

# Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held on Thursday, 24th May 2012, at The Showground, Winthorpe.

## *Elected Members*

- Messrs R.N.J.S. Price (Chairman)
- \* W.J. Staunton (Vice-Chairman)
- \* A. Arden
- \* T.H. Farr
- \* A. Howick
- \* R.J. Jackson
- D. Loates
- \* J. Miller
- \* R.R. Oates
- S. Richardson
- J. Strawson
- \* R. Warburton (Vice-Chairman)

## *Nominated Members*

- Bassetlaw DC
- \* Messrs J. Bowler
- I. Davies
- \* Cllr J.B. Rickells
- Newark and Sherwood DC
- Cllrs D. Payne
- I. Walker
- B. Wells
- \* Mrs S. Michael
- Rushcliffe DC
- Cllrs J. Cranswick
- \* R. Hetherington
- \* N.C. Lawrence
- \* P. Smith
- Gedling/Melton BCs
- \* Cllr P. Key
- West Lindsey and North Kesteven DCs
- Vacancy

\* Present

- \* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- \* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- \* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- \* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- \* M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)
- \* P. Baines (Rating and Administration Officer)
- \* Mrs J. Bradley (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust)
- \* Miss C. O'Brien (Administration Assistant)

\* In attendance

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs S. Richardson and R.N.J.S. Price.

Mr W.J. Staunton chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr Price. He welcomed Miss C. O'Brien (the newly appointed Administration Assistant) to the meeting.

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## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to discuss attendance at the Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch Annual General Meeting under any other business.

4. BOARD MINUTES

It was noted that Mr P. Smith had given his apologies for the last meeting. It was also noted that all nominated members with the exception of Messrs J. Bowler and I. Davies were councillors and in future would be referred to as such in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board held on 3rd April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Chief Executive reported that all rate demands had now been issued. Collections to date totalled £311,721 leaving £1,104,986 outstanding at 16th May 2012.

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7. FINANCE

7:1 Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2012

The Director of Finance presented the attached accounts for Newark Area, Laneham, Kingston Brook and Fairham Brook Internal Drainage Boards. He also presented a set of management accounts which had been produced in line with FRSEE accounting standards for members' information. The Chief Executive explained that although the Board was not required to produce these they ensured a good standard of accounting practice and demonstrated that the Board had robust procedures in place.

Newark accounts for the year showed a net surplus of £117,679; £90,449 favourable to budget. A very dry year had resulted in large savings on electricity and maintenance costs, which were enhanced by savings on administration costs and extra rating income. Drain maintenance costs were still on budget despite an unbudgeted gratuity payment of £100 for every year of service being paid to a retiring employee in line with the Board's current policy.

Laneham accounts showed a net surplus of £136,567; £32,892 higher than the previous year, (after the transfer in 2011 of £25,000 to the New Works Account). The Director of Finance explained that this was mainly due to reduced pumping station costs in the dry year. Year end debtors totalled £23,658, £140.80 of which was outstanding drainage rates. Year end creditors and accruals amounted to £50,847. The balance in the bank at the year end was £482,848.

Kingston Brook accounts showed a net deficit of £20,285; £33,845 lower than the previous year. The Director of Finance reported that this was due mainly to increased

maintenance costs in the year of £23,565. Year end debtors totalled £4,823 and creditors and accruals totalled £620. The amount in the bank at the end of the year was £61,195.

Fairham Brook accounts showed a net surplus of £8,465; £6,830 lower than the previous year. The Director of Finance reported that this was due mainly to decreased maintenance costs of £7,417. Year end debtors totalled £26,775, £61 of which was in respect of outstanding drainage rates. Year end creditors and accruals totalled £10,899 the majority of which was from Foreign Water income received in advance. The amount in the bank at the end of the year was £26,141.

