



Reedness & Swinefleet Internal Drainage Board

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

PRESENT

Elected

Mr I Backhouse (C) Mr M Barker Mr G Cowling Mr J Cowling Mr J Drury
Mr T Reed

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr W Gagg

ABSENT

Appointed

Cllr L Sargeantson

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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278. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies.

278.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr Gagg.

279. Declarations of Interest

279.1. None declared.

280. Additional Agenda Items

280.1. None raised.

281. Health and Safety

281.1. No matters to report.

282. Natural Environment

282.1. The Board discussed the pollution issue, believed to be kerosene, in Foulsey Dike. The DO confirmed he had reported this to the Environment Agency [EA] on at least three separate occasions, however, there has been no remedial action reported to the IDB in response to this.

282.2. Officers advised that there will be no maintenance conducted on this dike until this incident had been dealt with by the EA. The CEO explained that this is due to the fact that if the Board removes contaminants the EA may determine the Board as being the producers of the waste.

282.3. If identified, the Board can serve notice on the producer under the Board's byelaws.

282.4. The DO confirmed he would contact the EA again and requested that Members and residents do the same. **Action DO.**

283. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

283.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January 2025 were reviewed by members.

283.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Barker and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

284. Matters Arising

284.1. None raised.

285. Annual Risk Register and Health & Safety Review

285.1. The CEO confirmed the annual review of business risks had been completed and presented the draft 2025/26 risk register.

285.2. There were no changes to the register this year and no concerns were raised by Members.

285.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Barker and SECONDED by Mr T Reed and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2025/26.

285.4. The CEO confirmed the Board operate the Health and Safety system in accordance with HS65, and have undertaken recent reviews of the risk assessments and safe working procedures across the Consortium.

285.5. He confirmed that there had been no incidents reported in the area.

285.6. The Board noted and accepted the annual review of the Health and Safety Management System.

286. Accounting Statements and Annual Return

286.1. The DPF confirmed that the Board's accountants, Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd, had prepared the Board's official accounts and annual return documents for the period 2024/25, included within the meeting papers.

286.2. Due to Defra grant funding, income this year was significantly higher than last. £11k had been received to offset the Board's extraneous energy costs, and over £50k had been received to conduct pump station repairs which had been included in the Board's capital income.

286.3. The DO highlighted that because he was yet to receive a contractor invoice for maintenance completed in 2024/25, the Board's expenditure was showing lower than it should be.

286.4. The CEO clarified that this would be satisfied from reserve funds and would not be shown as part of the 2025/26 budget.

286.5. The DPF advised that Members must consider the annual governance statements and indicate their agreement or disagreement with each.

286.6. The Chair read aloud the annual governance statements.

286.7. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Barker and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statements for 2024/25.

286.8. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Barker and SECONDED by Mr G Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25.

287. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

287.1. The Chair drew attention to the schedule of invoices paid and accounts settled for quarter four, 2024/25.

287.2. Mr J Cowling queried the road sweeper payment, the DO advised this was for cleaning after maintenance at Swinefleet church.

287.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Drury and SECONDED by Mr T Reed and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled, totalling £119,866.77 (net) for the last financial quarter.

288. Capital Programme

- 288.1. The CEO advised that of the £75m made available nationally to IDBs, the Consortium was successful in securing funding in excess of £4 million.
- 288.2. Funding bids were submitted for eight mobile pumps, with one pump allocated to each Board. These units were intended for use during flooding emergencies and to support mutual aid arrangements. Members discussed the requirements for safe and secure storage of the equipment.
- 288.3. The Chair queried whether access at the Warping Drain had been considered for the installation of a mobile pump. The DO advised that Black Dike would currently be a more suitable location.
- 288.4. The DO advised that he would like to clear the bank so that this can be utilised for temporary pump pads.
- 288.5. The Chair requested that Officers investigate the feasibility of installing an appropriate pump pad at the Warping Drain to allow rapid deployment of a mobile pump in an emergency.

Action DO.

- 288.6. Mr Barker asked whether a flap valve could be installed alongside the penstock. The DO confirmed that approval had recently been given for the installation of a penstock.
- 288.7. Mr Barker reported that Chinese mitten crab, an invasive non-native species, had been observed at Goole Fields.
- 288.8. Members were advised that, following successful funding bids, two additional items had been added to the Board's capital programme. These include a scheme to replace the penstocks at Swinefleet Warping Drain and associated sluicing penstocks.
- 288.9. An extension to LAPDWP has been approved at a cost of £130,000. This extension is fully funded by Defra and will support modelling and survey work required to complete the scheme.
- 288.10. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Barker and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the capital programme.

289. Planning & Development

- 289.1. Monitoring continues regarding the Peat Works development, with particular focus on access roads and their interaction with the watercourse network.
- 289.2. The Humber Carbon Capture pipeline affects several IDBs in the Consortium. Discussions with the developers were continuing to agree and formalise the Boards' requirements.
- 289.3. Mr M. Barker raised a concern regarding the risk of pipelines rising. He referenced an example within another IDB district where a steel pipeline installed on land owned by a third party had risen, resulting in the affected land no longer being farmable.

- 289.4. The CEO proposed that the Board should investigate the inclusion of appropriate indemnities within consent agreements for Board assets, to ensure that the Board can recover costs from developers should pipeline movement or failure occur.
- 289.5. The Chair suggested that ADA consider issuing national guidance on this matter, to promote a consistent approach across IDBs.
- 289.6. The CEO advised that the Board could develop and publish a technical standard outlining its approach, however, it would not be appropriate for the Board to provide advice to individual landowners or organisations on how they should proceed.

290. Maintenance

- 290.1. The DO reported that the regrading works north of Kings Causeway were nearly complete.
- 290.2. Mr Barker reported dykes on the east side not releasing water as they should be due to the culverts, where at least two feet of silt could be removed. The DO advised it was his belief that historically these had been over dug.
- 290.3. Slips were reported at Cross drain, opposite the pump station, which will require tree works for access and may require piling.
- 290.4. The Chair queried if it was the responsibility of the landowner to manage the spoil removed from watercourses, to which the DO confirmed it was.
- 290.5. The DO highlighted that land drains were being installed without consent from the Board and that landowners were operating illegally. He added that if the Board are unaware of the location of these land drains, they are susceptible to damage when undertaking maintenance works.
- 290.6. The Chair queried if funds were being set aside for regarding works, to which the DO confirmed this was the case, however this would be a two-year programme and would be brought back to the Board for approval in the 2026/2027 maintenance programme.
- 290.7. The Chair requested that the maintenance plan be sent to Board members by email. **Action DO.**
- 290.8. Mr Barker highlighted that Reedness Drain, parallel with the railway line, requires maintenance as this was never completed by the contractor.
- 290.9. The Chair requested that maintenance on the warping drain be completed in an appropriate and timely manner this year, as previous years the work has started too late.
- 290.10. The DO advised that there had been an internal restructure, and the operational team which works within the ADOC Consortium area would now be managed by Ouse & Humber's operational supervisor, who has now taken on a managerial role.
- 290.11. The DO confirmed that all watercourses north of Black Dike will undergo chemical maintenance.

290.12. Mr Reed requested maintenance on the dike at Quart Lane due to the land drains being covered.

290.13. It was PROPOSED by Mr T Reed and SECONDED by Mr G Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the annual maintenance programme.

291. Date of Future Meetings

Monday 1st December 2025 – ADOC Consortium Committee

Monday 26th January 2026 – Full Board Meeting