



Ouse & Humber Drainage Board

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| PRESENT | | | | | |
| <i>ELECTED</i> | Mr T Featherby | Mr R Nicholls | Mr J Sweeting | Mr C Mowforth | Mr J Scutt |
| | Mr B Maclean | | | | |
| <i>APPOINTED</i> | Cllr P West | Cllr N Wilkinson | Mrs K West | Cllr L Bayram | Cllr V Aitken (Teams) |
| | Mr G Baxter | Cllr R Meredith | Cllr H Roberts | | |
| APOLOGIES | | | | | |
| <i>ELECTED</i> | Mr T Screeton | Mr J Wright | | | |
| <i>APPOINTED</i> | Mr B Blackledge | Mr J Traill | | | |
| ABSENT | | | | | |
| <i>ELECTED</i> | Mr R Henley | Mr J Hick | | | |
| <i>APPOINTED</i> | Cllr N Marwood | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| In Attendance | | | | | |
| Officers | | Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer | | | |
| | | Mrs A Larkin – Director of Policy & Finance | | | |
| | | Mr R Towse – Director of Operations | | | |
| | | Miss L Smith – Board Secretary | | | |

Andrew McLachlan
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603. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

603.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr T Screeton, Mr B Blackledge, Mr J Traill and Mr J Wright.

603.2. The CEO introduced Mr J Sweeting to the Board as a co-opted Member.

604. Declarations of Interest

604.1. Mr B Maclean declared an interest in Blacktoft Warping Drain proposal.

605. Additional Agenda Items

605.1. None requested.

606. Health & Safety

606.1. No incidents or near misses reported.

606.2. The DO confirmed staff continue to follow all Board health and safety procedures and the annual health surveillance for operational staff has recently been completed.

607. Natural Environment

607.1. No matters raised.

608. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

608.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes from the previous meeting on 10th February 2025.

608.2. Mr Wilkinson queried whether Officers attended the court hearing to apply for liability orders; the DPF confirmed this was correct.

608.3. The DPF confirmed all referred cases had liability orders granted and that these had now been referred to an enforcement agency to recover the debt.

608.4. The DPF added that an outstanding debt of £10.5k owed by one ratepayer had been referred to the board's solicitors for further advice on the appropriate recovery procedure.

608.5. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Scutt and SECONDED by Cllr N Wilkinson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

609. Matters Arising

609.1. Actions arising from previous minutes:

| Minute | Status | Action | Remark |
|--------|----------|--------|--|
| 598.4 | Resolved | CEO | To formally thank Mr J Sweeting for his contribution to the Board, after serving many years as a Board Member. |
| 547.5 | Ongoing | CEO | To formulate an appropriate response to a petitioner requesting inclusion of a watercourse at Yapley Marr Drain, to the West of Carr Lane, on the Board's maintenance map. |

610. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

610.1. The minutes from the Executive Committee held on 20th January 2025 were noted by the Board.

611. Joint Consortium Committee

611.1. The minutes from the Joint Consortium Committee held on 27th November 2024 were noted.

611.2. The CEO explained that the Consortium Committee agreed on a shared services budget which forms part of the Budget for approval by the Board.

611.3. The Board were asked to formally appoint members to the Consortium Committee for the 2025 meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by default plus two ordinary members to which the CEO confirmed the current ordinary members are Cllr Aitken and Cllr Roberts.

611.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr R Meredith and SECONDED by Mr J Scutt and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Members reappoint Cllr Aitken and Cllr H Roberts to the Consortium Committee.

612. Budget & Rate Setting

612.1. The CEO drew attention to the financial reports for the third financial quarter for 2024/25. Considerably more income than expected had been received, largely due to the sunk costs reclaimed through the IDB fund which had offset revenue costs for staff, plant, and machinery.

612.2. Mr J Sweeting queried what is "other income". The CEO explained that the main source of income is rates, whereby 45% / 55% comes from agricultural / non-agricultural respectively. Other income included PSCAs with Highways England and the EA across the consortium.

