

## WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**Minutes of the one hundred and twenty second meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Branston Booths Village Hall at 2pm.**

### Present:

Mr E Applewhite	
Mr D C Armstrong	<b>Chairman</b>
Mr P Carrott	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
Mr P Gilbert	
Mr W R B Grantham	
Mr M Harrison	
Cllr M Head	
Cllr G Hewson	
Mr R Hickling	
Mr S B Leggate	
Cllr P Lundgren	
Dr B Maplethorpe	
Mr C R Oxby	
Cllr P J Vaughan	

### In attendance:

Mr Ian Coupland	Director of Operations
Miss Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant
Mrs Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr Guy Hird	Head of Engineering & Technical Services
Mr Steve Larter	Director of Finance & Governance
Mr Martin Shilling	Director of Engineering & Technical Services

### **2565 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Busby, Cllr I Carrington, Mr S Cobb, Mr A Hodgson, Mr D Leggate, Mr I Mair, Mr A Means, Dr V Stanton and Cllr S Waring.

### **2566 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.

### **2567 Chairman's Announcements.**

In the light of the recent death of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II, and yesterday's state funeral for Her Majesty, the Chairman welcomed all to the September meeting by asking members to stand to observe a minute's silence, reflecting on a long life, well lived, full of duty.

Members remained standing to pay respects to former Board member, Mr David Barry Jackson. The Chairman was sad to report David's sudden death on 15th August, aged 82

years. David represented City of Lincoln Council for over 10 years until May 2022 on three of our Witham & Humber Drainage Boards: Witham First, Witham Third and Upper Witham. He served on City of Lincoln Council for almost 40 years, including service as a former Mayor of Lincoln and Sherriff. The Boards were represented at David's funeral on Monday 12th September.

Before starting the business of the meeting, the Chairman reminded members that the Board carries 3 vacancies for the electoral wards of Blankney & Martin Fens, Heighington Fen & Lincoln, and the long-standing vacancy for our electoral ward of Sleaford. He welcomed suggestions to either himself or Jane Froggatt.

The Chairman noted the Board was in a healthy position at the end of August 2022, operationally and financially, but the papers suggested increasing cost pressures for the remainder of this financial year and significant challenges ahead in preparing, for January 2023, a balanced budget for next year 2023/24.

#### **2568 Minutes of the Board meeting, 25.05.22.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were proposed by Mr Mark Harrison, seconded by Cllr Mervyn Head and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

There were no matters arising, all being covered by the agenda.

#### **2569 Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, 06.09.22.**

The minutes of the Board's Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 06<sup>th</sup> September 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Mr Ron Oxby, seconded by Mr Mark Harrison and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

There were no matters arising, all being covered by the agenda.

The recommendations to the Board from the Executive Committee were noted and the Chairman thanked Mark Harrison for Chairing the subcommittee meeting.

#### **2570 Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda and issues highlighted included:

##### **2570.1 Covid-19.**

The 4 Boards' arrangements for Covid-19 risk mitigation are kept under regular review, maintaining the focus on our 3 priorities:

- Maintaining business continuity in the Boards' services as far as practicable, both operationally and in office-based services.

- Providing a safe working environment for our staff.
- Maintaining sufficient resilience across our teams to be able to respond appropriately to a flood event.

We continue to make PPE like face coverings available in all 4 depots and at Witham House office, whilst not requiring staff to use PPE. A second batch of 960 LFTs has been purchased, and we continue to ask staff to test twice a week and if they test positive, to let us know so that we can discuss with them work they can either do from home if this is practicable or if they can work as a lone worker then a plan to do this is agreed with them. Only if they feel unwell and not able to work are we asking staff to self-certify as on sick leave and obtain a medical certificate should that be required. This will hopefully reduce the transmission risk in our teams.

The Boards have resumed a normal service, we are still providing PPE including face coverings, wipes, sanitiser etc. to minimise virus transmission risk. Operatives are sharing vehicle cabs once more. Office based staff are working a hybrid model of sometime in the office [or out at in-person meetings] each week and sometime working from home, the Witham House office is staffed daily.

