

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, held on Monday, 21st November 2022 in Witham House at 2pm.

Present: Cllr. D. Armiger
Cllr B Bushell
Cllr L Dales
Cllr M Green
Cllr. G. Hewson
Mr P Knight
Cllr R Longbottom
Cllr R Metcalfe
Cllr L Pennell
Mr. I. Powell
Mr G Rawlings
Cllr S Roe
Mr J Scarborough **Vice Chairman**
Cllr I Stokes
Mr N Tobin
Cllr P J Vaughan **Vice Chairman**
Mrs. J. Wilkinson

In Attendance: 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.

41.22 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Arnold, Mr A Buckley, Cllr C Burke, Cllr J Cottier, Mr R Hollis, Mr E Jackson, Ms E Jenkinson, Cllr Mrs R Kaberry-Brown, Cllr P Morris, Mr F H Myers (**Chairman**), Cllr D Nannestad, Cllr R Oates, Mr R Phillips, Mr W Timmins, Cllr C Watt.

In the absence of the Chairman, and by prior agreement, Cllr Pat Vaughan chaired the meeting.

42.22 Declarations of Members' Interests.

Members present appointed by the five Councils declared interests relating to their respective Councils (City of Lincoln, North Kesteven District, West Lindsey District, South Kesteven District and Newark & Sherwood District Councils). Cllr Stephen Roe declared a personal interest as a land owner in matters arising relating to the North Hykeham Relief Road scheme.

43.22 Election of Chairman

Cllr Pat Vaughan proposed Mr Fred Myers be re-elected as Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Gary Hewson. With no further nominations, Fred Myers was duly

elected, this being unanimously AGREED. Fred was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting however, he had expressed his willingness to stand again prior to the meeting.

44.22 Election of Two Vice Chairmen.

Members elected two Vice Chairmen for the ensuing year. The Current Vice Chairmen, John Scarborough and Pat Vaughan, were both willing to stand for re-election for the ensuing year. This was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations, unanimously AGREED by members.

45.22 Chairman's Announcements.

In the absence of Fred Myers, Pat Vaughan welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Board and started by thanking members for electing Fred Myers as Chairman once more, Fred having served as the Board's Chairman since 2011, and for electing both John Scarborough and him as Vice Chairmen.

It was highlighted that the Board has 3 vacancies, for the electoral wards of River Brant; Long Bennington, Barkston & Normanton; and for the Borough of Grantham.

The papers today indicate the Board is currently in good financial health. The Board had gradually recovered from the year-end deficit in March 2020, following several heavy rainfall events of Autumn 2019. The Board had also levered in grant monies and would hear today about progress to refurbish Pyewipe Pumping Station, a £715,000 capital scheme.

However, the Board faces cost pressures which mean although the position looks stable as of 31st October 2022, we face a difficult few months and severe challenges in setting a balanced budget for next year 2023/24. A significant challenge is in relation to our escalating electricity costs at pumping stations, a challenge being felt across the IDB industry. We will focus on understanding what is happening to electricity costs and following the recent ADA Annual Conference, Jane Froggatt will be accompanying ADA colleagues to meet with Defra officials on 30th November, to outline the significant pressures on IDBs and to lobby for some flexibility over the next couple of years.

46.22 Election of Members to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Members voted to elect en-bloc the current 5 members to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for a further year. Those being the Chairman, 2 Vice Chairmen, Cllr Lance Pennell and Mr. Ray Phillips.

In addition, Cllr Donald Nannestad, Cllr Ian Stokes, and Mrs Joanne Wilkinson were proposed, seconded and, there being no further nominations, they were duly elected to serve on the F&GPC.

The F&GPC usually comprises up to 12 members, Standing Orders do not define a minimum or maximum membership of subcommittees, but it was agreed to proceed with 8 members as set out, and carry 4 vacancies which may be filled subsequently.

47.22 Election of Members to the Works Committee.

Members voted to elect en-bloc the current members to the Works Committee. These being the Chairman, 2 Vice Chairmen, with 2 vacant seats. Noel Tobin was further nominated to fill one of these vacancies. In addition, a local representative for the area

is co-opted to cover the issue concerned, as and when the Works Committee is convened, should there be a matter on concern in a particular locality.

48.22 Election of a member to the ADA Lincs Branch Environment Committee.

Members were content to leave this as an open position. Any member who wishes to attend may do so. Details of meetings were available via the 4 Boards' GIS & Environment Officer, Nick Downing, who is Secretary to the ADA Lincolnshire Environment Committee.

49.22 Election of a member to the ADA Lincs Branch Pay & Conditions Committee.

Members were content to re-elect Cllr Lance Pennell to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay & Conditions Committee for the ensuing year (Lance represents all 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards on the Committee).

50.22 Election of 4 members to the Joint Services Committee.

All three members were re-elected en-bloc to the Joint Services Committee with current members being the Chairman, two Vice Chairmen and a vacancy. Current Deputy Mr Ian Powell was willing to remain as deputy.

Should anyone wish to be considered for the vacant seat, arrangements could be made outside the meeting subsequently. *Post-meeting Note: Cllr Donald Nannestad had been proposed and, with the Chairman's agreement, he had joined the JSC.

51.22 Calendar of 2023 Meeting dates for the Board & F&GPC.

A draft calendar of proposed meeting dates had been circulated with the agenda. The following changes had been proposed:

- Each Board usually meets 4 times in the year [January, May, September and November Annual Public Meeting]. It was proposed that in 2023 the Board meets on 3 occasions, including the usual January and May meetings, but combining the September and November meetings into one meeting in November, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting. The suggestion from members was that we timetable these 3 meetings for each Board, and if additional meetings are required for any purpose, these can be convened as in-person, videoconference or hybrid meetings.
- The September joint Annual Inspection [held this year on 29.09.22] has been brought forward at the request of some members, to Thursday, 20th July 2023.

The following meeting dates were therefore proposed for 2023:

Board Meetings, 2pm:

- Monday, 23rd January.
- Monday, 22nd May.
- Monday, 27th November (+APM).

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings, 10am:

- Wednesday, 11th January.

- Wednesday, 10th May.
- Wednesday, 15th November.

Members APPROVED the amended schedule of meetings, as detailed.

52.22 Register of Members' Interests.

A copy of the Register of Members' Interests form had been circulated with the agenda. Members were requested to complete this and return it to Officers via email or to Jayne Flower at Witham House, so that an up-to-date Register for November 2022 to October 2023 was maintained. Members were advised of the importance of this being an accurate record, as information in the Register may be subject, for example, to an FOI request and public disclosure. The Register serves as both protection for the Board and for individual members.

53.22 Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19.09.22.

The Minutes of the Board's meeting held on Monday, 19th September 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed Gary Hewson, seconded by Lance Pennell and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

53.22.1 Minutes of Board meeting 23.05.22, PSCA work for the EA 2022/23 minute 26.22.3 refers.

Cllr Metcalfe asked what reason the EA gave for not giving longer contracts. It was confirmed that they stated it was due to only being issued with annual revenue budgets. However, various discussions had taken place as to whether there was certainty on, say, 60% or 70% of funding and whether longer term commissioning was therefore practicable based on assured thresholds of work, making longer term planning of plant, machinery and Operatives more efficient. This had not been agreed.

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

54.22 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, 07.11.22.

