

TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting to discuss the recent Flood Event followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at Winthorpe Community Centre and via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Thursday, 30th November 2023 commencing at 10.00am.

Elected Members

- * Messrs J. Miller (Chairman)
- T.H. Farr (Vice-Chairman)
- * A. Bradley
- A. Arden
- * W.J. Staunton
- * N.J. Greenhalgh
- T. Hawthorne
- * R.J. Jackson
- * D. Loates
- * D. Gash
- * J. B Ashworth
- Vacancy

Nominated Members

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllrs Mrs S. Shaw
- J. Slater
- L. Stanniland
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- * Cllrs Mrs S. Michael
- A. Freeman
- K. Melton
- * Mrs L. Dales
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- * Cllrs Mrs T. Combellack
- * J. Billin
- * G. Fletcher
- * T. Wells
- Gedling/Melton Borough Councils
- Mr J. Evens
- West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils
- * Cllr D. Dobbie

* *Present*

Staff

- * Mr A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- * Dr D. Hickman (Executive Officer)
- * Messrs M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)
- * A.J. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)
- * R. Brown (Senior Engineer)
- * I. Turner (Environmental Officer)
- * Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)
- * C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

* *In attendance*

1. OCTOBER FLOOD EVENT - STORM BABET

The Chief Executive presented an overview of Storm Babet which had seen unprecedented levels of rainfall across the UK causing extensive flooding and record river levels across the east midlands. He encouraged members to participate with officers by completing the maps available at the meeting with their knowledge of the flooding event so that this could be collated and passed to agencies involved. The 18-20th October 2023 was the third wettest three-day period on record since 1891. The rainfall for the East Midlands had been recorded at 67.2mm, however, some areas had received significantly more and nationally areas exceeded 100-150 mm. There were over 100 road closures and restricted access to communities, with Holme and Church Laneham completely cut off. The Lead Local Flood Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council) would be undertaking Section 19 investigations following reports of internal flooding to 1,143 properties. He commented that the Environment Agency (EA) would be writing to landowners to gather information on the flooding, as many acres of expensive crop investment had been lost. Mr W J. Staunton stated that it was important that landowners responded to the EA.

In readiness for the event, the Board's systems had been pumped down as low as possible, the office at Manby had been opened, and telemetry and stations monitored throughout the event.

The Senior Operations Manager presented a report on flooding within the Trent Valley area which included photos and videos. He commented that in some areas the water had behaved very differently, e.g. severe flooding in Carlton on Trent which was not usually as badly affected; residents reported that at 11 a.m. there was no water but by 12 noon they were flooded with the water disappearing very quickly thereafter. Caunton had also been badly affected. The flood relief scheme at Egmonton had been a success but the village flooded from a different direction - the Holme Lane Drain.

Mr B. Ashworth had received information from a resident of the island area in Egmonton which had been flooded that the sluice door into the Trent was shut. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that it was important that he recorded the information with Officers.

Cllr Mrs S. Michael commented on the Moorhouse Beck reporting that she had spoken to two homeowners who had been flooded by water coming up through the floor.

Footage of extensive flooding at North Scarle, Southwell Racecourse, Oxton, Weston and Grassthorpe was presented. It was commented that Southwell racecourse had spent significant amounts on flood prevention but on this occasion the flooding had been due to the River Greet overtopping higher up in the catchment which had not happened before.

The Senior Operations Manager commented that the Board's Direct Labour Organisation was busy removing blockages caused by the storm and this would have an effect on the winter and summer programmes. The Chairman asked whether contractors would be of help in clearing the blockages. In response, the Operations Manager confirmed that the team was on top of things.

It was noted that there would be increased electricity expenditure as a result of the storm, with costs for October estimated to be £69,659.40. There would also be additional costs in respect of staff overtime and repairs to assets. Officers would be looking at using volunteers to help during an emergency event and, if agreed, appropriate training would be given.

The presentation included details of 90 properties being flooded at Lowdham and 113 at Reford; again the water at Retford had reacted very differently. Mr D. Loates commented that the River Idle had not been cleared out by the EA between Bawtry and Reford for years.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the frustration with lack of maintenance on the main arteries which supported the lowland systems. He reported that in the wake of the flooding in the Lindsey Marsh area, the Chief Executive had met with the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and subsequently been invited by them to attend a local meeting with landowners and the local M.P., Mrs V. Atkins. DEFRA's comment at the ADA Policy and Finance Committee meeting that "their policy was not the issue, it was the EA's interpretation that seemed to be the issue" had been taken up by the M.P. who had asked, if it was within the EA's gift to change its maintenance regime within IDB areas and still remain within the law, why not do so. At that meeting, the Consortium's Chief Executive had suggested a pilot scheme be set up allowing IDBs to undertake maintenance on some of the low to medium consequence main rivers to the Board's standard. This suggestion had been unanimously supported by those present at the meeting and LMDB had already undertaken work on one watercourse. The main outcomes of the meeting were as follows and these were supported by the NFU, the M.P. and ADA:

- To enable the EA to work more effectively with landowners and IDBs, approaching and during flood events.

