raise this concern [Overly prescriptive legislation] at ADA Policy & Finance committee with the appropriate Defra representative. **ACTION CEO**

188. Additional Agenda Items

188.1. At the latest ADA Branch meeting, it was suggested that Members from Boards form a sub-committee to discuss tidal flooding to which Mr Barker had volunteered.

188.2. Mr Barker advised he had held a discussion recently with EA staff on the foreshore who had advocated that additional works could be attempted to protect Reedness from tidal flooding.

189. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

189.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes of the previous meeting at Appendix A.

189.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr I Backhouse and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

190. Matters Arising

190.1. The DPF confirmed that minute 177.3 is now resolved.

190.2. The CEO advised that there may be land tribunal for a ruling to clarify if the land owned by Natural England should be rated.

190.3. The CEO confirmed minute 180.11 is now resolved.

191. Minutes of ADOC Consortium Meeting

191.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes of the ADOC Consortium at Appendix B.

191.2. The Chair and CEO concurred that the format of the meeting works well to discuss mutual concerns and progress across the ADOC Consortium.

191.3. The Chair referred to the meeting held with Natural England in relation to Thorne Moors.

192. Budget & Rate Setting

192.1. The CEO referred to the budget setting report and noted that the outturn position is expected to be within budget; however, this would be affected by any adverse weather condition.

192.2. The Board discussed the steep rise in energy costs and the Boards energy contract, which is currently on a three-month rolling contract. The DO advised that previously the Board were paying 9p/kwh, this has risen to 38p/kwh even with government contributions.

192.3. The DO confirmed he continues to explore the market with a view to securing the best deal for the Board.

192.4. Mr Backhouse asked what the increase would be if the Board placed 10% into reserves as they had previous years, the CEO advised this would be around 19p£ in rates.

192.5. The Chair and Vice-Chair acknowledged the importance of placing funds into the serviceability programme with surplus being placed into Board reserves, highlighting the likelihood that Board assets are going to need to be replaced or repaired in the near future.

192.6. The Board rejected the CEO's proposal to increase the rate by 17.6% instead opting for 25% increase.

192.7. It was PROPOSED by Mr I Backhouse and SECONDED by Mr Barker and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve a rate of 20p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £118,720.

193. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to Q3

193.1. The Chair drew attention to Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled at Appendix C.

193.2. The Board noted a missing invoice from a contractor.

193.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr G Cowling and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve invoices paid and accounts settled to the value of £51,731.76 (net).

194. Internal Audit

194.1. The DPF confirmed the first internal audit of the ADOC Boards for 2022/23 took place in November. The internal auditor had concluded that there were no matters giving cause for concern, however highlighted that the Board should prioritise implementing a plan to increase reserves to a sufficient level, in line with the newly adopted policy.

194.2. The Chair queried whether the rate would be reduced in forthcoming years if electricity prices were to fall, to which the DO responded his recommendation would be that the rate would stand or continue to increase, to support the recommended target of 75% of the operational budget.

195. Conclusion of Annual Audit

195.1. The DPF confirmed the Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn had completed their annual audit and concluded that no matters were of cause for concern, meaning the Board passed the external audit.

195.2. The external auditor did note that the dates of the consultation period for members of the public to inspect the accounts should have been 30 working days rather than 30 consecutive days, and consequently that the Board must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

196. Development Control & Planning

196.1. In relation to the Peat Works development, the DO advised there was no additional information to provide since the last meeting, however the effects of the development regarding road access and the impact on the watercourse network would be monitored.

197. Capital Programme

197.1. The CEO informed Members of the meeting held between the Board, Natural England [NE] and Goole Fields IDB where it had been recognised by NE that there were some significant design issues in the way the water on the Moors is managed.

197.2. The CEO presented an electronic version of the map to clearly show the runoff from the site and the watercourses impacted, highlighting the current lack of flow control devices and of maintenance, the water levels cannot be controlled appropriately.

197.3. NE during the meeting had suggested replacing the fixed weirs with tilting weirs and agreed that Black Dike needs to be returned to a serviceable state.

197.4. The CEO referred to a report from NE, and advised it was his intention to look to work alongside them to support the effective management of the water on Thorne Moors on a rechargeable basis and would seek contribution from Goole Fields to this capital investment.

197.5. The Chair highlighted that only £600 is paid from Goole Fields IDB to support the maintenance of the Warping Drain and requested that this should be increased. The Board noted that this payment had not been reviewed since the commencement of the agreement and had not realistically increased with inflation.

197.6. The DO agreed that the penstocks and outfall structures are managed by RS, and a contribution of £600 does not cover one day with the weed boat.

- 197.7. The Board discussed contributions from Goole Fields and Natural England, the CEO advised there would need to be a business case presented to which the DO agreed.
- 197.8. It was concluded to investigate enhanced serviceability on the Warping Drain over the next two years and review the future investment programme working with Goole Fields. **ACTION CEO.**
- 197.9. The CEO advised of the asset replacement fund, in which IDBs may receive funds to refurbish Pump Stations, however there is only £180m available nationally.
- 197.10. There had been an action in the last meeting to make contact with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust regarding runoff into the Board watercourses, the CEO confirmed that a site visit will be held shortly regarding this matter. **ACTION CEO**

198. Maintenance Programme

- 198.1. As per the Board's agreed maintenance plan, the DO confirmed that planned maintenance should now be completed fully.
- 198.2. Mr I Backhouse highlighted that maintenance had not been completed on one of the dikes which ran from Reedness to Swinefleet, the DO confirmed the contractor had been unable to complete the maintenance as there had been crops in the field.
- 198.3. The Chair highlighted there are concerns with the electricity tripping at Reedness junction.
- 198.4. Mr Cowling highlighted the slips in the area, the DO confirmed some if these are key holed so are slipping back in. Kings Causeway is a prime example of a watercourse which needs piling, as there are some significant slips on this watercourse.
- 198.5. The DO will provide a programme of work with costings at the June meeting to address the concerns raised by Members. **ACTION DO.**
- 198.6. The Chair advised that the hours on the pump are 13,140 pump 1 and 9280 pump 2 on 7/12/22.
- 198.7. The CEO advised that telemetry should be installed on these pumps by the end of the financial year.

199. Date of Next Meeting

- 199.1. The next Full Board Meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 2023 at 9:30am.
- 199.2. The ADOC Consortium Committee is due to take place on Monday 20th November 2023 at 9:30am
- 199.3. The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.