

## WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**Minutes of the one hundred and twelfth meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board, held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in Branston Booths Village Hall, Branston Booths, Lincoln, LN4 1JF at 2pm.**

*Present:*

Mr. P. Gilbert	<b>Chairman</b>
Mr. E. Applewhite	
Mr. D. K. Busby	
Cllr. I. Carrington	
Mr. R.A. Fletcher	
Mr. W. R. B. Grantham	
Cllr. G. Hewson	
Mr. R. C. Hickling	
Mr. D. Jackson	
Cllr. P. Lundgren	
Dr. B. Maplethorpe	
Mr. S. Maplethorpe	
Mr. A R. Means	
Mr. C. R. Oxby	
Dr. V. Stanton	
Cllr. P. Vaughan	

*In attendance:*

Miss Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant
Mrs Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr Steve Larter	Director of Finance & Governance
Mr Martin Shilling	Director of Operations and Engineering Services.

### **2345 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from, Mr. D. C. Armstrong (Vice Chairman), Cllr. B. Bean, Mr. P. Carrott, Mr. S. F. Cobb, Mr. J. R. Crust, Mr. M. D. Harrison, Cllr. M. Head, Mr. A. G. Hodgson, Mr. D. G. Leggate, Mr. S. B. Leggate and Mr. I. J. Mair.

### **2346 Declarations of Interest.**

Declarations of interest were received from members appointed by City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council, in matters relating to their respective Councils.

### **2347 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed members to the January meeting of the Board.

A key feature of the agenda was for the Board to approve budget estimates for 2020/21 and key to setting a balanced budget for next year was the Board approving the Annual Value as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, approving the in-year land movements to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and setting the Penny Rate. The Chairman highlighted that, following discussion at the Board's Executive Committee, a **5.00% proposed increase** in the Penny Rate in the pound was recommended.

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to cover in her report, an update on where we are with discussions regarding the Statement of Claim, to the Environment Agency for the reimbursement of third party costs incurred due to EA main river bank breaches, overtopping and seepage.

With support of members, given rainfall events until recently, the Chairman would take the agenda to item 10 & then bring forward item 20 to receive a detailed presentation by the Director of Operations & Engineering.

### **2348 Minutes of the Board meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, 26.11.19.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting, held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019, were proposed by Dr. Bridget. Maplethorpe, seconded by Cllr. Ian Carrington and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### *MATTERS ARISING:*

##### 2348.1 Proposed Pay Settlement 2020/21 (from 01.04.20) (Minute 2334.1 refers).

Cllr Lance Pennell is the group of 4 IDBs' representative on the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay and Conditions Committee. He and the Chief Executive attended the last meeting on 08.10.19 where management and staff sides discussed the pay settlement for 2020/21 (to resolve this for inclusion in January budgets setting).

After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch and to Unison for a staff consultative ballot a pay settlement of 3.7% for 2020/21 and the introduction of a pay formula on the same basis for 3 years from 2020/21. The exact wording of the agreement being:

#### "Proposal 1

As per the Office for National Statistics EARN01 Average Weekly Earnings – Total pay, Great Britain (Seasonally adjusted) Provisional July figure, published in September, for the Public Sector, 3 month average (KAC9), % change year on year.  
For the financial year 2020/21 this is 3.7%

#### Proposal 2

As per proposal 1 for three years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 and carrying on beyond that unless 12 months' notice given by either party (Employers or employees) to re-enter negotiations.  
All subject to any national legislation being introduced."

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch had met on 17.10.19 and agreed the Pay Committee's recommended proposals for a pay settlement. This would form the basis of ADA White Book pay scales from 01.04.20.

It was highlighted that it is for each Board to determine whether it accepted the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay settlement. Executive Committee was recommending adoption of the ADA proposed pay settlement. After discussion, the Board APPROVED adoption of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's 3.7% pay

settlement for 2020/21, to be applied across all salaries and wages from 01.04.20.

Members were advised that all four Boards had approved the proposal at their November meetings, and this would therefore be implemented from 01.04.20.

2348.2 Director of Operations and Engineering Services' report (minute 2340 refers)

Cllr Peter Lundgren referred to the paragraph:

*“The Board also receive a complaint regarding the cutting of reed margins within the fen, with the request being made that these should be left for the benefit of the local ecology. It was agreed that a margin may be left along a reach in that part of the system that is able to accommodate it”.*

He wished it to be clarified that this was not specifically a complaint, rather a request and suggestion from himself regarding the operational difficulties in this area in accessing the watercourse. He had since had discussions with Mr Martin Shilling and both now considered that the matter closed, having agreed on a way forward working on one side of the watercourse only.

**2349 Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, 14.01.20.**

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed by Mr. Ed Applewhite, seconded by Mr. Ron Oxby and APPROVED as an accurate record and the recommendations to the Board were NOTED.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

2349.1 Budget Estimates for 2020/21 (minute 8 refers)

The officer proposed Budget Estimates for 2020/21 were tabled and set out in a summary table:

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Approved 2019/20</b>	<b>Draft 2020/21</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	( 895,200 )	( 960,340 )	( 65,140 )
Board & General Admin	15,653	14,653	( 1,000 )
One Off Schemes	25,000	25,000	-
Conservation	1,750	1,750	-
Depot	12,456	12,600	144
Drains	339,392	351,688	12,296
Pumping Stations	185,331	190,360	5,029
Joint Services	88,668	96,410	7,742
Consents & Enforcement	10,208	10,278	70
Director of Operations/Engineers	67,284	66,452	( 832 )
Contribution to Reserves	15,000	17,250	2,250
PWLB	29,766	29,207	( 559 )
Rechargeable Works	20,000	60,000	40,000
EA Precept	84,692	84,692	-
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	-	-	-
Wages & Plant Holding Account	-	-	-
<b>(Surplus)/ Deficit</b>	-	-	-

Column 1 set out the current year's approved budget against in column 2 that proposed for 2020/21, and column 3 showed the main variances. Alongside the

summary table, a full breakdown of the proposed budget 2020/21 with all budget headings, against the 2019/20 approved budget was also circulated.

