

HUNDRED OF WISBECH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

8th November 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Meeting of the Board - 18th November 2021

I enclose the Agenda for the Meeting of the Board at The Crown Lodge, Outwell at 5.00 pm on **Thursday 18th November 2021**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS AGENDA INCLUDES CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS. APART FROM THE COPY RETAINED WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES THEY WILL BE DESTROYED FOLLOWING THE MEETING AND MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN A BOARD MEMBER.

AFTER THE MEETING PLEASE DESTROY YOUR COPY OF THE PAPERS OR RETURN THEM TO THE OFFICE TO BE DESTROYED.

Please telephone or e-mail to confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

Dinner will be provided at the conclusion of the Meeting.

The office needs to advise The Crown Lodge of how many meals will be required by **MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER**.

To avoid paying for food that is not required please confirm in advance that you **WILL BE STAYING** for the meal.

Yours truly

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

To the Members of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests relating to the agenda.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 11th May 2021.

(Copy pages 8-24)

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

5. Standing Orders

Further to minute B.1970, the Clerk will advise that there has been a further minor change to those Standing Orders approved at the last meeting of the Board.

(Copy Pages 25-29)

The Board's approval to these revised Standing Orders is sought.

6. Filling of vacancies

Further to minute B.1974, to consider the filling of the three vacancies on the Board.

7. Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1975, to consider the report of the Health and Safety Officer.

(Copy page 30)

8. Depot/Yard

Further to minute B.1976, the Chairman to report.

9. Main Outfall – Crooked Bank

Further to minute B.1977, the Chairman to report.

10. Church Road Development, Friday Bridge

Further to minute B.1978, Mr Harrison to report.

11. Access Problems

Further to minute B.1979, the Chairman to report.

12. Hundred of Wisbech IDB and Waldersey IDB
Review of Joint Pumping Arrangements/Amalgamation
Joint Working Group

Further to minute B.1981, the Clerk to report.

13. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advises:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

That due to the risk of COVID-19 mutations appropriate measures are being put in place, revised and reviewed as per government advice and using activity based risk assessments.

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a seventh Chair's Meeting was held on the 2nd November 2021.

The meeting covered a wide variety of matters likely to affect IDBs. A summary of the key points and resolutions follows;

a) The MLC Chair introduced the meeting and took the opportunity to warn those present that government were pushing for land in this area to be set aside to mitigate the impacts of climate change. In this respect there was concern that the data underpinning this move was out-of-date and inadequate and that there was a risk that no proper account would be taken of the storage effects of the land as it is currently managed compared to how it might react if managed as wetland.

b) To better fit in with the farming calendar the annual safety audits carried out by Cope are to be moved to January and February. In response to a question from the floor, Chairs were advised that it is ultimately the Board and not the MLC's responsibility to manage safety at Board owned assets, although the MLC will assist where they can.

c) Chairs considered that it was considered important that IDBs and the MLC have a policy on climate change. It was felt likely that this will become increasingly important as pressure mounts for action to be taken. In this respect the Clerk advised that the MLC intended to carry out a baseline assessment of its carbon footprint which would then be used to underpin plans for reductions in CO2 release and for mitigation. This model would be made available to those IDBs which wished to follow a similar path. Once what could be reasonably achieved has been

defined a policy to steer implementation would be produced. Obviously, the aim will be to achieve net zero or as close to it as can be realistically and practically be achieved.

d) The Chief Executive outlined the work of WRE, including the regional reconciliation of water supply just carried out, the proposals for two new reservoirs (one in Lincolnshire and one in Cambridgeshire) and the future plans for water security providing a 1 in 500 year level of drought tolerance for potable water supply. On this latter point he advised that he had been pushing hard for the needs of agriculture to be taken into account, noting that wet farming and environmental targets for farming would require extra water in this region. Also, he considered that separating agricultural need from environmental need was an error and failed to recognise the close tie between the two.

e) It was reported that it seemed increasingly likely that despite lobbying MPs and Defra it will be the case from the 1st April 2022 that IDB's will lose access to red diesel for anything other than powering generators and for heating. This will increase costs and will present problems with the use of contractors who also work for agriculture which will have an exemption, hence can continue to use red diesel in plant.

f) On member training it was agreed that the MLC would set up a Zoom type seminar running several of the ADA video training sessions back-to-back. All members of all MLC administered IDBs would be invited and attendance will be recorded. This was seen as the most efficient way of delivering the training that Defra expects members to have undertaken.

g) For the next round of IDB meetings, the MLC website secure pages will be used for Board meeting documents. Members will be sent links to the appropriate webpage with a password. The documents can then be downloaded whenever it is convenient to do so. **MEMBERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE RATHER THAN REQUIRE PAPER COPIES OF DOCUMENTS.** In exceptional circumstances – for example for those members without email addresses - a paper copy of the relevant documents can still be printed off, bound and sent out. The use of the Microsoft Teams software is also to be explored for future years.

h) GDPR was discussed and it was resolved that for internal matters, or where working with partner organisations all email addresses will be visible to allow members to see who has knowledge of the matter under discussion. All external communications will normally be blind copied unless there is a need to show the address or the address is already known (for example when a member is passing on a query he or she has received themselves). It was also agreed that the website could continue to show names and primary contact numbers as long as addresses were not identified.

iii) Application for byelaw consent

That the following application for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses has been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
Mr A Castle	Piping of 33.5m of watercourse Between Soffits and Halfpenny Barns, Halfpenny Lane, Elm	1 st July 2021

iv) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 84th Annual Conference of the Association will be held virtually on Wednesday the 10th November 2021.

b) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1831, ADA have advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to penalty note referred to s37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which was actually repealed on the 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020. Consequently, Defra has amended the Penalty Notice attached to the byelaws to include the correct reference. This Penalty Notice is not part of the Byelaws and hence is a simple correction. There is no requirement either to readvertise or seek DEFRA approval and the version now uploaded to the website is the corrected one.

v) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021 will be held at ExCel, London on the 9th and 10th November 2021.

14. Delivery of Annual Maintenance contract

Further to minute B.1984, Mr Harrison to report.

(Copy page 31)

15. Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

To consider the Report of the Consulting Engineers.

(Enc 1)

16. Capital Improvement Programme

To review and approve the Board's future capital improvement programme.

17. District Officer's Report

To consider the Report of the District Officers.

(Copy page 32)

18. Works Committee Report

To receive the Report of the Works Committee.

19. District Officers' Fee

To give consideration to the District Officers' fee for 2022/2023.

20. Association of Drainage Authorities
Subscriptions

The Clerk will report that it is proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 1% for 2022.

21. Determination of annual values for rating purposes

The Clerk will submit the recommendations for the determination of annual values for rating purposes.

(See Confidential Papers – Page 1)

22. Rate arrears

To consider writing off rate arrears.

(See Confidential Papers – Page 1)

23. Contribution from Developers

With reference to minute B.308(iv), the Clerk will report that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume has been received.

(See Confidential Papers – Page 2)

24. Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2020/2021

a) To consider the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

(Copy pages 33-37)

b) To consider the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

(Copy pages 38-46)

25. Defra IDB1 Returns

The Clerk will refer to the completed IDB1 form for 2020/2021.

(Copy pages 47-56)

26. Expenditure Estimate/Update

The Clerk will advise the Board of how estimated expenditure for 2021/2022 compares with actual expenditure to date.

(Copy page 57)

27. Dates of next Meetings

To agree the dates for Meetings of the Board in 2022.

28. Any Other Business