#### 2570.2

##### Staffing.

- Mr Richard Wright, Operations Engineer, left the 4 Boards' employment on 30.06.22.
- Mrs Leila Quirk joined the 4 Boards as Risk Manager on 27.06.22.
- Mr Matthew Brockelsby, Operative on Witham Third [in the floating, peripatetic role], left the Board on 30.08.22 after only a short time in post.
- Ms Judy Yoxall retired from the Boards as part-time Payroll Assistant for over 20 years.
- Recruitment is underway for vacant posts in the Engineering and Operations teams, but recent recruitment and retention has proved difficult.
- We have once again been unsuccessful in recruiting to the graduate civil engineer role for the Boards [& are now targeting summer 2022 graduates].
- We are establishing an Apprentice entry level [post-A levels] Civils Engineer role in conjunction with Lincoln College [Abigail Gilbert has completed her HNC, HND and this summer successfully completed her penultimate year of her Level 6 Civil Engineering degree at Nottingham Trent University].

#### 2570.4

##### Witham & Humber Drainage Boards' Annual Inspection, Thursday 29.09.22.

After a break of 2 years, the Boards will be hosting an Inspection on Thursday, 29th September. To date 49 members, guests and staff had confirmed attendance. A limited number of places remain, and members were asked to confirm attendance asap with [jayne.flower@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.flower@witham3idb.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01522 697123.

This year the tour will start at Upper Witham's depot and the 4 Boards' joint office [which opened in February 2020] at Meadow Lane in North Hykeham from 08:30 onwards, with the coach departing at 09:30. The itinerary includes a presentation at the Lincoln Washlands FAS of the upgraded, automated system and then a visit to some of the sites affected by the heavy rainfall events of autumn/winter 2019/20 and the 5 relevant EA main river breach sites which impacted upon the Boards' systems.

The Chief Executive's report and update was received and NOTED.

### **2571 External Auditors' Notice of Closure of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2021/22 [AGAR].**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by The Director of Finance & Governance.

The Annual Return 2021/22 was agreed at the Board meeting on 25th May 2022, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and despatched to the Board's appointed External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP on 08th June 2022. The public inspection period was from 13th June until 22nd July 2022.

The External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30th September to complete their external audit and publish the formal 'Completion of Audit Certificate' (Section 3 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)). This was issued and received on 24th August 2022.

Part 2 of section 3 of the AGAR was completed as follows; 'On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

Under the section 'Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority' they reported 'None'.

This therefore completed the External Audit for 2021/22 and this Board, along with the other 3 Boards in the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards group, have received the same clean Audit opinion, so there are no issues to report to the Board.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was issued on 01st September 2022 and has been displayed at the Board's depot, on the Board's website and at Witham House.

Members noted the External Audit Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2021/22.

### **2572 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.04.22 to 31.08.22.**

The Schedule of Expenditure for the five months' period from 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & Governance.

Gross expenditure totalled £571,733.36 or, net of reclaimable £58,030.71 VAT, **£513,702.65**. Of this, £12,220.06 was recharged to other bodies. It was emphasized that this is the invoices paid in the five months period, and some invoices relating to the period may not be included [e.g., electricity costs at pumping stations are invoiced in arrears].

Items highlighted to or raised by members included:

- Item 1: £24,226.05 (net) to AIM Electrical Services for Metheringham Pumping Station overhaul of the weedscreen cleaner, fully funded by the FDGiA scheme.
- Item 14: £7,025.00 (net) to BPH Attachments Ltd for hydraulic compactor plate, converting the machine to undertake piling, as previously reported under Health and Safety.
- Item 46: £41,515.50 (net) to the EA for Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Precept, 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 IDB Precept payments in 2022/23, total due being £83,031.00.
- Item 102: £9,786.99, (net) to Mastebroek Environmental Ltd for Herder spares for the 2022-2023 weed cutting season.
- Item 123: £4,091.80 (net) to North Kesteven District Council for Business rates at the depot.
- Item 129: £24,510.00 (net) to Perry's Pumps Ltd for Nocton Pumping Station repairs and refurbishment of pump & motor no.2.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred between 01.04.22 and 31.08.22.