- To undertake a pilot whereby IDB's could undertake maintenance on low to medium consequence EA watercourses to the IDBs' standards.

The Chief Executive continued to liaise with the NFU, M.P.s and ADA to drive this. He expressed that it was important to keep up the pressure and one strength of the Trent Valley Board was that the representatives from local councillors collectively covered a large area, and it was important that they too maintained support and momentum. The Board's Environmental Officer was preparing a document to show that the work could be completed without detriment to the environment.

Mr D. Gash commented that this work could be carried out on the small rivers i.e. the Devon, Greet and Idle but that would mean that the water would reach the Trent quicker creating more problems downstream and that it was important that the Trent was dredged and fit for purpose. The Executive Officer replied that historically dredging work had been carried out on the Trent and that perhaps the EA could look towards the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for funding as the highland water was being received from heavily populated areas. He confirmed that ADA was very keen for representatives from DLUHC to visit.

Cllr Mrs T. Combellack supported the comments and agreed that it was important to have somewhere to pump to and a Trent flowing out to the sea unimpeded.

Mr R. Jackson stated that it was important to increase powers to enable councils and IDBs to enforce the clearing and maintenance of riparian watercourses.

Cllr Mrs S. Michael raised the issue of trees left on the watercourse and enquired if they would cause issues in flooding events. The Operations Manager confirmed that this was unlikely to cause a problem and most of the blockages removed following the recent event were due to fallen trees.

Mr R. Greenhalgh raised an issue in respect of the pumps at Moor Lane, Laneham, which were completely overwhelmed, had taken three weeks to clear the water and resulted in flooding of land with the loss of 100 acres of wheat. He questioned whether the pumps were of insufficient capacity. He felt that water had entered the Moor Lane catchment from the Rampton system which should have gone down to the Cottam Pump. The Operations Manager stated that they had identified a couple of areas on the Rampton Beck where water had spilled over and this could be remedied by raising the banks. He was confident that this could be done and was just waiting for some levels to be taken. In respect of the pumps, he commented that they were designed to pump a normal flow and not designed for the unprecedented level of water.

Cllr Mrs L. Dales thanked the Operations Manager and his team for their rapid response and actions which had prevented an incident in her village.

Cllr D. Dobbie made observational comments about the River Trent at Gainsborough and changes in the flow and movement of silt. The Operations Manager confirmed there were 18 pumping stations in the area and several outfalls and the outfalls often needed desilting; Officers would telephone the EA for clearance. The Senior Engineer explained that the EA had a barge which regularly inspected outfalls and they could be telephoned at any time. At some outfalls, water was held back and then released to provide a cleansing effect, however, major dredging had stopped - apparently because the silt moved frequently.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Operations Manager and his team who had worked hard throughout the event.

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2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr W.J. Staunton and seconded by Cllr Mrs S. Michael that Mr J. Miller be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously.

That Mr J. Miller be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr R. Jackson and seconded by Mr B. Ashworth that Mr T.H. Farr be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously.

That Mr T.H. Farr be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs J. Slater, L. Stanniland, A. Freeman, K. Melton and Mrs S. Shaw, Messrs A. Arden, T.H. Farr and T. Hawthorne.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr W.J. Staunton declared an interest in Item 22, Delegated Matters, Planning, Byelaws and Supervisory Role.

7. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 579 to 593)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 28th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. MATTERS ARISING

9:1 Minute 4, Page 580, Matters Arising

The Chairman asked if any talks had taken place with Severn Trent Water regarding the possibility of a contribution towards the funding of the proposed improvement works on the Sheepwash Brook. The Chief Executive confirmed that this had not moved forward.

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9:2 Minute 6, Page 582, Membership of Committees

Cllr Mrs S. Michael referred to paragraph 2, stating that she had not been present at the September Board meeting and the conversation in respect of becoming a member of the Consortium Committee had taken place with the Chairman prior to the meeting; the minutes would be amended accordingly.

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9:3 Minute 10, Page 586, Electricity Contracts

The Senior Engineer confirmed that the Board had a number of pumping stations on fixed rate contracts which had ended on the 30th September 2023. It had been anticipated that the charges would increase by 40%, however, day rates had increased by 1%, the night rate by 38% and the standing charge by 22%. Marton Pumping station had sustained the largest standing charge increase of 66% taking it to £18,000 a year. He confirmed that it was anticipated that day and night rates would drop by 20% next October and standing charges would increase by 10%. The charges were reflective of other contracts. In July next year several stations would also come out of contract and predicted costs were within budget. However, he was querying Cuckstool Pumping Station predicted figures. The Chairman asked if any progress had been made with Ofgem in respect of challenging standing charges. The Chief Executive confirmed that ADA was preparing the challenge, however, they required more data. He confirmed that the Consortium had forwarded their data and that the matter would be progressed at the ADA Finance Committee Meeting.