It was confirmed that a balanced budget could be set for the Board, based on the following assumptions:

- A 2% increase in the Penny Rate
- Inclusion of land movements to 31.12.19
- The 3.7% approved pay uplift 2020/21
- Inclusion of the additional Operative post (& correspondingly uplift in assumed PSCA income)
- £30k for pump refurbishments (from £25k 19/20)
- Joint Services budget at 20% contribution rate (£182,210 for 2020/21)
- £17.5k contribution to reserves (from £15k 19/20)
- Inflationary uplift on utilities etc
- £25k included for one-off schemes.
- Pump Supervisor contribution 25% (50% W3rd and 25% UW)

Members had noted that a balanced budget could be set on the assumption of a 2% increase in the Penny Rate (which when multiplied by Annual Value drives the setting of drainage rates and Special Levies).

However, this linked to the following item and, on balance, Executive Committee members wished to change the proposed budget for 2020/21 to (a) increase the budget for electricity to £60,000 and (b) increase the contribution to reserves to £25k to General reserve and £15k to plant reserve (rather than the £17,500 proposed, given the forecast depletion of reserves as at 31.03.20). The changes would be funded by a proposed increase in the Penny Rate of 5%.

Members received and noted the draft budget estimates for 2020/21 and asked that these be amended to uplift for a 5% increase in the Penny Rate. With this amendment, Executive Committee was content to recommend the proposed 2020/21 Budget Estimates to the Board on 28.01.20.

Members noted this change and the revised Budget Estimates for 2020/21 presented today to the Board.

### **2350 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee 13.01.20**

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 had been circulated with the agenda. The following items were highlighted:

#### **2350.1 PSCA Renewals (minute 5.2 refers)**

It was confirmed that one of the issues discussed last time in relation to the EA was PSCA renewals, the existing 5-year agreements having expired at the end of November 2018. A number of IDBs had raised issues with the EA's proposed new PSCA content (e.g. CDM regulations, lack of formal planning of works, inconsistencies in processes, specification of works, treatment as contractor rather than as a partner FRMA, treatment of dredging material / spoil as contaminated waste, 24/7 2 hour response times) and ADA (National) had been made aware of these concerns.

Members were updated on a meeting in London (Defra) on 05.12.19 between the EA, ADA and several IDB Chief Executives, including Jane Froggatt. Many of the issues had hopefully been resolved to mutual agreement and James Yarman at the EA had undertaken to revamp the proposed PSCA agreement (including Schedule 3) accordingly and circulate it for comment. A copy of the proposed revised PSCA is awaited. Meanwhile, it was noted that PSCA work continues (except on saturated raised embankments).

2350.2 Joint Services Agreement (minute 6.1 refers).

The Joint Services Agreement between the 4 Boards became operational on 01.04.17. It specified each Board's contribution rate to the cost of joint services, and a review period of 3 years.

Officers now had almost 3 years' experience of the issues and workload generated in each Board and feel, on balance, that some modification is justified from 01.04.20 to the percentage contributions. It was outlined that factors such as income and expenditure, Special Levies and drainage rates accounts (including complexity and number of accounts), Operatives/Contractor workload, consents/enforcements and planning applications (numbers and case complexity) had been compared. The following changes had been recommended to JSC:

	Current % Contribution	Proposed % Contribution
Upper Witham	33.4%	30%
Witham First	20.9%	20%
Witham Third	29.2%	30%
North East Lindsey	16.5%	20%

The JSC meeting to be held on 16.12.19 had been postponed enabling completion of the draft Budget Estimates for 2020/21 for each Board, so that members would not take decisions in isolation about the proposed joint services budget but would see this in the context of overall affordability.

The overall joint services budget 2020/21 is £911,050 which on the proposed revised contribution rates is:

Upper Witham	£	273,315
Witham First	£	182,210
Witham Third	£	273,315
North East Lindsey	£	182,210

There followed discussion at JSC about the Joint Services Agreement, the impact on each Board, the need not to look at the first 3 years of assimilation of one IDB into the Group but to set what is fair as a formula thereafter. Members felt that if challenges were made to the respective contribution rates from April, there should be a regular review (say every 3 years) but unless there was a specific reason there should not be great variations to contributions. The recommendation that the two larger Boards each contribute 30% and the two smaller Boards each contribute 20% of costs gave the greatest savings to Upper Witham and the greatest increase to North East Lindsey.

Following discussion about achieving an equitable position for all 4 IDBs, Mr Philip Hoyes had proposed and Mr. Peter Gilbert seconded the approval of the recommended contribution rates (UW 30%, W1st 20%, W3rd 30% and NEL 20%) from 01.04.20 and that these be fixed for a 3 years period and reviewed for 01.04.23. This was supported and approved by all present.

### 2350.3 NFU Flood Conference (minute 6.3 refers).

The prospect of the NFU convening a 'Flood Conference' in Lincolnshire was discussed and welcomed (tentative date 13.03.20).

Cllr Carrington asked if they would invite representatives from all partner agencies, including Lincolnshire County Council, District Councils etc. It was agreed that it would be extremely beneficial for all parties if they were and the Chief Executive would make the suggestion to Simon Fisher of the NFU.

## **2351 Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda. The following items were highlighted:

### 2351.1 High Rainfall Events.

Since the last Board meetings in November, the high rainfall events continued into December and the drainage districts continued to feel the impact, e.g. on 29.11.19 a further breach of EA main river occurred. This time at Timberland Delph, impacting on Witham First DIDB and Blankney Pumping Station in particular.

Regular telephone conference calls between the IDBs, the EA and the NFU continued and the IDBs continued to provide mutual aid and support to the EA as necessary.

The cost impact of the Boards dealing with water not intended to come into IDB systems has been qualified to 30.11.19 in a 'Statement of Claim', available as a separate paper on the agenda. For individual Boards, the impact is significant:

W1ST	£ 110,572.47
W3RD	£ 52,530.19
NELDB	£ 22,703.80
UW	£ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£ 185,806.46</u></b>

With the December costs now being available since the report was compiled and submitted members were informed that the costs for December were £14,829.00. This brought the Witham First DIDB total claim to £125,500.

Endeavours continue to seek reimbursement of these costs, December costs have been claimed, but there is yet no assurance that these additional costs will be reimbursed. A meeting was held with the EA's Area Director for Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire (Norman Robinson) on 23.01.20 and the EA is aware of the importance of this claim to all three relevant IDBs, but to Witham First DIDB in particular. Dr. Valerie Stanton expressed her concern that the Board should

not subsidise the EA and wished to be kept informed of progress on reimbursement.