### **2573 Financial Performance Report 2022/23 to Month 5, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.**

The Director of Finance & Governance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, month 5 of 2022/23. A summary table of the overall income and expenditure position was presented, as follows:

	<b>2022/23 Budget</b>	<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	(1,126,247)	(764,742)	(778,775)	(14,032)
Board & General Admin	16,870	7,779	6,622	(1,157)
One Off Schemes	35,000	0	16,939	16,939
Conservation	1,750	289	273	(16)
Depot	17,350	14,528	18,033	3,505
Drains	403,842	215,753	209,581	(6,172)
Pumping Stations	201,730	56,584	69,878	13,294
Joint Admin/Witham House	109,408	31,684	31,737	53
Consents & Enforcement	10,753	0	0	0
Director of Operations/Engineers	77,484	40,645	39,398	(1,247)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	40,000	0	(16,939)	(16,939)
PWLB	27,370	13,047	12,920	(127)
Rechargeable Works	100,000	24,257	19,863	(4,394)
EA Precept	84,690	42,345	41,516	(830)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)				0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(48,881)	(44,349)	4,532
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(366,712)</b>	<b>(373,302)</b>	<b>(6,590)</b>

The Board was showing a modest positive position against budget of (£6,590).

On drainage rates income, of [£568,250.30] due to the Board in 2022/23 the collection rate was 93.4% as at 31.08.22 compared to 91.3% at the same point in the previous year. After adjustments, [£37,222.06] outstanding income remains due to the Board. First reminders were dispatched on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and final reminders will be posted during October 2022. A court date for any unpaid bills will be set for January 2023.

Special Levy payments from NKDC and City of Lincoln Council had been received in May 2022, totalling [£213k] income to the Board, with the second and final similar payments for 2022/23 due 01<sup>st</sup> November.

Highland Water claims had been submitted to the EA for the 2021/22 actual claim with a further balance of (£7,944) and for the 2022/23 estimated claim (£26,700). Some 80% of the estimated claim for 2022/23 (£21,360) is due to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 along with the balance on the 2021/22 actual claim (£7,944), making a total income due to the Board of (£29,304). These amounts were not included in the figures, as the income was not yet received (*Post meeting note: the Highland Water payment was received from the EA on 04<sup>th</sup> October 2022*).

The refurbishment works at Metheringham Pumping Station continue totalling £168,000 with FDGIA grant awarded to the Board of £163,000. The remaining funding of £5k will be resourced by the Board, as previously approved. A total of (£163,000) has been received in previous financial years to undertake these works. Most of the spend has now been incurred, with the replacement steps and flaps to be completed in Autumn 2022.

The Telemetry scheme OBC had also been agreed by the EA and the grant funding of up to £150k is confirmed, with no contribution required from the Board. Site visits are underway between the Boards' staff and Xylem, and hopefully the roll out will be completed in this financial year across 39 pumping station sites in W1st, W3rd and UW IDBs.

Members were advised that electricity costs will be a significant cost pressure in this financial year and for the following year 2023/24. The Board has a budget of £69k for the Pumping Station electricity and to date £20.2k has been spent. This equates to nearly 30% of the annual budget, and it has been an extremely dry summer 2022. ESPO have notified the Board that a further increase will be made from 01<sup>st</sup> October (the last increase was October 2021) and to expect at least a 100% increase in rates. This, if coupled with additional usage if a heavy rainfall event occurs, will put significant pressure on the budget. There followed much discussion on electricity. Peter Gilbert expressed concern that the table presented showed a concerning high rate of spend, particularly after such a dry period and queried the standing charges if the pumps had not been operating very much. Further investigation was required, and a detailed explanation of electricity would be provided for the November meeting. The option of hiring/buying generators was raised and whether this would be cheaper for some locations given rising electricity costs, and Cllr Peter Lundgren asked what action was being taken now to anticipate the costs of a flood event. It was confirmed that this was being considered as part of modelling budget pressures for 2023/24.

The insurance renewals had been undertaken for 2022. The bulk of policies were renewed from 01<sup>st</sup> or 08<sup>th</sup> July 2022, with some smaller policies renewed from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. A table provided a comparison of the renewals costs from 2017 to date and it was noted that whilst there has been a 9.5% increase this time, the increase is lower than the 39% increase last year. The Boards are due to market test their insurances for next year's 2023 renewals.

Members were briefed on the inflationary pressures affecting many of the Board's costs. Electricity, fuel prices, plant and vehicle maintenance, insurance, mobile phone costs are all escalating. Where possible, we are locked into contracts so not all of the impact is being felt currently, but it will feed through into future costs putting pressure on the latter half of this financial year's budgets and next year's budgets. Additionally, the availability of materials, spare parts and suitable companies to carry out works is causing additional downtime and delays.