Cllr D. Dobbie asked a question in respect of the Marton Pumping Station increase and the Senior Engineer confirmed that there was no real evidence that supported increases from suppliers and that it was very subjective. He confirmed that Sturton had increased by 7% but Paupers Pumping Station in the AX area had increased from £3,000 to £52,000. He confirmed that standing charges were a contribution to maintaining the network. Mr W.J. Staunton commented that there was a wider political issue throughout the country with standing charges and it was not just applicable to the Board.

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9:4 Minute 21, Page 593, Any Other Business, Members training and tour.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Corporate Services Manager confirmed that a tour and training day would be arranged for March 2024.

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10. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2023 were presented.

In response to a question raised by Cllr Mrs T. Combellack, the Executive Officer confirmed that he had attended a meeting with Mrs R. Edwards MP on the 6th November 2023 to discuss flooding along the Kingston Brook and address concerns from residents. He confirmed that the Board's responsibilities had been fully completed, the main rivers had behaved differently on this occasion and flooding was due to lack of capacity in the River Soar for the Brook to discharge into. He confirmed that it had been a positive meeting but unfortunately this area was vulnerable.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Minute 3:4, (e) should read Labour Shadow Minister.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 25th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and the recommendations be adopted.

11. JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

The Corporate Services Manager presented the minutes from the Joint Negotiating Committee held on the 25th October 2023. She confirmed that at the previous Board meeting delegated authority had been granted to allow the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Officers to agree some minor points and these changes were highlighted. A recommendation from the meeting had been to review DLO standby payments.

It was confirmed that the proposed pay increase had been well received by staff. Officers left the meeting while the proposed pay increase was discussed by members.

In response to a question from the Chairman, it was confirmed that details of the pension review would be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee held on 25th October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.
- (b) That with effect from 1st April 2024 all spine points be increased by £1,130, and a 6.4% cost of living pay increase be applied.
- (c) To review pension provision for employees at a future meeting.
- (d) To review DLO Standby payments.

12. MEETING DATES

The proposed Board and Committee dates were reported as follows:

25th January 2024	10.00 a.m.	Board (approval of estimates and rate setting)
21st March 2024	10.00 a.m.	Board
15th May 2024	10.30 p.m.	Consortium Committee
15th May 2024	2.00 p.m.	Joint Negotiating Committee
24th June 2024	10.00 a.m.	Board (Approval of final accounts)
26th September 2024	10.00 a.m.	Board
23rd October 2024	10.30 a.m.	Consortium Committee
23rd October 2024	2.00 p.m.	Joint Negotiating Committee
28th November 2024	10.00 a.m.	Board (Annual General meeting)

Other Dates:

ADA Trent Branch AGM - 12th June 2024 (provisional)
Lincolnshire Show - 19th and 20th June 2024
ADA Annual Conference - 13th November 2024 (provisional)

RESOLVED

That the above dates be approved and noted.

13. COMMITTEES

The Chairman presented details of existing Committees and membership and asked the Board to approve the representation on the Standard Committee, Consortium Committee and the Joint Negotiating Committee, consider the abolition of the Plant and Finance Committee and the formation of a joint Consortium Conservation Advisory Group.

It was confirmed that the Plant and Finance Committee had no delegated powers and any recommendations needed to be brought to a Board Meeting. Should the Board agree to abolish the Finance and Plant Committee, sufficient time would be set aside at Board meetings to discuss specific matters which required more time, e.g. plant tenders, estimates and final accounts, and, if necessary, an Extraordinary Board meeting could be called if required.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Finance and Plant Committee be abolished.
- (b) That the following members be appointed to the Standard Committee: Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr R.J. Jackson, Cllrs A. Freeman, Mrs S. Shaw and Mrs T. Combellack.
- (c) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board be appointed to the Consortium Committee with Cllr Mrs L. Dales as alternate.
- (d) That the Chairman represent the Board on the Joint Negotiating Committee.
- (e) That a joint Consortium Conservation Advisory Group be set up; terms of reference and membership to be considered at the January Board meeting.

14. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that there had been no new changes to Health and Safety legislation since the last Board meeting.