#### 2351.2 Year-end forecast positions 31.03.20

At the November Board Meetings each of the Boards had a healthy 2019/20 financial position, although members were advised that this would change when we knew the full costs of the rainfall events.

Largely due to the impact of additional costs incurred within Drainage districts due to Boards accepting water from EA main river failures, each of the Boards is now forecasting a deficit 2019/20 year-end position as at 31.03.20:

Upper Witham	£97k deficit
Witham First	£132k deficit
Witham Third	£104k deficit
North East Lindsey	£12k deficit

For Witham First DIDB with the December costs now known this would be almost £150k, should there not be a reimbursement to the Board by the EA of the costs incurred.

Whilst officers endeavour to seek external financial support, these forecast year-end positions mean we are looking at utilising and depleting resources. In Witham First DIDB in particular this will severely deplete the reserves.

The Chief Executive's report and update was discussed and noted, particularly in relation to the Statement of Claim.

#### **2352 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.11.19 to 31.12.19**

The Schedule of Expenditure for the two months' period from 01<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & Governance.

Gross expenditure totalled £325,281.56 or, net of £32,204.95 VAT, £293,076.61. Of this, £1,932.04 was recharged to other bodies. It was emphasized that this is the invoices paid in the 2 months and other invoices relating to the period had not been included, notably electricity invoices for December (which were paid in January).

Items highlighted to or raised by members included:

- Item 23: £41,515.50 (net) to Environment Agency for the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Levy, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of two for 2019/20.
- Item 24: £10,783.00 (net) to Fen Flow Ltd for the pump overhaul and refit at Nocton Pumping Station.
- Item 27: £3,380.82 (net) to G&J Peck Ltd for repairs to the Case Tractor following the service, to the front offside hub and front drive shaft.
- Item 69: £14,580.16 (net) to Public Works Loan Board for the Loan repayment relating to transfer of Bridges / culverts liability to LCC.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred between 01.11.19 and 31.12.19.

**2353 Financial Performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> December, month 9 of 2019/20 and the forecast year end position as at 31.03.20.**

The Director of Finance & Governance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31.12.19, month 9 of 2019/20, which had been circulated with the agenda. A summary table of the overall income and expenditure position was presented, as follows:

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>2019/20 Budget</b>	<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Provisional Outturn</b>	<b>Variance (5-1)</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	(895,200)	(874,147)	(936,938)	(62,791)	(951,070)	( 55,870 )
Board & General Admin	15,653	8,725	7,104	(1,621)	12,237	( 3,416 )
One Off Schemes	25,000	2,500	2,566	66	2,566	( 22,434 )
Conservation	1,750	496	272	(224)	1,363	( 387 )
Depot	12,456	11,179	18,476	7,297	21,085	8,629
Drains	339,392	312,145	305,569	(6,576)	359,470	20,078
Pumping Stations	185,331	132,999	270,487	137,488	317,583	132,252
Joint Admin/Witham House	88,668	46,379	51,760	5,381	102,544	13,876
Consents & Enforcement	10,208	0	0	0	11,392	1,184
Director of Operations/Engineers	67,284	61,816	58,477	(3,339)	67,820	536
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	-
PWLB	29,766	28,330	27,881	(449)	29,152	( 614 )
Rechargeable Works	20,000	18,843	59,852	41,009	59,852	39,852
EA Precept	84,692	84,692	83,031	(1,661)	83,031	( 1,661 )
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)				0		-
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(37,280)	(37,838)	(558)	(0)	( 0 )
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(203,323)</b>	<b>(89,301)</b>	<b>114,022</b>	<b>132,025</b>	<b>132,025</b>

The Board was showing a 31.12.19 actual surplus of (£89,301) but this was a negative variation of £114,022 against the budget profile of a (£203,323) surplus. These figures included the bulk of the additional electricity and call out / overtime for the Operatives during the high rainfall events.

Overall, on income, the profile is (£63k) ahead of profile. All Special Levy payments were received.

On drainage rates income, of £486,654.17 invoices raised, as at 31.12.19 £482,816.15 had been received, a collection rate of 99.0%. After adjustments, a remaining balance of £4,785.02 was due to the Board. A court date had been set for 29.11.19 for unpaid account holders and was attended by the Director of Finance and Governance, court liability orders having been issued.

On budget headings, main variations (+/-) were highlighted as:

- Depot expenditure £8k variance on budget, this being largely the new Ifor Williams trailer at £4k.
- Electricity £113k variance, but further expense of heavy rainfall events to follow in December (paid in January).
- Contribution to plant and machinery reserve of £15k is budgeted for action at the year-end 31.03.20, should the Board's financial position withstand this.
- Rechargeable works, £41k adverse variance. Being mainly PSCA works undertaken for the EA.
- EA IDB precept, positive variance of (£1k) in that £41,516 was paid to the EA in July and the second similar payment in November 2019. As there was no increase in the precept for 2019/20, there will be a (£1.6k) FYE saving on this budget.



Bank balances and investments were set out as follows, as at 31.12.19 (this included the 2 Special Levy Payments received in November):

Natwest	£	15,414.09
Nationwide Instant Access	£	382,231.32
Nationwide 90 Day Notice	£	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b><u>397,645.41</u></b>

The Board's Public Works Loan Board loan was being repaid as follows, with £183,351.28 outstanding:

**2.41%**      **£ 183,351.28**

*Original loan £354,480. Loan period 14.5 years from 17/12/2012. Maturity date 17th June 2027  
Repayments made 17th June and 17th December each year.*

A Projected Outturn Position had been estimated based on the month nine position detailed. This was worst case. This was forecasting a deficit position of £132k for the end of the financial year. Assumptions around Highland Water and rechargeable works, electricity and overtime had been made. Action had been taken to minimise spend where possible for the remainder of the financial year. Any deficit would be met by the General Reserve which will be fully depleted (current balance £133,309).

The position will be improved if the Statement of Claim for additional costs incurred in taking water from EA main rivers to 30.11.19 is reimbursed by the EA. This leaves the Board in a very difficult financial position should this worst-case outturn position materialise. If it worsens significantly, then the Board may not have the financial resources and cash flows to meet its future obligations and options for covering the year end position, and cash flow are actively under discussion.

Members received and noted the financial performance report 2019/20, for the 9 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Members also noted with concern, and discussed, the projected outturn currently predicting a significant deficit of £132k which, if materialised, would fully utilise the current balance on the General Reserve.