Approval of the accounts was proposed and seconded as follows:

Newark Area - Mr T.H. Farr and Cllr Mrs S. Michael.  
Laneham - Mr D. Loates and Mr R. Warburton.  
Fairham Brook - Mr A. Howick and Cllr R. Hetherington.  
Kingston Brook - Cllr R. Hetherington and Cllr P. Smith.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached Newark Area Internal Drainage Board accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved.
- (b) That the attached Laneham Internal Drainage Board accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved.
- (c) That the attached Fairham Brook Internal Drainage Board accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved.
- (d) That the attached Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Board accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved.

7:2 Annual Governance Statement and Review of the Effectiveness of Systems of Internal Control

The Director of Finance stated that internal drainage boards were obligated to complete an Annual Governance Statement and to maintain an adequate system of internal control reviewing it's effectiveness, before submitting the Annual Return.

It was noted that during the year no fraud or corruption had been detected or reported on any of the constituent boards and the Internal Auditor had answered Yes to all points on the Annual Returns. In light of this the Board was satisfied that current internal control systems were adequate and effective for all the boards.

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7:3 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit had been completed for the Newark Area, Laneham, Fairham Brook and Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Boards and the attached summary reports were circulated for consideration. It was proposed by Mr J. Strawson and seconded by Cllr I. Walker that these be approved.

RESOLVED

That the attached Internal Audit reports for the Newark Area, Laneham, Fairham Brook and Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Boards be approved.

7:4 Annual Returns

The attached Annual Returns for the Newark Area, Laneham, Fairham Brook and Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Boards were to be presented for consideration, approval and submission to the External Auditor for completion.

RESOLVED

That the attached Annual Returns for the Newark Area, Laneham, Fairham Brook and Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Boards be approved for signature by the relevant Chairman/Board Member.

7:5 Cash Reserves and Investments

The Director of Finance gave the following breakdown of investments.

	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Interest Rate</i>	<i>Access</i>
Nat West Current A/c NAIDB	£10,000.00	0.00%	Instant
Nat West Res A/c NAIDB	£104,056.64	0.25%	Instant
Nat West Direct A/c NAIDB	£450,000.00	1.30%	Instant
Laneham IDB Bank A/c	£482,848.08		
Kingston Brook IDB Bank A/c	£61,195.00		
Fairham Brook IDB Bank A/c	£26,141.43		
	<u>£1,134,241.15</u>		

The Director of Finance reported that applications had been made to open accounts with the Beverley Building Society (1.85% instant access), Santander (2.00% instant access) and Monmouthshire Building Society (2.00% 30 day notice for access) to spread the risk. In response to Mr J. Strawson, the Director of Finance confirmed that the credit rating of all banks/building societies was checked prior to any money being deposited.

He further reported that, following completion of the constituent boards' accounts, all balances would be transferred to a new account in the name of Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board; £400,000 had already been received on account from Laneham IDB and this had been transferred to the Direct Reserve Account.

RESOLVED

That the Board open accounts with the Beverley Building Society, Santander and Monmouthshire Building Society and deposit balances equally between the three.

7:6 Borrowings

The Director of Finance reported that one loan remained outstanding for the Case tractor purchased in November 2011. The initial loan of £30,036 had been taken out over a period of two years with 0% interest.

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7:7 Settled Accounts

The attached list of payments made by Newark Area IDB between 1st January 2012 and 31st March 2012 was circulated for information.

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8. OPERATIONS

8:1 The Director of Operations gave the following update:

(a) Maintenance Works

Major tree and bush clearing works had been completed, however, commencement of the construction period had been delayed due to wet weather. Weedcutting of watercourses was progressing well with more work being undertaken than in previous years.

The Environment Agency's (EA) Main River Maintenance Contract had been completed and confirmation had been received that this would continue for 2012/13. The EA, however, would be going out to tender for vegetation removal in all its watercourses and Officers had submitted a pre-qualification questionnaire to ensure that all the boards within the Consortium were on the list of approved contractors. The Board's officers were actively engaged with the EA on this matter and would keep members informed.

A programme of herbicide spraying of watercourses commenced in October 2011 on watercourses where access was severely restricted. This had proved very successful and would be increased for 2012 subject to obtaining the relevant licences.