The Senior Operations Manager reported on six incidents and two near misses across the Consortium since the last meeting, one of which had occurred in the TV area when the Board's flail had struck a cable; fortunately, no injuries had been sustained. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that the Board did have procedures in place for working around cables but service plans were not always accurate and when cables were buried and covered they were not easy to see. He confirmed that Officers continued to work with utility companies to ensure that information provided was up to date and accurate. The cable would be moved and marked on the Board's system to ensure this did not occur again.

It was reported that the annual review of the Consortium's Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work was being undertaken by the Senior Operations Manager who had no significant areas of concern to date.

RECEIVED

15. OPERATION REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager reported that recent adverse weather events had affected this year's summer cutting season and work had slowed in week 14 after heavy rainfall on the 13th and 20th October. He reported that 74% of the flailing maintenance and 58% of the weedcutting works had been completed. Officers would monitor ground conditions and water levels with a view to undertaking further maintenance work should conditions allow. Labour-intensive urban walk-through areas and the roadside maintenance stretches still needed to be completed as priority had been given to removing blockages, fallen trees, maintaining pumping stations and reacting to reports of issues on watercourses. It was expected that completion of the summer cutting programme would be delayed by two to three weeks and operatives would liaise with landowners before entry as the land was so wet.

Officers reported that the direct labour organisation had been operating with reduced numbers (two vacancies and one long-term absence) however one vacancy had recently been filled.

It was reported that the recent weather events may have an effect on the planned winter maintenance. Ground conditions may halt works and priority would be given to repairing damage caused by the flooding event. Officers had highlighted several bank slips caused by the storm which would require immediate repairs. Tree and bush works would be undertaken once the weedcutting programme had been concluded and the priority works had been completed.

A programme of 2023/24 winter reforming works was presented and Officers confirmed that any outstanding works would be rolled over to the 2024/25 programme.

It was reported that 31% of the planned access improvements had been completed. Installation of gates and side dyke culverts, repairing headwalls and levelling bank tops to improve access along watercourses had been undertaken.

In respect of rechargeable works, it was confirmed that no additional commitments were undertaken by the Board other than those already agreed with the Environment Agency under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

RECEIVED

16. COMPENSATION

The Senior Operations Manager reported that a total of £1,422.75 had been paid to landowners in compensation for crop damage since the last meeting.

A query had been raised at the Board meeting in June in respect of the compensation rate proposed for forage maize which members had felt was too high. Officers had revised the rate following consultation with Board members and reduced the yield per acre from 18 tons to four tons. Officers asked the Board to approve the new rate of £0.16 pence paid per linear metre.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached schedule of compensation claims be approved.
- (b) That the new compensation rates for forage and grain maize be approved as detailed above.

17. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

- (a) Moor Lane Pumping Station (TV19300) and Bole Ings Pumping Station (TV21307) – Pump Refurbishment/Replacement.

Officers reported that both pumping stations had suffered inundation during the recent flood event. The planned pump refurbishment work had been delayed until March/April 2024, however, an order had been placed and the parts received and in the event of failure the work would be brought forward. All pumps had remained operational throughout the flood event even though both stations were flooded.

RECEIVED

- (b) Thurgarton and Sutton-on-Trent Flood Alleviation Schemes

The Executive Officer confirmed that he had visited both sites the day after the flood event and it was very distressing to see.

In respect of Thurgarton, the number of properties reported flooded was estimated to be ten. He confirmed that there was a lot of very brown water and tide marks and for the first time there had been a report of an injection of sewage from a Severn Trent Water Treatment facility. He commented that there may be an opportunity to approach Severn Trent Water for a contribution towards the proposed scheme.

The Board's Officers had met landowners on site prior to the recent flood event and detailed design and costing was now being undertaken. Further modelling had indicated that widening of the Beck may be an option but existing access culverts would cause a throttle. The next step would be to undertake an archaeological survey and then work could begin to prepare the site with a view to work starting next year. The Chief Executive stated that the major risk was funding for the project. Officers were looking at alternative procurement methods to ensure best value as the use of external consultants would significantly increase the cost, e.g. twice the cost of undertaking the scheme inhouse, but the Board did not have the resources to undertake the work. Mr R.J. Jackson suggested that Officers contact Nottinghamshire County Council to discuss funding.

Similarly, design work was progressing for the Sutton-on-Trent scheme and calculations were being checked following the recent flood event. Work had already been completed on Cuckstool Drain and proven effective. Officers confirmed that they would be engaging with the landowner shortly and thanked Cllr Mrs S. Michael who had offered to arrange a meeting with him. Initial concerns raised by the landowner had been considered and Officers were confident these could be addressed. The Chief Executive stated that funding of the work was challenging and Officers were seeking savings and contributions where possible.

Cllr Mrs S. Michael thanked the Executive Officer and Senior Operations Manager for engaging with residents of Sutton on Trent following the recent flood event.