### **2354 Risk Register.**

A joint Risk Register summary had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance.

The four IDBs share a common Risk Management Policy, Risk Strategy and Risk Register, which was last approved at the September 2019 round of Board meetings.

The Corporate Risk Register captures the high-level risks the four Boards face. These are generic to all four Boards with any specific risks to a particular Board highlighted.

Following the recent heavy rainfall events during 2019, a number of risks had been reviewed. The key changes were:

- risk likelihood has been increased due to the pumps running many more hours than normal. This will be mitigated by reviewing the pump lift programme and lifting some pumps earlier than currently planned where excessive additional hours have been incurred.

- likelihood of insurance claims increased and direction of travel moved upwards as a result of flood damage.
- Reputational impact due to complaints and issues received, mainly resulting from EA main river breaches and failures, but which has affected drainage rate payers adversely

Members were reminded that the Risk Register is considered by the Boards at least twice annually, in January ahead of agreeing the Budget for the following financial year and in May when the Annual Governance Statement is completed.

Members reviewed the Risk Register and approved the key changes as at January 2020.

### **2355 Estimates for 2020/21**

The proposed Budget Estimates for 2020/21 had been circulated with the agenda and were presented by the Director of Finance and Governance. Detailed work had been undertaken to review the actual income and expenditure in 2019/20 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. This had been projected forward to provide an indicative outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This position has then been used to inform the budgets for 2020/21, together with any known cost pressures, necessary developments and known savings.

A summary Estimates position was provided comparing the 2019/20 approved Budget to the 2020/21 proposed Budget and showing variances. This had been amended to assume a 5% increase in the Penny Rate, following the Executive Committee meeting on 14.01.20. The proposed budget was summarised as follows:

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Approved 2019/20</b>	<b>Draft 2020/21</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	( 895,200 )	( 985,865 )	( 90,665 )
Board & General Admin	15,653	13,920	( 1,733 )
One Off Schemes	25,000	25,000	-
Conservation	1,750	1,750	-
Depot	12,456	12,610	154
Drains	339,392	351,688	12,296
Pumping Stations	185,331	193,860	8,529
Joint Services	88,668	96,410	7,742
Consents & Enforcement	10,208	10,278	70
Director of Operations/Engineers	67,284	66,452	( 832 )
Contribution to Reserves	15,000	40,000	25,000
PWLB	29,766	29,207	( 559 )
Rechargeable Works	20,000	60,000	40,000
EA Precept	84,692	84,690	( 2 )
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	-	-	-
Wages & Plant Holding Account	-	-	-
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

In terms of inflation and other factors, pay and associated costs have been increased by 3.7% as previously agreed by the Board, NNDR by 2.5%, with all other costs having a 0% inflationary uplift unless any adjustment has been required to rebase the budget to known or required spend. Budgets for the impact of the new depot and office facility are already included.

A balanced budget position can be achieved for 2020/21 based on these assumptions and a proposed **5.00%** penny rate increase.

A new Joint Services Agreement signed by all 4 Boards became operational from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017. This included agreed cost sharing arrangements of Upper Witham (UW) 33.4%, **Witham First (W1) 20.9%**, Witham Third (W3) 29.2% and North East Lindsey (NEL) 16.5%. As part of the agreement these allocations were reviewed after 3 years and therefore included within the 2020/21 Budgets from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

As the new arrangements have now been in place for 3 years, Officers have a better understanding of the volume of works involved in supporting all 4 Boards. At the JSC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020, revised JSC allocations were agreed as:

	<b>UW</b>	<b>NEL</b>	<b>W1</b>	<b>W3</b>
2019/20	33.40%	16.50%	20.90%	29.20%
2020/21	30.00%	20.00%	20.00%	30.00%

These revised allocations (UW 30%, W3 30%, **W1 20%** and NEL 20%) were used in compiling the budgets and associated JSC budgets.

For 2020/21, revised Pension Employer Contribution Rates have been certified by the Lincolnshire Pension Fund Actuary, Hymans Robertson, as part of the triennial revaluation of the Pension Fund. The following table sets out these changes, which are applicable for the following 3 years:

<b>Employer Pension Contribution Rates</b>				
	<b>NEL</b>	<b>UW</b>	<b>W1</b>	<b>W3</b>
<b>Current (2019/20)</b>				
Primary %	17.9%	18.4%	26.8%	24.0%
Secondary £	£ 17,000	£ 58,000	£ 5,000	£ 39,000
Overall % of Pay	59.2%	35.4%	29.1%	31.7%
<b>2020/21</b>				
Primary %	20.7%	19.7%	19.3%	18.9%
Secondary £	£ 1,000	£ 51,000	£ -	£ 26,000
Overall % of Pay	23.3%	33.9%	19.3%	23.7%
<b>2021/22</b>				
Primary %	20.7%	19.7%	19.3%	18.9%
Secondary £	£ 1,000	£ 53,000	£ -	£ 26,000
Overall % of Pay	23.3%	33.9%	19.3%	23.7%
<b>2022/23</b>				
Primary %	20.7%	19.7%	19.3%	18.9%
Secondary £	£ 1,000	£ 54,000	£ -	£ 27,000
Overall % of Pay	23.3%	33.9%	19.3%	23.7%

These revised rates have been used in the compilation of the Board's Estimates as well as the JSC budget for 2020/21.

Increases have been included for Drainage Rates (£24k) and Special Levies (£27k) at 5.00% increase, in order to set a balanced budget 2020/21 and to protect the baseline in line with inflation.

The Rechargeable works budget has been increased by £40k, to cover the costs of the additional Operative which is to be met from assumed PSCA income paid by the EA. Correspondingly, the budget for rechargeable works expenditure has also been increased by £40k.

The Highland Water budget has not been adjusted, and remains at its base of (£13.7k) income 2020/21.

The JSC on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 received and recommended the JSC Budgets to the 4 Boards for inclusion in each Board's detailed Estimates. The main variance is providing for 3.7% pay award, increments and associated oncosts. Additional ICT budget had also been included at £9.5k. Savings have been achieved for Witham First due to the changes in the percentage contribution rates to JSC.

It was confirmed that the cost of the Consents & Enforcement Officer is fully met by income from recharges to Lincolnshire County Council (costs allocated across the 3 Boards and income received by 3 Boards). The Memorandum of Understanding had been extended until March 2021.