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 07th November 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Lance Pennell, seconded by John Scarborough and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

54.22.1 Financial Performance 2022/23 (minute 11 refers)

The Chief Executive highlighted to members discussions that had taken place with F&GP members regarding the pressures on the budget for the remainder of 2022/23 and on budget setting for 2023/24.

At present the 31.10.22 position indicated a £24k deficit against the profiled budget position, but this was excluding PSCA works for the EA. There was a meeting that afternoon to reconcile works undertaken for the

EA with the invoices for September and October which need to be submitted to the EA, and this was likely to improve the month-end position to breakeven.

Drainage Rates income was good this year to date, with a collection rate of 96.2% as at 31.10.22 compared with 94.2% for the same period last year. There is circa £10k drainage rates income outstanding to the Board and a court date had been set for 16.01.23 in Boston for any unpaid accounts in UW, W1st and W3rd.

It was confirmed that all 5 relevant councils had paid the second tranche of Special Levy monies due on 01.11.22 and Highland Water monies from the EA had been received in full after the September Board meeting. So, all significant income streams for 2022/23 were now collected for this financial year and bank balances would reduce until May 2023.

Discussion then focussed on the cost pressures on the Board for the remainder of 2022/23, and it was appreciated at the F&GPC meeting that we would be giving a mixed message to the Board on 21.11.22 as the financial position was balanced at present, but it will deteriorate for the remainder of this year. We may expect a deficit year-end position 31.03.23 and budget setting for 2023/24 will be very difficult. Costs are rising on all major budget headings [repairs & maintenance, fuel, insurances, servicing costs, supplies of timber and stone etc, mobile phones, plant & machinery, pay costs], but particularly on electricity.

The electricity contract from 01st October 2022 with ESPO [the provider being Total Gas and Power] had the predicted steep increase in costs for the 4 Witham & Humber Boards, as with other IDBs. Information is not yet complete, as we now know the standing charges and the daytime and night-time rates by pumping station from 01.10.22 to 30.09.23, but we do not yet know the Government's business/non-domestic energy relief scheme details for the intended period 01.10.22 to 31.03.23 [which may alleviate some of the pressures in 2022/23 if the cap on energy is indeed applied at £211 per megawatt hour, but which will not help with pressures on budget setting for 2023/24]. We also do not know the electricity prices for the second half of 2023/24 from 01.10.23 to 31.03.24 and will need to make assumptions. One of the significant cost increases for the IDBs is the Standing Charges at pumping stations. These have changed significantly, effectively exceeding planned budgets for all electricity before we even switch on a pump. This arises from a 'OFGEM targeted charging review' which has changed the balance between transmission costs [like overhead cables] and distribution networks [like transformers] and which means we are absorbing an 18-months blip in charging policies changing in a 12-month period and we are feeling the effect of a big increase in standing charges as some elements are moved out of unit prices and into standing charges.

There is further analysis to do, the information updates we have are changing constantly. However, as of last Thursday 02.11.22 UW has a £48k budget for electricity 2022/23 and without factoring in Government support and based on the unusually dry last year pump usage, the Board will need an annual budget for 2023/24 of £122.5k or an extra £74.5k to meet costs. It was highlighted that this would not deal with a wet year like

2019/20. In response to a question, in extrapolating usage for a wet year of heavy rainfall events and high pumping hours, it may now cost £200k to £250k in electricity costs alone [ignoring Operative overtime costs etc of a wet weather event]. Work to model a 5-year average would be undertaken, and after discussion it was agreed that there was insufficient flexibility in the General Reserve or earmarked reserves like plant & machinery or pumping stations reserves to relieve the pressure non-recurrently for 2023/24. These cost increases are too large to contain by utilising reserves.

There was likely to be a required increase in the penny rate far more significant than in previous years in each of the four Witham & Humber Drainage Boards, where increases had tended to be just under 2% over the last 10 years, and this was in-line with the magnitude of higher Penny Rate increases other IDBs locally were anticipating for 2023/24. Except for 2022/23, when the four Boards set penny rate increases in the range 5.0% to 6.5%, the annual increases have been low for the last 10 years. But given a 1% increase in the penny rate generates only £10k additional income to the Board, it was potentially over 10% increases in the penny rate that would be needed this forthcoming year and possibly circa 20% for electricity price increases alone. It was agreed this would be useful to see in cash terms [rather than %] for each council, and members were reminded that 10-20% increase in Penny Rate for an IDB does not correspond to this percentage increase in Council Tax for a Council's budget.

It was confirmed that some neighbouring IDBs had written to local MPs warning them of the difficulties in setting balanced budgets for 2023/24 given inflationary pressures generally, but specifically due to electricity price increases for pumping stations and these being a significant cost driver for IDBs. Our data needs some refinement before quoting the impact to MPs [was the feeling of the meeting]. No firm figures could yet be made available to local councils, as this work was underway on budget setting for 2023/24, but the sensitivity of this and the need to have 'no surprises' for the Special Levy paying councils was understood and early indications of steep increases would be given.

Members received and NOTED the briefing on the 2022/23-month 7 position, as at 31.10.22, which had been given to the F&GPC meeting, the likely deterioration in the position given cost pressures for the remainder of 2022/23 and the difficulties ahead in setting a balanced financial budget for 2023/24 with the corresponding impact on Special Levy paying councils and on drainage rates account holders. Further detail would be provided later, as part of the Finance Performance Report.

Members noted the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting.

55.22 Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda. Issues highlighted included:

55.22.1 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.

With these priorities in mind and with the end of national free Lateral Flow Tests [LFTs], the Boards had invested in sufficient LFTs to issue every employee with 2 LFT tests per week. Staff are asked to test routinely twice a week and if they suspect they may have Covid symptoms. Although the national isolation requirements have changed, we are asking staff to advise if they test positive and not to attend the workplace until we discuss with them whether they feel well enough to work and can work from home or work in a lone worker capacity, hence minimising the Covid transmission risk to colleagues. We had experienced more cases of Covid amongst staff recently.

55.22.2 ADA Annual Conference 09.11.22.

The briefing included feedback from the recent ADA Annual Conference. Regarding a presentation from Cllr Matthew Riddle, Chairman of Lower Severn IDB and Councillor on South Gloucestershire Council which set the debate going about whether the Special Levy charges to Councils for IDBs should be disaggregated from Council Tax, Cllr Gary Hewson asked what was the ADA response, The Chief Executive confirmed they had taken a neutral stance at this point as opinion in the room was mixed, with people understanding the case for disaggregation but how this could be achieved was the issue.

55.22.3 Capital Programmes.

For the last few months work has been underway to develop for each of the 4 Boards a Capital Programme to lever in and maximise FDGiA monies, where practicable, and to model what annual contributions would be required from each Board. Thanks were conveyed to members of Management Team for this work, and a particular thanks to our Capital Programme Manger Georgina Nichols [who works across our 4 IDBs and 3 others].

A first iteration of a Capital Plan for pumping station refurbishments over the next 20 years had been completed for each of the Boards. The resulting Programmes would be presented to the JSC meeting on 12.12.22, prior to individual Capital Programme Presentations to Boards in January 2023.