RECEIVED

18. FINANCE

- (a) Management Account for the Period Ending 30th September 2023

The Finance Manager presented the management accounts up to the 30th September 2023 together with the income and expenditure accounts detailing the variance of

actual income and costs to estimates. It was confirmed that any income/expenditure relating to engineering schemes had been removed and would be reported separately.

The Finance Manager reported a positive variance of £126,215.11 for the period. The outturn report indicated that after allowing for the noted overspends and savings, this surplus would increase to £287,327.55. This was a reduction of £5,365.45 from the estimated figure for August 2023. Any outturn surplus would boost the general reserves.

A positive outturn was predicted against the 2023/24 budgets following increased rates receipts of £88,000, income from the disposal of the Egmonton land at £80,000, predicted increased investment interest of £35,000, plus a predicted underspend of £49,000 on electricity costs and £52,000 on consortium charges - a total of £256,634.

Reports on the plant reserves, engineering schemes and capital receipts unapplied reserves were presented.

It was reported that the predicted outturn for the surplus cash as at 31st March 2024 would be £779,169.06. The Finance Manager commented that this surplus would equate to 30.29% of the net operating costs; the Board's Policy was to hold a reserve of 30%.

RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the period ending 30th September 2023 be approved.

(b) Transfer of Budgets - £262,000 to Torksey Pumping Station

The Board had previously intended to take a loan of £262,000 for the Torksey project, however, due to the positive additional surplus predicted outturn for 2023/24 (see paragraph 3 in (a) above), Officers recommended that this amount be transferred to the scheme eliminating the need for a loan. Should the Board still wish to take a loan, Officer expected the annuity rate to be 5.24%; interest of £166,427.60 over the 20-year term.

RESOLVED

That a budget transfer of £262,000 from surplus funds be made to the Torksey Scheme eliminating the need for a loan.

(c) Cash Balances and Borrowings

It was reported that the Board currently had five accounts with a total balance of £1,663,416.25.

A total of £511,406.53 remained outstanding in one loan.

RECEIVED.

(d) Payments over £500

A schedule of payments over £500 totalling £389,232.43 was presented for Board approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

19. INVESTMENTS

The Finance Manager reported that the Finance Services Compensation Scheme did not protect public authority deposits including parish councils, unless it was a small local authority with an income or annual budget of less than 500,000 euros. Any investments made by the Board, or any bank/building society accounts held by the Board would not be covered by the £85,000 protection scheme.

At the June meeting the Board had approved the investment of £75,000 for a period of six months. Following further investigations and discussions with a broker, Officers advised that most banks and building societies with the required "A" rating were not accepting investment of less than £250,000.00. Whilst rates were subject to change an example was given of an account with the Nationwide Building Society paying 5.18% for a six-month period. Officers recommended an increase in the investment amount to £250,000 to secure a competitive rate.

Following extensive research Officers also recommended the opening of an Instant Access Business Saver with the Nationwide Building Society which was currently paying 2.25%.

RESOLVED

- (a) To note that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme did not apply to local authority investments or bank accounts.
- (b) That £250,000 be invested for a period of six months with an A rated building society via the broker, BGC.
- (c) That an Instant Access Saver account and a 35-day access Business Saver account be opened with the Nationwide Building Society.

20. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported that drainage rates and special levies collected to the 31st November 2023 totalled 60.9%. She confirmed a further £1,232.53 had been collected in arrears since the 31st March 2023.

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21. ENVIROMENTAL REPORT

- (a) The Environment Act 2021 - Biodiversity Duty Guidance - New Guidance

At the Board meeting in June, it was agreed to require 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for Byelaw and Section 23 Consent Applications from November 2023.

The Environment Officer stated that the Government had now delayed the mandatory implementation of BNG for developers and local Planning authorities until January 2024 and recommended that the Board delay any decisions on implementing BNG until April 2024. This date related to the mandatory implementation of 'small sites BNG' for developers, which although currently not obligatory, would be more relevant to IDBs.

RESOLVED

To delay implementation of 10% biodiversity net gain for Byelaw and Section 23 Consent applications and to review again in April 2024.

(b) Updating of the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

Officers were reviewing and updating the Board's BAP which would be a single document for the Consortium with relevant schedules for each Board. This would be presented to the January meetings for adoption.

RECEIVED

(c) Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Environmental Officer reported on the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. These had been introduced by the Environment Act 2021, designed to guide action for nature recovery and to help achieve the targets set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan.

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Recovery Strategy was being developed in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and would include a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and a Local Habitat Map. A survey on priorities was currently open, and members were encouraged to express their views at <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy>. Development of the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was underway.

