



# Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

## TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

# Meeting Minutes

13 September 2022

Venue: CIWEM, 106-109 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8QS

Remote Access: Microsoft Teams

## APPROVED

Invited					
Name	Role and organisation	Present	Name	Role and organisation	Present
Chris Manning (CM)	Environmental Officer, WMC & Doncaster East IDB	Y	Martin Shilling (MS)	Head of Technical & Engineering Services, Witham & Humber Drainage Boards	Apol.
David Thomas (DT)	Chief Executive, Middle Level Commissioners	Y	Mat Jackson (MJ)	West Sussex County Council	Y
Diana Ward (DW)	Ecologist for Ely and Bedford Groups of IDBs	Y	James Addicott (JA)	Engineering & Standards - Policy Manager, Environment Agency	Y
Tom O'Keeffe (TO)	Natural England	Y	<b>Trevor Purliant (TP)</b>	<b>Committee Chairperson</b>	Y
Andy Morrirt (AM)	Principle Contracts Manager, Coal Authority	Y	Sofi Lloyd (SL)	Committee Secretary / Technical Officer, ADA	Y
Robert Caudwell (RC)	Chairperson, ADA	Apol.	Ian Moodie (IM)	Technical Manager, ADA	Y
Phil Camamile (PC)	Chief Executive, Water Management Alliance	Apol.	Tim Farr (TF)	Chairperson, ADA P&F Committee	Apol.
Dan Martin (DM)	Asset Manager, Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Boards	Y	Innes Thomson (IT)	Chief Exec – ADA	Apol.
Ed Johnson (EJ)	Chief Engineer, Witham Fourth District IDB	Y	Peter Bateson (PB)	Company Secretary, ADA / Chief Executive, Witham Fourth District IDB	Apol.
Gary Leatherbarrow (GL)	Sales Director, Bedford Pumps Ltd	Y	James Yarham (JY)	FCRM Senior Advisor, Environment Agency	Y
Oliver Pantry (OP)	Clerk, Upper Medway IDB	Y			

Ref	Minutes
	<b>Formalities, Regular Topics &amp; Updates</b>
1669	<b>In memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</b> Committee members stood for a minute's silence in remembrance.
1670	<b>Apologies received and welcome to new members</b> TP welcomed everyone to the meeting & put forward apologies for non-attendance.
1671	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None noted.
1672	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> Minutes of the Committee's previous meeting held on 25 May 2022 were approved.

<p><b>1673</b></p>	<p><b>Action Log</b>  Actions progress were detailed in the log circulated.</p> <p>Items noted:</p> <p><b>IM:</b> Educational resources completed and workstream closed, a digital recording of the training module would be published before the end of 2022.</p> <p><b>EJ:</b> Sediment monitoring note to be sent to SL.</p> <p><b>IM:</b> Cybersecurity policy to be developed through ADA Policy &amp; Finance Committee.</p> <p><b>IM:</b> Article in ADA Gazette regarding accessibility criteria included in Summer 2022 edition.</p> <p><b>IM:</b> Checklist of content for IDB websites to be completed through ADA Policy &amp; Finance Committee.</p>
<p><b>1674</b></p>	<p><b>Water resource security &amp; volumetric data</b></p> <p><b>SL:</b> There have been an increasing number of requests to provide volumetric flow data from IDBs from: developers, energy providers, water companies, planning authorities etc. Cranfield University was putting together a funding bid related to farming productivity and security, including water resources. ADA has agreed to be a partner in the project if funding is forthcoming.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the value of gathering volumetric flow data from pumping stations and outfalls.</p> <p><b>CM:</b> Noted that some data was already there for a lot of modern stations, but not necessarily in an accessible form.</p> <p><b>AM:</b> Agreed that there was a strong wider demand for data. Coal Authority was being pushed for more granular and more accurate data. Important to have more meaningful data as we move towards times of greater water stress, so better to act now.</p> <p><b>DT:</b> Telemetry is fairly flexible, telemetry suppliers should be able to do the maths to roughly quantify volumes on a periodic basis. Would welcome grant funding to do that.</p> <p><b>AM:</b> Had started to go down the average head route, but not as accurate as required for water quality. Should encourage putting a flow meter in the discharge pipeline as standard in new build and refurbished pumping stations. Cost max. £5-6,000 per pump.</p> <p><b>EJ:</b> End of year look at pump hours to calculate volumes pumped. New pumping station at Wrangle, could incorporate something within the design. Information on what should be included within the station's telemetry.</p> <p><b>DM:</b> cost of gathering and managing data will need to be met. Possible to get information, but a question of where does this duty sit. What are the implications of IDBs having greater responsibilities for water retention and drought management in lowlands.</p> <p><b>DT:</b> Holes within the Land Drainage Act 1991 to properly integrate the modern role and function of a modern IDB. Piece of work to scope the roles and functions an IDB should carry. Will hold industry back without legal impetus. Describe the powers needed, including financing water retention works, consistency of approach etc.</p> <p><b>SL:</b> Funding and legislative basis are the challenge. Looking at those places where that data is not available. How easy is it to manipulate this data.</p> <p><b>CM:</b> Links to wider discussion on how IDBs correlate rainfall with pumping. Moving to</p>