612.3. Mr B Maclean arrived.

612.4. The CEO referred to the Budget Report and explained that a decision must be made by the board to set the annual budget and the required annual rate to meet this.

612.5. Members were reminded that last year, there was a significant increase in special levy demand due to an exercise carried out to determine changes in use of agricultural land across the district. There had been fewer changed this year, therefore the special levy demand would not increase significantly.

- 612.6. Investigations into energy provisions were undertaken to ascertain the most appropriate provider in terms of contract length and cost. It was determined that due to the instability in energy prices and standing charges, it was more beneficial to remain with Woldmarsh on a rolling contract and review this again in the summer.
- 612.7. The Board discussed variables which determine the pump stations energy costs and standing charges.
- 612.8. The CEO confirmed the Board has and continues to benefit from the Defra IDB Recovery and Asset Replacement Fund advising that approximately £600k had been received, reimbursing schemes already completed by the board, such as piling and regarding works near Clegg Dyke and £110k extraneous electricity costs.
- 612.9. Taking this into account, the CEO advised the board could expect to see an outturn of over £600k this year, however this was predicated on the Board delivering the IDB Fund schemes by 31st March and meeting the relevant criteria.
- 612.10. The Board's reserve fund has, for many years been below the 75% target of operating costs. If the outturn is over £600k as predicted, the Board will be able to meet this position and be able to make additional investment decisions, although the CEO recommended the Board delay this decision until the summer meeting when the actual outturn position will be known.
- 612.11. The Board discussed the accounts in which reserves are held. Officers explained these accounts must be easily accessible for cash flow and the outlay of funds for capital schemes.
- 612.12. The CEO advised that the Board subscribes to the ADA Lincolnshire White Book, which provides fair market representation of staff salaries across IDBs. With an agreed 5.1% increase across all pay scales this year, the extra National Insurance contributions will be £24k extra over for all operational and shared service staff.
- 612.13. Mr Mowforth highlighted that a 6.3% increase in staff expenditure, however only 4.25% was attributed to operational staff. The CEO advised that much of the staff work across the Consortium, which can be reclaimed through PSCA work or capital funding.
- 612.14. Mr Mowforth queried the discretionary expenditure of £83k to which the DO advised this was a previously approved Board decision to purchase an additional Spearhead, which is now ready for collection upon receipt of payment.
- 612.15. Mr Mowforth suggested the rate increase is slightly high.
- 612.16. Mr R Nicholls queried if the rate could remain stagnant rather than increase.
- 612.17. The CEO explained that rate setting is a reserved matter for the Board, and whilst he can make recommendations based on the predicted outturn, the Board must ultimately make the decision.
- 612.18. The Board discussed hypothetical situations in retaining the current rate or increasing this.
- 612.19. Cllr P West arrived.

612.20. Mr J Sweeting queried how often the agreed budget is exceeded. The CEO explained that he could recall just one significant overspend during the year 2019, however this was due to exceptional circumstances. He added that the Board usually have a positive final outturn position.

612.21. Cllr N Wilkinson left the meeting.

612.22. It was PROPOSED by Mr B Maclean and SECONDED by Mr G Baxter and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY WITH ONE ABSTENTION that the Board the approves a rate of 21.9p£ to meet an estimated budget of £3,223,078.

613. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

613.1. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Scutt and SECONDED by Cllr H Roberts and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £1,271,230.94 (net).

614. Internal Audit

614.1. The latest interim audit reports for 2024/25 were reviewed; no issues or outstanding matters were reported.

614.2. The DPF left the meeting.

615. Public Sector Agreements

615.1. The DO advised members that all Consortium EA works are procured through the Ouse & Humber Board, to satisfy the EA's accounting preference, however this will not affect the recharge procedure for other boards.

615.2. Bank works have been completed along the river Aire, Barmby barrage and East Cottingwith, around £100k more than anticipated has been received.

615.3. The Board discussed the government's priorities in relation to flooding. The CEO advised that ADA continues to lobby government regarding funding formulas and policies, such as managing water levels for peat.