55.22.4 Pay Award 2023/24.

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay & Conditions Committee met on 10.10.22 to receive the staff side pay claim for next year 2023/24 and to negotiate a proposed pay settlement. The 4 Boards' representative on the Committee is Cllr Lance Pennell [supported by the Chief Executive]. The staff side and employer's side reached agreement as follows:

“To use the ONS Earnings 01 Average Weekly Earnings Indicator of Total Pay in Great Britain, using the provisional figure, as published in September, for the public sector, 12-month average [August of the previous year to July of the current year] of the single month changes [KAC8], % change year-on-year. This to be for a 2-year deal, with it continuing beyond, unless either party gives 12 months’ notice to re-enter negotiations. In addition, for 2023/24 an unconsolidated payment of £1,500 will be paid in addition to the salary over 12 months”.

Applying the formula as set out, that corresponded to a 2.1% uplift across all pay scales in the ADA Lincolnshire White Book of Terms & Conditions from 01st April 2023 plus a further sum of £1,500 payable monthly from April 2023 as an unconsolidated sum. The reasons for the £1,500 were to recognise the historical nature of the indicator and that CPI inflation is running closer to 10% now, but that similarly neither party knows what KAC8 will be in September 2023 for the previous 12 months and secondly to give a cash sum element to the pay award so that it targets a proportionately larger uplift to those on lower paid pay scales. The impact, for example, of the 2.1% recurrent salary uplift plus the £1,500 unconsolidated cash uplift for an Operative on Spine Point 15 is that basic pay rises from £25,824 in this year 2022/23 to £27,866 in 2023/24 [a 7.91% uplift, of which 2.1% is consolidated].

Employers agreed to take this pay settlement to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch for endorsement, and the Branch adopted the recommended pay settlement at its meeting on 20.10.22. This pay cost pressure is being used in our preparation of budgets for 2023/24.

Staff side agreed to take the pay settlement to a UNISON ballot of members, which they did without recommendation of acceptance or refusal. The ballot results were communicated on 11.11.22 as a refusal of the proposed settlement [83% of those who voted having voted against]. A meeting of the employer’s side to the Pay Committee is being convened. **Post meeting update: the meeting took place on Monday 05th December 2022.*

As adoption or not of the ADA Branch pay settlement is a matter reserved to individual Boards, each Board is usually asked to adopt the pay settlement. Given the staff side rejection of claim and further meetings are planned, on this occasion, it was recommended that the pay settlement adopted by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch be NOTED and adopted in principle by each Board with the caveat that the element which is unconsolidated may need further negotiation, the intent being to keep the total pay cost increase within the already negotiated envelope for 2023/24, but with some movement on the element which is unconsolidated perhaps necessary [and Cllr Lance Pennell and the Chief Executive need the flexibility on this].

Members supported this approach to the pay negotiations.

55.22.5 Potential Expansion of the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards’ Agreement.

The 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards work in partnership under a joint services legal agreement, which uses Section 11 of the Flood & Water Management Act [2010] to facilitate provision of services for and on behalf of another flood risk management authority in a legally binding, but voluntary partnership.

The partnership was originally of two IDBs, then three and from 01st April 2017 it was expanded to include North East Lindsey joining the joint arrangement.

With the support of the 4 Chairmen, the Chief Executive is exploring an approach from a neighbouring IDB to consider whether it is feasible to expand the partnership to include a fifth IDB.

It is purely an option at this stage, and the advantages and disadvantages need to be worked through for all 5 Boards concerned. Neither our 4 Boards nor the neighbouring IDB need to take this step, but we are all conscious of the difficult economic times we are operating in, the recruitment and retention issues we will all face in future and the need to ensure not just now but in 5 years' time that our IDBs are resilient. Therefore, we need to consider the proposition carefully as a resilience issue for the future.

Members were supportive of this work being undertaken, at this stage neither dismissive nor strongly in favour of the potential expansion of the partnership to include a further IDB.

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

56.22 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.09.22 to 31.10.22.

The Schedule of Expenditure incurred for the two months of 01st September to 31st October 2022 had been circulated with the agenda. It was highlighted that this refers to invoices paid in the two months period.

Expenditure totalled £336,741.36 gross or, excluding £37,153.41 reclaimable VAT, the net amount of £299,587.95. Of this, £10,791.17 was rechargeable expenditure to other bodies.

Items raised by or highlighted to members included:

- Item 2: £14,142.81 (net) to Axflow Limited for Sandsyke pumping station repairs to the pump.
- Item 71: £7,202.75 (net) to Ken Wood & Sons Construction Ltd for Pyewipe FDGiA scheme, interim invoice 1 costs to date. Recharged to Grant monies for the scheme.
- Items 83 to 85: £546.00, £274.00 and £2,400.00 to Maltby Electrical for PAT Testing, electrical inspections and inspection Condition Reports.
- Item 123: £2,000.00 to PKF Littlejohn LLP for External audit fees, AGAR return for the year ended 31/03/22.

Cllr Metcalfe noted that it was a very detailed report and asked what the purpose was. Would it be possible to receive an abridged version? Steve Larter advised that it was a legal requirement to report spending transactions over £500, and this is the way it was done historically. It was AGREED that it could be reviewed for 2023/24, to see if the detail could be taken to the F&GP with an abridged version taken to Board meetings.

Members received the expenditure schedule and NOTED the expenditure incurred in the two months 01st September to 31st October 2022.

57.22 Financial Performance Report 2022/23, the 7 months to 31st October 2022.

The financial position in 2022/23 as of 31st October had been circulated with the agenda. The report was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance, with a summary as follows:

	2022/23 Budget £	Profiled Budget £	Actual £	Variance (3-2) £
Income	(1,561,876)	(1,431,689)	(1,612,111)	(180,422)
Board & General Admin	25,394	16,425	13,715	(2,710)
One Off Schemes	10,000	5,238	65,979	60,741
Conservation	2,000	602	273	(329)
Depot	79,290	37,845	40,280	2,435
Drains	698,557	482,860	496,485	13,625
Pumping Stations	191,080	92,819	99,236	6,417
Joint Admin/Witham House	164,112	91,852	99,981	8,129
Consents & Enforcement	15,054	0	0	0
Director of Operations/Engineers	116,226	66,293	56,762	(9,531)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(23,500)	0	95,221	95,221
PWLB	0	0	0	0
Rechargeable Works	113,500	36,590	51,523	14,933
EA Precept	170,163	85,082	83,413	(1,669)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	0	0	0	0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(19,094)	(28,101)	(9,007)
(Surplus)/Deficit	0	(535,177)	(537,342)	(2,165)

The Board was showing a minor positive variation position of (£2,165) against profiled budget as of 31st October 2022.

Drainage Rates income as at 31.10.22 was at [£267,694.17], a collection rate of 96.2% compared with 94.2% for the comparable month 7 last year. After adjustments, £10,668.09 income remains to be collected by the Board. First reminders were despatched to account holders on 15th August 2022 and final reminders were despatched in October 2022. A court date had been set for 16th January 2023. All historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and only land issues raised in-year are now outstanding.

Special Levies had been received (£955k) for the full year 2022/23 from the 5 relevant councils. So, it was noted bank balances would now be at a high point, with little further profiled income due until May 2023, when Special Levies and further drainage rates income would be due to the Board.

Highland Water claims had been submitted to the Environment Agency for the balance owed to the Board on the 2021/22 actual claim, with a further balance of (£47,906) income due, and for 80% [£177,600] of the estimated total claim for 2022/23 of (£222,000), i.e., total income due to the Board of (£225,506). This had been paid by the EA.