The Bank Balances as at 31.08.22 were set out as follows:

Natwest	£	159,962.31
Nationwide Instant Access	£	735,093.40
Nationwide 90 Day Notice	£	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b><u>895,055.71</u></b>

The Board's Public Works Loan Board loan [taken out to pay LCC for the transfer of Bridges and culverts liability from the Board to LCC] was being repaid, with £122,233.88 now outstanding on the original loan of £354,480, and to be repaid over the next 6 years:

**2.41%      £ 122,233.88**

*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.*

Members NOTED the 2022/23 financial performance for the 5 months 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

#### **2574 Write off of Drainage Rates.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance.

The write-off of Drainage Rates is a matter reserved to the Board. The Board has a policy for writing off Drainage Rate demands under £2.50, it being uneconomical to invoice these account holders. The following accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 were under £2.50 for 2022/23:

Account	Value £
0136	0.62
0195	2.19
0299	2.34
0844	2.08
0859	1.15
0862	2.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.46</b>

As each account is under £2.50, the Board is recommended to write off the debt, totalling £10.46.

Accounts 0792 and 0159 contain land now used as residential housing or business premises that should have been included in the Special Levy calculations for the year 2022/23 onwards. Unfortunately, we were not made aware of this land transfer until after the special

levy calculations were done in December 2021 and the rate demands were issued. We also use the Land Drainage Act 1991 guidance of refunding the current year, plus one previous year, meaning that in most case, two years of drainage rates become due for 'write-off'. It was requested that the Board writes off £29.37 for account 0792 and £2.60 for account 0159, noting these parcels will be transferred to the 2023/24 Special levy calculations in known land movements as at 31.12.22.

Account 0795 contains a balance for land that should have historically been in the Special Levy calculations. We are only able to bill the current owner/occupier for the current year plus one on the drainage rates and so any historic balance remains uncollected. This land is now all accounted for in the annual Special Levy calculations. It was requested that the balance of £220.73 is written off from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022 onwards.

Members AGREED that the following amounts totalling **£263.16 be written off** by the Board:

Under £2.50	£10.46
Special Levy	£252.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£263.16</b>

### **2575 Health and Safety Update.**

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

Cope, the 4 Boards' Health and Safety advisors had completed annual site visits to all four Boards, with NELDB and UW being the last ones. Cope have supported the review of Risk Assessments as part of the follow-up work after the visits. The overall Annual Review meeting with Cope was planned for 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

There had been no reportable accidents since the May report.

On 12th August 2022 an Operative walked into equipment (in the field). The accident was investigated, and no further action was required.

Near-miss reporting is regularly discussed with the teams and the effect this can have in the picking up of trends and the reduction of accidents. We have had 2 near-miss reports since the last report, one on UW and one on W1st.

On Upper Witham, an Operative had a member of the public walk under his excavator arm whilst weed cutting in Lincoln. The member of public then proceeded to be verbally abusive to the Operative about not having room to pass whilst dog-walking and not looking out for passers-by. This person did later phone in and complain. Speaking to the Operative, he was concentrating on what he was doing with the machine but said before moving on he would always look to see if anyone needed to pass but would be in position each time for around 5 minutes, before needing to move along. When reviewing this incident, we looked at training, electronic proximity devices and signage on the machines. Training in this instance was not the issue, proximity devices are very expensive and would need installing on every machine we have so we decided to look at the signage option as the proportionate response. We are currently waiting for signs to be delivered. The reason behind this decision is, this is



the first time we have had someone take such a risk in all the years we have used machinery, so even though it was high risk to the person involved it is low risk of the incident being repeated. The signage will say "Please ensure you have the driver's attention before attempting to walk pass this machinery".

W1st had a tractor/flail driving on the road. The Operator indicated to turn right and the vehicle behind him remained there. The vehicle behind that one decided to overtake both vehicles, as the tractor started to turn. Both the Operator and overtaking driver were forced to take evasive action. The car failed to stop, carrying on as if nothing happened. The review of this incident is a difficult one, as this type of incident does happen to Operators of slow-moving vehicles. Most tractor drivers will have similar stories. The vehicle immediately behind our tractor was a large van and could not be seen over, the car passing both vehicles did not appear in our Operative's mirrors when he looked. We meet all legislation to be on the highway. Therefore, it was concluded that there was little action to be taken other than asking Operatives to remain vigilant when on the public highway.