(b) Direct Labour Organisation

A minor reorganisation of the workforce was undertaken following the amalgamation to take into account new working methods and the increased area. Mr T. Stapleton had been appointed as Pumping Station attendant for the Board's 18 stations with support from Mr K. Hill. An advertisement for a labourer would be placed at the end of May with a view to appoint a suitable candidate in late July 2012.

(c) Vehicle Theft

The Board's Ford Transit truck with Hiab Crane was stolen from Torksey Depot on Tuesday 1st May 2012. The vehicle was found by the police at a farm in Newton on Trent, however, it had been burnt out following removal of the engine/gearbox and crane. A suitable replacement vehicle was being sought; this might not be a like for like replacement but would meet the current needs of the Board.

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8:2 Replacement of CAT 432E 180 Excavator

Consideration was given to replacing the CAT 432E 180° excavator with a wheeled 360° excavator and a trailer for vegetation removal at pumping stations. The Director of Finance reported that, if agreed, this would obviate the need to use the Upper Witham IDB as sub-contractors which had cost the Board in excess of £100,000 over the last five years.

Financial implications were presented and are summarised as follows:

- (a) Expected Life: 10 Years
- (b) Capital Cost: £85,000 unbudgeted. (Trade-in estimated at £27,000)
- (c) Annual Savings: £17,639
- (d) Net Present Value @ 2%: £96,997
- (e) Payback: 3.97 Years

The Director of Finance stated that, if approved, this purchase could be funded from balances or by a Manufacturer subsidised Hire Purchase. The Director of Operations reported that the capital cost could be reduced if a suitable second-hand machine with low hours could be sourced. He stated that he had found a second-hand 11 ton Terex machine for £68,000 which looked suitable and was still small enough to get under cables. The Operations Manager stated that a wheeled excavator would be particularly useful when working on the road as there would be no requirement for a road closure notice. He explained that requirements had changed since the Cat was first purchased, i.e. more weedcutting was being undertaken. The Director of Operations confirmed that the Terex machine was large enough and fast enough to travel and be used throughout the whole of the Board's area.

Regarding the purchase of a trailer, the Director of Operations confirmed that the trailer would be used to collect weed from all the Board's pumping stations and would also be utilised for construction projects.

It was proposed by Mr R.R. Oates and seconded by Mr A. Arden that the Board proceed with the purchase of the Terex excavator and a new trailer.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board purchase an 11 ton excavator at a cost of £68,000 to be funded from balances.
- (b) That the Board purchase a new trailer at a cost of £12,000 to be funded from balances.

8:3 Energreen Proposal

Members would view a demonstration of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board's Energreen ILF 1500 on the tour following the meeting. The Operations Manager confirmed that the Board's Direct Labour Organisation had viewed and tested this machine and spoken with the driver. He confirmed that the Energreen was faster than the tractor and flail and would be worth considering instead of the budgeted tractor and flail.

The Director of Operations reported that the Energreen machine had the flexibility to be used for flail mowing, weedcutting and de-silting. It also had an output of 0.63 km

per hour compared to the tractor and flail of 0.31 km/hr. It was noted that a year old 140hp second-hand ex-demo machine which had completed 1,300 hours was for sale by Lower Severn IDB at a cost of around £88,000.

The Director of Finance presented the financial implication of purchasing this second-hand machine instead of the budgeted tractor/flail and these are summarised as follows:

- (a) Expected Life: Ten Years (with flail refurbishment at five years)
- (b) Capital Cost: £88,000, with a flail refurbishment at five years at a cost of £10,000. (A trade in of £36,500 was not included in the calculations as it would be achieved under both scenarios. Budget £110,500 gross £73,500 net)
- (c) Annual Total Extra Cost: £2,733 (compared to a tractor and Bomford)
- (d) Net Present Value @ 2%: £570,717 (compared to the equivalent output of two tractors and four Bomfords)
- (e) Payback: Immediate (as the Energreen cost is less than the equivalent output with two tractors and four Bomfords)
- (f) Flailing Output: 5Km/8 Hrs (tractor and Bomford 2.5km/8hrs)
- (g) Flailing Cost: 5.83 p/m (tractor and Bomford cost 10.86 p/m)

If approved, the net capital cost of the Energreen (£53,000) could be funded from the net budgeted expenditure of £73,500.