The £15k contribution to the Plant & Machinery Reserve had been retained to ensure the fund has enough capacity to meet the Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme. A contribution of £25k had been included to help replenish reserves which will be depleted in 2019/20, following the significant rainfall events, even if the EA pay the Statement of Claim.

For the Public Works Loan Body the budget heading has received minimal change, reflecting the reducing interest costs. This is the budget to service the PWLB loan which was taken out to fund the transfer of Bridges and Culverts to LCC.

The inflationary increase of EA Precept of 2% had already been included in base for 2019/20 but no increase was made. Therefore, this uplift remains available for any increase in 2020/21.

The total of all the stated variations is £0k. On this basis a balanced budget can be achieved for 2020/21 based on the assumptions stated for 2020/21, with a **5.00%** increase in the penny rate.

Members have agreed a policy of holding a general 'Revenue Reserve' for emergencies of 10% to 15% of turnover and the balance held in 'earmarked reserves' for requirements.

It was proposed the reserve fund balances be allocated on the following basis:

Reserve	2019/20 b/f £	2019/20 c/f £	2020/21 c/f £
Revenue Reserve*	(133,309)	(1,284)	(26,284)
Plant & Machinery	(209,519)	(193,252)	(144,918)
Pumping Stations	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Commutated Sums	(12,870)	(12,870)	(12,870)
Balance	(405,698)	(257,406)	(234,072)

\* Assumes year end 2019/20 deficit of £132,025.

The Revenue reserve is the general 'contingency' reserve and will be utilised for any unexpected or emergency purposes which cannot be contained in the revenue budget. This assumes a deficit on the Revenue Account at the end of this financial year of £132k. The 2020/21 balance is **2.81%** of turnover, so outside the Board's approved Policy on Reserves of holding 10-15% in the General Reserve. This will be reviewed when the actual position for 2019/20 is known as part of the 31.05.20 Outturn report which will be reported to the Board in May 2020.

The Plant and Machinery reserve funds future purchases of Plant and Equipment. The reserve meets the initial cost of the plant and equipment and is annually replenished by depreciation charges to the income and expenditure account. It is important that this reserve is regularly reviewed to ensure adequate balances are available over the medium term to meet future purchase plans and will be 'topped up' by the fund contribution detailed above.

The reserve for Pumping Stations can be used for maintaining the fabric, pumps, and other 'one off' spends required at pumping stations. This is judged as necessary given the age now of the fabric of the pumping station buildings and the pumps themselves.

This reserve for Commuted Sums contains commuted sums received by the Board to be utilised to meet future maintenance costs of the scheme to which the sum received relates.

Following discussion members were content to APPROVE the Estimates for 2020/21 based upon a 5.00% increase in the penny rate.

### **2356 Annual Value, Drainage Rates and Special Levies.**

A paper had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance. He introduced a schedule setting out the Annual Values that are required to be agreed as part of the formal setting of the Drainage Rates and Special Levies, before 15.02.20 for the financial year 2020/21.

The Annual Values were set out in the first part of the schedule. These start with those brought forward from last year's rate setting, with the movements required for land that had been developed. This land therefore comes out of Drainage Rates and is allocated to Special Levies for the appropriate Council.

The Annual Values as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 were:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	318,530	2,003,995	2,322,525
City of Lincoln	1,418,032	0	1,418,032
North Kesteven DC	808,830	687,804	1,496,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,545,392</b>	<b>2,691,799</b>	<b>5,237,191</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>1,018,157</b>	<b>2,691,799</b>	<b>3,709,956</b>

A revised developed land transfer rate was agreed by the Board during 2016/17 on 15.11.16 of £8,063.73 per hectare. The land movements between 01.01.19 and 31.12.19 that require transfer from Drainage Rates to Special Levy were summarised as:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	(19)	(484)	(503)
City of Lincoln	0	0	0
North Kesteven DC	1,628	35,287	36,915
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>34,803</b>	<b>36,412</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>34,803</b>	<b>35,447</b>

There were no land movements affecting City of Lincoln Council's Special Levy, all related to North Kesteven District Council.

This results in the following Annual Values as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	318,511	2,003,511	2,322,022
City of Lincoln	1,418,032	0	1,418,032
North Kesteven DC	810,458	723,091	1,533,549
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,547,001</b>	<b>2,726,602</b>	<b>5,273,603</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>1,018,801</b>	<b>2,726,602</b>	<b>3,745,403</b>

The following 'penny rates' will be applicable if the 5.00% increase as proposed is agreed:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>
	<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>
Current	9.0875	22.7186
Proposed +5%	9.5418	23.8545

This will increase the income generated from Drainage Rates from £484,811 in 2019/20 to £508,319 (+£24,093) in 2020/21.

These changes will have the following impact on Special Levies, including the rebasing of the Annual Values for the land transfers for each Council as follows:

	City of Lincoln	North Kesteven DC	Total
	£	£	£
Current 2019/20	128,863.05	229,761.87	358,624.92
Proposed 2020/21	135,305.78	249,822.13	385,127.91
Difference	6,442.73	20,060.26	26,502.99
Increase	5.00%	8.73%	7.39%

Income to the Board therefore increases by a net total of £50,596. This is an increase of £20,060 in NKDC Special Levy, £6,443 increase in City of Lincoln's Special Levy and a net increase in Drainage Rates of £24,093 (after the transfer of agricultural land to other developed land).

Members were content, following discussion to AGREE:

- The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy be approved, at the 15.11.16 Board's approved rate of £8,063.73 per hectare.
- The land valuations as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated is set at £5,273,603 (£3,745,403 after 40% differential rating is applied on sub district 1).
- The 'penny rate' is increased by 5% from 9.0875p to 9.5418p for sub district 1 and from 22.7186p to 23.8545p for sub district 2 of the drainage district.
- The Special Levies for 2020/21 be agreed for each of the 2 Councils as:
 

a. City of Lincoln Council	£135,305.78
b. North Kesteven District Council	£249,822.13
- The Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 'Rate Book', apply the seal of this Board and publicise the revised penny rates, estimated Drainage Rates and Special Levies before 15.02.20.