We have some new Operatives to undergo NPORs excavator training. Their assessments have been completed and their subsequent training is booked. We have undergone forklift truck training for 6 x Operatives with more booked soon. Manual handling training and working at heights training is booked for December, for all staff and Operatives.

As reported previously, Witham First access bridge to Ringmoor Pumping Station is still being investigated (ascertaining ownership via the Environment Agency). EA colleagues have stated that this bridge is a riparian responsibility and we have asked repeatedly for the EA's legal department to confirm this to the Board's officers in writing.

The Risk Manager joined the Boards on 27th June 2022 and is currently working on the PSCA support works with the Operational Team and a review of the 4 Boards' Emergency Planning to support the National FloodEx Exercise 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November, following which Leila Quirk will lead a review of the 4 Boards' Emergency Plan and Business Continuity Plan and then the Risk Register.

Members received, discussed and NOTED the Health and Safety update.

### **2576 Annual Environment Report.**

A report prepared by the GIS and Environment Officer had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Engineering & Technical Services.

As a public body, under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), Internal Drainage Boards must have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of normal functions such as policy and decision-making. 'Conserving biodiversity' may include enhancing, restoring, or protecting a population or habitat. An IDB has a legal duty to protect and enhance the environment, set out in a wide range of legislation.

The report set out the agreements and achievements of the Board's environmental activities from September 2021 to September 2022.

The Board continues to monitor and record the barn owl and kestrel numbers across the district with this year recording respectable numbers, limited due to the presence of jackdaws with new box design studies being monitored. Badger sets, specifically those that

may potentially cause damage to flood banks, are being reported and closely monitored. A carbon emission audit is being carried out with the aim of reducing the 4 Boards' carbon output. The Boards Environment & GIS Officer continues to represent the Board at environmental forums and steering groups and is taking on the role of Secretary for the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee from September.

Members NOTED the Annual Environment Report and APPROVED the purchase of ten house martin nests for a trial at Sandhill Beck Pumping Station.

### **2577 Operations Report.**

The Operations report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations.

Summer maintenance is well under way on all four Boards, the summer 2022 dry season was taking its toll on machinery. Weed cutting dry watercourses and flailing grass that is like straw means we are using more wearing parts than normal.

Witham First Operatives had completed the approved 2021/22 winter maintenance schedule and were progressing the summer maintenance programme. They were on track but had one Operator on holiday for three weeks and another off due to family illness. This was causing some pressure on those remaining in the team to stay on schedule.

The specification and Invitation to Tender for the replacement of the Atlas 140w wheeled excavator machine has gone to potential suppliers, with a return date of 30th September. Tenders will be received, evaluated and hopefully an order will be placed for the approved plant if tenders are within the plant programme budget. This will be reported to the November Board meeting.

Nocton Pumping station currently had one pump out for refurbishment and this was about to be reinstated. The second pump will be removed and over-hauled shortly. The cost of the first pump refurbishment is £29,412.00 [so well in excess of budget].

Following what was an extremely difficult PSCA negotiations process with the EA for 2022/23, we are now undertaking PSCA works for another season and these works are well underway. We are still having issues with receiving maps and required paperwork from EA colleagues, but a change in staff at the EA may improve this.

Members received and NOTED the Operations Report and update.

### **2578 Engineering Report.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Engineering & Technical Services, Guy Hird.

#### **Flood Events:**

There had been no flood events to report.

**Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Lincolnshire (JA-1400-2014-ORG) Humber (ND-4250-2018-ORG)**

'FloodEx2022' is a significant regional simulation exercise originally due to take place in September 2022 [19th to 22nd] involving all the LRFs along the Trent Catchment as well as all the East Coast LRFs, covering both Tidal and Fluvial Flooding. The national flood simulation exercise to involve 20 Local Resilience Forums [LRFs] was scheduled to take place 10.09.22 to 23.09.22. This was rescheduled for Monday 14.11.22 to Friday 18.11.22. The 3 relevant LRFs for Witham & Humber Drainage Boards are Humber LRF, Lincolnshire LRF and Nottinghamshire LRF. SCG, TCG and relevant cell meetings are being rearranged and the Boards will participate in the response and recovery phases of the exercise. The review day on 18.11.22 will be an opportunity to feed in nationally some of the lessons learned.