In response to members, officers confirmed that the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board had now used the Energreen for three seasons and the Board and operatives were extremely satisfied with the work and the speed with which it was undertaken. Around a dozen or so machines were now being used by internal drainage boards in the U.K. Some of the reasons the Energreen was faster included the ability to cut whilst travelling forwards or backwards (it had a rotating cab and flail head), increased visibility (which also had health and safety benefits), and also a larger cutting head. Officers did, however, state that tractors would always be required as they could be utilised for other jobs. Officers had visited the Energreen factory and been impressed with the quality of the machine. The Chief Executive assured members that, although this was an Italian manufactured machine, there were firms in the U.K. to provide repairs and spare parts. New machines also came with a guaranteed buy back after five years and this was also the case with the second-hand machine being considered.

Mr T.H. Farr suggested that a faster machine could be useful now that the window for undertaking weedcutting works was smaller. From what he had heard, he agreed that the purchase of an Energreen would be a positive step for the Board and a way to increase output. He was satisfied that the purchase could be justified on that basis as long as members were satisfied with the performance of the machine after viewing it that afternoon. The Chief Executive suggested that members speak to the Direct Labour Organisation to get their views before making a final decision.

It was proposed by Mr R.R. Oates and seconded by Mr N.C. Lawrence that the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen be granted delegated authority to agree the purchase of an Energreen machine subject to a satisfactory demonstration that afternoon.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen be granted delegated

authority to agree the purchase of an Energreen machine subject to a satisfactory demonstration that afternoon, the cost of the purchase to be funded in lieu of the net budgeted expenditure of £73,500 for the tractor and flail.

#### 8:4 Pumping Stations

The Director of Operations reported that following the drought situation declared at the beginning of April, pumping levels had been put over to summer operating, however, with rainfall in excess of 150mm during April they were returned to winter operating levels.

It was noted that teams had been called out on two consecutive weekends to monitor pumps, remove debris and deal with minor problems. The penstock at Fledborough Pumping Station was now working, however, there was still a minor issue with the panel to be resolved.

Following the theft at Torksey, Officers confirmed that security measures were being reviewed at all pumping stations with a view to considering the installation of cameras and proximity sensors.

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#### 8:5 Conservation

It was noted that since the update of the Wildlife Survey Forms and the distribution of the Invasive Species leaflet, sightings were already being recorded onto databases.

The Chief Executive enquired whether the Invasive Species leaflet could be copied for use by other Lincolnshire Internal Drainage Boards. Mrs Bradley confirmed that the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust would have no objections.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be given authority to reproduce the Invasive Species leaflets for other Lincolnshire Internal Drainage Boards.

#### 8:6 Rainfall Reading

Rainfall recorded at Sturton in March totalled 40mm and in April 157.9mm.

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### 9. POLICY DOCUMENTS

The following documents had been presented to the Board in April and members were asked to inform officers if they had any queries or amendments:

Planning and Byelaw Policy  
Advice Note 1: Buildings, Structures, Planting and Fencing  
Advice Note 2: Culverts and Bridges  
Advice Note 3: Environmental Considerations  
Advice Note 4: Stability of Garden Fences Close to Board Maintained Watercourses  
Advice Note 5: Service Crossings



Advice Note 6: Surface Water  
Emergency Procedures  
Matters to be Reserved to the Board

The Chief Executive stated that no queries had been received and recommended that the documents be adopted. He stated that the Emergency Procedures would be monitored and updated regularly to ensure that appropriate cover/measures were in place and any changes would be notified to the Board.

It was proposed by Mr R. Warburton and seconded by Mr B. Wells that the documents be approved and adopted by the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Documents listed above be approved and adopted by the Board.

## 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 10:1 Applications Dealt with Under Delegated Authority

The Engineer presented a schedule detailing 23 applications that had been considered by officers since the last Board meeting under delegated authority. Appropriate observations had been made but no objections raised.