### **2357 Statement of Claim**

A copy of the email sent to ADA representatives by the Chief Executive with a 'Statement of Claim' had been circulated with the agenda. This 'Statement of Claim' relates to excess costs incurred responding to and recovery from support to colleagues at the EA. The points submitted on 20.12.19 were summarised earlier in the meeting by the Chief Executive as follows:

- The additional costs are only those excess costs incurred over and above the 3 relevant IDBs' costs of dealing in their systems and Pumping Stations with the impact of heavy rainfall events from June 2019 to 30.11.19. The Boards have dealt with the pressures of in-year wet weather events in their systems as in-year cost pressures and these costs are excluded from this Statement of Claim [e.g. running repairs at pumping stations given the many hours of additional pumping incurred, overtime costs for Operatives working extended hours into the night and weekends, the cost of materials for emergency repairs].
- The excess costs incurred for the 4 Boards total £185,806.46 to 30.11.19 [costs beyond 30<sup>th</sup> November had not been quantified in the original claim, e.g. December PS electricity invoices were not received until after 07<sup>th</sup> January 2020, overtime costs for December].

- The excess costs are defined as the financial impact of IDBs dealing with water where those IDB systems were not designed to accept water from that source [i.e. mainly the impact of EA main river systems having bank breaches, bank overtopping or significant bank seepages into the IDB systems].
- The excess costs breakdown for which financial assistance is sought is **Witham First District IDB £110,572.47**, Witham Third District IDB £52,530.19, North East Lindsey Drainage Board £22,703.80 and Upper Witham IDB £nil excess costs over and above those dealing with the Board's own rainfall events.
- **The bulk of the additional costs incurred is by Witham First DIDB, where the impact has been severe on electricity costs at the 13 Pumping Stations. Against an annual 2019/20 electricity budget of £56,485, the costs incurred to 30.11.19 were £144,167.**
- Paragraph 5.12 provided a breakdown of costs incurred by Witham Third DIDB of the £23,700 labour and materials costs incurred to support EA incident sites in Lincolnshire and should be differentiated from those costs incurred, for which the Board is not claiming assistance, in responding to IDB incidents.
- **The impact on Witham First DIDB's financial plans would be severe, should financial assistance not be made available. This Board is now financially in good health, but due to legacy issues on Special Levy now remedied, it is only now developing a modest general reserve [which at this rate will be eradicated as at 31.03.20].**
- Support was provided in some instances as a repose to EA incident requests, e.g. support for sandbagging by Witham Third DIDB as set out and at Park Beck. **In some instances there was no other option but for the Board [in this case Witham First District IDB] to provide on-going mutual aid support over a period of say 7 weeks to a partner Flood Risk Management Authority, as the only means of evacuating a fen of water, e.g. Bank Breach of EA main river Dorrington Catchwater on 01.10.19 until sealed by EA contractor repairs on 22.11.19 [evacuated via a 60 year old syphon into a Board maintained drain taking all the water to the Board's Farroway Pumping Station, where it would not usually flow].** The formal LRF Emergency Command structure declared an emergency for only a comparatively short period, from Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 18.30 to Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November stood down at 10.00. Outside this short time frame agencies in Lincolnshire were working together and Incident Rooms were operational, but the situation was not a multi-agency formal emergency one.
- Colleagues at the EA, including the Area Director [Lincolnshire and Northants] are aware of the concerns that the IDBs have about the quantum of additional costs which has incurred by smaller public bodies in supporting them and 'understand the ask', but have not been able to underwrite any financial assistance as yet. Throughout this period, communications have been regular [alternate days of telecoms] between the EA's Area Director, the NFU and the Chief Executive.
- Approaches have been made to the two relevant Local Authorities to assess whether the Statement of Claim can be included within their Bellwin Claim. Both West Lindsey District Council and North Kesteven District Council have replied to confirm that the additional expenditure incurred by them does not meet the revenue threshold costs to trigger them invoking the Bellwin formula, so the IDBs do not have that claim mechanism via the Councils available to them on this occasion and it highlights that they have no alternative direct reimbursement mechanism available to them when excess costs are incurred.

Since the submission of the Statement of Claim the Chief Executive had been in further discussion with the EA representatives on 09<sup>th</sup> January 17<sup>th</sup> January and again on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. £42,342.00 had been verbally agreed by the EA to be reimbursed. £19k was still in dispute but was available through existing agreements. The EA had declined the £4,500



claim for Sandhill. £58,99.00 would not be reimbursed to the Board by the EA, at this stage. A line of investigation that would be pursued would be the reducing of the precept paid to the EA (two payments each financial year), or reimbursement of IDB precept.

The EA are concerned about setting a precedent. ADA are supporting the Board and raising the issue with Defra to achieve some sort of equivalent Bellwin formula for such instances as these. However, the EA are taking legal opinion on the matter. The Chief Executive had suggested to the EA that a reimbursement of the precept that the Board pays to the EA (2 payments throughout the year totalling £105k would be a reasonable agreement).

A final resolution was awaited from the EA and the Chairman would be kept apprised of any discussions.

Members noted the contents of the email and the 'Statement of Claim'.

### **2358 Pensions Discretion Policy**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Director of Finance and Engineering.

Members were advised that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England and Wales was amended from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014. The provisions of the new LGPS, together with protections for members benefits accrued before 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014, are now contained in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the 'LGPS Regulations 2013'), the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (the 'LGPS Transitional Regulations 2014') and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2018 ('LGPS Amendment Regulations 2018').

Under these regulations, there are various discretions that need to be approved by each individual employer.

The draft LGPS Discretions Policy Statement was provided to members for consideration. This needs to be approved by the Board and submitted to the pensions administrators, West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF), by the end of January 2020.

Members were content to APPROVE the LGPS Discretions Policy Statement.

### **2359 Health and Safety Update.**

A Health and Safety update prepared by the Operations Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

Unfortunately, one near miss had occurred since the last report, on Witham Third. This involved the Long Reach Volvo 210 getting stuck after breaking the surface in an area of peat, on the North Delph at Greetwell. It had been classed as a near miss due to the hazards it posed in recovering the Excavator. The Excavator was very close to overhead cables with a voltage of 32000 V. The machine kept sinking until the top of the cab was level with the ground. It was extricated by ABBA plant hire and is with SMT in Immingham for repair

Pleasingly there were no Accidents to report.

The second Health and Safety meeting with the appointed Health and Safety representatives for staff was being held today, Tuesday, 28th January.

Following the accident that occurred on Upper Witham, as reported to all Boards at the November meetings, the company fitting Cab Hand Rails to the Excavators were due to assess the machines during the week commencing 20th January 2020.