On one-off schemes, the main scheme underway is the refurbishment works at Pyewipe Pumping Station. As reported to the last Board meeting, due to escalating costs, a revised scheme has now been agreed with the EA totalling £713,171 with FDGIA grant awarded of £557,517. The remaining funding is made up of (£141k) of developer funding to meet the cost of the replacement Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner

(AWC) and (£15k) Board contribution which has already been transferred to the One-Off Projects reserve in 2021/22 as the Board's contribution. (£322,100) has been received so far to undertake these works and a grant claim for a further (£167,146) was submitted to the EA on 10th November 2022 and is awaited. Contracts have been awarded for various elements of the scheme and costs of £38k incurred so far. However, contractors are now on site constructing the building and offsite the electrical control panel and AWC are being manufactured.

The Telemetry scheme has also been agreed by the EA and the funding of up to £118,224 is awaited. Site visits have been completed and hopefully the roll out will be completed in this financial year. This is across 3 of the 4 IDBs in the group, and 39 pumping stations.

A provision of £30k has been included in the month 7 position, for 50% of the Board's contribution required to be paid to the EA (£60k in total) for the new control panels at Auburn and Sand Syke Pumping Stations.

Electricity will be a significant cost pressure in this financial year. This Board has a budget of £48k for the Pumping Station electricity and to date £23k has been spent. This is only for the first 6 months to the end of September and equates to nearly 48% of the annual budget for 2022/23 during a very dry period.

ESPO have notified the Board that a price increase takes effect from 01st October 2022 (the last increase was October 2021). There is a substantial increase for all 4 Boards, especially in Standing Charges (payable whether the pumps are used or not) as well as in day and night unit rates. However, these day and night unit rates @30p/KWH are far less than if we were procuring electricity on the open market now @65p to 70p/KWH. Whilst the increase in day and night rates are not to the level of the significant increases in the current market rates, due to the way that ESPO 'buy ahead' blocks of units of electricity, there may be a lag in when the increase comes through, i.e., there could be a further increase of unknown magnitude from 01st October 2023. This will depend upon the unit rates at the time the blocks of electricity purchases are made. This therefore means we are budget setting for 2023/24 from 01.04.23 with known increased electricity prices for only a half-year to 30.09.23 and we are having to make assumptions for the remainder of the year.

A significant increase from this October 2022 is the standing charges. These have increased due to the national 'OFGEM Targeted Charging Review'. The Targeted Charging Review was initiated by OFGEM to investigate how network charging (DUoS (Distribution) and TNUoS (Transmission) costs) could be made fairer across all consumer groups. The concern was that the costs of maintaining the grid have been steadily increasing over recent years, yet they were passed on to a reducing number of users.

The reason for this is the nature of energy generation and consumption has changed radically in recent times. Energy efficiency measures, embedded generation and load shifting have all meant that a growing number of consumers can minimise or even avoid any reliance on the grid, and therefore their exposure to the current charging regimes of DUoS and TNUoS.

These costs are split into two parts. Firstly residual, which is the cost of maintaining the electricity network. The second, forward looking, covers the cost of expanding the network. This change only effects the residual charge, which is 90% of the cost of TNUoS and 50% of DUoS.

Currently, the residual charge is built into the day & night unit rates. From April 2022, network operators are charging suppliers like ESPO and our provider Total Gas & Power (TG&P) a fixed amount for every business customer's site. Essentially, it means similar sites will pay the same towards maintaining the network. Previously, these costs were recovered over 4 months November to February each year, but now they will be recovered each month. This has led to a 'transitional amount' to cover, not only the previous full year costs which are charged over the winter months (November to February) in full, but also the first 6 months of the new monthly charge regime from April 2022 to September 2023 (so in effect 18-month charges to be recovered in 12 months).

The objective of the OFGEM TCR is supposedly to reinstate fairness for everyone involved, while making sure network operators recover the revenue, they need to maintain the transmission and distribution systems.

OFGEM believes the most effective way to make sure everyone contributes fairly is through a fixed daily charge (standing charge). In normal times the day/night unit rates will have correspondingly reduced, due to these charges coming out of the unit rates and into the standing charges. Unfortunately, we are not seeing this increase in standing charges with corresponding reduction in unit rates, due to the significant increases in day and night unit rates for other reasons. The level of charge paid is determined by the TCR Band each site is allocated, an allocation that is carried out by the distribution networks. ESPO's flexible energy contract meant that customers saw changes from October 2021, with the beginning of the new scheme starting in April 2022 onwards. The full year effect of the charges will be seen in the pricing in October 2022, before the transitional element potentially begins to subside in October 2023.

These new standing charges will put a significant increase on the 4 Boards' cost of electricity based on a 'normal usage' average year. This, coupled with additional usage if a heavy rainfall event occurs, will put a very significant pressure on this budget:

Standing Charges						
	01/10/2022	01/10/2021	01/10/2020	01/10/2019	Budget 2022/23	% of Budget
NEL	£ 10,670	£ 4,679	£ 1,521	£ 1,223	£ 15,000	71.1%
UW	£ 28,820	£ 12,505	£ 4,427	£ 3,877	£ 48,000	60.0%
W1	£ 54,623	£ 20,362	£ 5,174	£ 5,219	£ 69,000	79.2%
W3	£ 33,803	£ 14,099	£ 4,459	£ 3,595	£ 69,000	49.0%
Total	£ 127,917	£ 51,645	£ 15,580	£ 13,914	£ 201,000	63.6%

The Government has announced a support scheme for energy costs incurred by business, including the Public Sector, to help with meeting these additional costs over the winter months. The scheme, as currently announced, will only cover 01st October 2022 until 31st March 2023. No announcement has yet been made of any further support after 31st March 2023. This support is based upon a maximum unit rate of £211 per megawatt hour (or 21.1 pence per kilowatt hour). At this time, we have no confirmation from ESPO/TG&P of how this will benefit the Boards, as the detail of implementing the scheme is still being worked through.

A table was highlighted to set out the indicative costs for the Board based on different scenarios [wet year, average and dry], based upon historical usage levels. Any flood event will significantly add to the costs of electricity for the Board:

UW	Usage KWH	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Budget
		@10p/kwh	@20p/kwh	@30p/kwh	@40p/kwh	@50p/kwh	@60p/kwh	@70p/kwh	2022/23
Dry	275,000	65,226	92,726	120,226	147,726	175,226	202,726	230,226	£ 48,000
Average	400,000	77,726	117,726	157,726	197,726	237,726	277,726	317,726	£ 48,000
Wet	500,000	87,726	137,726	187,726	237,726	287,726	337,726	387,726	£ 48,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 17,226	£ 44,726	£ 72,226	£ 99,726	£ 127,226	£ 154,726	£ 182,226	
Average		£ 29,726	£ 69,726	£ 109,726	£ 149,726	£ 189,726	£ 229,726	£ 269,726	
Wet		£ 39,726	£ 89,726	£ 139,726	£ 189,726	£ 239,726	£ 289,726	£ 339,726	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		1.49%	3.88%	6.27%	8.65%	11.04%	13.42%	15.81%	
Average		2.58%	6.05%	9.52%	12.99%	16.46%	19.93%	23.40%	
Wet		3.45%	7.78%	12.12%	16.46%	20.80%	25.13%	29.47%	

The October 2022 rates are @30p per unit so will have the impact as set out in the table for each scenario, based upon this rate for a full calendar year 01st October 2022 to 30th September 2023, including standing and KVA charges. From October 2023, there could be a further price increase of @35% which would then mean the 40p/kwh column would apply (indicatively). Historically, @80% of usage is October to March (so the second half of the financial year).

For information, the tables for the other 3 Boards within the Witham & Humber group were provided, to demonstrate what a significant impact this is for all of the 4 Boards:

W1	Usage KWH	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Budget
		@10p/kwh	@20p/kwh	@30p/kwh	@40p/kwh	@50p/kwh	@60p/kwh	@70p/kwh	2022/23
Dry	500,000	124,047	174,047	224,047	274,047	324,047	374,047	424,047	£ 69,000
Average	800,000	154,047	234,047	314,047	394,047	474,047	554,047	634,047	£ 69,000
Wet	1,500,000	224,047	374,047	524,047	674,047	824,047	974,047	1,124,047	£ 69,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 55,047	£ 105,047	£ 155,047	£ 205,047	£ 255,047	£ 305,047	£ 355,047	
Average		£ 85,047	£ 165,047	£ 245,047	£ 325,047	£ 405,047	£ 485,047	£ 565,047	
Wet		£ 155,047	£ 305,047	£ 455,047	£ 605,047	£ 755,047	£ 905,047	£ 1,055,047	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		5.98%	11.40%	16.83%	22.26%	27.69%	33.12%	38.55%	
Average		9.23%	17.92%	26.60%	35.29%	43.97%	52.66%	61.34%	
Wet		16.83%	33.12%	49.40%	65.69%	81.97%	98.26%	114.54%	

W3	Usage KWH	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Budget
		@10p/kwh	@20p/kwh	@30p/kwh	@40p/kwh	@50p/kwh	@60p/kwh	@70p/kwh	2022/23
Dry	300,000	75,975	105,975	135,975	165,975	195,975	225,975	255,975	£ 69,000
Average	450,000	90,975	135,975	180,975	225,975	270,975	315,975	360,975	£ 69,000
Wet	750,000	120,975	195,975	270,975	345,975	420,975	495,975	570,975	£ 69,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 6,975	£ 36,975	£ 66,975	£ 96,975	£ 126,975	£ 156,975	£ 186,975	
Average		£ 21,975	£ 66,975	£ 111,975	£ 156,975	£ 201,975	£ 246,975	£ 291,975	
Wet		£ 51,975	£ 126,975	£ 201,975	£ 276,975	£ 351,975	£ 426,975	£ 501,975	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		0.67%	3.55%	6.44%	9.32%	12.20%	15.09%	17.97%	
Average		2.11%	6.44%	10.76%	15.09%	19.41%	23.74%	28.06%	
Wet		5.00%	12.20%	19.41%	26.62%	33.83%	41.04%	48.24%	

NEL	Usage KWH	Total @10p/kwh	Total @20p/kwh	Total @30p/kwh	Total @40p/kwh	Total @50p/kwh	Total @60p/kwh	Total @70p/kwh	Budget 2022/23
Dry	150,000	26,747	41,747	56,747	71,747	86,747	101,747	116,747	£ 15,000
Average	200,000	31,747	51,747	71,747	91,747	111,747	131,747	151,747	£ 15,000
Wet	300,000	41,747	71,747	101,747	131,747	161,747	191,747	221,747	£ 15,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 11,747	£ 26,747	£ 41,747	£ 56,747	£ 71,747	£ 86,747	£ 101,747	
Average		£ 16,747	£ 36,747	£ 56,747	£ 76,747	£ 96,747	£ 116,747	£ 136,747	
Wet		£ 26,747	£ 56,747	£ 86,747	£ 116,747	£ 146,747	£ 176,747	£ 206,747	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		1.90%	4.34%	6.77%	9.20%	11.63%	14.07%	16.50%	
Average		2.72%	5.96%	9.20%	12.44%	15.69%	18.93%	22.17%	
Wet		4.34%	9.20%	14.07%	18.93%	23.80%	28.66%	33.52%	

This is a very significant issue for the Boards and a risk to their future financial standing. Nationally, ADA is aware of the pressures on IDBs, and the Chief Executive is attending a meeting with Defra officials on 30.11.22 to make the case for IDBs and to request some flexibility in this interim energy market situation.

The inflationary pressures that the country is currently experiencing are affecting many of the Board's costs. Electricity, fuel, plant and vehicle maintenance, insurance, mobile phones are all seeing escalating costs. Where possible, these are locked into contracts so not all the impact is being felt currently, but it will feed through into future costs which will put undue 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.

On bank balances and investments, as at 31.10.22 these were detailed as follows:

Lloyds Current	£	672,490.55
Lloyds Deposit	£	5,000.00
Nationwide Instant Access	£	653,634.10
Nationwide 90 Day Notice	£	14,509.98
Total		£ 1,345,634.63

PWLB Loan - Balance Outstanding

2.68%

£ 1,104,146.15

Original loan £1,200,000. Loan period 30 years from 18/01/2019. Maturity date 15th November 2048. Repayments made 15th May and 15th November each year.

Members NOTED the 2022/23 financial performance for the 7 months to 31st October 2022.

58.22 Health and Safety Report.

A Health & Safety report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services, in the absence of the Director of Operations.

With the end of summer maintenance in sight, we continue to review work practises as we move into winter maintenance, to keep staff safe and at work wherever possible. There have been more Covid 19 (C19) cases within teams this year than through the

lock-down. Positive cases are assessed individually, and if possible, we give Operatives and other staff the opportunity to work with a positive test result providing a) they feel well and b) can work with no interaction with others. Failing to meet those criteria would mean staying at home until 2 negative LFT test results (on separate, consecutive days). Support staff can work from home if they feel well enough to work.

Witham House office is open to the public, contractors, and visitors by prior arrangement. In line with the Government's 'living with Covid' guidance, face masks are not mandatory, however are provided for those who wish to wear one. Testing is no longer a requirement, but WHDB continue to provide LFTs to staff to help reduce the likelihood of Covid transmission within our workplaces.

We remain conscious of the changing picture of C19, both morally for the wellbeing of our staff and for organisational resilience to continue to deliver the works required. C19 arrangements continue to be reviewed weekly at Management Team Meetings, and any change to national guidance is kept under review.

H & S Visits (by Cope Health and Safety Consultancy)

The 4 Boards' Annual H&S Policy Review has been completed. In attendance were Simon Cross (Cope), Jane Froggatt, Ian Coupland and Leila Quirk (WHDB). During the visit the H&S policy, policy statements and booklets are all reviewed.

Accidents.

There have been 2 reported accidents, resulting in minor injury. Root cause - assets not robust, e.g., damaged gates. Internal investigations completed, onward reports to the EA who have added to their H&S lists. The assets do not belong to W&HDBs or the EA, so the landowners would need to make the necessary arrangements.

Near Miss Reports.

There have been 3 near misses reported. These involve tractors slipping or edging the banks (fully or in part). All near misses have been or are being investigated. Pyewipe pumping station – The Board's Contractor was hand digging and struck/exposed a cable. The area was assessed/scanned by the Contractor prior to commencing works but the cabling had not shown up. No damage to the cable. Cables are now rerouted. Ian Powell queried whether the contractors used a cat and genny, it was confirmed that a cat was used but not a genny.