	<p>smart meters instead of simply off peak tariffs will often be pumping when energy cost is low and when the head differential is favourable. Suggests need for a ‘Smart Pumping’ R&amp;D project.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> AM to send information to EJ on flow meter telemetry systems used.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> ADA to develop scope for a ‘Smart Pumping’ research and development project and/or workstream.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> ADA to consider legislative gaps within Land Drainage Act 1991 to meet IDBs role as lowland water managers in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</p>
1675	<p><b>Drought &amp; abstraction challenges</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed challenges to IDBs during the drought period around irrigation licencing, abstraction, increasing salinity, and communication with irrigators, policing hands off levels when farmers irrigating when they should not.</p> <p>MJ: In West Sussex pressures on ordinary watercourses are the unlicenced small abstractions.</p> <p>DT: Penalties for breaking abstraction rules are not sufficiently prohibitive for highly productive agriculture when compared with losses from produce being grown.</p> <p>CM: EA consult with IDB surface water abstraction regime is overly complex.</p> <p>SL: Guidance for IDBs around topics responsibilities for testing water, who is responsible for the damage, how to check report over-abstraction.</p> <p>DW: Resilience projects, two stage channels, lack of water main issue, guidance and projects considering system of flood storage areas. Would support ADA making case for provisioning capital investment towards strategic catchment management focused on water resources management, especially in lowland systems.</p>
1676	<p><b>Workstream Updates</b></p> <p><b>a) Environmental</b></p> <p>SL highlighted the publication of the Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs. The Committee discussed the plan and structure for a training workshop associated with the guidance. There was a request for a podcast version to be produced that could be downloaded and listened to by board members at their convenience.</p> <p><b>b) Climate and carbon</b></p> <p>SL provided a brief update. ADA will continue to promote and support IDBs to begin to understand their own carbon footprint by using the Carbon Accounting Guide, published by ADA. And work on a policy and vision for carbon reduction by IDBs would commence in the autumn.</p> <p><b>c) Data and evidence</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed the data that could be collected either via the annual IDB1 process, or within the biodiversity metrics survey. There was particular focus on data related to energy and carbon.</p> <p><b>d) Managing channel sedimentation</b></p> <p>SL was organising a workshop with Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) regional manager and officers, Board members and IDBs in the Humber region to discuss the CSF and stewardship options and approaches currently available, relevant to the management or water levels. SL was now representing ADA on a steering group for the development of ELMS and a Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisory Group.</p>
1677	<p><b>Updates</b></p>

	<p><b>a) Health, Safety &amp; Welfare</b> A draft of the HS&amp;W survey had been issued to H&amp;S Committee members for review prior to distribution later in 2022.</p> <p><b>b) EUWMA</b> EUWMA had recently held its annual meeting in Oostende, Belgium on 11–13 September.</p> <p><b>c) ADA Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA was set to hold its next All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting on 18 October to discuss ELMS's potential to deliver benefits to flood and drought risk management. ADA's Annual General Meeting would be held online on 28 September.</li> <li>• The meeting was to be followed by a meeting of IDB Clerks on 12 October.</li> <li>• ADA Annual Water Management Conference to be held on 9 November, at the Hive, Nocton, Lincs.</li> <li>• Full go-ahead had been given for Flood &amp; Water Live 2023 at a special ADA Board meeting in June. Sales were going well.</li> </ul>
1678	<p><b>P&amp;F Updates</b> The Committee received an update on the previous (May) and upcoming (September) P&amp;F Committee meetings. Topics focused on the financial pressures facing risk management authorities.</p>
1679	<p><b>ADA Board Updates</b> The Committee received a brief update following the previous meeting of ADA's Board of Directors on 6 July 2022.</p>
1680	<p><b>AOB</b> TP confirmed that ADA would be seeking a new chair for the Committee in 2023 as he will be standing down having complete three terms of three years each.</p>
	<p><b>Close of meeting</b></p>