RECEIVED

(d) Mink Control

Officers reported that over the past year, 21 mink had been caught in the Board's area. The Waterlife Recovery Trust had been awarded £500,000 from Natural England's Species Recovery Programme for mink control from the Thames to mid Lincolnshire and an additional £288,000 had also been contributed to the project by the Essex Wildlife Trust, and the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

RECEIVED

(e) Electronic Recording

The Environmental Officer reported that 943 records had been submitted so far this year; an increase on the 687 records submitted in 2021 and 747 in 2022. The introduction of environmental recording on the electronic working system, had increased numbers and additional species such as the Great Crested Newt, as well as invasive species such as the Terrapin and Mitten Crab, had also been included this year.

These improvements in recording would be valuable in reflecting targets within the revised BAP.

The Chairman commented that it was very encouraging to see the improved reporting.

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(f) The Future

Ideas such as the creation of hibernaculas, use of 'wiggly boards', and the installation of swallow cups to try and encourage nesting in more convenient places were being investigated by Officers for introduction across the Consortium. This would be explored further and local schools and colleges may be approached to see whether they would like to be involved.

The Environmental Officer reported that liaison with other boards was underway to see whether they may wish to consider the joint purchase of hydroseeding equipment. Hydroseeding was a water-based spray/slurry seed with a mixture of mulch fertiliser and if necessary lime; this was more effective than traditional seeding and also helped with bank stabilisation.

In response to a question from Cllr D. Dobbie it was confirmed that Beckingham Marshes, near Gainsborough was run by the RSPB and the drain was maintained by the Board. The Board also work closely with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

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22. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

(a) Byelaw Applications

The following consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

TVIDB/LDC/2023/014 Hedgerow planting along the Board maintained Wiverton Drain, at land to the east of Bingham Road, Wiverton Hall Farm at national grid reference 470900-336533, 471358-33676/ 471485-336850, 471650-336912/ 471695-336936 in the parish of Wiverton.

TVIDB/LDC/2023/015 Hedge planting along the Board maintained Stockwell Drain, at land to the east of Bingham Road, Wiverton Hall Farm, between national grid reference 471168-335932/471263-335995 and 471352-336051/471422-336094 in the parish of Wiverton.

TVIDB/LDC/2023/021 Emergency repair works to bridge overtop the Board maintained Edingley Beck, at Southwell Road at national grid reference 467707-356828 in the parish of Kirklington.

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(b) Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 consents had been granted since the last meeting.

TVIDB/LDC/2023/010 Diversion and infilling of a riparian watercourse at Staple Lane, at NGR 4814695-350741 in the parish of Fernwood.

TVIDB/LAD/2023/016 Repairs to the existing bridge, at A616 Great North Road, to the west of British Sugar, at NGR 479084-355374 in the parish of Newark.

No applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

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(c) Planning Applications.

The Senior Engineer reported that 23 planning applications had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made. No objections had been made.

In response to Cllr Mrs T. Combellack, the Chief Executive explained that the Board was not a statutory consultee, however, Officers reviewed all planning applications within the area and commented on any development that would impact on the Board's systems as well as any large developments outside the area where there may be an impact from additional water coming into the catchment. Regarding any work within the nine-metre byelaw distance, applicants were contacted directly.

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23. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHOIRITIES

The Chief Executive Officer gave a report on the ADA conference held on 21st November 2023. He presented an overview of the speeches made by Ms E. Hardy MP, Shadow Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience, Mr A. Battilani, Technical Expert from the Italian Association of Drainage Authorities. The Chief Executive had an advantageous conversation with Mr W. Harrington from DEFRA, who was very keen to visit, and he felt that it would also be beneficial to invite Mr A. Lovell from the Environment Agency to visit.

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24. STAFFING

The Senior Operations Manager asked the Board to consider appointing a land drainage operative for 38 hours a week to undertake the role of pump attendant and provide cover during periods of absence. He explained that a review of roles would be completed if the position was approved. An additional staff member would give extra capacity to undertake maintenance and provide cover for periods of sickness or holiday absence. This would reduce the use of contractors in the future. He confirmed that two DLO staff had left the Board's employment this year. One position for a tracked excavator driver had been filled and one vacancy for a flail driver in the Orston area was still being recruited. The full cost of the additional employee had been included within the DRAFT estimates.

RESOLVED

That an additional land drainage operative be appointed.

25. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT ESTIMATES 2024/25

(a) Plant Purchased/Sold During 2023/24

The Senior Operations Manager updated the Board on the plant sold and purchased during 2023/24. He confirmed that the new JCB 140X LC tracked excavator had been delivered in June at a net cost of £86,000 including the 5yr/5000hr warranty package. The original estimated net cost had been £110,000. A Bomford 81-81 rear mounted flailmower had been purchased at a net cost of £42,000 against an estimated £32,000.00. Other purchases included a narrow ditching bucket at a cost of £2,750. A Portacabin purchased for the Orston depot refurbishment had been installed for the budgeted amount of £13,995. The only purchase outstanding was an excavator

mulching attachment at an estimated cost of £15,000. It was anticipated that the net spend for the year would be £143,911.67 a saving of £40,583.33 against the estimates. Officers were investigating the proposed fuel management system which had funds available in the plant reserve budget.

