MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE HU15 2FW.

PRESENT					
Elected	Mr T Featherby (VCh)	Mr R Nicholls	Mr J Wright	Mr J Hick	Mr C Mowforth
	Mr R Henley				
Appointed	Mrs K West (Ch)	Cllr V Aitken	Mr G Baxter	Mr B Blackledge	Cllr H Roberts
	Cllr P West	Cllr N Wilkinson			
APOLOGIES					
Elected	Mr B Maclean	Mr T Screeton	Mr J Scutt	Mr J Sweeting	
Appointed	Cllr L Bayram	Cllr R Meredith	Mr J Traill		
ABSENT					
Elected					
Appointed	Cllr N Marwood				

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Towse – Director of Operations
Mrs A Larkin – Director of Policy & Finance
Miss L Smith – Board Secretary

Professional Appointments

Mrs J Jackson – Hunter Gee Holroyd

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

620.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from, Mr J Scutt, Mr B Maclean, Mr J Sweeting, Mr T Screeton, Cllr R Meredith, Cllr Bayram and Mr Traill.

620.2. Members expressed their thanks and gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the teams across the Consortium for their roles in securing and delivering recent capital grant schemes, adhering to exceptionally tight deadlines.

621. Declarations of Interest

621.1. Mr Mowforth expressed an interest in item 17.2.

622. Additional Agenda Items

622.1. None raised.

623. Health & Safety

623.1. The DO advised of one incident where an operator had slipped whilst alighting from a vehicle.

624. Natural Environment

624.1. The CEO highlighted a recent case where the Environment Agency (EA) had formally raised an issue with works carried out by another Board in the consortium. It was the CEO's view that the EA had exhibited overreach in this case and had responded to the EA with his view, and the matter was deemed closed.

624.2. The CEO advised that IDBs around the country were concerned about how primary legislation was being interpreted by the EA, resulting in a situation where IDBs carrying out their statutory function may be judged to be in conflict with the EA's internal policy position.

625. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

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

625.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr G Baxter and SECONDED by Mr C Mowforth and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

626. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

626.1. The minutes from the Executive Committee held on 19th May 2025 were noted by Members.

626.2. Mr C Mowforth queried if the mobile pumps and welfare units were securely stored, to which the DO confirmed these had been fitted with tracking devices.

627. Matters Arising

627.1. None raised.

628. Annual Health and Safety Report

628.1. The CEO gave an annual health and safety report for 2024/25, commenting that there had been no reported accidents or near misses, and that staff had attended fifty-three training sessions ranging from Safe Working Near Water through to Mental Health First Aid Training.

628.2. He added that two management review meetings had been held with risk assessments and safe working practices reviewed, along with a consortium meeting with various staff to allow for constructive and open feedback on health and safety matters.

628.3. In response to a query from Cllr Wilkinson about RIDDOR incidents, the CEO confirmed that no such reports had been required.

628.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Aitken and SECONDED by Mrs West and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and accept the Annual Health and Safety Report.

629. Professional Appointments to the Board

629.1. The CEO invited members to review the Board's professional appointments.

629.2. He advised that the Consortium's internal auditor had just given notice that she will be retiring this summer, and hence there was a need to find and appoint a new internal auditor. Because of the requirement to commence a work programme ahead of the next scheduled Board meetings, the CEO recommended that the authority to appoint the new internal auditor be delegated to the Joint Consortium Committee, to be ratified by the Board.

629.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Wilkinson and SECONDED by Cllr Roberts and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board delegate authority to the Joint Consortium Committee to appoint a new internal auditor.

629.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Roberts and SECONDED by Mr J Wright and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint; Wilkin Chapman Rollitts LLP (Solicitors), Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd (Accountants), Mason Clark Associates Ltd (Consulting Engineers), Mr Simon Jepps BSc MSc and co of Thomas Mackay Ltd (Hydrologist), Mr Ralph Ward FRICS and c/o of Frank Hill & Son (Valuer and Surveyor) and Cutler IT Ltd (IT Support), as professional service providers to the Board.

629.5. Cllr Wilkinson recommended that a market review of services should be held to ensure the current professional appointments offer good value for money.

630. Annual Risk Register Review

630.1. The CEO presented a draft risk register for 2025/26, for review and approval by the Board.

630.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Aitken and SECONDED by Mr Henley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2025.

631. Accounting Statements and Annual Return

631.1. The DPF referred members to the Board's Annual Return documents for 2024/25, which had been prepared by the Board's accountants, Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd.

631.2. She added that the Internal Auditor had reviewed the Annual Return documents and completed the Internal Auditor's section of the form.

631.3. It was noted that the reserves position was much healthier this year. This was largely due to a saving in the previous year's revenue budget due to some staff and overhead costs being met by external funders.

631.4. External funding had also allowed for a reduced base revenue expenditure on pump station maintenance and repair costs.

631.5. The CEO advised that the accounts' format had been changed to better match the budget monitoring layout.

631.6. The DPF read aloud the eight annual governance statements to the Board and requested that Members indicate their agreement or disagreement with each statement.

631.7. It was PROPOSED by Mrs West and SECONDED by Cllr Aitken and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

631.8. It was PROPOSED by Cllr H Roberts and SECONDED by Mr C Mowforth and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25.

631.9. Mrs Jackson, the Board's Accountant, left the meeting.

632. Budget Refresh

632.1. The CEO presented a revised budget, commenting that the outturn for 2024/25 discussed under the previous item, shows a surplus of £1.3m, resulting in a cash balance of £2.3m, which means the Board will comfortably meet its reserves policy position of 75% of operating costs at £1.3m.

632.2. The remainder represents commitments in this year's refreshed budget of £127k, leaving an allocated capital maintenance reserve of £810k for approval, as part of the capital programme.

632.3. The CEO highlighted expenditure of £448k which the Board had previously agreed to, to purchase an additional flail mower.

632.4. In addition to the reserves figure, £130k of PCSA works (which had been completed late last year) had just been received along with an expected £100k developer contribution for the first stage of the large scheme at Howden.

632.5. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Roberts and SECONDED by Cllr Aitken and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised budget for 2025/26.

633. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

633.1. The schedule of invoices paid and accounts settled for Quarter 4 2024/25, were presented for review.

633.2. Mr C Mowforth queried the cost of 2,500 litres of diesel, to which the DO explained that due to using hired excavators for the Blacktoft scheme, white diesel had been used.

633.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr West and SECONDED by Cllr Wilkinson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £1,578,319.88 (net).

634. Internal Audit

634.1. The internal audit reports for the third and fourth audits for 2024/25 were presented to the Board and it was noted that there were no concerns or issues highlighted within these reports.

635. Public Sector Agreements

635.1. The DO confirmed that Ouse & Humber and a neighbouring IDB had been commissioned to undertake grass cutting on the lower Derwent.

635.2. Cllr P West joined the meeting online.

635.3. The DO explained that the Environment Agency continued to liaise with the Consortium in relation to their respective precepts and how this should be spent. Works on Back Delfin and Bubwith around Southwood drain, had been recommended.

635.4. The DO also confirmed that the safety of the ship lock at Market Weighton had been discussed and that it was assumed that a capital scheme would be proposed in the future.

635.5. It was noted that the EA's permit system had been taking a considerable amount of time for approval, currently standing at 21 weeks.

636. Development Control & Planning

636.1. The CEO referred to the large-scale residential development proposed in Howden and advised that parties were close to signing the developer agreement, and that a temporary consent had been granted by the Board to allow the development in the north-east to proceed.

636.2. Cllr Roberts recognised that Officers had worked to strict timescales to ensure that the contract deadlines were achieved and reported that the developer had commented that they were impressed with the technical advice that had been provided by the Board in support of the development.

636.3. The CEO reported that discussions were continuing with the developer of the East Riding Solar Farm development, although there were no concerns about drainage and flood risk. Negotiations were ongoing between the solicitor and developer regarding protective provisions to be included in the Development Consent Order. All costs incurred were to be paid for by the developer.

636.4. The CEO confirmed advice was being sought as to whether the solar panels will be classed as agricultural or non-agricultural land use in respect of drainage rates.

636.5. The DO advised that discussions were ongoing with the developer regarding the North Humber to High Marnham pylon route. Concerns had been raised by the local landowner and negotiations were to take place in respect of the culverts.

636.6. The Board discussed the current cost for consents. The CEO explained that all negotiations in relation to the consents were at cost to the Board however it was a duty carried out on behalf of the ratepayer.

636.7. Consents had been issued for a vehicle entrance over a watercourse in Broomfleet, for surface water discharge from the egg production unit in Holme upon Spalding Moor, and for the lining of Jubilee culvert, Laxton.

636.8. Cllr Aitken highlighted the road which was falling into the watercourse at Kilpin. The DO explained that a bid had been made for funds to rectify this, however the attempt had been unsuccessful and therefore would need to be paid for by the Board.

636.9. The CEO confirmed he would discuss this matter with ERYC Highways. **Action CEO.**

636.10. Cllr Aitken also notified Members that Faxfleet Road was also failing, to which the DO confirmed Officers were aware.

637. Capital Programme

637.1. The privately owned pump station at Wressle was discussed by the Board, as funds had been awarded through Defra grant funding to upgrade it and adopt this station. Currently, the Board pay for a portion of the operational costs.

637.2. Prior to the Board adopting this pump station, it must be brought into a serviceable standard as this was currently not the case.

637.3. Mr Hick commented that this was a positive move for the Board, as this pump station serves a significant area of the drainage catchment.

637.4. Defra funding would also cover improvement works on Southfield Drain, Bubwith. At this stage the extent of such works was being examined.

637.5. Cllr Aitken highlighted that water inundates the sewage pump subsequently allowing raw sewage to enter the watercourse network and suggested that Yorkshire Water should be contributing to this scheme.

637.6. The CEO advised that a firm capital programme would be compiled this year, using £800k for capital maintenance. He confirmed that further detail would be presented to the Board later in the year.

637.7. It was PROPOSED by Mr Mowforth and SECONDED by Cllr Wilkinson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the capital programme and that £800k is identified in reserves and allocated to a capital maintenance programme.

638. Maintenance Programme

638.1. The DO reported culvert replacements on Ploughfurrow Drain due to the failure of existing culverts.

638.2. A re-grading programme was ongoing in Broomfleet, with a similar programme planned in the autumn elsewhere.

638.3. Piling works were underway in Yokefleet, Foggathorpe, and East Cottingwith.

638.4. A programme would be developed for remedial works over the winter, focusing mainly on Foggathorpe to Bubwith due to reduced maintenance over the last few years.

638.5. Members were reminded that the maintenance programme had been published on the website in advance of the meeting for members to review.

638.6. Cllr Roberts referred to the petition presented at the last meeting and queried the outcome. The CEO confirmed he had responded to the petitioner but had received no further communications.

638.7. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Wilkinson and SECONDED by Mr J Wright and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the annual maintenance programme.

639. Election Programme

639.1. It was reported that the current term of office for the Board's elected members was due to expire later this year and an election would be held in accordance with the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations, to elect eleven members to serve on the Board for the next 3-year term, alongside the twelve members appointed by ERYC.

639.2. A copy of the Electoral Register for the Ouse & Humber Drainage District, as per 1st April 2025 was presented to Members for inspection and the DPF confirmed that the register had been duly advertised on 1st April 2025, resulting in no claims for amendments.

639.3. Mr Wright requested that someone for each election area be nominated to support with local knowledge. Map to be sent to board members. **Action CEO**

639.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Aitken and SECONDED by Mr Mowforth and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Electoral Register (1st April 2025).

640. Policies

640.1. Policies for review and approval were reviewed and it was confirmed that no amendments had been made since they were last approved.

640.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Aitken and SECONDED by Mr J Wright and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board reviews and approves the policies.

641. Staff Matters

641.1. Members were informed of the recent internal restructure. An Ouse and Humber Operator had taken the role of Operations Manager for the South and West area of the consortium including the Danvm and ADOC Boards.

641.2. The previous South and West Manager had been appointed as Infrastructure Manager by the Danvm Board, to manage the MEICA team, pumping stations and capital delivery of projects.

641.3. The Board's Senior Liaison Officer had moved from Technical Services to Policy and Finance, now reporting to the DPF with the intention of incorporating rates management into the role, including site visits to discuss rating and valuation enquiries, along with additional duties in support of fleet management.

641.4. It was reported that the new rating management system was operational and being utilised by several drainage boards across the country. Work was ongoing to fully digitise the rating records.

642. Date of Next Meeting (s)

642.1. The dates of next meetings were confirmed as:

- Executive Committee – Monday 28th July 2025 at 9.30am
- Executive Committee – Monday 13th October 2025 at 9.30am
- Full Board – Monday 3rd November 2025 at 9.30am