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### 10:2 Accessing Planning Information

Members were provided with a guide on how to access on-line planning information within the Board's district. One minor amendment was agreed; to include Nottinghamshire County Council.

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### 10:3 Development at Bingham

The Engineer reported that a planning application had been submitted to Ruschcliffe Borough Council to develop 91.10 hectares of land immediately north of Bingham on the east and west of Chapel Lane. The proposal included up to 1,000 houses, commercial uses and the provision of a primary school, health centre and a community centre.

As a significant part of the site was designated as Flood Zone 3, plans had been made to manage flows and flood risk within the Car Dyke Management Scheme which had already received consent from Rushcliffe Borough Council. The overall philosophy of the proposal was to manage existing flood waters within a designated corridor through the site; this would see 300 metres of the upstream end of the Car Dyke being realigned with flood berms on each bank and an overspill pond being constructed at the downstream end. The applicant further proposed to manage surface water run-off from the site using sustainable drainage systems including the provision of surface water attenuation ponds. The Engineer reported that the proposed Scheme would involve the diversion and culverting of approximately 250 metres of the Board maintained Car Dyke Branch. He stated that this would benefit the Board as the watercourse was currently very close to existing properties. In response to Mr T.H.

Farr, the Engineer confirmed that any excavated soil would be used to raise the site above the flood level. Mr R.R. Oates enquired whether there would be sufficient holding capacity for water to prevent flooding to existing properties. The Engineer stated that the proposals included more than adequate storage to mitigate for any that was lost by raising land levels and culverting of watercourses.

The developer had been advised of the level of detail that would be required to support such an application including maintenance of the Board's machinery access, technical design of the scheme, environmental surveys and legal agreements to preserve the Board's access to the new culvert. The Engineer confirmed that a dedicated access strip would be provided for the Board to enable maintenance to be undertaken in the future.

Officers reported that they had no objection to either application subject to the applicant obtaining the necessary bylaw consents from the Board prior to work commencing. The developer had contacted the Board's Officers to discuss the possibility of a phased approach to construction of the Car Dyke Management Scheme to allow commercial development to commence in the south west corner of the site.

The attached plans showing the existing site and the proposed indicative layout were circulated and a presentation of the overall flood risk management strategy was presented by officers.

Cllr P. Smith enquired whether the planning authorities were aware that they should consult the Board on applications. The Engineer stated that the Board was not a statutory consultee, however, he confirmed that officers did check all planning applications on-line and send comments to the relevant planning authority.

Cllr N.C. Lawrence reported that the development at RAF Newton was very close and enquired whether this would be taken into account as well as any other future development. The Engineer reported that the Car Dyke Branch did take water from RAF Newton, however, the developer had confirmed that the flows from this site would not increase. He confirmed that this would be monitored very closely. Cllr N.C. Lawrence did not see how the flows would not increase in the future as he understood the proposal included an additional hard standing area for industrial units.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the overall strategy for the Car Dyke Management Scheme be approved as detailed above in relation to the development of land at Bingham, including the principle of a phased delivery approach, subject to all works being carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's Engineer and all costs being met by the developer.
- (b) That Officers review the proposals for development at RAF Newton and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

#### 11. BYELAW APPLICATIONS/CONTRAVENTIONS/ENFORCEMENT

##### 11:1 Byelaws Dealt with under Delegated Authority

The following applications had been granted consent under delegated authority:

B003\_2012 - Extension of existing access culvert in the Board maintained Bottesford Sewer at national grid reference SK 79804 39215 in the parish of Bottesford.

B004\_2012 - Remedial works to concrete benching along the southern road bridge abutment on the Board maintained Halloughton Dumble at national grid reference SK 72395 52450 in the parish of Fiskerton cum Morton.

All works would be carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's officers.

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11:2 Byelaw Contravention - Farndon Field Drain, Farndon (Minute 7:5, Page 3)

As reported previously to the Newark Area Internal Drainage Board at a meeting on 9th February 2012 and further at the last meeting, a section of approximately 150 metres of the Board maintained Farndon Field Drain had been culverted by the landowner without consent.

