



Danvm Drainage Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY BOARD MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2025, ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

PRESENT

Elected

Mr A Cooke

Mr S Lomas

Mr W Falkingham

Mr R Robinson

Appointed

Mrs G Ivey
Cllr D Nevelt
Mr R Campbell

Mr J Gilliver
Cllr M Crane

Cllr M Jordan
Mr C Hogarth

Cllr J McCartney
Cllr K Osborne

Mr C Crowe
Mr P Maddison

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr N Welburn

Appointed

ABSENT

Elected

Mr D Atkinson

Mr R Thompson

Mr W Platt

Mr D Platt

Appointed

Mr T Grady

Cllr R Tams

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Towse – Director of Operations
Mrs A Larkin – Director of Policy & Finance
Mr D Martin – Asset Manager

Others

Andrew McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
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350. Proceedings

350.1. The Chair opened the meeting, and it was explained that because this was an extraordinary meeting, regular items would be dealt with at the next scheduled full Board meeting.

351. Welcome and Apologies

351.1. The Chair welcomed members and thanked them for attending at short notice.

351.2. Apologies had been received from Mr Welburn.

352. Declarations of Interest

352.1. None.

353. Capital Programme

353.1. The Chair invited the CEO to explain the purpose of the meeting.

353.2. The CEO proceeded to update members on the latest position regarding additional government funding for IDBs. He referenced that a further £16m had been announced by the Floods Minister on 31st March 2025, in addition to the £75m funding announced in 2024. He explained that staff had submitted speculative bids to Defra for two further schemes, should such additional funding become available, and had learned last week that these had been successful. The schemes were:

- Kirk Bramwith Pumping Station – New Pumps - £856k
- Weed screen Refurbishment Programme (Various Sites) - £1.1m

353.3. That being the case, the CEO explained that he was seeking urgent approval from the Board for these additional schemes to be added to the Board's capital programme, and for authority to negotiate procurement based on legal procurement thresholds for works, as set out in the Procurement Regulations 2024.

353.4. He added that the funding presented an exceptional opportunity to install replacement fish-friendly pumps at Kirk Bramwith, the Board's largest pumping station, serving an area of 7,000 acres. He explained that because the pumps were specialist, the procurement process would need to start immediately to allow maximum time for the scheme to be delivered by the deadline of 31st March 2026.

353.5. He clarified that the scheme value included installation costs but cautioned that inflation may result in higher costs than originally estimated, for which the Board might have to budget.

353.6. Regarding the weed screen refurbishment programme, the CEO commented that this was also a rare opportunity to replace tired assets with ones that should last for thirty or more years.

353.7. He advised that Defra had made a grant award offer, subject to the Board's acceptance.

- 353.8. The Chair noted that the Board had been offered c£2m from this funding stream and expressed her thanks on behalf of the Board to the Asset Manager, Mr Martin and to all who had worked on the bids, before inviting questions from members.
- 353.9. Cllr McCartney asked what would happen to the existing pumps and weed screens, to which the DO advised that the pumps would be retained and refurbished as far as possible, for use elsewhere. As for the weed screens, he advised that it might be possible to save some parts, depending on their condition.
- 353.10. Cllr Jordan asked whether the funding covered labour costs, to which the CEO confirmed that it covered contractor fees to supply and install the new assets.
- 353.11. Cllr Jordan commented that the Board had been offered £2m from the £16m pot and asked if this was due to the size of the organisation. The CEO answered that he did not know exactly how the funding had been split among the IDBs nationally, but felt that the Board had done very well, particularly as the funding was reported to have been oversubscribed.
- 353.12. With no further questions, the Chair invited members to vote on the CEO's recommendation.
- 353.13. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jordan and SECONDED by Cllr Crane and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the revised capital programme and authorises the CEO to negotiate procurement up to the UK legal threshold for Works.

354. Date of next meeting(s)

- 354.1. The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as follows:

- Policy & Finance Meeting – Tuesday 20th May 2025
- Full Board Meeting – Wednesday 4th June 2025

- 354.2. The Chair and the CEO thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.