Several meetings have taken place to finalise the proposed exercise. The exercise involves several virtual meetings, physical meetings, attendance at the control room and workshops. This involves IDB officers from our Boards and others in Lincolnshire. The invitations are currently being sent out to the people involved.

It will give an opportunity to consider how we engage with the LRF(s) and the exercise to maximise protection of the drainage districts, reduce the impact of flooding and potentially have access to national resources for future events.

Whilst funding for 'in event' additional costs incurred is potentially available through the Bellwin Formula, this is only providing certain trigger criteria for the relevant District Council are met [and IDB costs may not trigger such]. There is no funding mechanism available in the post-emergency response phase, for the recovery phase. So, for example, there is no additional money to clear away the sand and debris washed in by the sea, clear and reinstate the drainage channels or repair pumping stations or embankments. It is an opportunity to raise this type of issue in the National Forum.

#### Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) (JA-5170-2020-PRO)

The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is a project lead by Anglian Water to improve the lives of people and the environment, in the East of England over the long-term. It will use it to plan for investment in drainage, treatment and sewerage systems. This collaborative and long-term strategic plan will highlight the known and expected future risks to drainage and treatment and identify the solution strategies to mitigate.

The DWMP is a long-term plan covering 2025-2050, looking at the risks in 2025, 2030, 2035 and 2050. There have been several general meetings starting in January 2020 followed by catchment specific meetings. On 12th October 2021 there was a meeting looking at the catchments of Louth and Horncastle which was attended by Internal Drainage Boards, ELDC and the EA. Following the survey meetings, a focus group for Internal Drainage Boards was held on 19th January 2022.

The draft plan is now open for consultation since July and closing at the end of September 2022.

Further information can be found on this website:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan/>

## Telemetry upgrade for Upper Witham IDB, Witham First DIDB and Witham Third DIDB

An opportunity arose following successful FDGiA grant funding schemes for other Boards within Lincolnshire to upgrade Telemetry systems in 3 of our IDBs. Georgina Nichols, Capital Projects Officer for our 4 IDBs and 3 other Lincolnshire Boards, developed an Outline Business Case for upgrading the systems for 3 of the 4 Witham & Humber Boards [not NELDB who had to switch telemetry provider 2 years ago] which would need to upgrade their telemetry systems in the next couple of years as 2G and 3G is switched off and copper lines are discontinued.

The proposed system is from Xylem, a multinational company including the diversion that was formally known as Flygt. The system is the web based 'VTScada' installed successfully in NELDB pumping stations and several other stations across the Witham Boards.

The previous generation server based 'AquaView' system is currently used for existing Upper Witham stations with telemetry, two Witham 3rd stations and one Witham 1st station will require upgrades for the equipment on site to enable communication to the web-based system. All other stations across the Boards will require new equipment picking up existing telemetry ready provision where available and new connections as required.

Following the formal confirmation being received from the EA, initial site visits have taken place with Xylem to finalise the units and equipment required at the stations and to develop a plan to install the new system at 39 sites over the next six months.

## Metheringham Fen Pumping Station (FD-1143-2014-PRO)

This station has attracted Flood Defence Grant in Aid monies allocated via the EA in the sum of £163,000, subject to a contribution from the Board of a further £5,000 as approved at the June 2020 meeting. These monies will be used to replace or refurbish the elements of the site as listed:

- i. Replace existing MCC (pump control panel)
- ii. Replace outfall flap valves.
- iii. Refurbish automated weed screen cleaner.
- iv. Health & Safety improvements including fencing, site lighting and steps.

The new flap valves for the outfall and new steps are due to be done in November 2022; this has been delayed because of an issue with the supply of the flaps. This will then complete the scheme.

## Billingham Pumping Station and Timberland Pumping Station (FD-5336-2020-PRO)

The second phase of work on the study of this catchment has begun following completion of the first phase in 2019. The hydraulic model has been updated and run to model a variety of scenarios and the resulting effects of a range of rainfall events. These events include a 'do nothing' option with no pumping at all. As part of the project, structural condition surveys of the stations at Timberland and Billingham have been completed. Whilst full details of the surveys are yet to be provided by JBA, the initial findings indicate that whilst there are some defects apparent at both stations, there is no immediate cause for concerns relating to the elements inspected.

A further model review is being undertaken to refine potential options. The results from this will determine if the further inspection at both sites is required to access elements contained

within confined spaces [primarily the intake sumps] that will provide further assessments of the condition of the intake sumps and station foundations. This work requires the removal of as much water as possible and so is best undertaken whilst the catchment can be held at low levels.

A decision as to whether further inspection, and cost, is justified, will be taken once the final written reports are received

#### Lower River Witham Strategy Review & Billingham System Review (FD-5336-2020-PRO)

Topographical survey work of the main river system in the Lower Witham [downstream of Lincoln] has been completed. This information will be used to create a new hydraulic model of the River Witham system. This model is now expected to be completed in March/April 2023 when it will be used to evaluate various options considered economically suitable, and technically able, to provide the appropriate standard of protection as part of a long-term strategic programme of work.

Whilst this review is designed to address the long-term future of the system, the current condition and short-term work programme is of more concern. This reason for this concern will become evident should the system be exposed to similar rainfall and catchment conditions as those experienced in 2019 and 2020.

The Board's officers continue to raise issues of concern relating to the system's condition and ability to convey water with the Environment Agency and its consultants.

The EA have a web page for the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/lower-witham-flood-resilience-project/>

The first newsletter was published in July 2022.

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

#### **2579 Planning and Consultations Report.**

The Planning and Consultations Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Engineering & Technical Services.

Issues highlighted to members included:

##### **Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

##### **Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Issues and Options for updating the plan**

Consultation response questionnaire form has been returned for the above.

It included the general response below about opportunities for restoration to reduce flood risk and provide water as resource.

*"Large areas of Lincolnshire are at flood risk both from the sea where large areas of land are below sea level protected by raised embankments and fluvial where again large areas of land are below the water levels within the embanked watercourses. The River Witham can be tide locked at Boston and levels remain high in the embanked watercourses for a prolonged period increasing flood risk as seen in recent flood events.*

*The Environment Agency is currently undertaking the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project which is looking at a review of this embanked system and including areas of land required to attenuate flood flows.*

*There will be opportunities for some of the mineral abstraction sites to provide strategic opportunities on a large scale for the storage of flood water together with the ability on a smaller scale to reduce local risk.*

*The potential use of the Norton Disney quarry for flood water storage was a missed opportunity given its proximity to the River Witham.*

*Equally important is the potential future use of restored sites to provide water for irrigation and other uses.*

*Both these aspects are identified in*

*3.15 and should be added to the list in Issue 19: Restoration and after-use priorities”*

**22/0899/FUL NKDC & 2022/0464/FUL City of Lincoln DC but also relevant for SKDC**

**Proposed hybrid planning application for the proposed Elsham to Lincoln Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for a proposed 57-kilometre pipeline between Elsham and Lincoln.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The pipeline passes through three of the Boards administered from this office and their extended areas, Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board district, Witham First District Internal Drainage Board and Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board.

The applicant is aware of the Internal Drainage Board requirements and has separately consulted them.

Within Drainage Board areas:

Under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of the appropriate Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion.

Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within the byelaw distance (9m) of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse.

Within Drainage Board extended areas:

Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the appropriate Board.

**Erection of a new Sainsbury's Store with Car Parking, Access and Landscaping. Land at Lincoln Road, Washingborough.**

**Additional and amended details consist of - submission of additional/revised information relating to retail impacts and planning policy, landscape and visual impacts, drainage and flood risk, highways safety audit, ecology, design and layout, light spillage and headlight glare.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board area.

The Board's maintained 2001 – Longstongs Drain runs at the northern end of the site.

The relevant information with regard to the Board and drainage is noted, particularly the need for Byelaw consent for any works within the 9m Byelaw distance from the top of the bank, including the proposed outfall.

Members received and NOTED the Planning and Consultations report.

### **2580 Consents and Enforcements.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, there was nothing to highlight to members on this occasion.

Members received and noted the report on Consents and Enforcements.

### **2581 Any Other Business.**

There were no further items of business and the meeting closed at 16:00.

**2582 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, was confirmed for Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 2pm in Branston Booths Village Hall.

*Ken Allen* ..... Chairman ..... *22.11.22* ..... Date  
W1st BM 20.09.22.