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that he had met with the landowner who had agreed to remove the pipe at his own expense. Officers had visited the site and were satisfied that this work had now been completed and the watercourse reinstated to a satisfactory condition.

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12. SECTION 23 APPLICATIONS

The Engineer reported the following applications for which consent had been issued under delegated authority since the last meeting:

S23002\_2012 - Temporary works associated with repairs to an existing culvert on a private watercourse at national grid reference SK 71494 50521 at Bleasby Culvert, off Oak Tree Lane in the parish of Bleasby.

TVIDB/LDC/2012/001 - Installation of a 15 linear metre culvert within a private watercourse on the south side of the A57 carriageway at national grid reference SK 82298 74272 in the parish of Newton on Trent.

TVIDB/LDC/2012/002 - Installation of an 18 linear metre culvert within a private watercourse on the east side of the A1133 carriageway at national grid reference SK 82893 73101 in the parish of Newton on Trent.

All works would be carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's officers.

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13. CAPITAL WORKS

13:1 Medium Term Plan (MTP)

The attached table showing DRAFT MTP applications for Flood Defence Grant in Aid was circulated.

The Engineer reported that, at this stage, applications were based on 45% grant; the maximum amount which could be applied for without demonstrating that benefits had not been double counted (i.e. properties also protected by flood risk management assets such as Environment Agency defences).

It was noted that whilst a 45% figure had been assumed, grant would be paid on the value of the assets protected, not a percentage of the scheme costs, therefore, the amount of grant applied for could either increase or reduce as benefits and double counting were looked at in more detail prior to the final application in June 2013. A further report would be presented to the September Board meeting.

The Engineer hoped to secure grant for Beckingham Pumping Station and an application for this had, therefore, been re-submitted.

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#### 13:2 River Smite Model

The Engineer reported that the modelling of the River Smite by JBA Consulting for the Environment Agency in partnership with the Board had been completed. The attached Executive Summary and plan were circulated showing the likely area of flooding in a 1 in 10 and 1 in 100 year flood events.

The Engineer expressed concern at the potential flooding of properties predicted for a 1 in 10 year event at Thurgaton. Officers would be meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss the report in detail and a report would be presented to a future Board meeting for consideration.

RECEIVED

#### 13:3 Telemetry Systems

The new Board now ran two telemetry systems; an Oriel system serving eight pumping stations (formerly operated by the Newark Area IDB), and a Controlstar system serving ten pumping stations (formerly operated by Laneham IDB). Following the amalgamation, the Board's officers had investigated ways to make data from both systems available to all staff.

The Engineer reported that a number of options had been identified which would improve access to management information and improve the capabilities of the existing systems.

The existing Oriel system currently consisted of a master station located at the Board's Newark office and one remote access laptop. These were used to monitor pumping stations by viewing current status and receipt of alarm situations but the system did not allow remote control of pumps or operating levels. The Engineer stated that, particularly during the recent wet weather, the addition of these facilities would have greatly increased operational efficiency.

The Controlstar system consisted of a master station which had both monitoring and control facilities.

As both systems were relatively recent acquisitions and there was no compelling evidence that early replacement was necessary, officers did not recommend that either

system should be replaced by the other in the medium term. Investigations had confirmed that remote access for monitoring, alarm forwarding and control facilities from any computer connected to the internet could be achieved for both systems via a web-based server facility. The Engineer assured members that a secure password protection system would be in place.

The following quotations were considered:

	Controlstar Systems	Oriel Systems
Number of Pumping Stations	10	8
Existing Annual Maintenance Cost	£4,500	£3,185
Cost for Remote Control of Pumps	Already Fitted	£7,500
Internet Access - Installation	£440	*£1,250
Internet Access - Annual Running Cost	£500	£120

\* This amount had been reduced by 75% as it could be run on the same system as Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

The Engineer reported that quotations had also been received to install and link Passive Infrared Sensors (PIRs) at all stations as a security measure. The total cost of this would be £4,000 from Controlstar and £4,600 from Oriel. The Board's insurers had been contacted to enquire whether this would reduce insurance premiums and a reply was awaited.