RECEIVED

(b) Proposed Plant Replacement Programme 2024/25

Details of the proposed purchases for the year 2024/25 were presented to the Board. These included a new 14t excavator for the Southwell area at an estimated cost of £120,000, a yard tractor for the Southwell area to transport the new excavator at a cost of £80,000, a flatbed low loader trailer at a cost of £25,000, and two weedbaskets at an estimated cost of £19,000.

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that tenders would be brought back to the Board for approval before purchases were made.

RECEIVED

(c) Plant Replacement Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30

The proposed plant replacement programme from 2025/26 to 2029/30 was presented to the Board for information; this was based on the Board's Policy for replacement and was reviewed and updated annually taking into account the condition of the equipment.

RECEIVED

(d) Plant Schedule

An update on the Boards current large plant items was presented to the Board including mileage, hours, and general condition.

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26. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

The Finance Manager presented a DRAFT five-year plan for consideration and highlighted the main areas: projects, finance and loans, pumping station expenditure, drain maintenance, wages, and support costs.

She explained that during the current estimate year 2023/24, the Board had faced limited cash reserves and unprecedented increased costs, including electricity and a rate increase of 35% for 2023/24 was required. The five-year plan presented with the estimates at the January 2023 Board meeting had indicated that a further increase of 1% would be required for 2024/25, however, based on the predicted improvement in the 2023/24 outturn position, coupled with a reduction in the price of electricity, the Finance Manager reported that the DRAFT estimates for 2024/25 would recommend an increase of 0% for 2024/25 and for the following four years; this would be subject to change should there be unexpected increases in additional costs arising from a flood event.

The Chief Executive stated that the DRAFT Estimates would be presented to the January Board meeting for approval and the drainage rate would be set and special levies approved at that meeting.

The DRAFT estimates made a provision of £388,000 towards engineering projects, £88,000 in respect of annual provisions such as repairs, and £300,000 to the pumping station reserve account which would be used in future years to provide some resilience for schemes. The Board's future loans were noted which included £428,000 for 2024/25 for the Thurgarton and Sutton-on-Tent flood relief schemes. Pumping station expenditure had been estimated at £344,492 which included electricity costs of £254,252 and £86,263 for standing charges. Drain maintenance works including reforming were estimated at £781,871. DLO and salary costs had been calculated on the proposed pay increase for 2024/25 and support and establishment costs were calculated at £381,360.00. It was noted that income from investment had been predicted at £28,000.

The amount to be funded by drainage rates and special levies was estimated to be £2,881,999. Due to land revaluations for agricultural land amounting to £88,047, and the movement of land into special levy amounting to £5,442, income would increase by £93,489.

The Finance Manager reported that a 0% increase would result in a surplus budget of £71,226 and a surplus cash reserve of £845,395 equating for 29.33% of operating costs. Predictions were made for a 0% rise for 2025/26 to 2028/29 and, if annuity interest remained at 5.24%, a further increase into 2029/30 of between 1%-2.5%.

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27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

CHAIRMAN

FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION ONLY

TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD Meeting: Board Meeting Date: 30th November 2023	File Ref:	Agenda Item: 16
	Subject: COMPENSATION RATES	

Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve payments made in accordance with the Board's rates since the last Board Meeting. To approve the amended rates of compensation for Forage and Grain Maize.
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1. Compensation Claims

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

Comp Ref	Claimant	Description	Claim
████	████████████████████	Moor Drain - Weedcutting	£507.50
████	██████████	Moor Drain - Weedcutting	£70.00
████	██████████	Fenton Marsh Loop Drain Branch 2 - Weedcutting	£51.00
████	████████████████████	Broker Farm Drain - Weedcutting	£156.00
████	██████████	Northing Drain - Weedcutting	£35.00
████	██████████	Sewage Works Drain - Weedcutting	£35.00
████	██████████	Fenton Marsh Loop Drain Branch 2 - Weedcutting	£34.00
████	████████████████████	Farndon Field - Weedcutting	£126.00
████	████████████████████)	Farndon Feeder - Weedcutting	£43.75
████	██████████	Border Drain - Weedcutting	£234.00
████	████████████████████	Newton Sewer - Weedcutting	£78.00
████	████		
████	████████████████████	Catchwater Drain - Weedcutting	£52.50
			£1,422.75

2. Compensation Rates

Members proposed the addition of a figure for Forage Maize and delegated authority to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mr N. Greenhalgh and Mr T. Hawthorne at the June meeting to review and approve the compensation rate. An update on rates will be presented at the Meeting.

