



Dempster Internal Drainage Board

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW.

PRESENT

Elected	Mr M Backhouse (C)	Mr P Chantry	Mr J Cowling	Mr R Hall	Mr J Phillipson
Appointed	Mr J Frost				

APOLOGIES

Elected	Mr P Jacklin
Appointed	Mr D Walton

ABSENT

Elected	Mr M Johnson
Appointed	Cllr L Sargeantson
	Cllr N Coulthish

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
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
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1899. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

1899.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr D Walton and Mr P Jacklin.

1900. Declarations of Interest

1900.1. None declared.

1901. Additional Agenda Items

1901.1. None raised.

1902. Health and Safety

1902.1. No matters to report.

1903. Natural Environment

1903.1. The DO advised there were ongoing issues with a protected species and he was continuing to liaise with Network Rail for a resolution to the matter.

1904. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

1904.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January 2025.

1904.2. At minute 1893.2, Mr J Phillipson requested this is amended to "Mr Johnson".

1904.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Frost and SECONDED by Mr J Phillipson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve these minutes as a true record of that meeting subject to the above amendment.

1905. Matters Arising

1905.1. None raised.

1906. Annual Risk Register and Health & Safety Review

1906.1. The CEO confirmed that the business risks had been compared to the previous year and presented a draft risk register for 2025/26.

1906.2. It was highlighted that there had been an amendment to "ensuring adequacy of rates and reserves", with a reduced score.

1906.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Backhouse and SECONDED by Mr P Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2025/26.

- 1906.4. The CEO reported that the Board continue to operate within the Health and Safety management system. Two management meetings had been held to review risk assessments and safe working practices, specifically for HAVS.
- 1906.5. There were no accidents or near misses reported in the district within the last 12 months.
- 1906.6. The Board noted and accepted the annual review of the Health and Safety Management System.

1907. Accounting Statements and Annual Return

- 1907.1. The DPF confirmed the Board's accountants, Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd, had prepared the Board's official accounts and annual return documents for the period 2024/25 and presented these to members.
- 1907.2. The DPF circulated the latest report from the internal auditor who had previously stated "No" to Statement D of the internal control objectives, referring to the level of reserves.
- 1907.3. In the latest internal audit report, the auditor had acknowledged that the Board had made a conscious effort to improve their reserves status and was satisfied to answer "Yes" to Statement D of the internal control objectives this year.
- 1907.4. The DPF reported a £41k surplus in the accounts. Maintenance expenditure appeared to have reduced; however, this was largely because a contractor's invoice had not been received and therefore will require inclusion in next year's accounts.
- 1907.5. Energy payments were significantly lower than had been budgeted for, which had also contributed to the surplus.
- 1907.6. It was confirmed that as of 31st March 2025, the Board held £68k cash in the bank.
- 1907.7. The Chair proceeded to read the eight annual governance statements and requested that Members indicate their agreement or disagreement with each.
- 1907.8. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Frost and SECONDED by Mr P Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.
- 1907.9. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Frost and SECONDED by Mr J Phillipson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25.

1908. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 1908.1. The Chair drew attention to the schedule of invoices for the fourth quarter of 2024/25 and invited questions from the Board.
- 1908.2. The Board discussed the outstanding contractor invoices.

1908.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr P Chantry and SECONDED by Mr J Frost and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled, totalling £4,785.51 (net) for the last financial quarter.

1909. Capital Programme

- 1909.1. The CEO advised that Officers had only 20 weeks to deliver a selective and achievable capital programme with funds received from the Defra grant funding across the Consortium.
- 1909.2. Dempster had received funding for an 8" portable diesel pump for use in emergencies and for mutual aid use.
- 1909.3. Funding was also received for a capacity upgrade at Swang pumping station. A demountable pump pad had been installed and an aluminium suction pipe was to be installed through the pump station and into the header tank at a later date.
- 1909.4. The Board discussed replacing a broken window in the pump station and potentially installing a cooling system to prevent the panel from overheating. The cost of this was to be discussed with the Chairman to decide on behalf of the Board. **Action CEO.**

1910. Planning & Development Control

- 1910.1. The DO reported that discussions continue with the developers of the Humber Carbon Capture pipeline which affects several IDBs in the consortium.

1911. Maintenance

- 1911.1. The DO advised that whilst the Board had previously been managing the maintenance budgets on an ad-hoc basis, this was no longer sustainable and this year, he had created a formal maintenance plan on a rotational basis to enable concise communication to the Board regarding a maintenance programme.
- 1911.2. The DO presented an electronic version of the maintenance plan and explained that primary watercourses will be de-weeded annually, however secondary watercourses will be desilted and/or chemically treated on a rotating schedule.
- 1911.3. The CEO stated that the maintenance must be completed on a strategic basis to be able to provide a service appropriate to the budget.
- 1911.4. The Board discussed whether it was more appropriate to maintain at an ad-hoc level and pay for the DO's time in producing a tailored maintenance plan annually.
- 1911.5. Mr Chantry suggested that the Chairman presents a maintenance plan at each annual meeting.
- 1911.6. The Chair requested that Goat Drain and Whitehouse Drain be removed from the maintenance plan and that these are instead sprayed along with Dempster Drain, south.

- 1911.7. Slips were reported in front of the pump station on the main road.
- 1911.8. It was PROPOSED by Mr R Hall and SECONDED by Mr M Backhouse and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the annual maintenance programme for 2025/26, subject to the above minor adjustments.
- 1911.9. Mr Phillipson suggested that a section of piling is required on Rawcliffe Moor. The DO advised he would investigate this. **Action DO.**
- 1911.10. Mr P Chantry, referring to minute 1896.4, requested that this be resolved. **Action DO.**

1912. Membership

- 1912.1. Mr Backhouse informed Members that he wished to resign as Vice-Chairman and requested this position be considered at the next Full Board Meeting. **Action Chair.**
- 1912.2. Mr J Frost tendered his resignation from the Board. Mr Backhouse commented that Mr Frost's contributions had been invaluable.
- 1912.3. Members and Officers thanked Mr Frost for his dedication to the Board.

1913. Date of Future Meetings

Monday 1st December 2025 – ADOC Consortium Committee

Monday 26th January 2026 – Full Board Meeting