In response to Mr R. Warburton, the Engineer reported that Controlstar had increased the annual maintenance cost by £620 but there was no explanation as to why their running costs were so much more than Oriel.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's Oriel telemetry system be upgraded to full control capability at a cost of £7,500.
- (b) That both telemetry systems be upgraded to allow internet access for viewing and control at a cost of £440 (Controlstar) and £1,250 (Oriel).
- (c) That further investigation into the installation of PIRs be undertaken and reported back to a future meeting.

#### 13:3 Beckingham Pumping Station and Beckingham Marshes Water Level Management Study

The investigation into the feasibility of utilising and potentially extending the Environment Agency's external sump had been completed by JBA Consultants. It was noted that the investigation indicated potential savings in the region of £300,000 on previously reported costs. The Engineer reported that, as this appeared the preferred option, JBA Consultants had been asked to take this option forward to grant application stage for presentation to the Board. This would then be followed by detailed design and procurement of works.

The Engineer reported that the Beckingham Marshes Water Level Management Study works were continuing. The next phase would involve hydrological modelling of water levels for various operating regimes. Preliminary findings were expected during the summer and would be presented to the Board at a future meeting. The Engineer stated that this work would be invaluable to inform future operating regimes at the pumping station and gravity outfall.

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#### 14. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

##### 14:1 Strategy for Compliance with The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

The Engineer reported that the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 had come into force on 15th January 2010 and included two measures that would directly affect the Board's operational activities.

Firstly in relation to the passage for Eels, it was a requirement of the Act that suitable passes for Eels were installed during the construction or alteration of an obstruction such as a sluice or pumping station. Support for financing these measures had been provided by Flood Defence Grant in Aid to date.

Secondly, screening to prevent Eel mortality would be required after 1st January 2015 for all abstractions that exceeded 20m<sup>3</sup> per day; this would include all the Board's Pumping Stations. The Engineer stated that physical screens with openings small enough to exclude Eels were incompatible with the conveyance of water and behavioural screens with strobe lights and/or acoustic measures were the preferred option.

The Engineer estimated that the cost implication would initially be £1 million across the Board's area excluding running costs which were estimated to be £4,000 per annum per station. Clearly, and particularly within the current economic climate, this would not be achievable by 2015.

To demonstrate compliance with the statute, The Board's Engineer recommended that an extended time be sought so that this statute could be incorporated into planned future pumping station refurbishments, delaying expenditure beyond 2015 and recommended developing a formal strategy to take this exemption request forward.

The Engineer confirmed that this matter would also be addressed by the Association of Drainage Authorities on behalf of its members.

Mrs J. Bradley hoped that the Conservation Advisory Group would be involved in the eel strategy. She also hoped that funds would be available if working in partnership.

RESOLVED

That Officers prepare a DRAFT Strategy for Compliance with the Eel Regulations proposing that exemption be granted to the Board subject to the installation of eel screening at all pumping stations when major refurbishment was undertaken.

14:2 Conservation Advisory Group

A Conservation Advisory Group had been formed to advise the former Newark Area IDB on environmental and conservation issues arising from or appertaining to operational service delivery. This was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Mr W.J. Staunton, and included amongst its participants the Board's Engineer, Environmental Officer, Operations Manager and Mrs J. Bradley of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Officers stated that this Group played an important role in enabling the Board to deliver its Biodiversity Action Plan targets and to advise on ways in which good environmental practice could be incorporated into daily operational activities.

Mr W.J. Staunton asked any members that wished to be involved in the Conservation Advisory Group to let the office know.

RESOLVED

That the Conservation Advisory Group continue and an invitation be extended to the RSPB's Beckingham Marshes Reserve Manager to participate in future meetings when pertinent.