616. Planning & Development

616.1. Referring to the How-G development, the DO confirmed the outline planning is now approved, with a drainage design agreed in principle with the developer. The Developer Agreement and pumping station design are close to being finalised.

616.2. Cllr N Wilkinson returned to the meeting.

616.3. Mr C Mowforth left the meeting.

616.4. Discussions are ongoing with the developer regarding East Riding Solar Farm. There are no concerns at this stage from a drainage perspective and legal opinion has been sought, with

the solicitor negotiating wording of protective provisions to be included in the Development Consent Order. All costs incurred are to be satisfied by the developer.

616.5. Cllr West confirmed that full planning permission had been granted.

616.6. An objection has been submitted for a dwelling near South Cave lakes due to a lack of a suitable drainage plan. Discussions have subsequently been held with the applicant.

Consents

616.7. A consent was pending for alterations to a watercourse on Sands Lane, Holme on Spalding Moor, following receipt of assurances from developer (related to 22/30276/CONDET).

616.8. Retrospective consent had been issued for a public footpath crossing / culvert over Marsh Drain, Howden. Given concerns raised, a consent had been issued with a condition allowing the Board to reconsider if the crossing is shown to be impeding flow.

617. Capital Programme

| Ref | Scheme Name | Previously Approved Value | Requested Approved Value | Funding Status |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| OH 05 | Humber Head Levels Capital Maintenance Strategy | £146k | £0 | Defra funded. Consortium level study. East Yorkshire element complete. |
| OH 24 to OH27 | IDB Fund Tranche 1 | £864k* | £0 | Contains sunk costs from 2023_24. Defra funded up to value of deliverable works |
| OH 28 to OH 32 | IDB Fund Tranche 2a | £640* | £0 | £282k of this to be split between multiple boards in consortium for panel replacement. Defra funded up to value of deliverable works |

**Approved under delegated authority by Executive Committee*

617.1. The CEO presented a list of costs reclaimed for capital works under the Tranche 1 funding received from government.

617.2. Tranche 2 funding included monies granted for panel replacements in pumps across the Consortium. Conversations were to be held with the relevant landowner regarding the installation of a berm at Blacktoft.

617.3. All Boards in the consortium were successful in securing a mobile pump meaning there were now fifteen across the consortium.

617.4. Funds were confirmed to have been received to repair the flood defence at Barmby, Lowfield Rising main.

617.5. An order had been placed for a mobile welfare and works unit for staff to be able to use whilst working on sites.

- 617.6. Bids were submitted for Tranche 2b including a bid to refurbish a pump at Fleet Dike to bring up to a serviceable standard for the Board to adopt. The CEO advised that should this be unsuccessful; the matter would be brought to the summer meeting for consideration.
- 617.7. It was reported that the banks on both sides of Featherbed and Carr Drain, from the A614 to the Foulness, are failing. **Action DO.**
- 617.8. Mr B Maclean left the meeting.

618. Maintenance Update

- 618.1. The DO reported that, as of December 2024:

Failing: 371km (92%)

Weed Control: 256km (64%)

- *In-house:* 139km
- *Contractor:* 117km

- 618.2. He explained that a large amount of regrading works had been completed with further works anticipated in the next financial year.
- 618.3. Tree works have been carried out on Far Drain, between Gilberdyke and the tip.
- 618.4. The DO advised that the focus had been to meet the expenditure deadline stipulated by Defra in relation to the tranche funding, otherwise these funds would be retracted.

619. Date of Next Meeting (s)

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

2025/26 Dates

Monday 19th May 2025 – Executive Committee
Monday 9th June 2025 – Full Board Meeting
Wednesday 16th July 2025 – Drifffield Show
Monday 28th July 2025 – Executive Committee
Monday 13th October 2025 – Executive Committee
Monday 3rd November – Full Board Meeting
Tuesday 25th November 2025– ADA Flood & Water Conference (London)
Thursday 27th November 2025 – Joint Consortium Committee
Tuesday 2nd December 2025 – ADA Annual General Meeting (Online)
Monday 19th January 2026 – Executive Committee
Monday 9th February 2026 – Full Board Meeting

- 619.2. The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.