A.J. Malin
Senior Operations Manager

**Schedule of payments over £500 submitted to the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board on
30th November 2023**

Trans Date	Account	Narrative	Payment Value £	Notes
15/09/2023	NCC Pension Fund	PAYE & Pension Payments	8,677.81	
18/09/2023	Pension Fund	Nest	2,648.55	
20/09/2023	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd	PP/WOLD001	10,864.67	Fuel and materials
21/09/2023	Net Wages	Salaries	4,947.59	
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	896.73	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	625.72	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	2,567.32	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	2,142.70	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	2,111.35	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	917.40	Electricity
21/09/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	531.58	Electricity
22/09/2023	A & S Eggleston	PP/EGGL001	19,872.00	Flail mowing contract
22/09/2023	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd	PP/IREL001	3,119.78	
22/09/2023	R C Setchfield Ltd	PP/SETC	3,746.88	
22/09/2023	Shell UK Oil Products Ltd	PP/SHEL001	5,222.33	Hydraulic oil
22/09/2023	P.A.Y.E.	PAYE & Pension Payments	17,840.55	
28/09/2023	Allstar Business Solutions Ltd	PP/ALLS001	688.91	
29/09/2023	SH Kirk Agricultural Services	PP/KIRK002	676.80	
29/09/2023	Reedman Services	PP/REED001	2,770.18	
29/09/2023	Tanvic Tyre and Service Centre	PP/TANV001	1,722.00	Fitting of front tyres on Case tractor
05/10/2023	Newark and Sherwood District Council	PP/NSDC001	1,359.60	Office rental
06/10/2023	Environment Agency	PP/ENVA001	92,817.00	Flood and coastal erosion risk management levy
06/10/2023	Fisher German LLP	PP/FISH001	600.00	
09/10/2023	Scottish Hydro Electric	PP/SCOT001	673.92	
12/10/2023	Net Wages	PAYE & Pension Payments	31,161.19	
13/10/2023	Environment Agency	PP/ENVA001	46,408.50	Flood and coastal erosion risk management levy
13/10/2023	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	PP/LMDB001	34,346.69	Consortium, consenting & disbursement recharges Sept 23
13/10/2023	H Mell & Son Service Ltd	PP/MELL001	1,391.48	
13/10/2023	Shell UK Oil Products Ltd	PP/SHEL001	614.28	
13/10/2023	Allstar Business Solutions Ltd	PP/ALLS001	581.70	
16/10/2023	Scottish Hydro Electric	PP/SCOT001	1,797.72	Electricity
18/10/2023	NCC Pension Fund	PAYE & Pension Payments	8,118.88	
19/10/2023	P.A.Y.E.	PAYE & Pension Payments	16,334.57	
19/10/2023	Net Wages	PAYE & Pension Payments	4,871.99	
20/10/2023	AIM Electrical Services Ltd	PP/AIME001	6,882.14	Two encoders for weedscreen at Sturton pumping station
20/10/2023	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd	PP/WOLD001	12,784.70	Fuel and materials
23/10/2023	Pension Fund	Nest	2,299.92	
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	1,181.69	Electricity
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	610.37	Electricity

24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	3,143.07	Electricity
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	1,749.43	Electricity
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	1,951.74	Electricity
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	762.71	Electricity
24/10/2023	Total Energies	PP/TOTG001	511.28	Electricity
27/10/2023	GE & B Fearn Farms Limited	PP/FEAR001	507.50	
27/10/2023	T.C Harrison JCB	PP/HARR001	713.60	
27/10/2023	K and W Mechanical Services Ltd	PP/KWMS001	4,527.60	Repairs and parts on Bomford hedgecutter
27/10/2023	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	PP/LMDB001	6,002.04	Engineering recharges Sept 23
27/10/2023	Schneider Electric Systems UK Limited	PP/SCHN001	3,389.44	Telemetry support Oct-Dec 23
27/10/2023	NatWest One Credit Card	IAT	577.63	Plant fuel and Road Fund Licences
30/10/2023	Allstar Business Solutions Ltd	PP/ALLS001	574.52	Fuel
30/10/2023	Scottish Hydro Electric	PP/SCOT001	3,478.64	Electricity
03/11/2023	Archer Ecology Ltd	PP/ARCH001	1,174.80	Roost assessment at woodland in Thurgaton
03/11/2023	K and W Mechanical Services Ltd	PP/KWMS001	616.22	
03/11/2023	NCC Pension Fund	PP/NCCP001	1,125.78	
03/11/2023	R C Setchfield Ltd	PP/SETC	999.24	

Total

389,232.43

For data protection purposes some information may be excluded from this report, for example where payments have been made to individuals.