Positive points:

- In 2021 there were 8 incidents reported. So far in 2022 there have been 15.
- This figure shows more Near Misses being reported, and these are investigated for the purposes of trend analysis and embedding good practice from any lessons learned.

Training.

6 x Operatives undertook masted forklift training, 2 x Chainsaw with felling, 4 x operation of armed flails, 5 x spraying near water, 5 x safe use of Robo-mower, 6 x Abrasive wheels, 3 x basic welding, 4 x Cat H licence and Overhead cable avoidance training was undertaken by most Operatives, with the remainder of Operatives and North East Lindsey's contractor booked early in the new year.

Manual handling, fire awareness, and working at height refreshers are booked for later this year for all staff members [early December].

Policies and Procedures

Procedures:

- Display Screen Equipment – to include agile working, review of DSE home/office.
- Fire – review of fire policy.
- Young Persons – including RA for young people on work experience.

Emergency Planning:

- FloodEx (National) – WHDB were involved in Lincolnshire & Humberside exercise 14th-18th November 2022.
- Emergency Plan (EP-001) in draft,
- Emergency Procedures Manual (EP-002), in draft with annexes for additional information e.g., loss of utilities, pandemic, fuel, COMAH etc.
- Emergency Flood plan (EP-003) is being reviewed – any lessons learned during National FloodEx, following the debrief, will be incorporated

Corporate Risk:

- The Corporate Risk Register will be reviewed for January 2023.

Risk Assessments / SSOW:

- Board Annual Inspection 20.09.22
- Review RAF4 001 Clearing Dykes
- Review RAF4 005 Use of wheeled and tracked vehicles
- Review RAF4 002 & SSOW lone working
- Review RAF4 General workshop & SSOW Welding and allied processes
- Fire Risk Assessments (and packs) for all Boards

Proactive workstreams:

- Risk matters – 2 sent out to cover pertinent H&S matters (July / November).
- Ongoing visits to Depots/sites to work with our Teams and provide the opportunity to raise any queries as they may arise.

Members received, discussed and noted the Health and Safety report and update.

59.22 Environment Update.

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

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. This report sets out the agreements and achievements of the Board's environmental activities from November 2021 to November 2022.

Following feedback from the September Board meetings the Board have contacted our partners at the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership which holds records on all species sightings within Greater Lincolnshire dating back to the mid-1900s. This data is collected through a variety of sources with the Boards operation teams being trained to use iRecord which is an app on their tablets and allows for species recording while out in the field. This data then goes to the records centre where it can be sent to the Board and annual species updates will be quantified in the future September Board

meetings. These records will highlight any changes to targeted priority species within the Boards district over the year. The American mink, neovison vison, is a highly damaging, invasive, non-native species. They were originally imported for fur-farming, but escapes and releases from the 1950s to 1990s have led to mink becoming widespread in the UK. Mink are active predators, feeding on anything they are big enough to catch, including ground-nesting birds and our native water voles, which are now under threat of extinction. A female mink will have one litter with between four and six young each year so, in the absence of predators, as in the UK, numbers can soon increase (Operation Water Vole, GLNP). Because of this IDB's and environmental groups across Lincolnshire are greatly concerned that increasing Mink numbers will decimate native endangered species which will undo much of the good work we as a Board are doing. A Mink strategy group for Lincolnshire has been setup with the Boards' Environmental Officer attending group. Mink traps are focussed on Southern Lincolnshire with the strategy group keen to expand the trapping efforts across more of the County. In order to do this volunteers are required to both identify key areas as well as dispatching of the mink once the remote trap has been triggered. If any member knows of any mink trapping efforts that would be open to assisting in the mink trapping strategy please get in touch with the 4 Boards' Environmental Officer (nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk).

ADA have recently released a guide to be used as a reference for anyone associated with Drainage Boards aimed at delivering water level management and an improved environment, as part of everyday working. As a Board Member, you are both part of the democratic framework of the country representing the interests of your community, and the long and eventful history of living and working with water in lowland England. This guide will help you understand more about your role and the difference you can make (ADA Good Governance Guide, 2022). There will be guides available at the Board meetings with more guides in the office which we would be happy to share if anyone would like more information. You can download a copy here: <https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/environment/>

60.22 Operations Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services, in the absence of the Director of Operations.

It is expected that Operatives will finish summer maintenance around Christmas time and winter work at Upper Witham comprises Reforming on Cammeringham Drain, Somerby Drain and Staple Drain. Bushing work is required on these watercourses as well as sections of the river Brant.

PSCA bushing work for the EA is confirmed on the River Witham from Meadow Lane [by the depot] to the Witham Washlands.

Burton Pumping Station

Burton Weed screen is still ongoing, the work will be undertaken once the outfall is desilted. The silt has built up, preventing the outfall being dammed off.

Sandsyke Pumping Station

The second pump is away for refurbishment but due to be returned and recommissioned imminently.

Saxilby Pumping Station

The discharge pipe is still awaiting repair, a problem having been found with the pipe, but the pump is still serviceable and in use.

Plant and Machinery

The JCB tracked machine had unwanted visitors during the night of 08th November 2022. Thankfully, they did no damage and only took a chain and shackle from one of the lockers.

There is no update on the Spearhead Flail, we have agreed to meet with Irelands Farm Machinery, the sales company, and Spearhead, the importer, when we have finished using the machine this season to discuss the options for repair of the cracked rear chassis. The manufacturer, Energreen, is in Italy.

PSCA Works 2022/23 for the EA.

We have undertaken most of the agreed PSCA summer works, with just minor works left to finish. We did lose some second flailing cuts on Witham Third DIDB due to the grass not really growing sufficiently after the first cuts in this dry summer 2022, and we have been asked to deliver some additional flailing in Witham Third and Upper Witham districts for which we had not quoted the EA.

We have quoted the EA for winter bushing work in North East Lindsey and in Upper Witham Districts. We are still waiting for confirmation of the North East Lindsey work but do have confirmation that the Upper Witham quote has been accepted. There is a site meeting to look at another section for bushing works in the Upper Witham district.

Members received and NOTED the Operations report and update.

61.22 Lincoln Water Transfer Report

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

Lincoln Water Transfer Ltd is a consortium of landowners who manage EA agreed water abstraction levels on a pooled basis, to mutual benefit each summer season and ensuring compliance with the terms of EA joint licencing to them. In practice they each monitor and complete water use data, submitting this weekly to Upper Witham IDB staff. The Board's staff perform an administrative co-ordinating role for Lincoln Water Transfer Ltd and the Board's costs of so doing are reimbursed each year. In addition, as required the Board's operational staff are commissioned to undertake chemical spraying by boat and this too is a cost reimbursed to the Board.

This season, abstraction began on 22nd April 2022 and continued right through until 14th October. The members abstracted a total of 522,989m³ of water out of the 581,437m³ available to them, making this year the highest abstraction record to date. This was caused by the extremely dry weather endured this season. 100% of the pool water was used this year with frequent requests for members to give up more of their allocations taking place throughout the season.

This year the Board's Pumping Stations were operated as follows:

Summer settings March/April - Mid October/Early Nov

TRANSFERS

Both Oxpasture and Saxilby's Transfer Pipes were opened this season due to the dry weather endured. Final figures were:

Fossdyke Nav to IDB system	m³
Oxpasture PS	309,146
Saxilby PS	185,868
Total	495,014
R Trent to Fossdyke Nav	
Torksey	4,480,000

LICENCE RETURNS

The licence return to the EA were completed online in November.

ABSTRACTION RATES

Abstraction began the week commencing 22nd April and ended the week commencing 14th October 2022 with a dip in abstraction on week commencing 03rd June. Peak abstraction occurred week commencing 22nd July with 47,304m³ of water being abstracted by the members that week. 169,300m³ of water was given up to the pool at the start of the season with 73,490m³ given during when calls for water were made. 100% of this water was taken up by various members however, it was noted that members should only take water from the pool when needed and not take lump sums in anticipation of needing the water. There were 7 members using their own allocations this year and 4 licences that had secondary users.

The following table provided a breakdown of abstraction from each area within the scheme over the last 5 years. Saxilby has such a low abstraction figure compared to its transfer figure due to the topping up of the Skellingthorpe/Burton system through the weir/penstock structure on Saxilby Pump Drain East:

<u>Catchment</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2015)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2016)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2017)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2018)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2019)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2020)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2021)</u> m ³	<u>Amount Abstracted (2022)</u> m ³
Oxpasture Outfall	52,100	38,800	29,340	77,928	127140	129398	106685	140045
Oxpasture	72,746	78,266	57,775	225,155	140632	271461	239393	292409
Burton	28,840	6,220	1,450	43,140	45500	42110	63220	88910
Saxilby	13,833	36,650	1,200	4,246	0	7936	0	1595
Total	167,519	160,936	89,765	350,469	313,272	450,905	409,298	522989

POTATO BROWN ROT

The Board carried out boat spraying along the Fosdyke Canal on 23rd and 24th June, using 2L of chemical to reduce the spread of Woody Nightshade. The cost of the spraying to the Lincoln Water Transfer Company currently stands at £2,850.

FLOWMETERS

Last season, Oxpasture's flow meter was calibrated by Alba Instrumentation Limited at a cost of £500 to the Lincoln Water Transfer Company in order to comply with the licence requirements. This will need to be calibrated again in 2026 before the season begins.

Saxilby's flow meter was also replaced last season as it was inconclusive as to whether the transducers had broken or just the flow meter monitor. It was decided that a completely new system would be best, as the previous one was still the original. This was also charged to the Lincoln Water Transfer Company at a cost of £2,735 and will also need to be calibrated in 2026 before the season begins.

This year was an extremely busy yet successful year for the Lincoln Water Transfer Scheme, with all parties working and communicating well to manage allocation of water resources. It would be appreciated if members returned their weekly returns before 4:30pm on Thursdays, for the Board's staff to complete the weekly returns to the EA promptly.

Members received and noted the Lincoln Water Transfer Report.

62.22 Engineering Report.

The Engineering Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Engineering and Technical Services, Guy Hird.

Local Resilience Forum (LRF)

'FloodEx2022' was a significant National, Regional and local simulation exercise involving all the LRFs along the Trent Catchment as well as all the East Coast LRFs, covering both Tidal and Fluvial Flooding.

The week-long exercise took place from 14th to 18th November 2022, having been postponed from the original 19th-22nd September, because of the death of Her late Majesty the Queen.

The exercise tested the interaction between LRFs including the Humber which is also looking at a scenario like the east coast tidal event in 2013. For our 4 Drainage Boards the relevant LRFs are the Humber LRF, the Lincolnshire LRF and Nottinghamshire LRF.

It gave 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 District Council are

met [and IDB costs may not trigger such]. There is no funding mechanism available post-emergency response phase for the recovery phase of an incident. 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 issue in the National Forum.

The Recovery Phase of the Flood event was also included in the exercise, for Humber this is on the Thursday and for Lincolnshire on the Friday. The 4 Boards' Officers were involved and took the opportunity to highlight the complete lack of post-event funding available and the difficulties any Drainage Board is likely to face.

A debrief will follow for Lincolnshire LRF on the 09th December 2022.

North Hykeham Relief Road, NHRR (Southern Bypass Link)

This is a proposed new highway to complete the Bypass around Lincoln from the A46 to the A15. A meeting was held with Lincolnshire County Council Highways, they have confirmed that the proposed scheme has been approved and a tender will be awarded as a Design and Build contract. It is expected some initial works to be carried out on site in 2025 with the main works commencing in 2026. The route affects six Upper Witham IDB watercourses as well as the River Witham. Periodic meetings are due to be held with LCC and consultants to ensure the proposals have minimal impact on the Board. The route extends beyond the Upper Witham district into the extended area and then into the extended area of Witham First DIDB.

There has been information in press, LCC have selected Balfour Beatty on a Design and Build contract. A planning application is expected to be submitted during 2023. Start on site is programmed for 2025 and it is hoped it will open in 2028.

The cost is between £179m and £212m with Department for Transport funding of £110 and the rest from LCC and developer contributions.

An initial meeting was held with the consultant programme team and the EA with the main discussion on modelling of the drainage for normal day to day situation, the flood event scenario and a breach from the River Witham. This is to ensure there is no detriment post construction. There has been no further change since the September meeting.

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. Georgina Nichols, Capital Projects Officer for our 4 IDBs and 3 other Lincolnshire Boards, is working on a 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. There has been no progress or update since the September meeting.

Pyewipe Pumping Station

Work to refurbish this pumping station site began on 11th October 2022, with excavations for the foundation of the new control house. The concrete elements of the base slab and cable pit are now complete and work to form the building walls has begun. The pad foundations for the Old Electric automatic weedscreen cleaner have also been constructed.

The fabrication of the new motor control centre by Paktronic has also begun. The completed panels should be ready for delivery to site and commissioning by the end of March 2023.

It is programmed for the new weedscreen cleaner to be commissioned in February 2023. This element is to be funded by the developers of Western Growth Corridor, with Lindum due to confirm their £140-£150k S106 contribution at their Board meeting in January 2023, at which point Upper Witham will formally request their contribution.

Following an application for additional sums of FDGiA, a total of £553,171 has now been received for this work from the Environment Agency with further contributions from developers and the Board taking the total project cost to £713,171.

Additional work proposed to be undertaken at the same as that originally planned includes the refurbishment and relocation of the high voltage mains transformer. The relocating of the transformer will raise it above the Canal's defence level and reduce the risk of it flooding.

This work is due for completion before 31st March 2023.

Lincoln Flood Alleviation Scheme (UD-1077-2014-PRO)

Officers have been involved in detailed discussion with the EA concerning their proposals to automate the operation of this washlands scheme. The electrical control gear of the sites is due for replacement this financial year and the EA are to combine this with the provision of automation and remote operation through an improved telemetry system.

The thresholds of operation and the schemes effect upon the Board maintained systems and stations remains unchanged and will continue to be as previously agreed. Provisions have been made for inclusion by the EA, of the Board's telemetry system.

The works have now been completed and are operational. Upper Witham Officers and Operational Staff attended a joint Training session with the EA on the 20th October 2022.

A memorandum of understanding will be produced with the EA to provide clarity of operation of the FAS and the interaction with the Board.

Western Growth Corridor, WGC (UD-128-2013-PLN) (UD-4618-2019-PLN)

At the Board meeting in June 2013 the Board confirmed its objection in principle to the development within flood plain. However, it was agreed that Officers would continue to co-operate and take part in multi-agency meetings to safeguard the Board's interests and minimise the impact on the pumped drainage system maintained by the Board.

Periodic multiagency progress meetings continue to take place with Lindum, as the project lead.

At the meetings several topics had been discussed that relate to the Board including:

- Contributions for infrastructure
- Land Drainage and Byelaw consents
- Scheduling of watercourses by the Board

In addition to the main meetings a separate meeting with the EA and Lindum was held on the 20th October 2022. Lindum have started looking at the 'Earthworks Program' with the results available to the Board in early January 2023. This will map out how the excavation and fill will be carried out within the site, together with imported material to show how the ground profiles will change over time. It will include where and when the roads, housing, industrial and leisure areas will be phased and constructed over time. For the Board it will show when the various areas change from being Rated as agricultural land to other developed land and transferred to Special Levy. The first houses will be built south of the EA's Boultham Catchwater, which does not discharge into the district.

Once development (Phase A2 and A3) starts within the district the drainage will be in place for the water to discharge direct to Skellingthorpe Main Drain (Pyewipe Pumping Station), rather than the current arrangement of discharge into the catchment of Decoy Pumping Station.

A document will be produced setting out the drainage principles and requirements of the 23-year phased development of the site.

At the appropriate time Lindum will be able to give a presentation at a Board meeting, potentially this will be included at the January 2023 meeting [or May 2023].

Site works are due to start in April 2023.

Lincoln Water Transfer Limited (UD-5445-2021-GEN)

Following the dry start to the year it has continued to be dry and the transfer pipes at both Oxpasture and Saxilby have been open for extended periods. Most of the available water has been used and at times individual abstractors have run out of water. This has needed the 'pool' of water to be redistributed.

The Directors' meeting is due to be held in December 2022, and the AGM is due to be held at the end of January or early February 2023.

The licence period runs from 01st April to the 31st October.

Railway footpath level crossings to Pyewipe Pumping Station (UD-1363-2014-DRA)

The Board was approached by Network Rail to permanently close two footpath level crossings from Skellingthorpe Fen to Pyewipe Pumping Station over the railway. They are designated BHP3 and SPD3. This is following incidents of the current gates in the palisade fence being broken and trespassing occurring. The crossings are on a bend and are dangerous to use due to limited visibility.

At the November 2021 Board meeting it was agreed that the Board would accept the Network Rail offer to pay the Board £5,000 compensation and professional fees of £2,000 in order to relinquish this historical access route of 2 footpath crossings.

The Board's solicitor Sills and Betteridge and Network Rail's solicitor Addleshaw Goddard LLP have completed the agreement, it has been and signed/sealed and is with solicitors. It is due to be enacted when the trees which are obstructing the access to Pyewipe have been removed and trimmed back by Network Rail to the Board's satisfaction and we have confirmed this.

Members received and NOTED the report and update.

63.22 Planning and Consultations Report.

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

There were no recommendations to the Board on this occasion, the information within the report was for information.

The Board had received several consultations and commented on various planning applications to the different Local Planning Authorities [LPAs]. A full schedule was provided.

There were no issues to highlight to members on this occasion, the report was for information and noted.

64.22 Consents and Enforcements Report.

The Head of Engineering & Technical Services introduced the Consents and Enforcements Report which had been circulated with the agenda and set out the position, both within the drainage district and in the extended rainfall catchment where the Board acts for and on behalf of LCC, as the LLFA. For this Board, the consents had been steadily increasing since the last report, and the enforcement workload continues to increase:

A date is shown when the consent has been given, or an enforcement issue closed.

Byelaw Consent Applications:

No Consents received

Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District:

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
UD-6203-2022-CON	White House Farm, Manor Lane, Broadholme	Mr M Sullivan	Headwall for proposed surface water and foul treatment plant discharge	23/09/22
UD-6205-2022-CON	Near Ferry Lane, Skellingthorpe	National Grid Plc	Pipeline Repair – Enabling Works, Excavation in bank and temporary works	27/09/22

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
UE-6223-2022-CON	Black Lane, Doddington.	Laurel Developments	Treatment plant discharge with JKH Detector Range land drain outfall	26/10/22

Enforcement Issues – District:

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
UD-4851-2019-ENF	The Fosdyke Delph, Lincoln	Material restricting access	Awaiting site meeting with Network Rail.
UD-6102-2022-ENF	Newark Road, Lincoln.	Obstruction in road culvert.	Operations Team advised that the maintenance is not enforceable. CASE CLOSED ON 05/10/22.
UD-5789-2021-ENF	Adjacent to Fosdyke Navigation, Lincoln	Trees obstructing access to Pyewipe PS	Letter drop to residents completed and works have now commenced at this site (Canal and Rivers Trust also updated).
UD-5837-2021-ENF	Open watercourse, Brant Broughton	Potential obstruction and maintenance of riparian watercourse.	Works completed. (Relevant Councillor, Parish Council and Highways updated). CASE CLOSED ON 07/11/22.
UD-5846-2021-ENF	Watercourse adjacent to A46	Potentially obstructed watercourse adjacent to A46 by-pass.	National Highways are awaiting the necessary funding to complete the necessary, extensive works.
UD-6206-2022-ENF	The Clays, Brant Broughton	Blocked culvert and roadside watercourse	Site visited with Highways and contractors. The culvert has collapsed and works to replace it will commence in March 2023. Downstream end of the roadside watercourse requires clearing prior to this date. Landowner is aware.
UD-6011-2022-ENF	Morrison's Car Park, Tritton Road	Maintenance access blocked by single storey building	Request for update re potential date for

			structure to be re-located.
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Enforcement Issues – Extended Area:

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

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
UE-5866-2021-ENF	Loveden Beck, Denton	Potentially obstructed watercourse – outfall submerged.	Section 19 investigation completed and there are no recommendations/actions for any enforcement (landowner has undertaken some works within the watercourse). CASE CLOSED ON 22/09/22.
UE-5422-2020-ENF	Bulby Lane Fulbeck	Potentially obstructed watercourse	Works completed and site re-visited to confirm. CASE CLOSED ON 05/10/22
UE-5757-2021-ENF	Carlton Road, Sudbrook	Flooding in the village, potential obstruction in watercourse.	Works completed. CASE CLOSED ON 02/09/22
UE-6215-2022-ENF	Roseland Business Park, Long Bennington	Fence erected within byelaw distance	Site visited with landowner who will instruct tenant to remove the fence.
UE-5836-2021-ENF	Linga Lane, Lincoln Road	Potential flooding	This case is a matter for Highways – awaiting further update from that Department.
UE-6220-2022-ENF	Woodhall Road, Tattershall Thorpe	Beck potentially blocked	Site visited. Watercourse requires some maintenance, no apparent blockages. Landowner advised re riparian responsibilities. No further action required. CASE CLOSED ON 02/11/22
UE-6226-2022-ENF	Main Street, North Carlton	Possible issues re outfall/watercourse	This is a re-occurring case. Site re-visited. Highways Department has been notified and they will undertake an investigation prior to any enforcement action at this time.

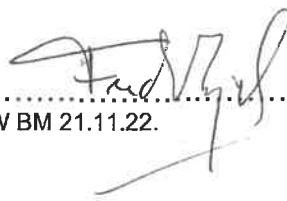
Members received and NOTED the report on consents and enforcement cases.

65.22 Any Other Business.

There were no further items of business and the meeting closed at 16:30.

66.22 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Monday, 23rd January 2023 at 2pm in Witham House.

 Chairman. 23/1/23 Date
UW BM 21.11.22.