The issues with Witham First access bridge to Ringmoor Pumping Station and ascertaining ownership via the Environment Agency are ongoing.

Regarding Faraway pumping station weed screen platform, the weed screen platform design (and steps etc) will be finalised and works undertaken in 2020, budget permitting.

Members received and noted the update on Health and Safety issues.

### **2360 Environment Report.**

A report prepared by the Environment & GIS Technician, had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

2019 saw all IDBs continuing to work hard to achieve their duty to conserve and enhance the environment under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, despite the inclement weather. The rainfall events, subsequent flooding and bank changes (e.g. slips) since June are likely to significantly affect populations of rodent species such as water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and bank vole (*Myodes glareous*). This poor weather may have a knock-on effect for barn owls (*Tyto alba*) as smaller rodents make up a high proportion of barn owl prey. Additionally, barn owls do not have waterproof feathers so wet weather, especially during winter, is particularly difficult for them.

The training day for members held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 included presentations from Alan Ball from the Wildlife Conservation Partnership, Sarah Baker from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and Dr Leona Skelton from Northumbria University who was standing in for the Lincolnshire 'Past Floods Matter' project leader Dr Jane Rowling. These diverse and informative presentations were all very well received by guests.

Compared to 2018, this year's owl box checks had been much more successful. 12 of the 29 boxes checked contained either barn owl (*Tyto alba*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) or both. The tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) box had 3 chicks, compared to just 1 in 2018, and the adult female present. The little owl (*Athene noctua*) box had 4 chicks, compared to 2018's 3 surviving chicks and the adult female present. Only 3 of the 29 boxes checked were empty and all remaining boxes contained either feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*) or jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

The prize for 'most well-travelled barn owl' went to an owl found in box 1524 (Digby Fen) for travelling an impressive 72km (44 miles) from where she was first ringed as a chick at Wicken Pond, Norfolk.

The camera in Blankney Pumping Station box continued to work well and is monitored by the Board's officers. Three chicks were ringed at the box this year and all fledged successfully.

The wildflower meadow at Metheringham Pumping Station had another successful year of growth. The success of a meadow is dependent on many factors, including soil type, however correct maintenance is arguably most important. Mowing in late summer and leaving the initial mowings in situ for a few days to allow seed to drop to the ground will

ensure that a meadow can return year after year. The meadow at Digby PS enjoyed its first year of bloom throughout 2019 after being planted in Spring 2018.

Members noted the Environment Report.

### **2361 Director of Operations & Engineering Services' Report.**

The report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented, together with a verbal update, by the Director. This was the main focus of discussion at the meeting, given high rainfall events throughout September, October, November and part of December.

- **General Catchment Conditions**

- i) Rainfall for the catchment Witham to Chapel Hill was 'exceptionally high' with a total of 118mm, 255% of long-term average
- ii) Soil Moisture Deficits have varied between 'notably low' in June to 'exceptionally low' in October
- iii) River flows at Barlings Eau, Langworth are considered 'exceptionally high' being at 1073% of the long-term average for the month. River flows at Claypole have been measured as 580% of long-term average.
- iv) Groundwater level in the central Limestone area are 'exceptionally high' for the time of year

Numerous Flood Warnings and Alerts were issued during this period across the districts by the EA. These instigated many Operational, Tactical and Strategic control group meetings and teleconferences. These calls allowed Officers to communicate directly with other professional partners highlighting areas or specific sites of concern.

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board's district has suffered a number of operational issues during this reporting period, the majority of which were as a result of their reliance upon the performance and operation of Environment Agency maintained main river.

- **Farroway Pumping Station – Dorrington Fen**

Dorrington Catchwater drain [EA main river] suffered a breach on the left hand embankment upstream of Fen Road. Overtopping commenced around mid-day 1<sup>st</sup> October but by the early hours of the next day a breach occurred, flooding the adjacent field. The water was retained by the adjacent embankment and higher land, however a neighbouring farm yard was inundated.

The EA contractor, Jackson Civil Engineering completed initial breach repair works on 23<sup>rd</sup> November after importing clay to the site, compacting it in layers up to a level similar to that which existed prior to the breach. The Board will continue to request that a consistent and appropriate defence height is provided in this location, as part of the full permanent reinstatement of the embankment:

There were two main issues for the Board to note in this instance:

1. The breach flows were entering its pumped system via a syphon passing under the Catchwater Drain. This syphon was installed in 1961 as part of the capital scheme completed by the Lincolnshire River Authority. The revetment protecting the channel sides has been damaged and washed out.
2. All flood water was flowing toward Farroway Pumping Station. These pumps have completed many hours over the 4 months under consideration.

Should the breach have occurred in the right-hand bank of the Dorrington Catchwater drain, then 12 residential properties and businesses would have been flooded, with no warning and many hectares of arable land inundated. The impact would have been even more severe.

- **Digby Pumping Station – Digby Fen**

Queen Dyke, EA Main River, has been a source of chronic issues for the Board. The most notable was the badger sett at the downstream end of the Queen Dyke. This sett was the location of persistent seepage into the maintained system. The length of raised embankment that was damaged has been repaired to prevent further damage ahead of a permanent repair to be completed at a later date.

The right-hand embankment has been cleared of bushes which will reduce the likelihood of infestation by rabbits or badgers and further deterioration of the embankment itself.

The left-hand embankment is being reinstated to a regular profile and has been fitted with galvanised steel mesh to prevent further damage by badgers. This work extends 400 – 500m downstream of the Digby Fen road bridge.

- **Branston Fen**

This pumped catchment has been operated to drain water from both the fen and the adjacent Branston Delph, in accordance with thresholds and levels previously agreed with the EA. There were high levels of seepage from the Delph and this water accumulated behind the right-hand embankment and flowed over the adjacent access track onto the neighbouring field. Seepage flows were also reported in the Branston Delphside Drain.

	No.1	No.2	Station Total
September	18 hrs	24 hrs	42 hrs
October	212 hrs	266 hrs	478 hrs
November	400 hrs	350 hrs	750 hrs
December	183 hrs	177 hrs	360 hrs

- **Sandhill Pumping Station**

This station performed well following a summer refurbishment. The catchment received water from the Sandhill Beck overflow for a number of days during October and November.

The amount of water that overtopped the embankment extended beyond the reinforced spillway into unprotected areas. This led to the erosion of the landward face of the embankment placing the whole embankment at risk of collapse. Temporary protection was put in place by the EA, using sandbags and plastic sheeting.

The penstocks controlling flow between the two catchments of Sandhill and Heighington were operated. Water from the Sandhill Beck inundated the land around the Sandhill PS. To spread the load upon this single pump station water was diverted into the Heighington catchment.

- **Heighington Fen**

The Board has undertaken maintenance work to complete, as far as conditions will allow, the planned weed cutting programme for this fen. The Board will endeavour to undertake

early cuts on watercourses within this, and neighbouring, catchments where conditions allow.

	No.1	No.2	Station Total
September	3 hrs	34 hrs	37 hrs
October	232 hrs	188 hrs	420 hrs
November	392 hrs	427 hrs	819 hrs
December	55 hrs	311 hrs	366 hrs

- **Nocton Pumping Station**

The motor or pump no.1 has been refurbished as part of the Board's programme of periodic refurbishment. These works were undertaken by Fenflow Ltd, of Spalding at a cost of £10,783. Work to refurbish the pump itself requires the installation of scaffolding within the intake sump to provide access to the discharge pipeline. This work will be completed during the coming year.

- **Chapel Hill & North Kyme Fen**

This station has worked well overall during the event to date despite high flows generated within the fen. A failure occurred to motor where the slip rings burnt out due to high use, but this was soon repaired, and the station returned to full capacity.

	No.1	No.2	Station Total
September	11 hrs	1 hrs	12 hrs
October	113 hrs	179 hrs	292 hrs
November	245 hrs	132 hrs	377 hrs
December	14 hrs	186 hrs	200 hrs

- **Timberland & Billingham Fen**

This station continued to experience heavy loads placed upon it during the period. No major problems were reported with its operation. The summer pump is not used during high flow events as operating all 3 simultaneously will flood the depot. The summer pump has been out of commission, with the cause of the fault to be determined.

	No.1[Summer]	No.2	No.3	Station Total
September	0 hrs	0 hrs	21 hrs	21 hrs
October	0 hrs	209 hrs	203 hrs	412 hrs
November	0 hrs	540 hrs	149 hrs	689 hrs
December	[47] hrs	214 hrs	158 hrs	419 hrs

- **Environment Agency**

Public Service Cooperation Agreement [PSCA]

On 01<sup>st</sup> November 2019, all Drainage Boards undertaking work on behalf of the EA under the PSCA were instructed to cease work. This instruction remained in place due to the very wet and saturated conditions being experienced by all those working on the drain and river sides over the last few months.

- **EA Main River System.**

Since September, there had been numerous reports of bank seepage through the raised earth embankments, over topping and breaching of the EA's main river system:

- Dorrington Catchwater, left hand bank, breach,
- Dorrington Drain, left hand bank, seepage
- New Cut, right hand bank, Digby Road, overtopping,
- New Cut, right & left-hand bank, [near Evans Dyke], overtopping,
- Digby Beck, Digby Fen Road, left hand bank, overtopping,
- Queen Dyke, right hand bank, upstream Digby Road, blocked outfalls,
- Carr Dyke, Metheringham Fen, left hand bank, overtopping
- Kyme Eau, Chapel Hill, left hand bank, overtopping and seepage
- South Delph, Sandhill PS right hand bank seepage
- South Delph, Heighington PS right hand bank seepage
- Billingham Skirth, North Kyme Corner, left and right-hand bank overtopping
- Branston Delph, right hand bank seepage
- Timberland Delph, left hand bank breach & overtopping
- Timberland Delph, right hand bank seepage

After full discussion, members noted the Operations Report and accompanying presentation of the recent events and issues.

### **2362 Engineering Services Report.**

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering Services.

There were no issues to highlight to members on this occasion, however there was discussion on the possibility of issuing a reminder to Planning departments within Councils reminding of the specifics of the Board's Byelaws. Cllr Ian Carrington noted that it would be incredibly useful to members of the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

Members noted the Engineering Services report.

### **2363 Consents and Enforcements**

A Consents and Enforcements report had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Director of Operations and Engineering. Cases were summarised as follows:

#### Byelaw Consent Applications

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
FD-4926-2019-CON	2011 Canwick Fen Drain / Lincoln Eastern Bypass	Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd	Temporary works related to River Witham bridge	08-11-19

#### Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
FD-4997-2019-CON	Papermill Lane, Evedon	Melbourne Holdings Ltd / Westmoreland Farms	10m long 450mm dia access culvert	28-12-19

## Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – Extended Area

The Board acts as Agent for Lincolnshire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
FE-4852-2019-CON	Washdyke Lane, Leasingham	Mr & Mrs P M Brown	12m long culvert to protect dwelling	
FE-4988-2019-CON	3 Chestnut Street, Ruskington	Mr N Weaver	Gabion retaining wall, 12m long	

### Enforcement Issues – District

Reference	Location	Description /Comments	Actions
FD-3835-2018-ENF	Sleaford Rugby Club	Blocked watercourse	Awaiting response from Network Rail
FD-3880-2018-ENF	Leasingham beck field	Issue with watercourse	Suggested course of action awaiting response.
FD-4612-2019-ENF	Billinghay South Soke Dyke. Tattershall	Unconsented bridge	Awaiting removal
FD-4927-2019-ENF	Electric Station Road, Sleaford	Flooding in garden	Awaiting investigation

### Enforcement Issues – Extended Area

Reference	Location	Description /Comments	Actions
FE-3913-2018-ENF	A607 & Mill Lane	Flooding of road	Awaiting maintenance work on watercourses
FE-4335-2018-ENF	Fen Road Washingborough	Maintenance to watercourse	Case closed 1-11-19
FE-4907-2019-ENF	Ford Church Lane Kirkby Green	Height of water in ford	Monitoring condition
FE-4525-2019-ENF	Fen Road Billinghay	Possible maintenance to watercourse	Monitoring condition
FE-4961-2019-ENF	Fen Road Ruskington	Flooding	Awaiting maintenance of EA main river
FE-4972-2019-ENF	Papermill Lane, Evedon	Unconsented culvert	Awaiting response

Members noted the report on Consents and Enforcements.

### **2364 Any Other Business.**

There were no further items of business and the meeting closed at 16:40.

### **2365 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 2pm in Branston Booths Village Hall.

..... Chairman ..... Date  
W1st BM 28.01.20