14:3 Fairham Brook Restoration Project

At a meeting of the Fairham Brook IDB held on the 1st February 2012 (Minute 2012.20) the following was recorded:

*"Advice on maintenance issues – the Environmental Officer recommended that the Board's Environmental Adviser engage with the EA and Notts Wildlife Trust with regard to environmental enhancement projects that may result in long term maintenance issues being resolved. Members agreed to present this matter further to the new Trent Valley IDB."*

The Engineer reported that the proposed Project work related to an expression of interest submitted by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) and Fairham Brook IDB for funding under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Funded Partnership Projects which was designed to deliver WFD Outcomes across the Midlands region. Grant funding had subsequently been allocated subject to development of a feasible project. Mr A. Howick stated that the Beck had been a problem for the Board in the past as a lack of maintenance by the Environment Agency on the bottom section caused water to be held up in the section maintained by the Board.

Mrs J. Bradley, Head of Conservation Policy and Planning at the NWT presented an introduction to the objectives of the Project and the Board's role in delivery.

Mrs J. Bradley reported that representatives from the Board, the EA, Rushcliffe Borough Council and NWT had met to discuss the possible options to resolve the conflicting needs of Fairham Brook (i.e. land drainage, flood defence and biodiversity conservation) and to come up with a Project to resolve these issues. A hydrological assessment undertaken by JBA Consulting showed that it may be possible to develop a two stage channel (in areas where landowners were in agreement) as a solution to the differential management between the Board's and the EA's maintained stretches of the Brook, whilst maintaining the agricultural drainage function at an appropriate level. This would make it possible to incorporate permanent marginal habitat that would

remain unaffected by the maintenance regime and would deliver the Board's targets set out in the BAP. Mrs J. Bradley explained that other enhancements could include grassland buffer strips which would increase biodiversity and diffuse agricultural pollution which was one of the reasons for the poor status of the Brook.

The cost of the Project would be as follows:

	Board	EA	NWT
Year 1	£2,000 in-kind	£18,300	£1,000 in-kind
Year 2	£2,500 in-kind	£38,300	£1,000 in-kind
Year 3	Nil	£48,540	£1,200 in-kind

RESOLVED

That the Board continue to support the Fairham Brook Restoration Project contributing in-kind £2,000 during year 1 and £2,500 in year 2 of the development.

15. HEALTH AND SAFETY

15:1 Appointment of Health and Safety Consultant

It was noted that Cope Safety Management had been retained as the new Board's Health and Safety Consultants and would incorporate the Laneham District into the existing Policy.

RECEIVED

15:2 Health and Safety Training for Workforce

The Chief Executive reported that a review of training for the Board's workforce had highlighted that the Laneham District workforce required additional training to bring them up to the required standard. Refresher courses would also be required for all members of the workforce.

A provision of £1,864 had been made in the estimates for training, however, the true figure would be in the region of £10,333.50. The Chief Executive stated that every effort would be made to offset the additional cost from efficiencies made within the overall budget.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the appropriate training be arranged for the Board's workforce.
- (b) That the additional cost of the training be funded from balances should it not be possible to make savings elsewhere within the overall budget.



16. CORPORATE IDENTITY

16:1 Corporate Logo

The Chief Executive presented a report on the design and selection of a logo for the new Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) and gave some examples of designs suggested by members and staff.

RESOLVED

That samples be sought for consideration at the next Board meeting.

16:2 Consortium Name

The Chief Executive reported that the boards would like to consider a new name for the Consortium (currently known as the North Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire Group of Internal Drainage Boards).

Members were asked to forward any ideas for possible names to him prior to the next Board meeting.

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16:3 Web Site

The Chief Executive reported that the TVIDB website was currently being updated. This would retain the style of the old Newark Area layout but would incorporate information on the TVIDB area. There were also plans to increase the interaction and currency of information on the new site to include a summary of current and planned works.

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17. FLOODING ISSUES AT LOWDHAM

The Engineer and Operations Manager were asked to investigate reports of flooding at Lowdham. The Engineer confirmed that investigations were being carried out and he was corresponding with two landowners in the area. He agreed to contact the parish council once the investigation was completed.

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18. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA) TRENT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members were reminded of the Annual General Meeting of the ADA Trent Branch on 15th June 2012 and asked to contact the office if they wished to attend.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN