

## MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the Middle Level Board held at the Middle Level Offices  
March on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

### PRESENT

M E Heading Esq (Chairman)  
J L Brown Esq (Vice Chairman)  
G P Bliss Esq  
The Lord De Ramsey  
R W Groom Esq  
C F Hartley Esq

J E Heading Esq  
M R R Latta Esq  
S T Raby Esq  
W Sutton Esq  
H W Whittome Esq  
S W Whittome Esq

The Chief Executive/Chief Engineer, the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk and the Treasurer were in attendance.

### Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from P W Allpress Esq, G Booth Esq, C D Boughton Esq, R C Brown Esq, D J Fountain Esq, S Garratt Esq, D Watt Esq and P W West Esq.

### B.3411 Declaration of Interests

The Chief Executive reminded the Board of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them.

### B.3412 Confirmation of Minutes

### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

### B.3412a Death of Mr George West

The Chief Executive referred to the death of Mr George West on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The Chief Executive reported that Mr West had been a Commissioner since 1968 and had served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Works Committee.

The Commissioners stood in silence as a mark of respect for Mr West.

### RESOLVED

That the Commissioners' appreciation of the services rendered by Mr G West be recorded in the minutes.

B.3413 Land Drainage Act 1991  
Board Membership

The Chief Executive reported that:-

- a) Huntingdonshire District Council had appointed Councillor D Watt to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Chief Executive also reported that Councillor G J Bull was not re-appointed.

- b) Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillors G Booth, S Garratt and W Sutton to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.3414 Annual Report for the year 2016/2017

The Board considered and approved the Annual Report for the financial year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 for submission to the Commissioners.

B.3415 Payments by the Commissioners

The Board examined and approved payments amounting to £2,132,081.87 made during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

B.3416 Miscellaneous Receipts

The Board examined and approved particulars of receipts amounting to £106,495.49 during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

B.3417 Determination of annual values for rating purposes

The Board considered the following recommendations for the determination of annual values for rating purposes, viz:-

Middle Level Commissioners		Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes			November 2017				
		Transfer value to Special Levy - £1,325.58 per hectare	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Fenland	Special Levies (Hunts, BKL&WN, P/Boro. City)			TOTAL
		Opening Values (£)	43910.387	6,733,938	1,909,406	795,496	781,498	70	10,220,408
		Opening %		65.89%	18.68%	7.78%	7.65%	0.00%	100.00%
<u>March</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reason for change</u>							
									0
									0
<u>Ramsey</u>									0
									0
Mr J R Clarke	Bucks Drive Ramsey St Marys	Change in annual value & acreage	-2.994	115					115
Mr J R Clarke	Bucks Drive Ramsey St Marys	Change to building plot	-0.285	-43		378			335
Miss Z Langner	Turf Fen Farmhouse, First Turf Fen Drove Warboys	Change to garden	-1.032	-135		1,368			1,233
									0
<u>Upwell</u>									0
									0
Dance/Loft/Woodhouse	Croft Road Upwell	GIS revaluation	-0.285	-45			378		333
Lunn D J	Croft Road Upwell	Transfer to domestic dwellings	0.250	-40			331		291
Rochester Farms Ltd	Off Silt Road Nordelph	Change of use to domestic dwellings	0.314	-51			416		365
									0
									0
<u>Whittlesey</u>									0
									0
									0
<u>C.C.C.</u>									0
									0
		Total determinations	43906.355	-199	0	1,746	1,125	0	2,672
		Closing Values (£)		6,733,739	1,909,406	797,242	782,623	70	10,223,080
		Closing %		65.87%	18.68%	7.80%	7.66%	0.00%	100.00%
March	Slamp land drainage rates								
Upwell	Land at Salters Lode drainage rates								
Ramsey									
Cambs Council									

## RESOLVED

- i) That the determinations recommended be adopted by the Commissioners.
- ii) That the Chief Executive be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Chief Executive be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Commissioners in connection with any appeals against the determinations.

### B.3418 Rate arrears

- a) Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £272.74.

## RESOLVED

That the Commissioners be recommended to write off rate arrears amounting to £272.74.

- b) Mr David Partridge – Request for refund of overpaid rates

The Chief Executive advised the Board of a request from Mr Partridge for a refund of rates following an adjustment that had been made to the amount of land owned by Mr Partridge. An amendment had been made to the drainage rates for Mr Partridge's property and overpaid rates for the current and preceding year had been made to Mr Partridge.

## RESOLVED

That, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, no further payments be made to Mr Partridge.

(NB) - Mr J Heading declared that he personally knew David Partridge and Councillor Sutton declared that he was a member of Upwell Internal Drainage Board and also knew Mr Partridge.

### B.3419 Contributions from Developers

With reference to minute B.1779, the Chief Executive reported that development contributions of £149.50 had been received by the Commissioners in the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume.

The Chief Executive advised on discussions that had recently taken place with Persimmon Homes regarding the Cardea site in Peterborough and that it had been agreed that the Middle Level Commissioners would, subject to agreeing terms, take over the maintenance of the balancing ponds on the site. It had been proposed by Persimmon Homes that rather than pay a contribution towards the maintenance of the SUDS drainage scheme that the Commissioners be transferred 2 x 2-bedroomed properties on the site from which they could obtain rental income to cover the maintenance costs.

## RESOLVED

To delegate to the Executive Committee any further action required on Persimmon Homes' proposals, including the agreement of a commuted sum and the legal agreement for the adoption of the balancing ponds.

### B.3420 Staff

#### a) Mechanical and Electrical Engineer – Mr Malcolm Downes

Further to minute B.3408, the situation with the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer's stepped retirement was discussed.

## RESOLVED

That Mr Downes be allowed to reduce to 3 days a week, subject to suitable arrangements being made with the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Mr Richard Lloyd, the Deputy Mechanical and Electrical Engineer be promoted to Mechanical and Electrical Engineer which would commence with immediate effect.

## RESOLVED

That Mr Lloyd be awarded an additional four spine points with the ability for a further two spine points to be awarded in two stages in the future.

#### b) Environmental Officer Post

Mr Carson had now indicated that it is was his intention to retire in June or July 2018. The Board considered it was important to have a full time Environmental Officer to protect the Board's work and to comply with legislation.

## RESOLVED

i) To retain the full time position of Environmental Officer.

ii) That the Chief Executive recruit the post when he has received formal notice from Mr Carson.

#### c) Operations Engineer – Mr Jonathon Fenn

The Chief Executive outlined a number of duties he could delegate to Mr Fenn including Abstraction licence commenting, consents processing, managing bank lots, chairing the Middle Level Users Group and taking the lead role in Health and Safety.

## RESOLVED

That the Operations Engineer be awarded a two spine point increase should he agree to undertake these additional duties.

d) Assistant Operations Engineer – Mr Morgan Lakey

The Chief Executive advised that some of the duties currently undertaken by Mr Fenn would be delegated to Mr Lakey.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Operations Engineer be awarded one spine point increase for these additional duties subject again to him agreeing to take on this workload.

The Board wished to record that they recognised and appreciated the work carried out in 'out of hours' time and the willingness of staff to respond in emergency situations.

RESOLVED

That no additional payment should be made for 'call outs' and that the spine increases already awarded should include remuneration for 'out of hours' duties and 'call outs'.

B.3421 Property

a) No 6 Deerfield Road, March

The Chief Executive reported that the sale of this property was now completed.

b) No 10 Deerfield Road, March

The Chief Executive reported that a valuation for the property had been obtained from the agents acting for the Commissioners who had advised that the property should be placed on the market in the region of £185,000.00

The property has a separate garage on a concrete base where the land belongs to the Commissioners and the concrete garage on the site belongs to a former employee (Mr Kingham).

RESOLVED

i) The Board approved the sale of 10 Deerfield Road, March in line with their existing policy to dispose of properties which were no longer required for operational purposes.

ii) That, on completion of the sale, a nominal sum should be paid to Mr Kingham for the garage.

At the time of development of the former depot for residential purposes, Mr Kingham was granted a 'right of way' along the back of the property to his garage by the Developer. This was an informal arrangement and the 'right of way' was not formally transferred to the Commissioners. The Solicitor/Assistant Clerk had obtained a valuation for this 'right of way' and has approached the Developer to negotiate the transfer of the 'right of way' to the Commissioners in order that it can be sold with the property.

c) Backup Power for the Offices

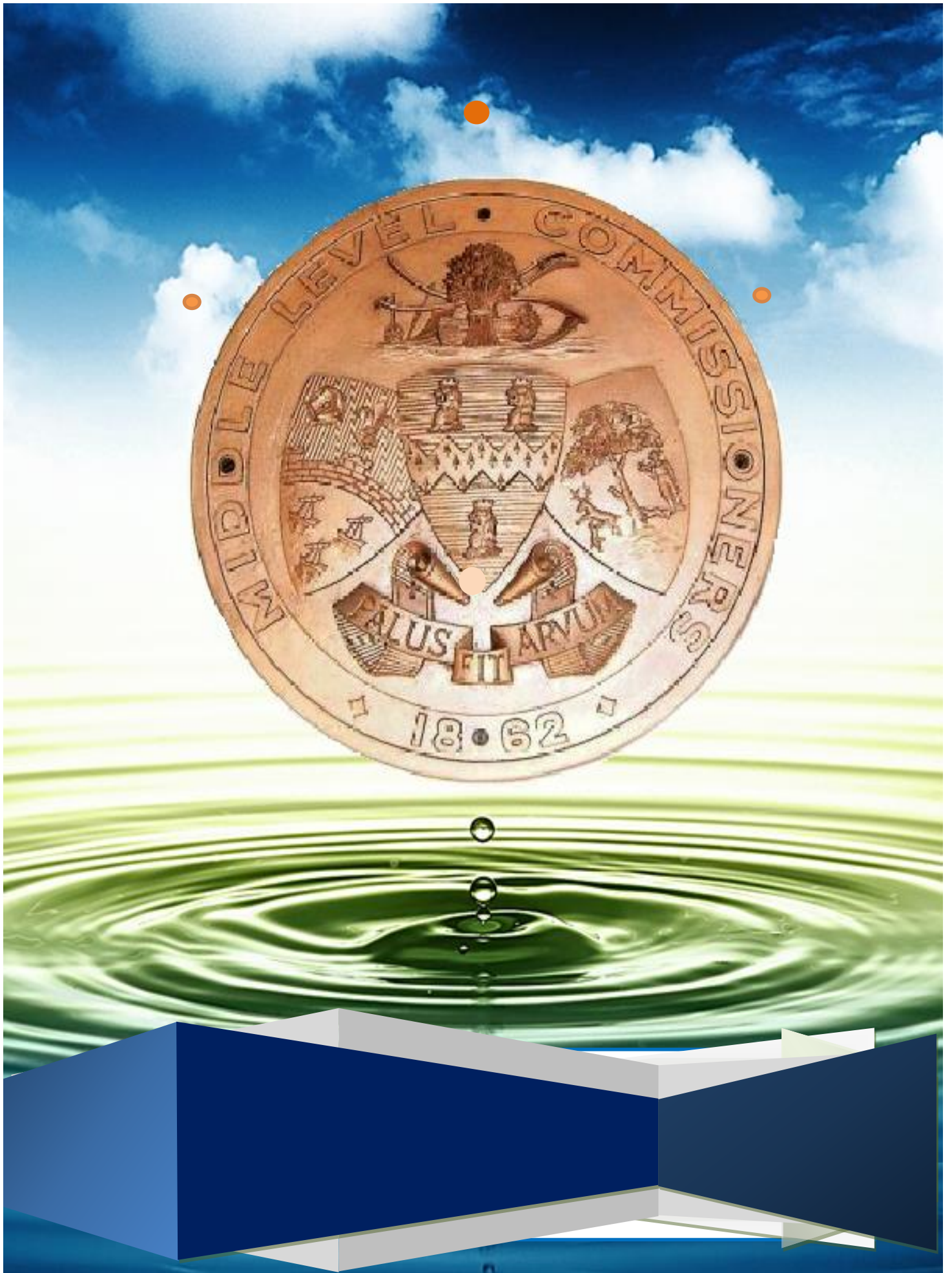
The Chief Executive provided an update on the installation of the backup generator in the event of power cuts and advised that as part of these works a charging point for electric cars would be installed in the car park.

RESOLVED

That any member of staff wishing to use the charging point should make an annual payment to the Board towards the costs of this electricity supply.

B.3422 Chief Executive's Annual Report

The Board considered the Report of the Chief Executive, viz:-





## **CONTENTS**

1. Health & Safety
2. Clerk's Report
3. Navigation Bill
4. Staff
5. Publicity
6. HMRC Visit
7. ICT Report
8. Engineering Executive Commentary
9. Water Resources & Control of Water Levels
10. Maintenance Work
11. Telemetry
12. Property
13. Plant & Vehicles
14. Asset Records
15. Improvements and Surveys
16. Environment Agency (EA) Studies/Works/Plans
17. Planning
18. Recreation
19. Conservation
20. Internal Drainage Board Works
21. Engineering Fees
22. ADA
23. EA Sanctioned Project List
24. Renewable Power

**APPENDIX 1** - *Rainfall 2017*

**APPENDIX 2** - *Hydrology and Pumping 2016/2017*

**APPENDIX 3** - *Solar Returns*

**APPENDIX 4** - *FCRM Capital Programme*

**APPENDIX 5** - *Quotation for Proposed Agricultural Building*

**APPENDIX 6** - *Bodsey Bridge Level Summary Summer 2017*

**APPENDIX 7** - *Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies*

**APPENDIX 8** - *Newsletters from the EA on the Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works*

# ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

April – September 2017

## 1. Health & Safety

### 1.1 **Croner Consulting** – continue to provide the MLC and associated IDBs with help and advice on Health and Safety issues.

Croner has visited the offices several times this year and has been assisting with our internal review and update of all our internal risk assessments, to ensure they are fully compliant and up to date.

Croner has also been assisting several Boards with their Health and Safety requirements, through discussions, reports and site visits.

Ian Benn of JBA Consulting acts as Health and Safety adviser for ADA and passes information to them; this is then passed on to all member organisations. For the Boards administered by the MLC these are screened and passed on to Board Chairmen when considered relevant.

In addition to risk assessments one area reviewed over the period is the provision of welfare facilities. The review has concluded that no change to our present arrangements is required at this point in time but we must be prepared to react to any change in circumstances.

The safety and health of staff and workforce are considered the highest priority and hence is covered by the first item at every monthly works progress meeting.

## 2. Clerk's Report

### 2.1 **Anglian Water Issues** – we continue to receive monies from developers in respect of the discharge of treated sewage effluent flows to our system but do from time to time need to remind Anglian Water of what has been agreed.

### 2.2 **Partnership Working/PSCAs** – the Chief Executive is striving to increase our partnership working with all flood risk management organisations. This includes holding meetings with planning authorities and encouraging catchment based cross council boundary consistency in approach to dealing with flood risk. On Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCAs) a meeting with Ian Russell of the EA has led to a proposal to produce a joint PSCA with the MLC and all interested MLC administered Boards who have Main River within their district and may be prepared to do work for the EA on a cost recovery basis. An EA seminar is to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November to show what can be achieved through PSCAs. These agreements are not binding in that they do not compel one organisation to work for another but instead facilitate this to happen (without the need for extensive paperwork) should both parties agree there is mutual interest and or benefit. This has been evidenced by the EA who has reported that the value of the works completed through PSCAs to date totals over £7.8 million. The combined national efficiency saving from this has been calculated as 16%, equating to a saving of £1.25 million. Feedback from PSCA users indicate that the key reasons for cost savings are:

- continuity of work programmes, eg working on main river whilst in vicinity of a partners' existing works,
- reduced travel time, eg proximity to undertake structure maintenance and obstruction removal,
- local knowledge, such as of suitable access routes,

- timing of works, eg to suit cropping patterns, and
- effective landowner negotiations of cost-effective rates.

One previous issue in relation to PCSAs has been the requirement to have Professional Indemnity Insurance in place, which in the past the MLC have had but the IDBs they administer did not have it (or indeed really require it). Our current insurers have however offered to extend our current insurance to include nominated IDBs at no extra cost thus removing this barrier.

The EA is concerned that the FRM industry is now three years into a six year period in which schemes must be delivered that reduce flood risk to 300,000 properties nationwide, and that not enough progress is currently being made to be absolutely sure that this will be achieved. In this region much of the target delivery is down to IDB schemes (see Appendix 4). The MLC are therefore working closely with the EA local teams to ensure that we do all we can to deliver what we are aiming to.

**2.3 *Potential Changes in Rating Valuation*** – no further information has been received by this office in relation to this matter but it is clear that local councils remain concerned that changes in the payments to them from central government to help cover the IDB special levy demands will be reduced and eventually axed altogether.

**2.4 *National Audit Office Review/IDB1 updating*** – the most notable impact for IDBs arising from the National Audit Office Review currently appears to be defra's requirement to provide significant additional detail within the annual IDB1 return. To ensure that the data collected has value and is meaningful, defra set up a committee with representation from ADA, IDBs and the EA. The MLC Chief Executive was invited to be involved in this and has through emailed correspondence and attendance at two meetings been able to make valuable contribution into this process. The new forms will be issued next year but should allow defra the ability to collect data which will, for the first time, produce a dataset which reflects the extent and value of the works undertaken by IDBs whether for flood risk or environmental enhancement benefit. It is considered that this will be helpful in increasing the potency of the voice of IDBs in any future national debate on FRM and associated matters. In return it will remind IDBs of those matters of transparency and governance which defra wish to see in place and maintained over the long term. This latter point is aimed as a call for some of the less progressive Boards to move forward, which is not an issue for the MLC or its administered Boards who are already complying.

**2.5 *Board Tour of Inspection*** – this year's inspection was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June and had navigation as its theme. The feedback from this event was very positive.

**2.6 *ADA/EUWMA Hamburg Trip*** – the Chief Executive travelled to Hamburg at the invitation of ADA. This visit was EUWMA's second technical meeting and focused upon efficiencies. At the meeting the Chief Executive presented and answered questions upon the St Germans pumping station. In addition, he spoke about the use of solar cells on the office roof and the principle of generating electricity when demand was highest made more sense on site than on domestic properties where the property was generally empty.

The visit was interesting and the Chief Executive learnt that many of the issues we face are mirrored by the Water Management Boards in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland. Also, that the use of chemicals to control weed and reed in aquatic environments is banned in France and Spain and possibly Germany as well.

It was interesting to note that in Germany there appears to be no requirement for fish and eel friendly pumps and that the Board visited did not employ or contract the services of a conservation officer.

The visit included opportunities to view a pumping station, which simultaneously served two catchments holding two different water levels, where pumps were being replaced but in

which the mantra was clearly to keep things as simple as possible. The second visit was to the site of one of three newly erected Drainage Board owned wind turbines in an area where over 900 turbines have been erected. Each of the three 200m high turbines produces 3MW and to set them up the Drainage Board had created a wholly owned limited company.

Various presentations were made on power generating and load balancing schemes and options and it is clear that Europe is well ahead of the UK in terms of renewable adoption and planning.

**2.7 Pilot Main River Transfers** – earlier this year defra gave the green light to a number of pilot projects which involve “de-maining” certain sections of main river across the country. The process involves investigating the passing of river maintenance and operational activities from the EA to IDBs where there is mutual agreement. If successful, the pilots will lead to the permanent passing of these activities to the IDBs concerned and if de-maining is supported by the local communities, defra and the EA have indicated that they may consider the same approach for other areas.

The catchment areas and IDBs concerned by these pilots are;

1. *Norfolk and Suffolk Rivers, East Anglia (Norfolk Rivers IDB, East Suffolk IDB, Broads IDB)*
2. *Isle of Axholme, East Midlands (Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board)*
3. *South Forty Foot Drain Catchment, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire area (Black Sluice IDB)*
4. *Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook, Herefordshire, West Midlands (River Lugg IDB)*
5. *River Stour Catchment, Kent & South London area (River Stour (Kent) IDB)*

Within the Middle Level catchment there is only the Bury Brook which is designated as Main River, however, there are other lengths within IDBs administered by the MLC which might become the centre of further talks if these pilots prove successful.

**2.8 Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies** – water has always been at the heart of the Fens, and its management is vital to the life and livelihoods of the communities that live there. ADA has therefore led on the production of a Guide, which was published this year to help identify mitigation measures for water level managers to improve Fenland watercourses such that they might be modified towards achieving Good Ecological Potential as defined by the Water Framework Directive. The Guide takes account of the special nature of Fenland watercourses containing slow-flowing water, usually contained behind sluices and pumping stations. The Guide, which was written with collaboration between the Environment Agency (EA), ADA, Internal Drainage Boards (including the MLC) and Cambridgeshire ACRE has an accompanying Brief Introduction which is included within this report at Appendix 7.

**2.9 Committees** – the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA) met on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> September to discuss issues relating to operational navigation authorities. Matters covered included Boat Safety and issues with rented boats where the landlords were taking advantage of legal and operational loopholes.

The Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Peterborough Flood Risk Management/Water Management Partnerships have continued to meet regularly throughout the period and the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership was recently given a guided tour around the St Germans pumping station by the Chief Executive.

The MLC are partners in the Cambridgeshire ACRE Heritage Lottery Fund Project bid for conservation enhancements including within IDB water corridors. This bid entitled ‘New Life on the Old West’ is in areas outside the Middle Level District, just beyond the south east

corner of the Ouse Washes. It is felt that some of the excellent work done by the MLC can be mirrored here.

**2.10 Consultations** – the MLC continue to respond to the defra consultations either directly or through correspondence with ADA as and when appropriate to do so.

**2.11 Review of Water Abstraction Licensing** – this matter appears to be taking a back seat as any significant changes would require primary and secondary legislation changes. It is understood, not perhaps surprisingly, that legislative matters arising from Brexit are demanding all available legislation development time.

**2.12 Middle Level Barrier Banks Works** – the EA's contractor has commenced work on this three year scheme to raise and strengthen the barrier bank which protects the Middle Level district and neighbouring Boards from flood risk from the Washes. It is understood that the scheme, once complete, will almost guarantee that for the foreseeable future this bank cannot be overtopped in any return period event. This is because there is ultimately a finite limit on how much water can actually discharge into the Washes.

In a recent report the EA has indicated that whilst good progress has been made by its contractor the scheme is currently behind programme. There is of course plenty of time at the moment to make up the programme deficit. Newsletters issued by the EA are included at Appendix 8.

**2.13 River Great Ouse Dredging Pilot** – it is disappointing to have to report that this project has once again been set back twelve months following difficulties the EA has had in obtaining a Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence. Members will be aware that the Middle Level and associated Boards have been supportive of this project and have agreed that precept money can be used on it.

**2.14 Eel Regulations** – the Eel Regulations continue to be of concern and during the period two telephone conferences have been held with the IDB/EA Eel Liaison Group. A further face to face meeting is planned for January. It is essential that progress is made in this arena as delays are occurring on schemes and significant cost is being incurred. The Chief Executive has been in communication with John Curtin the EA Director of Incident Management and Resilience and has advised that in his opinion the issues which need addressing are;

- *Pumping stations are not like water resource intakes in as much as the aim at pumping station sites should be to facilitate eel passage not to bar it.*
- *There remains confusion over what 'proportionality' means in terms of spend on eel passage as part of total asset refurbishment or replacement costs.*
- *The DEFRA/EA position statement was retracted and whilst it is to be replaced the date for this is uncertain (certainly not in the near future).*
- *The approach to replacement structures differs from refurbishment and hence there is a risk that schemes could be skewed towards refurbishment over renewal, irrespective of what might be most beneficial to eels.*
- *With limited funds available it seems wrong that the focus on spending on eels seems to be opportunistic rather than targeted which it is believed is leading to poor value for money, ie there is the potential to spend large sums of money on low priority sites and nothing on other high priority sites.*
- *The bar is being set too high. What if it was possible to get 80% of eels safely around obstacles at 100 sites instead of 100% of eels around say just 10 sites for the same investment?*

- 2.15 Future Planning for the MLC and Associated Boards** – the Board is asked to consider how it might wish the MLC to develop and evolve to meet the changing circumstances and demands of the area over time. It is hoped that there will be time at the Board Meeting to initially consider if the time is right for a review and then if so what form it might take. It is also suggested that any future discussions on this matter should include representation from all administered IDBs as they will, of course, have a vested interest.

### **3. Navigation Bill**

The Board will recall that at the last meeting it was reported that the Bill had passed the Second Reading stage and should then have progressed to the Committee stage to consider more formally the objections of the Petitioners.

Due to the General Election in June 2017, Parliament was dissolved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May and business did not resume until 13<sup>th</sup> June and then only sat until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 before the summer recess, there has therefore been very little parliamentary time available to progress the Bill.

The Chief Executive and Solicitor have used this time to meet individually with all the Petitioners to examine in detail their objections to the Bill. This was a very useful exercise and, although there remains some objection to the Bill, the principle of registration of boats and boats having Safety Certificates and insurance seems to be generally accepted.

One of the Petitioners has indicated that he will now withdraw his Petition. The Petitioners have all now had a formal response to any of the issues they raised about the Bill.

The summer recess ended on the 5<sup>th</sup> September and almost immediately the Conference season started so no parliamentary business was conducted until the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

We received notification that the Bill would be mentioned in Parliament on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and that the whips had offered time on the 17<sup>th</sup> October for a debate on the revival of the Bill.

Kevin Foster, the MP for Torbay, has again agreed to sponsor the Bill. The Parliamentary Agents acting for the Commissioners have briefed the sponsor and have arranged briefings with Christopher Chope MP and Daniel Zeichner, the MP for Cambridge.

A further update will be provided at the meeting.

### **4. Staff**

- 4.1 Cycle to Work Scheme** – the Executive Committee has agreed that the MLC can offer a cycle to work scheme. This is a government promoted scheme which has tax advantages to employees and employers. In essence the MLC purchase a bicycle and associated equipment up to £1K in value and the employee then leases it back, purchasing the equipment at its residual value at the end of the lease period. The incentive is that this arrangement offers tax free savings and of course also encourages employees to lead more healthy lifestyles and reduce carbon emissions.

- 4.2 General Staff Matters** – two staff meetings have now been held and it seems from these that around three per year will be the idea balance between avoiding too much repetition and keeping staff informed on what is happening inside and outside of the organisation, plus of course encouraging discussion and feedback. The most recent meeting was followed by a team building event that went well and was attended by both staff and workforce representatives. A questionnaire on future possible events was also sent out which showed that there was significant interest in a wide range of MLC led events.

- 4.3 Vacancies/Appointments/Departures** – a new operative, Martyn Isaacson, joined the workforce on 5 June 2017 and appears to be settling in well. The Chief Executive attended the funeral of Bill Bowles who had been employed but the MLC for 35 years before retiring through ill health in 2005.
- 4.4 Pensions** – the Executive Committee wished to meet with the County Council scheme administrators but as yet it has not been possible to elicit a response from them on this request.
- 4.5 Spine Point Advancements** – it was agreed that there would be further consideration of spine point advancement for several members of staff which would be reviewed in the autumn. These will be discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting and any subsequent recommendations brought before the Board.
- 4.6 Anticipated Retirement of the Environmental Officer** – the Environmental Officer has indicated verbally that he intends to retire in early summer next year. Accordingly, the Board should consider what arrangements they intend to put in place to ensure that their environmental obligations will continue to be met. The Chief Executive will outline the options he sees available to the Board at the meeting.
- 4.7 Sickness**

**Staff** – of a total staff of 21, with an approximate expected maximum of 2310 man days over the six month reporting period, 4 members had 31.4 days sick leave. The leave is broken down as 1 with 28 days following a road traffic accident, 1 with 2 days, 1 with 1 day and 1 with 0.4 day. The remaining 17 members of staff did not take any time off for sickness. The member of staff who has been on maternity leave returned to work during the reporting period.

**Standby Cover** – several members of staff have again asked for standby payments to be considered by the Board. This follows knowledge that other companies such as UK Power Networks pay quite significant sums for such cover. Some clarity is also asked for on what is expected of employees during these periods of cover.

**Operatives** – during the six month reporting period the workforce of 11 men, with an approximate expected maximum of 1190 man days (due to operatives being employed for only part of the period), shared 5 days sick leave between 3 members; the remaining 8 members of the workforce did not take any time off for sickness. The sick leave is broken down as 1 having 3 days and 2 having 1 day each.

The Office for National Statistics has advised that in the UK last year on average people are absent from work for 4.3 days a year and whilst one member of staff had 28 days leave this was an exceptional circumstance and with this removed the figures reflect well.

**4.8 Training was provided as follows:**

- Teleporter Training 1 member of staff + 5 members of workforce
- RYA PB2 Course – 1 member of workforce

**5. Publicity**

- 5.1 General** – it has been a relatively quiet time for us over the summer in terms of media attention, other than an hour long interview the Environmental Officer had with BBC radio and a brief mention in the local press in relation to the boat moored for an extensive period on short stay moorings referred to elsewhere in this report. The Chief Executive spoke to the March WI on the work of the Commissioners.

**5.2 Visits** - the following visitors were received at St Germans pumping station:

20 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	-	Probus 87 Club
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	-	Ford Y & C Model Owners Club
16 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	-	University of the Third Age (U3A)
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	-	Ramsey Internal Drainage Board
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	Cllr Des Watt (new Board member)
24 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	-	Tina Starling EA
6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	CFRMP
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	-	Jennifer Rayner and friends
5 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	-	Wisbech District Valuers
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	-	Fenland District Council

The visit from Ms Rayner was arranged following a talk given by Richard Lloyd.

**5.3 Media** – the Commissioners’ ‘Twitter’ presence now has 229 followers, up from 212 six months ago suggesting that we are approaching a plateau which may remain the case until the Navigation Bill is passed.

**5.4 Web site** – [www.middlelevel.gov.uk](http://www.middlelevel.gov.uk) - the site continues to be developed and added to with the most recent addition being a section on operational maintenance. Work is also being done on the planning section to make relevant information more accessible to users.

**6. HMRC Visit**

The Treasurer and Chief Executive have, with the assistance of Whiting and Partners, been fielding queries on employee tax. All but one of the questions raised by HMRC have been dealt with to their satisfaction. The remaining item is one in which correspondence and discussion continues. This last item could, depending upon outcome, have a more wide-reaching impact upon IDBs in general and as a consequence ADA is being kept informed.

**7. ICT Report**

**7.1 Hardware** – TSG has been contracted to provide support for the Commissioners’ physical and virtual servers. So far they appear to be dealing with any issues that arise in a proactive manner and the new arrangements appear to be working well.

Our workstations, which are now seven years old, are to be replaced (current cost estimate £15K). The exact timing of this is yet to be finalised and whilst there is potential for it to fall into this current financial year it is more likely to span two financial years to allow a phased implementation.

The laptop used by the Environmental Officer has been replaced.

**7.2 Software** – operating system software on some workstations has been upgraded to Windows 10.

**7.3 Mobile Phones and Land Lines** – land line provision remains with TML and staff and workforce mobile phone lines are with EE. The telemetry mobile lines remain with Vodafone. Three companies have been approached to tender for landline services as part of a service provision review deemed necessary to ensure that we are getting best value.

**7.4 Telemetry Master Station** – this unit, which was around eight years old, has been replaced and runs on a Windows 10 platform.



## **8. Engineering Executive Commentary**

This section broadly summarises the key activities of each of the three engineering departments serving the MLC and client IDBs. It is intended to provide an overview of work carried out during the above period and that planned for the future.

A brief summary of progress on the Middle Level Strategic Improvement Scheme and progress on GiA applications is also included.

### **8.1 *Technical Services Department***

The work carried out by the Technical Services Department during the last six months can be briefly summarised as follows:

#### **On a consultancy basis:-**

**Land Drainage Channel Improvement Works South of the A47** – Highways England had last year reaffirmed that it intended to carry out a scheme comprising the enlargement of a culvert under the A47 near Wisbech and the EA had also confirmed that this was sufficient to develop a business case for downstream. The MLC were subsequently instructed by the Hundred of Wisbech IDB to proceed with the required work to develop a business case which is therefore underway. Most recently however, and of concern, Highways England has indicated that the culvert replacement scheme has been removed from its immediate programme of works and gave no indication of when works might proceed. The Chief Engineer has managed to track down a consultant working for Kier who is dealing with this project and a meeting is being arranged. It does appear that records on this scheme have been mislaid by Highways England.

**Stow Pumping Station** – as the Board will know the MLC developed a business case on behalf of Downham and Stow Bardolf IDB for the replacement of a 1950s pumping station and were successful in obtaining approval for 100% GiA. Scheme design and tender document production have been delayed by nearly a year now as the EA has required a comprehensive assessment of what can economically be done to facilitate eel passage. The Chief Engineer is challenging the overly burdensome approach which appears to be required and has raised the issue with the EA at a national level. It also appears that the EA has differing approaches in differing regions and has acknowledged that there are areas that need clarification and review.

**Green Dyke Pumping Station Replacement** – the Ramsey, Upwood and Great Raveley IDB asked for a report on the likelihood of GiA for the replacement of Green Fen pumping station. The economics were tested and the Board has instructed the development of the business case for the new station. This scheme is to be designed next year with a view to work commencing hopefully in 2019.

**Planning** – steps have been taken to improve the ties between the MLC and the planning authorities, with meetings held and further ones planned. One other significant change has been the tightening of the consenting process which is helping all parties by introducing minimum standards for submissions which are otherwise objected to. This avoids the problems previously experienced with outstanding consent submissions, where for example extra details were being awaited, hence leaving those applications undetermined but open with consent application payments attached to them. A seminar/workshop for developers and agents has been organised and the response has been positive with all allotted 25 places being taken.

### **8.2 *Works Department***

#### **Water Resources and Control of Water Levels**

## Spring/Summer 2017

Predominately drier than average weather conditions prevailed for much of last winter. Early season irrigation was required to get some spring sown cropping established. This irrigation requirement was met comfortably with reasonable water availability from the EA controlled Peterborough Nene. The early season irrigation activity was curtailed fairly abruptly by rainfall in mid-April.

The EA arranged and hosted the annual Summer Liaison meeting at its offices in Peterborough during early May. The Commissioners' presence at the meeting allowed the opportunity to reinforce the Commissioners' summer abstraction requirements, and for the continuation of dialogue and collaborative partnership working moving forward from the previous season. With SMD indices relatively high at this time, two separate text messages were sent during the early spring to encourage constituent IDB's to fill their systems to summer retention levels in readiness and preparation for the main abstraction season. Compliance with the request was generally good. It is, therefore, unfortunate that an abstraction pressure period then developed during a heat wave in June. Anglian Water was unable, or at least not prepared, to cut back on its own licenced off-take from the Peterborough Nene. Subsequently 4 night irrigation restrictions were imposed within the Middle Level system on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Water levels within the Middle Level system were 'micromanaged' during this period with IDB slackers reopened when water flows were made available from the EA controlled Nene, and closed when levels dropped below the threshold parameters. The 4-night irrigation restriction remained in place until the 10<sup>th</sup> July. The remainder of the abstraction season was managed without other restrictions being needed.

Compliance with the voluntary text messaging scheme remains the key to success with water management within the Commissioners' system and, more importantly, the vital compliance with closure of slackers when water levels in both Middle Level ponds drop below pre-set thresholds. Please refer to the EA Bodsey Bridge Level Summary Summer 2017 at Appendix 6.

It is apparent that without Anglian Water's co-operation in cutting back on its own off-take during relatively short periods of the peak abstraction season, we should perhaps expect to experience more frequent and longer abstraction and irrigation restrictions within the Middle Level system during future years.

Water levels in both Bevills Leam and St Germans ponds were lowered at the end of September to 'normal winter' pre-set parameters, in anticipation of the autumn pumping season.

**Banks and Channel Maintenance Dredging and Bank Raising** – previously reported bank raising works were completed during the summer months along the Old River Nene between Lodes End Lock and Nightingales Corner.

During late August bank raising works along the east bank of the Old River Nene were undertaken. This followed an opportunity arising to source the bank raising material, free of charge, from the nearby Greenvale Factory site at Floods Ferry.

The 2017 summer maintenance dredging programme included phased dredging of the Catchwater Drain between Straight Drove Bridge and Manor Farm Bridge and Great Raveley Drain between Finlay's Bridge and South Drain Junction. Aquatic vegetation clearance was undertaken along Monks Lode from the Catchwater Terminus to Connington Fen Bridge, and on two separate occasions on the Pigwater Drain, between Farcet Overspill and Yaxley Overspill, to facilitate water transfer into Bevills Leam pond for water abstraction purposes.

**Well Creek - Bank Subsidence** – no further correspondence has been received and no remedial bank stabilisation works have been undertaken by the relevant authority, Norfolk

County Highways, during the reporting period. It is understood that the Highways Department has not prioritised this work as the road surface has yet to be compromised, although it is visually apparent lengths of the tarmac surface and curbing are gradually subsiding. The bank does not pose a flood risk or navigational issue at the present time and therefore the affected length of Well Creek, Church Bridge Upwell to British Legion Footbridge, will probably not be dredged until such time that the bank has been stabilised to the Commissioners' satisfaction.

**Ramsey High Lode – Bank Subsidence** – damage arising from bank subsidence, as a result of a fire in an adjacent factory unit at the Stocking Fen Industrial Estate, reported to the Commissioners at their last meeting, has been repaired. Attempts to claim for the cost of repairs, from the property owner's/occupiers' insurance company, were unsuccessful.

**Herbicide Trials** – it is understood that the licence for the use of Glyphosate, (Roundup Pro Biactive) may be withdrawn at the end of 2018. Further updates on this important matter are awaited from the relevant licencing and regulatory authorities.

**Navigation** – incidents of 'live aboard' boats within the Middle Level System continue to rise, seemingly unabated at the present time.

A recent incident of anti-social and threatening behaviour, involving a small cruiser type boat deliberately veering into the path of an oncoming narrow boat travelling along the Old River Nene towards March town centre was reported to the Commissioners' offices and subsequently passed onto the local constabulary during August.

A joint site inspection of the Well Creek Trust owned mooring at Salter's Lode Lock has been held. It was apparent once the timber and GRP decking sheets had been removed that the substructure had deteriorated to a point where it was no longer structurally sound. This has led to the closure of the structure, and an offer from the Well Creek Trust for £3k towards the cost of a proposed replacement structure, to be installed and maintained in perpetuity by the Commissioners, has been made.

**The Board is asked to consider this offer and decide if it wishes to take on the responsibility or repair and on-going maintenance liability for these moorings.**

**Fly-tipping** – increasingly more resources, both in terms of labour allocation and financial spend, are being taken up dealing with fly tipped debris discarded along banks and in channels. Of more recent concern is a marked rise in animal carcasses, including sheep, calves and foals, that have required the Commissioners' intervention including the cost of legal disposal.

### **8.3 *Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Department***

Along with MLC work, major overhauls and maintenance of IDB pumping plant have been completed during the period.

A brief description of the works carried out over the past six months, together with recommendations for future works follows:

It has been a fairly relaxed six months at St Germans, with no major breakdowns. The replacement of generator coolant with a waterless variant continues in a phased manner and routine maintenance and repair is carried out as and when needed.

Major plant and motor overhauls have been completed at two IDB pumping stations and replacement pumps have been ordered for two others.

One of the upstream paddle hydraulic actuators at Stanground failed during the late summer and required urgent refurbishment.

Portable appliance testing has recently been completed.

Periodic electrical retesting/remedial works are being carried out at IDB installations as and when required.

A large outfall isolation penstock/flap valve assembly has been obtained for one station and is awaiting installation.

Repairs to several automatic weedscreen cleaners have also been carried out together with one major overhaul.

One new automatic weedscreen cleaner has been installed and two others ordered together with three new weedscreens.

Telemetry equipment is being installed at two pumping stations and new level control equipment at two others.

Discharge pipeline subsidence repairs have been carried out at one installation and delivery surge chamber subsidence is being monitored at another.

#### **8.4 Middle Level Strategic Improvement Scheme**

Peter Brett Associates (Formally Hannah, Reed) are in the process of concluding their work on the Strategy refresh. Unfortunately, the draft report is not expected before mid/end November so could not be included within this report. Discussions are being held with the EA to see if it might be able to fast track the development of the business case for this project through the use of its Pipeline Delivery Unit.

### **9. Water Resources & Control of Water Levels** (Appendices 1 & 2)

#### **9.1 *Rainfall*** – mean rainfall over the area for the reporting period was 301.28mm which is 6.07mm more than the standard average (see Appendices 1 & 2).

The rainfall statistics show that we entered the reporting period with the driest ten month period, until the end of April, since the much documented drought year of 1976. The only exception to this dry trend was November 2016, which had above average rainfall. The predominantly dry weather ended abruptly however in mid-May following 50+mm of rainfall in some areas of the Commissioners' catchment over two days. The rainfall was significant enough to raise the rainfall total for the month end to 114% of the LTA (Long Term Average). After an unsettled start to the month June turned dry and became very hot, this period of dry weather came to an end on the 27<sup>th</sup> when approximately 40mm of rain fell in a 24 hour period. July was a wet month, receiving 76mm of rainfall, equating to 155% of the LTA. Although the rainfall provided a welcomed reduction to the Soil Moisture Deficit value, and reduced abstraction requirement significantly, the intensity of some of the rain storms nearer the month end were not welcomed by Farmers and Growers hoping for an early grain harvest. July's wet weather continued into August making August the fourth successive month with above average rainfall. September was the fifth consecutive month with above average rainfall.

#### **9.2 *Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD)*** - following a reasonably 'mild and open' winter, April continued predominately dry throughout. May, in contrast to the majority of the previous ten months, was slightly wetter than average and, in response to the wet weather, the SMD returned to near normal values giving a month end value of 64mm. This average SMD trend continued throughout June and July, as heat waves mixed with localised heavy rain storms returned a month end value of 96mm. Above average rainfall in August saw the value decrease to 80mm mid-month, but rise again during more settled weather towards the month end. With above average rainfall the SMD value oscillated during September between 84mm and 93mm.

**9.3 Water Levels (Main System) Summer 2017**

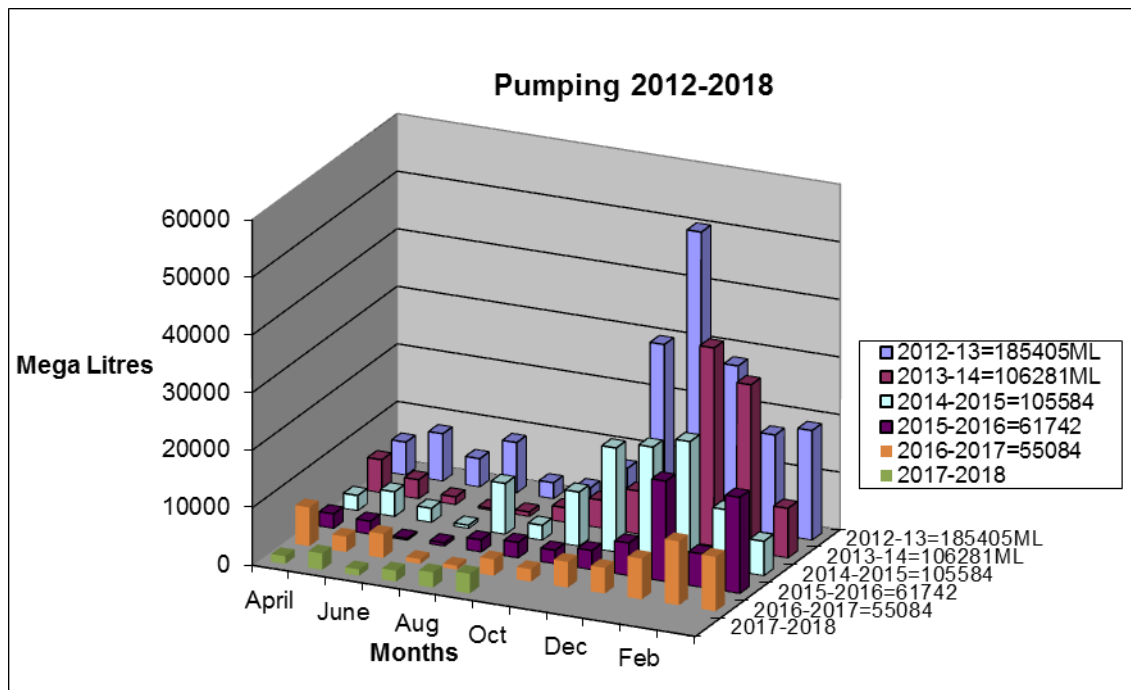
Early summer season water levels, in both Bevills and St Germans ponds were maintained relatively comfortably at maximum retention levels, with both respective pumping stations set on automated pumping modes. A wet spell of weather during mid-May delayed the onset of the peak abstraction/irrigation season and helped conserve dwindling water supplies coming into the Commissioners’ system via Stanground Lock from the EA controlled River Nene. Water levels continued to fall during mid-June, to a point where it was necessary to impose a voluntary closure of IDB inlets. Intake flows were restricted at Stanground Lock by the EA at this time, due to low water levels and low upstream flow rates within the EA Nene. This resulted in water levels falling rapidly in the MLC system to a point where on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, it was necessary to impose a 4-night irrigation restriction. The restriction was in place for a week.

All restrictions were subsequently lifted following 40mm of rainfall on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. A further spell of warm summer weather led to a second peak in abstraction demand during the first week of July. This peak coincided with a reluctance from Anglian Water to reduce their licenced off take from the EA Nene below their projected recharge curve, and hence further restrictions were imposed by the EA on intake flows at the Commissioners’ Stanground Lock. As abstraction requirements dropped, the pressure point passed and the remaining weeks of the season were not problematic. The second peak only required closure of IDB inlets. No irrigation restrictions were required.

**9.4 Water Levels (Well Creek)** – water levels have been maintained in the Well Creek by pumping water into it from the Main Drain at the Aqueduct to pre-set parameters throughout the summer. A recent incident at Marmont Priory Lock involving the lock door penstocks being left open overnight, resulted in the water levels in Well Creek dropping significantly. The reason for the incident remains unknown, but highlights that there is a need to investigate the securing of the penstocks and lock doors during the hours of darkness, to prevent reoccurrence.

**9.5 Pumping** – during the six month period, 13296 and 3311 megalitres of water were pumped at St Germans and Bevills Leam respectively (refer to Appendix 2).

The six months to September have been typically dry but especially so in April with only one third of the average amount of water being pumped (as compared to the last 6 years).



## 10. Maintenance Work

10.1 **St Germans Pumping Station** - as planned the coolant in two of the remaining five generators will be replaced in early November with Evans Waterless coolant. The coolant is already on site and engines Nos 4 & 6 will be changed. Further to the costs indicated in the last report a saving of just under £3000 has been possible by having the used preparation fluid tested. The results showed that it was capable of two more conversions and so there was no need to purchase new fluid for this year's conversions.

At the time of writing the last report we were experiencing difficulty in finding a company to dispose of the old inverter capacitors, in accordance with the current WEEE regulations. This situation was resolved in June when a company was found which was prepared to take them at a cost of £731. In addition, contact has been made with a Senior Design Engineer from ABB who may (after he retires) be prepared to give written proposals on how we can safely extend the life of the capacitors we have. A further update is likely to be given in the next Engineers' report.

Discussions are ongoing with the Environmental Officer as to how best to proceed with the mussel infestation occurring in the elver pass delivery line. The only credible solution found to date has been to use a powerful acid to dissolve the mussel shells but this is not a preferred option as it may adversely affect elvers.

Following the removal of corrupt files and increasing the storage space for the historical files the two SCADA PC's have worked faultlessly over the period and whilst they are undoubtedly on borrowed time, at approaching ten years old, they are serving us well at the moment.

In May of this year the starter motor on engine No 5 failed after the solenoid burnt out. This may have been caused by the batteries being in a poor condition (now replaced). **Note:** these are the original batteries fitted to the engines in early 2010 and so are considered to have performed well to last over seven years. To prevent further failures the remaining engines will have their batteries replaced between now and April 2018 to spread the costs over two financial years.

September saw an explosion of weed at St Germans resulting in the need for both of the large skips to be emptied. Up until that point the skips, which had been there for two years, had only been one third full.



## 10.2 **Main Drain/Station Intake and Surrounds:**

**Bed Level** – no dredging or re-profiling has been required and none is planned for at least the next few years.

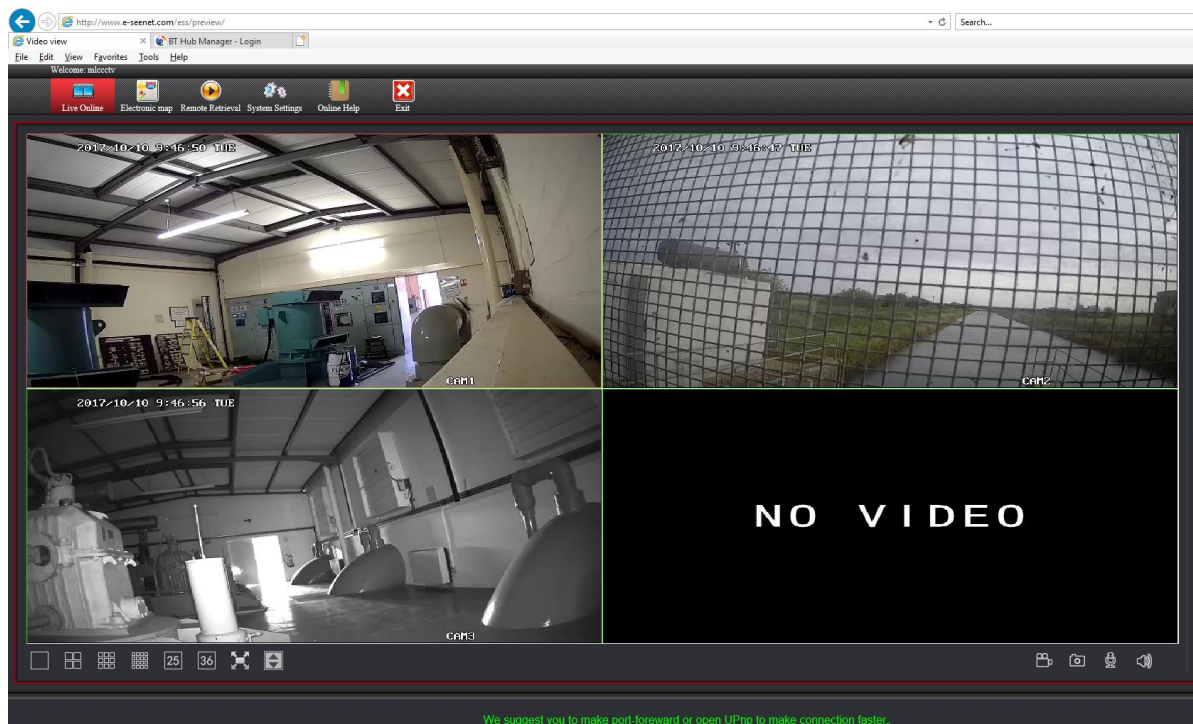
**Grass Cutting** - the grass mowing contract has been undertaken by local contractors, Kew Grass Care, this season. The Commissioners continue to undertake mowing of the steep side slopes and river banks at the site in-house using their long reach flail mowers, as and when required, to maintain the site in good condition.

**Tree Planting Scheme** - the trees on site have continued to proliferate, having benefitted from a reasonable growing season this summer.

10.3 **Aqueduct Bridge** – there is nothing further to report at this time.

## 10.4 **Bevills Leam Pumping Station**

**Engine Overhaul Programme/Inspections** – as previously reported it is currently anticipated that the three diesel engines should provide adequate service for a while. This is to be reviewed in 3 years' time. Recently the No 5 pumpset starter motor failed and required replacement, these inertial type starters are obsolete therefore a spare to hold in stock is being sourced. CCTV cameras have been obtained and are to be fitted around the pumping station which will record live images to a 2TB HDD and can be viewed via a PC or mobile phone app.



Two of the three electric pump main isolators are becoming very difficult to operate and being 35 years old they are obsolete. Their replacement, together with some minor control improvements, is currently in hand.

10.5 **Control Sluice** – there is nothing to report under this item.

## 10.6 **Navigation Structures**

**Salter's Lode Lock** – this lock, which is of course the most active in terms of boat passages, has operated successfully and without particular issue over the period. The

Environmental Officer has spoken with the lock keeper about lock operation at key times to allow eel and elver passage as per the requirements of the Eel Regulations.

**Stanground Lock** – during August the seals on one of the upstream penstock hydraulic rams failed which meant that only the one was available for water abstraction from the Nene into the Middle Level system. Due to the different design of this penstock the head was reduced which severely limited the intake flow for a few days whilst the ram was removed and refurbished.

**Horseway Lock** – the Peterborough branch of IWA has been approached and is keen to undertake decorating work to the metal door sweeps and associated iron works on the lock which will retain the lock in a good visual condition at no cost to the Commissioners, other than providing paint and decorating consumables for the voluntary work.

**Insurance** – our cover has been extended to cover accidental damage to both bridge and lock structures.

**10.7 Cardea Site SuDS** – All works commissioned by Persimmon Homes to bring the SuDS for this site back up to an adoptable standard have been completed. With the assistance of the ADA Chief Executive (through the writing of a letter to Persimmon Homes CEO) it has been possible to set up a meeting with them to discuss the potential for adoption of the key SuDS infrastructure. This meeting is scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and a verbal update will be given at the Board meeting on the outcome from it.

**10.8 EA Tidal Entrance, Salter's Lode Lock/Old Bedford Entrance Desilting** – a verbal request to undertake silt clearing works during March 2018 has been received from the EA. A site meeting will be arranged in the near future to allow the detail to be discussed. The benefit from the Commissioners' perspective is to ensure as little silt as possible is transferred into the lock chamber from the tidal side during locking operations, allowing the lock to work efficiently at lower tide levels. The proposed works would be undertaken on a fully rechargeable basis as has occurred in the past.

#### **10.9 Weed and Grass Control on Banks & Channels**

**Rigid Hornwort** – has been experienced in abundance again throughout the majority of the Commissioners' main watercourses this season. The Commissioners' weed clearing boats were deployed along the Forty Foot and Sixteen Foot to intercept and clear the semi-buoyant weed before it reached the weedscreen at St Germans pumping station. Growths of the weed mass along the Main Drain from Aqueduct Bridge to St Germans pumping station have been removed by operating the pumping station's weed screen grabs in a shallow draft mode during autumn pumping sessions.

**Duck Weed** – has been much in evidence again this season. Its arrival during mid-July directly correlated to warm water temperatures at that time. At the time of reporting the majority of the weed mass in the larger channels has been displaced by wave action and reactive pumping, although some growths of the floating mass remain lodged in the marginal vegetation.



**Azolla** – significant azolla growth within the Middle Level system has been apparent again this season. Although the visual impact seems to be initially concerning, combined autumn pumping and wave action seem to have dispersed the growth readily.



**Reed/Lily/Drain Bed Spraying** - the Commissioners have continued to make best use of Roundup-Pro Biactive herbicide, while it is still available to be used in aquatic situations. Channels treated include the Sixteen Foot, Forty Foot, Twenty Foot, Bevills Leam, Old River Nene and Whittlesey Dyke.

A favourable weather window during the late spring and summer months allowed for herbicide treatment of lilies and emergent aquatic weed to be made. Channels treated included the Sixteen Foot, Forty Foot, New Pophams Eau and Main Drain.

Marginal vegetation was spot treated with Round-up Pro-Biactive herbicide to reduce the width of reed beds and other emergent vegetation along the margin corridors of the Sixteen Foot, Twenty Foot, Forty Foot, Old River Nene, Well Creek, Bevills Leam and Whittlesey Dyke where required.

Drain beds were treated with herbicide to control emergent aquatic vegetation along Catchwater Drain and Yards End Dyke during the summer months.

**Weed-cutting (boats)** – the Commissioners’ five weed cutting and collecting boats have worked their way around the system on a priority basis. The boats are divided into two working gangs consisting of a weed cutter attended by a lifting boat, predominantly used in smaller watercourses and a weed cutter attended by two lifting boats for larger, deeper watercourses. At the time of reporting the boats have been deployed to cut back marginal aquatic vegetation. It is anticipated that works will be completed by mid-December.

**Flail Mowing** – following the Board’s approval at its last meeting, an order for a spare Herder flail head was placed and delivered by Mastenbroek. The spare head is interchangeable with either of the Commissioners’ Herder mowers, and should further reduce machine downtime when damage is sustained to flail heads in the future.

The Commissioners’ programmed conservation cut commenced in mid-March and was complete by early April. The Health & Safety cut followed and was completed in early June. A decision was taken not to undertake a second Health & Safety round this year, as vegetation growth slowed during the warm weather. The Main cut commenced in mid-July. Work is progressing satisfactory given the dense vegetation growth on banksides. Many of the banks which are not afforded grass access strips have now been cut, leaving banks with access strips and roadside banks to be mown.

Unfortunately breakdowns have been experienced recently with the 2017 Herder machine. Initially there was an electronic relay fault with the Prolec Height Restrictor that intermittently cut out when the machine had been at work. More recently a fault with the Herder mower electronic circuitry has proven difficult to find, but has been rectified with the installation of a replacement controller pad.

It is anticipated that mowing will be completed in late November this year.

**10.10 Trees and Bushes** - tree and bush clearance works have been necessary during the reporting period along the following channels;

#### **Old River Nene**

- *March Town Centre* – contracted tree cutting and removal work has been carried out on behalf of Fenland District Council (FDC) to clear dangerously overhanging trees from the watercourse adjacent to the George Campbell Leisure Centre, on a fully re-chargeable basis.
- Trimming works to low branches of weeping willow trees situated at Marylebone Bridge, restricting clear passage for boats navigating along the river, was also undertaken.

## 10.11 *Maintenance Works & Machine Cleansing, Banks and Channels*

**Proposed Phase IV Well Creek Dredging (British Legion Footbridge, Upwell – Isle Bridge, Outwell)** – plans are currently being finalised to undertake the fourth phase of channel clearing and de-silting works from the British Legion Footbridge to Isle Bridge, Outwell, early in 2018. Approval has been sought from Norfolk County Highways for a contractor's long reach excavator to work for part of the proposed working length, along the A1101, as adjacent bank access from Lowside, Outwell is only partially available due to trees and residential garden areas adjoining the river. The proposed working length within the fourth phase is approximately 770m. The dredged material will be transported to the Commissioners' receiving site at Salter's Lode, where it will be left to dry sufficiently to be re-handled and re-used as bank raising material in the future. It is proposed to deploy two of the Commissioners' tractors and newly purchased dump trailers, which will complement the three similar units provided by the contractor.

**Catchwater Drain** – this year's phased programmed machine cleansing works were undertaken after harvest and commenced at Straight Drove Bridge, Connington and completed at Manor Farm Bridge. The cleansing work was undertaken using a contractor's 18 metre long reach machine.

**Pigwater Drain** – once again during the summer months, significant algal and submerged weed growth occurred in the Pigwater channel and required removal by a contractor's machine on two separate occasions.

**Great Raveley Drain (Finlay's Bridge – South Drain Junction)** – stands of emergent aquatic vegetation were removed from the channel following harvest. The dredged material and plant matter was left on the adjacent banks sides to dry and decompose.

**Monks Lode (Catchwater Terminus – Connington Fen Bridge)** – emergent, abundant submerged vegetation was removed from the channel during August. The works were necessary to facilitate the conveyance of water during the coming winter months.

**Old River Nene, Ramsey St Mary's (Lodes End Lock – Nightingales Corner Junction)** – as previously reported, material that was dredged from the working site last winter was



left to dry on adjacent embankments over the summer months. Once dry enough to be handled a contractor's machine was employed to 'open up' the silt to allow uniformed drying of the lower layers of silt. Subsequently, where banks had previously been surveyed and shown to be low, the material was utilised to raise and strengthen these lengths. Where the material was not required for bank raising it was spread thinly on adjacent field. The newly raised lengths of bank have been grass seeded, completing this phase of the work.

**Old River Nene, Greenvale Factory (Floods Ferry – Copalder Corner)** – following on from the first phase of bank raising and strengthening works undertaken along the rear of the Greenvale factory at Floods Ferry last autumn, a second phase was undertaken in late August this year. Approximately 1150m of bank was raised in the second phase, giving a combined total of 1620m over the two years. A third phase is proposed for next year, subject to Board approval and the continuing availability of free bank raising material from the Greenvale factory site.

## 10.12 **Bank Slips and Seepage**

**Ramsey High Lode** - bank slip repair works have recently been undertaken to reinstate a length of bank subsidence at the rear of a fire damaged industrial unit on Stocking Fen Industrial Estate. The work required a contractor's machine to install timber toe piles, dredge slipped bank material from the watercourse and re-instate the side slope to match the original bank profile.

## 11. **Telemetry**

The existing Telemetry Master Station which was in excess of 10 years old and running on the Windows XP operating system, which is no longer supported, has been replaced with an up to date unit running Windows 10.

As previously reported the planned replacement of the older telemetry outstations is being put in hand as these units fail. These stations are considered beyond end of life and can no longer be repaired or relied upon over the short or medium term.

It remains a proposal to install WebWAX as a backup system for critical sites which will provide a redundancy measure in that all sites will send data through to the WebWAX server as well as to the Master Station. This will ensure that in the event of Master Station failure the critical sites will still be transmitting data which will be viewable on a web browser.

The critical sites that have been identified are as follows:

- Abbey Farm
- Bevills Leam
- Control Sluice
- Ransonmoor
- St Germans
- Burrowmoor
- Wild Goose Leys Rain Gauge
- Holme Rain Gauge

This will now be implemented once all other outstanding telemetry work has been completed to ensure that there is no delay to these other works.

The Aqueduct and Holme rain gauge telemetry outstations failed during the summer. The Aqueduct unit, which controls the Well Creek top up pump, was replaced with a GPRS Oriel RTU which provides live data and is to be fitted with a rain gauge.

The Holme outstation, which is some 25 years old, was fitted with a used motherboard and is currently operating satisfactorily.

An ultrasonic river level sensor and a rain gauge have been fitted to the new telemetry system at Burrowmoor pumping station, which is situated some 200 metres from our offices, and being GPRS will provide us with live data. Following its commissioning the Creek Cottage outstation will no longer be required and will be decommissioned.

## 12. **Property**

**12.1 Depot** – only routine maintenance has been required.

CCTV cameras have been fitted to the depot building which record live images to a 2TB HDD and can be viewed via a PC or mobile phone app.

A quotation has been sought and received in respect of a tractor/mower and machinery store at the Commissioners' depot site. At the present time, all mowing machinery is stored out-doors all year round, as we have no suitable dry winter storage space. This has led to some of the sophisticated hydraulic and electronic components suffering from water and moisture ingress leading to downtime and additional expenditure.

The quote obtained is for the supply and erection of an agricultural type building that would be capable of storing the Commissioners' fleet of three tractors and associated mowers, self-propelled SPV3 mower, two dump trailers and the Commissioners' Iveco lorry under cover and dry.

The current open bay building on-site does not give adequate protection to machinery, due to its eave height, nor does it provide adequate floor space in which to store the most vulnerable machinery and keep it dry over the winter period. It can, however, continue to be utilised to store other pieces of plant and equipment that are less prone to winter weather conditions. The budget quotation does not allow for excavation of foundation holes or fitment of the holding down bolts in the foundations. Vertical timber hit and miss cladding as installed on the St Germans log store would also be fitted by the Commissioners' workforce to prevent ingress of driving rain from the rear and side elevations. A budget cost for this extra work would be in the region of £8k.

Please see Appendix 5 showing the quotation.

- 12.2 Offices** – it was agreed that subject to Executive Committee approval the 2017/18 budget would include for expenditure on a backup generation unit that can be used to power emergency lighting, phones and key computers during a power failure. Quotes were obtained and the Executive Committee duly sanctioned the placing of an order with Rands as follows:-

SDMO J44K Standby Generator	£7,800.00
Delivery	£455.00
125A Manual Changeover Switch	£585.00
Electrical Installation	£4,308.00
Building and Civil Works	MLC in house
	<hr/>
Total	£13,148.00
	<hr/> <hr/>

It is also proposed to install a vehicle charging unit taking advantage of having an electrical contractor on site. The total cost of this extra work including the charging point is £1.2K.

**New fencing** - during the period a fence has been erected along the base of the River Nene Old Course raised embankment. This is to address an increasing trespassing problem, with members of the public using not only the public footpath but also the Middle Level office surrounds for amenity. There have also been a number of cases of the bank top being used for vehicular access, which has been linked with several cases of attempted theft.

- 12.3 Electrical Testing** - Portable Appliance Testing was carried out at the Depot, Office, St Germans, Bevills Leam and Control Sluice sites during September 2017.

- 12.4 6 Deerfield Road, March** – the sale of this property completed on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- 12.5 10 Deerfield Road, March** – this property was occupied by a retired MLC employee who was allowed to live in the building rent free until his demise. He has however recently chosen to move out of the property to live with his siblings. In accordance with the Commissioners' general policy to dispose of property which they no longer require for logistical or operational reasons, this will be sold through advertisement, using local estate

agents. There are a few issues relating to the property which will need to be dealt with first. These relate to the garage, which is not attached to the property, and property rear access which needs to be formalised.

- 12.6 *Salter's Lode Lock House*** - approximately £800 has been spent on further modifications to the wood fired heating system.

### **13. Plant & Vehicles**

- 13.1 *General*** – on the whole the plant and vehicles operated well during the period although the 7 tonne Iveco required a replacement ABS unit.

- 13.2 *Vehicles*** – orders were placed through Anglia Farmers for two new 4x4 pickup trucks; one was delivered during September the other, for use by the Operations Engineer, is due for delivery in November.

- 13.3 *Mowers*** – faults have been experienced with the 2017 Herder machine. Initial downtime was caused by an electronic relay fault within the Prolec Height Restrictor that failed intermittently when the machine had been worked and the electronic components became warm. Recently a further fault with the Herder mower control circuitry has proven difficult to find. A replacement key pad has been shipped from Herder in Holland and fitted in an attempt to resolve this issue, and to curtail the reliability issues experienced. Both faults have been covered under the manufacturer's warranty. Unfortunately, downtime has been experienced on both occasions.

The 2010 Massey/Herder-Grenadier unit and the self-propelled Spearhead Energreen SPV3 machine have proven to be more reliable this season, with occasional issues with electronic/hydraulic circuitry caused by water ingress.

- 13.4 *Weed Boats*** – all boats have generally operated satisfactorily with only the usual maintenance requirements and repairs to the cutting heads being necessary.

- 13.5 *Dump Trailers*** – the Commissioners' 11 tonne Marshall general purpose tipping trailer, purchased in 2007, has been traded-in against a 14 tonne Marshall 'shop soiled' dump trailer. An order for a second larger 16 tonne Marshall dump trailer has been placed with Ernest Doe, Littleport.

The combined total cost of both dump trailers, including the trade-in allowance for the old trailer has come in below budget.

### **14. Asset Records**

The Commissioners to plan closure of historic non-operational penetrations through their maintained banks which, in some cases, are in poor condition. Where one or more of these identified structures is owned by an IDB they are being contacted and asked to discuss the best course of action. An annual sum for dealing with these penetrations is included within the estimates.

### **15. Improvements and Surveys**

- 15.1 *St Germans Pumping Station*** – it was previously reported that the District Valuer had contacted the Chief Executive and proposed that the last land compensation claim be closed as there had been no recent correspondence. As can often be the way with such matters a request to settle from the landowner's agent came out of the blue shortly after the April meeting. It appeared that the landowner/occupier wished to effect a quick settlement

and had decided to accept the DV's assessment of losses. This matter is in hand and will shortly be closed following payment of the now agreed sum. Some promised fencing works demarking the occupier's land have also been undertaken to replace that lost during the pumping station scheme works.

**15.2 River Works** – the extent of bank raising works is described elsewhere in this report.

**15.3 Bevills Leam Pumping Station** – the priorities for this station remain:

1. The replacement of the main pump control components within the next 10 years.
2. Replacement of the Dorman engines and gearboxes for pumps 4, 5 & 6 within the next 10 years.
3. Review the lack of smoke/heat detection and fire alarm equipment.
4. Permanently stop the rain ingress through the station roof.
5. Facilitate the passage of eels through or past the station.

**15.4 Embankment Raising Works** – to underpin the business case for a bank raising scheme it was necessary to commission a refresh of the Middle Level Strategy. This work is close to completion at an estimated cost of around £50K, 50% of which is being recovered through GiA. The next step will be to develop the business case itself. Recently the EA has advised that it has set up a Pipeline Delivery Team which work closely with national scheme approvals personnel. The purpose of this new team is to accelerate key schemes to facilitate early project delivery. The local EA team is enquiring whether this bank raising project (which will potentially deliver an increased level of flood protection to in excess of 2,000 properties) would be a suitable candidate scheme. If yes it may be possible to obtain scheme grant early and commence project delivery in 2018.

**15.5 Woodwalton Fen Access Bridge** - a contribution of £5K has been paid towards the cost of increasing the bankside height of the new bridge installed at this site. This ensures that when the bank raising scheme is implemented this bridge will be at the correct level.

**15.6 Bevills Leam Survey (Bevills Leam Pumping Station - Chapel Bridge)** – a channel bed survey was undertaken in-house during the spring. The survey covered a 5km length immediately downstream of Bevills Leam pumping station with both hard and soft bed levels recorded. The survey results indicate the reach does have build-up of sediment and siltation along the channel bed, as would normally be expected given the number of years since dredging last took place and suggests the reach would benefit from future programmed dredging to help alleviate the excessively high water levels that are commonly experienced downstream of the station when any more than 50% of the station's total pumping capacity is called to run. Any dredging would need to be carried out with care as gravel seams exist and if the skin of the channel bed were to be breached then significant leakage onto low lying adjacent land would be expected.

## **16. Environment Agency (EA) Studies/Works/Plans**

**16.1. Ouse Washes Reservoir Works** – this is covered in item 2.13.

**16.2 Cranbrook Drain/Counter Drain (Welches Dam Pumping Station) Strategy Study** – there is nothing further to report at this time.

**16.3 Stakeholder Representation and/or Consultation** - is maintained in respect of the following:

- i. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Flood Warning Planning Group – Chief Exec
- ii. Great Fen Steering Committee – Chief Exec
- iii. Wet Dredgings – Operations Engineer
- iv. British Standards Institute CB501 – Chief Engineer representing ADA
- v. EA National Asset Management Technical Advisory Group (AMTAG) – Chief Exec representing ADA
- vi. CIWEM (Chartered Institute for Water and Environmental Management) – Rivers and Coastal Group Committee – Chief Exec [Chair]
- vii. AINA Wet Dredgings Group – Operations Engineer
- viii. Huntingdonshire Local Plan & SFRA – Planning Engineer
- ix. Fenland Local Plan – Planning Engineer
- x. Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership – Planning Engineer
- xi. KL&WN Local Plan & SFRA – Planning Engineer
- xii. East Cambs Local Plan, SFRA & WCS – Planning Engineer
- xiii. Peterborough Local Plan, SFRA & WCS – Planning Engineer
- xiv. South Cambs Local Plan – Planning Engineer
- xv. Fenland Developers Forum – Planning Engineer and Assistant Engineer
- xvi. March Flood Investigation Group – Planning Engineer
- xvii. EA/IDB Eel Liaison Group – Chief Exec [Co-Chair]
- xviii. Cambs ACRE, Giving Nature The Edge – Chief Exec and Environmental Officer
- xix. Well Creek Trust – Operations Engineer
- xx. Anglian Waterways Group – Chief Executive
- xxi. NFU Water for Food Group – Chief Executive
- xxii. Great Fen Hydrology Working Group – Chief Exec [Chair]
- xxiii. ADA Technical & Environmental Committee – Chief Exec & Environmental Officer

## 17. **Planning**

**17.1 *Planning Applications*** – the aim over the period has been to start the process of facilitating closer working between the MLC and the planning authorities, with meetings held and further ones planned. On consenting, to provide increased clarity, one significant change has been the tightening of the process which is helping all parties better understand what is required by introducing minimum standards for submissions which are otherwise objected to. This avoids the problems previously experienced with outstanding consent submissions, where for example extra details were being awaited, hence leaving those applications undetermined but open with consent application payments attached to them. A seminar/workshop for developers and agents has been organised and the response has been positive with all allotted 25 places being taken. The event spans a morning commencing with an outline of who the MLC are, how they fit with the IDBs and what their interests are. This is followed by descriptions of what our requirements are and why they are needed. After a coffee break there will be the workshop element which will allow us to take those attending through a set of examples.

**17.2 *Riverside Enhancements Ramsey Basin*** – the planned works for installation of a 180m length of piling along the southern end of High Lode on the eastern bank to create new moorings remains outstanding with no date of commencement fixed yet.

## 18. **Recreation**

**18.1 *Navigation*** – it was reported at the last meeting that Board officers were working with FDC to find the most appropriate and fair way of persuading the owner of a boat, which has been moored on a public mooring in March Town for many months, to move on. The Board's solicitor has recently served notice on the boater with the hope that this will prompt action.

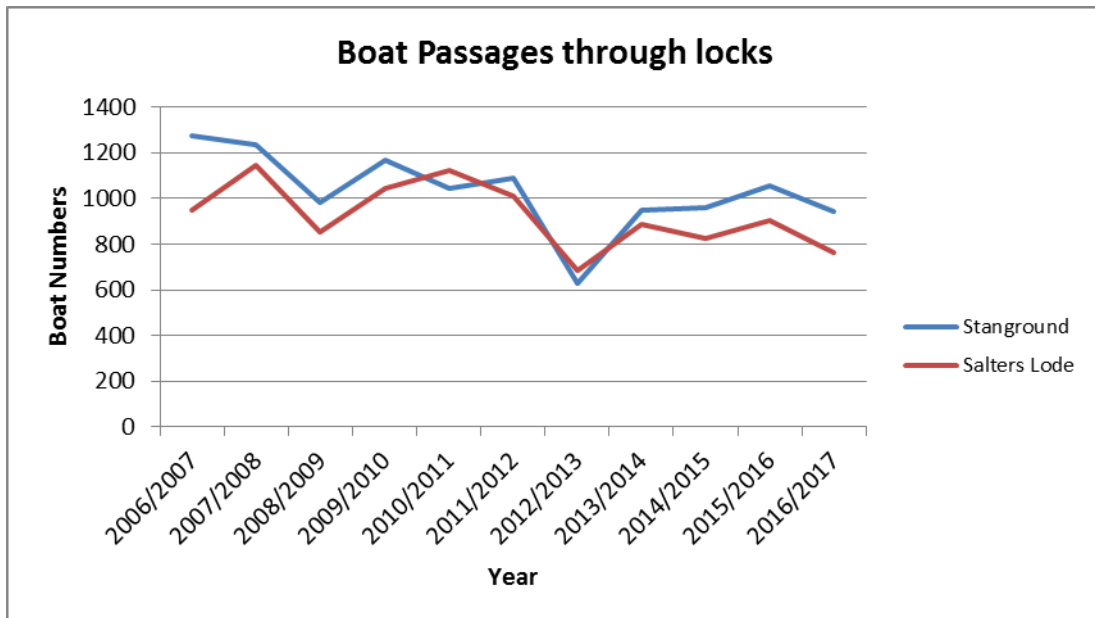
- 18.2 *Anglian Waterways Group*** – the Chief Executive has attended two meeting of this group over the period. Whilst it is a useful forum for general discussion there is nothing which the Commissioners need to be made aware of at this time.
- 18.3 *Passing of EA Navigation Assets to CRT*** – there is nothing further to report on progress on this item but it is understood that discussions between the two organisations continue.
- 18.4 *Well Creek Trust Moorings at Salter’s Lode*** – a recent joint inspection with the Chief Engineer and Operations Engineer was held with representatives from the Well Creek Trust at Salter’s Lode mooring. The GRP decking sheets and wooden decking boards having been removed in their entirety, revealed the wooden superstructure to be rotten and failing. The conclusion of the meeting was that the existing structure is no longer safe or fit for purpose and required removal. The Trust does not have the resources to replace the mooring so wished to ask if the MLC might take on the task of replacing them and maintaining them in future. Although the Trust is not particularly well funded it was prepared to offer approximately half of its balances (£3K) if the MLC agreed to take them on. If the response was to be a positive one it is recommended that the replacement moorings be constructed of steel sheet piles with a concrete capping. This will ensure that the life of the moorings extended over 50 years with minimal maintenance. When considering its decision, the Board should have in mind the lack of mooring facility at this site where boats congregate awaiting favourable tidal conditions to allow passage to Denver and the coming expectation of navigators which will arise from the new Act.

**The Board is asked to consider if it wishes to take over the moorings subject to payment of a £3K contribution from the Well Creek Trust.**

- 18.5 *Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Volunteering*** - a joint site meeting was recently held to plan for a third season of voluntary bush and tree cutting works in collaboration with the Peterborough branch of the IWA. The meeting identified the scope of the bush cutting works along the north bank of the Horseway Arm of the Forty Foot River for the coming winter months. It was also proposed at the meeting that the IWA volunteers may be able to assist the Commissioners with some decorating work at Horseway Lock, including repainting of the lock door sweeps and associated ironwork. Recent correspondence with the IWA indicates that it will be pleased to undertake the decorating works at the lock, with the Commissioners supplying consumable such as paint and cleaning-up requisites, pending approval from the Commissioners’ Environmental Officer with regards to timing.
- 18.6 *Boat Passages*** - boats movements through Stanground and Salter's Lode Locks were as shown below (figures for the previous year are shown in brackets):

Boat Passages – 2017				
Month	Salter’s Lode Lock		Stanground Lock	
	In	Out	In	Out
April	36 (26)	32 (32)	29 (39)	46 (44)
May	34 (46)	53 (44)	65 (42)	73 (63)
June	62 (50)	54 (61)	72 (70)	77 (57)
July	86 (77)	92 (85)	90 (84)	93 (82)
August	89 (86)	69 (70)	95 (94)	102 (113)
September	48 (66)	40 (65)	60 (81)	43 (50)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355 (351)</b>	<b>340 (357)</b>	<b>411 (410)</b>	<b>434 (409)</b>





## 18.7 Angling

**National Fishing Matches** – the 2017 National Pike Angling Championship will be held on the Middle Level Commissioners' waters on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, and hosted by Whittlesey Angling Association.

**Club Reports** – no club or match reports have been received during the reporting period. However, a recent EA fish survey indicates a generally good healthy stock of most common species of course fish are present throughout the Commissioners' system.

**18.8 Middle Level Waterways Users Committee** - the Committee met on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and is due to meet again on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**19. Conservation** – this is covered in detail in the Environmental Officer's Report.

**19.1 The Operations Manual** – this is reviewed annually.

**19.2 The Commissioners' and local Drainage Boards' Biodiversity Action Plans** – the next wave of plans is being prepared and they are likely to have a heavy emphasis on data gathering and monitoring.

**19.3 Conservation Committee** - the Committee met on the 16<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

**19.4 Woodwalton Fen Alternative Storage** – during the period discussions have been held with the AgReserves farm manager on the possible use of land to the south and west of Woodwalton Fen for alternative flood storage to that currently provided within Woodwalton Fen.

**19.5 Great Fen General** – steering committee meetings are held bi-monthly and the Chief Executive chairs the Hydrology Working Group. The current key aim of the Hydrology Group is to seek to ensure that water resources and flood risk are built into the design of all Great Fen schemes.

**19.6 Eel Studies** – as mentioned earlier the Chief Engineer continues to sit on the EA/IDB Liaison Group on behalf of ADA which was tasked with looking into the matter of eels and IDB pumping stations that have been identified as priority sites. Most recently an IDB that the MLC are working for had a major issue with a replacement pumping station scheme

which was actually classified as low priority but was seemingly caught by the EA's requirement for eel passage assessment for any new structure. This has delayed the project by a year and caused much cost and confusion. The matter has been raised at a national level and is being echoed now by other IDBs having to deal with similar issues. Several national meetings have followed but it remains the case that there is real concern over the potential impact of these regulations in terms of practicality and cost.

As stated at the April meeting over £20K has been committed by IDBs towards a project to investigate eel behaviour and provide guidance on asset design which will reflect, as far as is practicable, the needs of eels to enter and exist systems for population replenishment.

## **20. Internal Drainage Board Works**

### **20.1 *Weed Control & Channel Maintenance***

**Inspections/advice/assistance** – recommendations on weed control were made to 13 Internal Districts.

Middle Level operatives also undertook herbicide applications on a contract basis during 2017, as weather conditions allowed, on 14 Internal Districts, including one private district.

**Maintenance Dredging and Associated Channel Works** – work was organised and co-ordinated in 13 Board's areas.

### **20.2 *Pumping Station Maintenance***

**Service Visits** – the Commissioners' engineers made 148 visits to IDB pumping installations to carry out routine inspections/maintenance and/or rectify breakdowns.

**Other Maintenance Works** – carried out, or in progress, at pumping stations:

Various IDB's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automatic weedscreen cleaner repairs.</li></ul>
Binnimoor Pumping Station (March East IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pump replacement and telemetry installation – fish friendly pump ordered, survey and drawings completed.</li></ul>
Burrowmoor Pumping Station (March Third DDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telemetry system installed awaiting commissioning.</li></ul>
Cock Fen Pumping Station (Upwell IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automatic weedscreen cleaner order placed and site survey completed.</li></ul>
Copalder Pumping Station (Benwick IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacement discharge isolation valve and flap valve quotes obtained, damming off and survey completed.</li></ul>
New Fen Pumping Station (Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surge chamber subsidence being monitored.</li></ul>
Nordelph Pumping Station (Upwell IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resolution of metering issues with SSE/UKPN – issue now re-occurred.</li></ul>
Over Pumping Station (Over & Willingham IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment and security fencing modifications completed.</li></ul>

Upwell Fen Pumping Station (Upwell IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automatic weedscreen cleaner/pump control equipment replacement, order placed and site survey completed.</li> </ul>
Westmoor Pumping Station (Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site fencing in hand.</li> </ul>
White Fen Pumping Station (March West & White Fen IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment order placed and site survey completed.</li> </ul>
Bensons Pumping Station (Curf & Wimblington Combined IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement pump order placed.</li> </ul>
Mill Fen Pumping Station (East of Ouse Polver & Nar IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbishment of subsidence damage to delivery pipework completed..</li> </ul>
Rings End Pumping Station (Waldersey IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weedscreen cleaner overhaul.</li> </ul>
Conington Pumping Station (Conington & Holme IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement weedscreen survey completed.</li> </ul>
Daintree Pumping Station (Ramsey Fourth IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump removed for repair and awaiting re-installation.</li> </ul>
Broadalls Pumping Station (Benwick IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump overhaul.</li> </ul>

**Periodic Electrical Testing** – re-testing of fixed equipment and remedial works at IDB pumping stations continue as and when required.

### 20.3 *Improvement Works*

#### **IDB Projects - progress is as follows:**

Catchment Improvement Works at A47 (Hundred of Wisbech IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways England lost information and a meeting is being arranged. The scheme was removed from its programme. The EA had allocated money for 2016/17 for an IDB scheme and the business case was under development.</li> </ul>
Inlet Structures – modifications to inlet structures and access platforms. (Hundred Foot Washes IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further phases expected.</li> </ul>
Green Dyke Pumping Station replacement (Ramsey, Upwood and Great Raveley IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business case development instructed but EA has advised that scheme cannot be accelerated in GiA terms.</li> </ul>
Stow Bardolph Pumping Station (Downham & Stow Bardolph IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business case development for a replacement pumping station completed and grant approval received. Design work begun but eel regulations are causing a delay.</li> </ul>
Stocking Fen Pumping Station Automated Weed Screen (Ramsey IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business case for an automated weed screen under development.</li> </ul>

**Work organised by the Works Department and carried out by Middle Level Labour - assistance has been given with the following:**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Benwick IDB                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li><li>• Assist contractor with providing dam at Copalder Pumping Station.</li></ul>               |
| Curf & Wimblington Combined IDB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's Drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li><li>• Assist contractor with bank piling works.</li></ul>                                       |
| Euximoor IDB                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's Drains.</li></ul>  |
| Hobbs Lot (Private District)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to district drain.</li><li>• Flail mowing Pump Drain.</li></ul>   |
| March East IDB                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li></ul>   |
| March Fifth DDC                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Commissioners' drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Commissioners' drains.</li></ul>   |
| March Sixth DDC                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Commissioners' drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Commissioners' drains.</li><li>• Arrange and undertake flail mowing works to Commissioners' drains</li></ul> |
| March Third DDC                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Commissioners' drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Commissioners' drains.</li><li>• Supply and fitment of access gates at Gaul Road.</li></ul>                  |
| March West & White Fen IDB      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's drains.</li><li>• Assist contractor with bank piling works.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li></ul>                                       |
| Needham & Laddus IDB            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li><li>• Arrange for contractor to undertake herbicide application to Board's drains.</li></ul>   |
| Nightlayers IDB                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li><li>• Assist contractor to install piled revetment works.</li></ul>                             |
| Ramsey First (Hollow) IDB       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbicide application to Board's drains.</li><li>• Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.</li><li>• Assist contractor with piling and culvert clearance works.</li></ul>                      |

Ransonmoor DDC

- Herbicide application to Commissioners' drains.
- Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Commissioners' drains.

Sawtry IDB

- Flail mowing Board's drains.

Swavesey IDB

- Herbicide application to Board's drains.

Waldersey IDB

- Herbicide application to Board's drains.
- Arrange and oversee machine cleansing works to Board's drains.
- Assist contractor with culvert clearance works.

## 21. **Engineering Fees**

**21.1 Fees** – the fee outlook for this next financial year again remains steady, with the largest income generators remaining the design of the new Stow Fen pumping station scheme and Green Dyke pumping station.

## 22. **ADA**

**22.1 Meetings** - the Chief Engineer (secretariat) and Environmental Officer continue to attend the ADA Technical and Environmental Committee meetings. The Chief Engineer also continues to represent ADA on the BSi panel and EA/defra – national AMTAG (Asset Management Theme Advisory Group) and most recently the EA/IDB Eel Liaison Group.

**22.2 The Annual ADA Conference** – will this year be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November at One Great Georges Street, Westminster. Members who wish to attend should let the office know well in advance. The Chief Executive will this year attend the ADA 'Think Tank' held the evening before the conference.

**22.3 GIS Work** – ADA has commissioned the MLC to assist in the creation of a complete digital dataset of all IDB boundaries throughout the country. This has included the requirement to digitise approximately sixteen boundaries for Boards who still only possess a paper record. This will allow ADA to steer all future enquires to the correct IDB and to share accurate information on IDBs with other RMAs.

**22.4 NFU** – the Chief Engineer represents ADA on the NFU Water For Food Group and has attended several meetings over the period.

## 23. **EA Sanctioned Project List**

**23.1 A list of the EA 'Sanctioned Project List'** follows, covering all MLC and MLC consultancy projects for 2017/18:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ▪ Great Fen                             | Water Level Management Restoration Scheme       |
| ▪ MLC                                   | Bank Raising and Strategy Review                |
| ▪ MLC                                   | Woodwalton Flood Storage (unlikely to progress) |
| ▪ Downham and Stow IDB                  | Stow Pumping Station Replacement                |
| ▪ March East IDB                        | Binnimoor pump replacement                      |
| ▪ Hundred of Wisbech                    | A47 downstream channel improvements             |
| ▪ Ramsey, Upwood<br>& Great Raveley IDB | Green Dyke Pumping Station Replacement          |
| ▪ Ramsey IDB                            | Automated Weedscreen                            |

24. **Renewable Power**

At present the savings and FITs payments linked with the office PV cells installation remain ahead of predictions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Thomas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Thomas  
Clerk, Chief Engineer & Chief Executive

12 October 2017

**RAINFALL - April to September 2017**

Month	Abbots Ripton	Chatteris	March	Stanground Lock	Tebbitts Bridge/Bovills Leam	Monthly Average	Cumulative Monthly Average	Standard Average	Cumulative Standard Average	Excess of rainfall over standard average	Cumulative difference
2017							Apr - Sept		Apr - Sept		
April	16.8	14.8	14.5	9.7	14.5	14.00	14.1	44.61	44.6	-30.6	-30.6
May	57.9	64.0	71.0	67.5	73.5	66.78	80.8	46.12	90.7	20.7	-9.9
June	38.3	53.7	51.0	35.4	29.5	41.58	122.4	47.10	137.8	-5.5	-15.4
July	72.6	57.7	110.0	98.2	108.5	89.40	211.8	54.67	192.5	34.7	19.3
August	24.9	58.3	39.0	47.7	37.5	41.48	253.3	56.30	248.8	-14.8	4.5
September	46.2	32.7	62.5	63.5	37.5	48.48	301.8	46.41	295.2	2.1	6.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>281.2</b>	<b>348.0</b>	<b>322.0</b>	<b>301.0</b>	<b>301.78</b>	<b>301.8</b>	<b>296.21</b>	<b>295.2</b>		<b>6.6</b>

The standard average is for the current standard reference period 1996-2015.

Average summer rainfall in recent years

April 2017 - September 2017	301.3
April 2016 - September 2016	274.6
April 2015 - September 2015	233.7
April 2014 - September 2014	318.1
April 2013 - September 2013	217.4
April 2012 - September 2012	430.6
April 2011 - September 2011	191.9
April 2010 - September 2010	273.2
April 2009 - September 2009	273.7
April 2008 - September 2008	329.2
April 2007 - September 2007	324.2
April 2006 - September 2006	291.8
April 2005 - September 2005	291.1
April 2004 - September 2004	362.3
April 2003 - September 2003	214.3
April 2002 - September 2002	275.4
April 2001 - September 2001	354.7
April 2000 - September 2000	353.1
April 1999 - September 1999	312.1
April 1998 - September 1998	401.9
April 1997 - September 1997	211.4
April 1996 - September 1996	234.3
April 1995 - September 1995	195.3

**HYDROLOGY AND PUMPING - April to September 2017**

Month	Rainfall			Estimated Potential Evapotranspiration mm	Soil Moisture Deficit (month end) mm	Rain Days		Pumping			Maximum Water Levels, m A.D.		
	Monthly Average mm	Standard Average mm	Deficit mm			Surplus mm	Area Average	Standard Average*	Days	Mega Litres pumped	St. Germans Equivalent Run-off mm	Bevills Leam Mega Litres pumped	Booby Bay Bridge
April	34.06	44.61	30.55	12.17	70	10	14	12	5427	2.05	350	99.65	99.00
May	66.78	46.12	20.66	62.81	85	12	13	15	2655	4.10	1008	99.73	99.61
June	41.58	47.10	6.02	39.65	130	7	13	10	1033	1.55	390	99.71	99.00
July	86.40	54.67	34.73	86.76	129	15	12	10	1997	2.70	572	99.74	99.00
August	41.48	56.30	14.82	37.80	136	11	12	23	2623	3.76	470	99.68	99.53
September	46.48	46.41	2.07	1.54	125	18	12	22	5411	4.90	521	99.65	99.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301.78</b>	<b>295.21</b>	<b>6.07</b>			<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>13296</b>	<b>19.06</b>	<b>3311</b>		

\* Standard average (1986 - 2015) rain days taken from available information

**Mega Litres Pumped at St Germans**

April 2017 - Sept. 2017	...	...	...	13296
April 2016 - Sept. 2016	...	...	...	17931
April 2015 - Sept. 2015	...	...	...	10439
April 2014 - Sept. 2014	...	...	...	21319
April 2013 - Sept. 2013	...	...	...	14051
April 2012 - Sept. 2012	...	...	...	33330
April 2011 - Sept. 2011	...	...	...	2851
April 2010 - Sept. 2010	...	...	...	8688

**Mega Litres Pumped at Bevills Leam**

April 2017 - Sept. 2017	...	...	...	3311
April 2016 - Sept. 2016	...	...	...	4538
April 2015 - Sept. 2015	...	...	...	3811
April 2014 - Sept. 2014	...	...	...	3868
April 2013 - Sept. 2013	...	...	...	802
April 2012 - Sept. 2012	...	...	...	12500
April 2011 - Sept. 2011	...	...	...	268
April 2010 - Sept. 2010	...	...	...	1877



APPENDIX 3  
Solar Returns

Solar Panel Returns - Actual vs Predicted

assumes savings of £4K per year.

Year	Reading		Unit Cost (p)	Unit Cost (p)	Total Cost	Savings	Energy Generated (KWh)	Maint. Cost	FITs (p)	FITs earned	Total Saved	Investment Minus Savings	
	Day (KWh)	Night (KWh)										Actual	Target
-1	111,500	29,870	9.77	6.01	N/A								
0	170,507	49,932	9.77	6.01	£6,970.71	NA	N/A			£0.00	N/A	£28,215.00	£28,215.00
1	209,556	66,738	9.77	6.01	£4,825.13	£2,145.58	24,755		12.57	£3,668.69	£5,814.27	£22,400.73	£24,215.00
2	246,485	83,621	9.77	6.01	£4,622.63	£2,348.08	47,775		12.57	£3,411.56	£5,759.64	£16,641.08	£20,215.00
3	284,232	99,669	9.77	6.01	£4,652.37	£2,318.34	68,978		12.57	£3,142.28	£5,460.63	£11,180.46	£16,215.00
4	321,300	114,326	9.77	6.01	£4,502.43	£2,468.28	89,416		12.57	£3,028.91	£5,497.19	£5,683.26	£12,215.00
5					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£8,215.00
6					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£4,215.00
7					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£215.00
8					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£3,785.00
9					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£7,785.00
10					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£11,785.00
11					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£15,785.00
12					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£19,785.00
13					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£23,785.00
14					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£27,785.00
15					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£31,785.00
16					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£35,785.00
17					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£39,785.00
18					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£43,785.00
19					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£47,785.00
20					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£51,785.00
21					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£55,785.00
22					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£59,785.00
23					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£63,785.00
24					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£67,785.00
25					£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£5,683.26	£71,785.00

\* readings taken when FITs applied for  
\*\* half year reading so savings cannot be estimated

Total Units Generated as of 3rd October 2017  
Predicted income at year 26 (allowing for say £10K maintenance)

89416 KWh  
£90K



**APPENDIX 4  
FCRM Capital Programme**

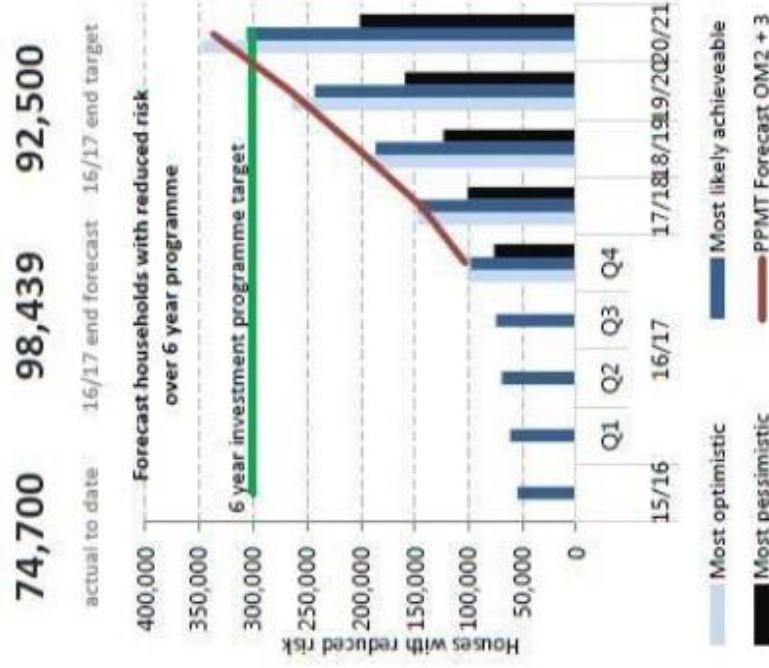
# **FCRM Capital Programme Gt Ouse IDB & EA Strategic Group, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

# FCRM GiA Capital Settlement Conditions

- ⇒ 300,000 houses at reduced flood risk
- ⇒ £230m worth of efficiencies
- ⇒ £345m of partnership funding

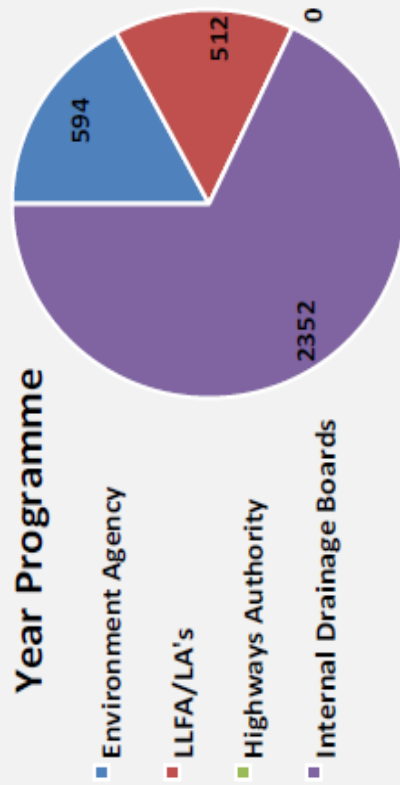
⇒ Delivery by all Flood & Coastal Risk Management Authorities

⇒ Now at start of Year 3 of 6

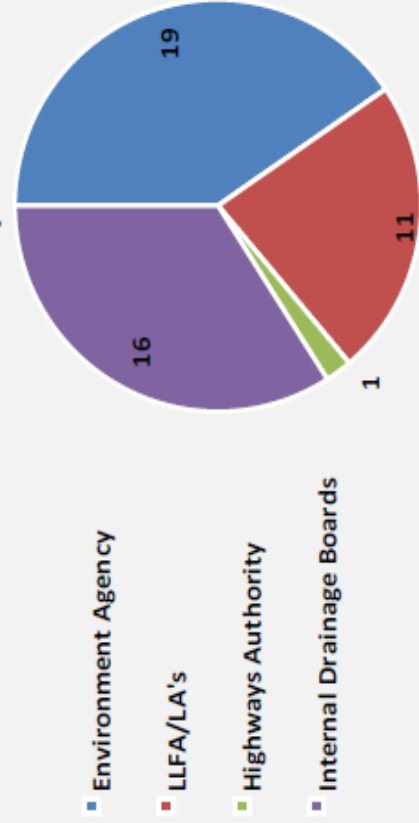


# Local picture

## Forecast OM2s within 6 Year Programme



## Number of schemes per RMA

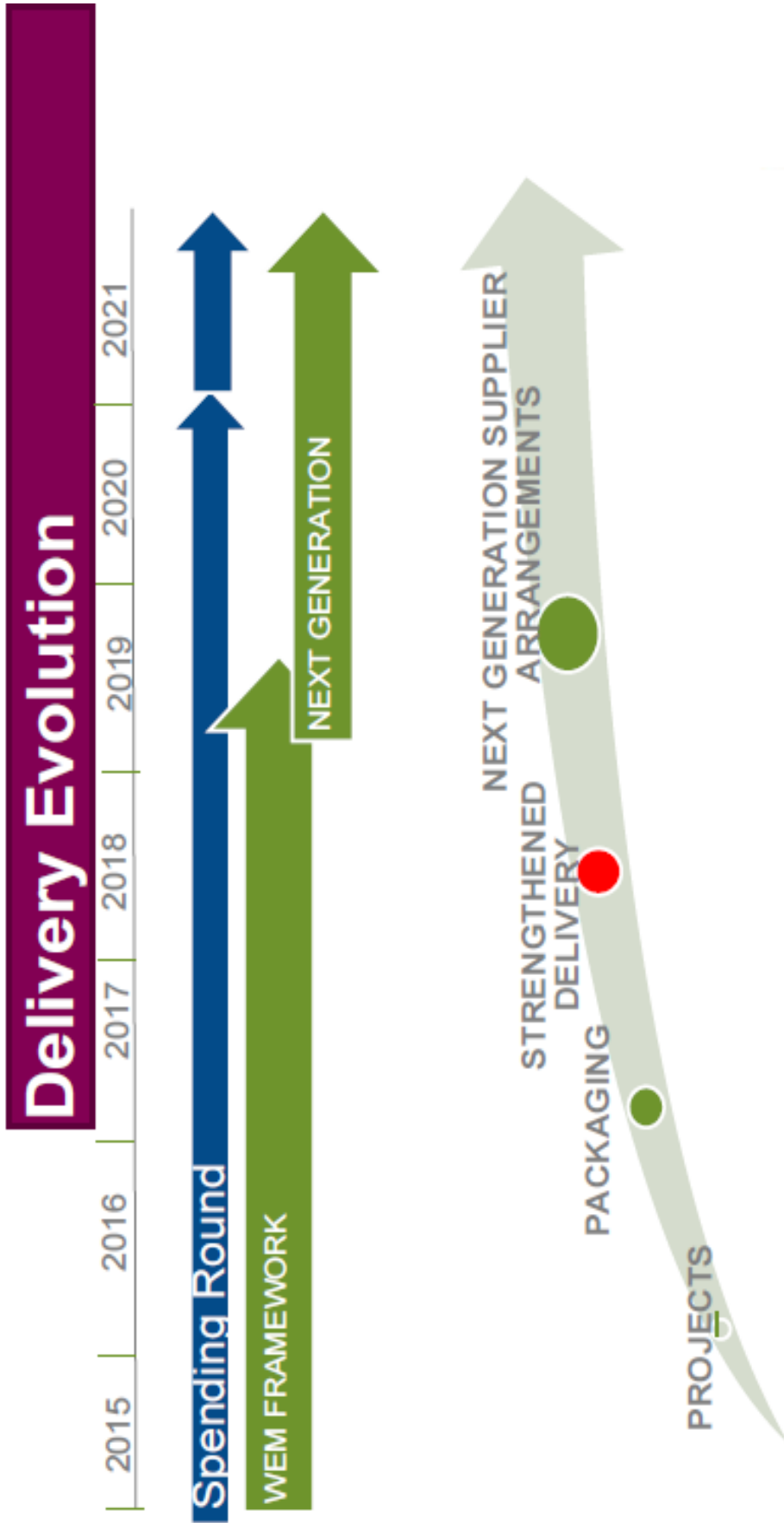


## **Successes so far:**

- ➔ Increased our support focussed on IDB projects
- ➔ Improved training and new portal to access the programme
- ➔ Allocating local levy strategically and for local priorities – open to IDBs
- ➔ Starting to look at shared benefits and benefit apportionment
- ➔ Progress being made on major IDB schemes
- ➔ Starting to see FCRM GiA above the traditional 45% rate

## **Observations:**

- ➔ Sustaining support is challenging and is diverting resources from strategic investment planning and our own pipeline development
- ➔ Early planning and appropriate resourcing of project delivery is crucial
- ➔ Engagement and appraisal early re Eels Regulations
- ➔ Partnership Funding beyond traditional GiA:IDB split
- ➔ Demonstrable Local Authority engagement if seeking Public Works Loan.
- ➔ Importance of management information



## Opportunities:

- ➔ Focus resource on Gt Ouse Strategic Investment Planning, starting with ‘the Fens’ – we’ll need IDB input & support
- ➔ Encourage IDBs to consider options for improved capital programme development & delivery – How can we help further?
- ➔ National ‘Strengthening’ approach:
  - ➔ Project Delivery Units – Integrated team approach
  - ➔ Available for IDBs
  - ➔ Increased focus on pipeline development



# Questions and Discussion

**APPENDIX 5**  
**Quotation for Proposed Agricultural Building**



**Mill Lane Works**  
**Roston, Ashbourne DE6 2EE**  
**Telephone: 01335 324302**  
**Fax: 01335 324568**  
**Email: info@devilleandlear.co.uk**

**ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL STEEL FRAMED BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE UK**

Contractors to County Councils And Major Estates

## QUOTATION

Jonathan Fenn,  
Middle Level Commissioners,  
85, Whittlesey  
Road, March,  
Cambs.  
PE15 0AH.

FE/1046/17.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

Proposed Agricultural Building.

Size. 30m long in 6 bays of 4.3m and one bay of 4.2m x 10m overall span 6m high to eaves and having a roof pitch of 15 degrees. Steelwork designed to BS 5502 Class 2.

Construction. 254 x 146 UB stanchions carrying 203 x 133 UB rafters having 200 x 75mm pressure treated timber eaves beams and intermediate galvanised zed purlins in the roof. An intermediate 254 x 102 UB stanchion fitted in each end. 5 lines of pressure treated timber sheeting rails fitted in each gable end and 4 lines of timber sheeting rails fitted in one side ready to take your cladding. Tubular bracings fitted in the building and steelwork to be shot blasted and painted two coats of paint.

Sheeting. The roof area clad with 0.7mm thick Slate blue box profile plastisol coated steel sheeting and the ridge to have plastisol ridge flashings and fillers. Barge boards would be left on site for you to fit when you have done your vertical cladding.

Gutters. Each side the building to have 170mm half round PVC gutters with 110mm PVC downpipes.

Contract. We ask for the foundations holes to be dug in accordance with the foundation drawing and holding down bolts that we will provide if favoured with the order. We would then erect and sheet the building as specified above, The removal of the excavated soil away from the site to be done by others before we commence work on the building.

PRICE. **Due to increases in the cost of Steel which are forecast, our price is based on the cost of materials at the date shown on the quotation and may be subject to alteration.**

THE COST OF THE BUILDING ERECTED AND COMPLETE AS SPECIFIED WOULD BE £19,626.00 plus VAT.

Extras. If the roof cladding was to be in natural colour profile 6 fibre cement sheets there would be a saving of £219.00.

If the roof cladding was to be in Slate Blue coloured profile 6 fibre cement sheets there would be an extra charge of £336.00 plus VAT.

p.p.DEVILLE & LEAR LTD

## APPENDIX 5 Quotation for Proposed Agricultural Building

### CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

All orders are accepted subject to the following terms and conditions notwithstanding any other conditions which may be on clients order forms or letters.

#### ERRORS

Clerical errors and omissions are subject to correction.

#### DETAILS

All specifications, drawings and literature are intended to give a fair description of the contract but DeVille and Lear Ltd. reserve the right to vary the specification (in the event of supply difficulties or other reasons) subject always to the understanding that we would advise the customer of any such variations and that such variations would not be structurally or functionally detrimental.

#### AUTHORISATIONS

It is the responsibility of the Customer to comply with all requirements for permission to go ahead with the contract such as Planning Consent, Building Regulations, Landlords approval, etc. The Customer indemnifies DeVille and Lear Ltd. against any action which may result from a failure to obtain such permissions.

#### DELIVERY

DeVile and Lear Ltd. will do everything possible to adhere to delivery promises given but regret that they cannot under any circumstances accept any liability for loss caused by failure to deliver or erect within a specified time whatever the cause of the delay.

#### PRICE VARIATIONS

This Quotation is made subject to the prices of materials, labour and transport in force at this date. Should there be any changes in the costs of these elements calling for an amendment to the contract price DeVille and Lear Ltd. undertake to advise the Customer in writing of any such amendment prior to starting any work on the contract.

#### SITE CONDITIONS

**It is of vital importance that the site and the approach to it should be sufficiently hard in all weather conditions to support heavy transport and a heavy wheeled Crane, and it is the responsibility of the Customer to see that this is so. Any extra cost incurred by DeVille and Lear Ltd. for labour or Plant Hire due to unsatisfactory site conditions will be charged to the Customer.**

#### DELIVERY OF MATERIALS

If any materials are delivered to site when our Erectors are not present the Customer shall offload without charge to DeVille and Lear Ltd.

#### CUSTODY OF MATERIALS

**The Customer is responsible for the safe keeping of all materials deposited on site and will be charged for any goods stolen or damaged when our men are not present.**

#### FOUNDATIONS

Whether the foundations are excavated by DeVille and Lear Ltd. or by the Customer the Customer should be responsible for the removal from the immediate surrounding area of the spoil taken out of the holes.

#### ERECTION

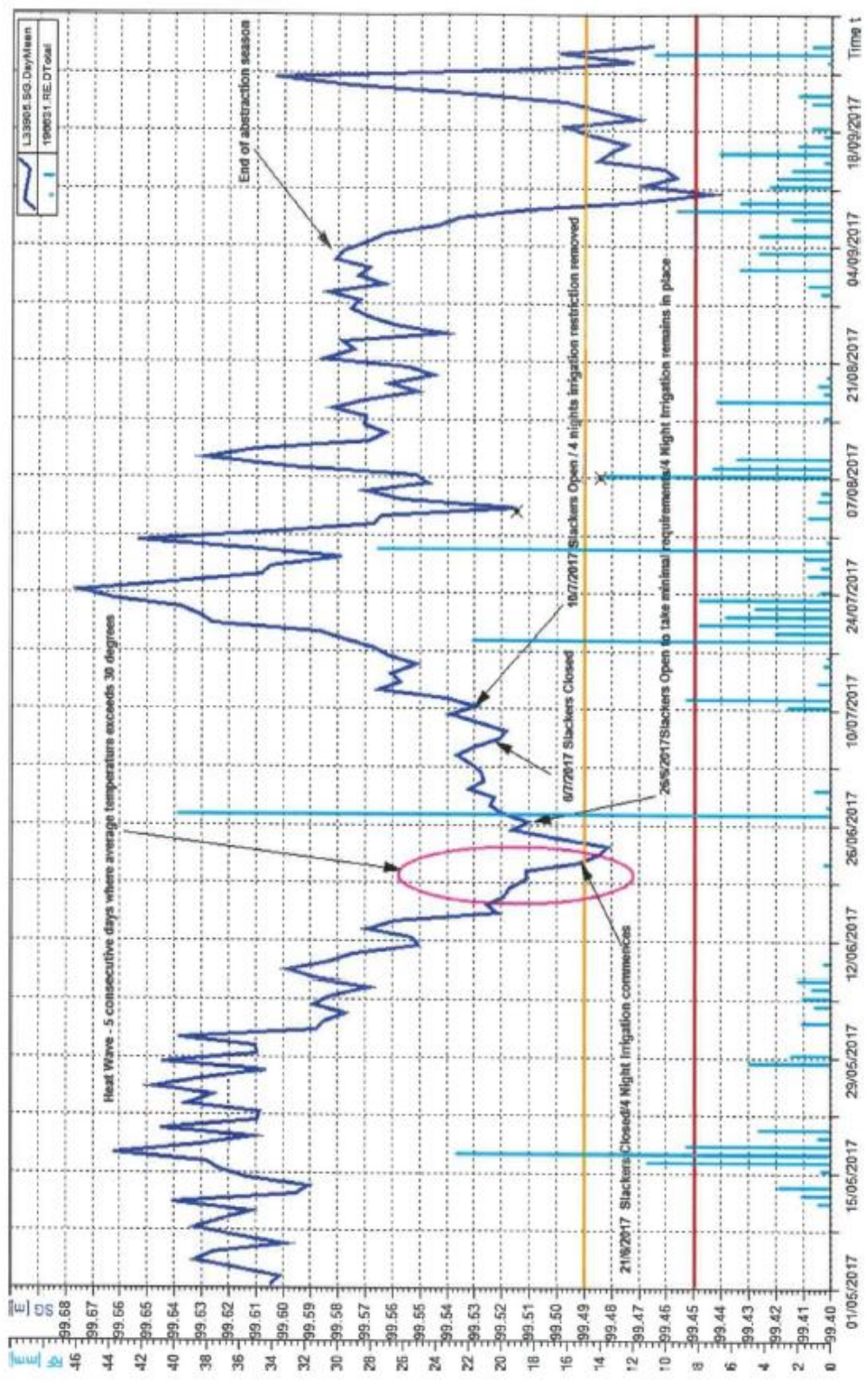
- a. DeVille and Lear Ltd. reserve the right to use Sub-contract labour.
- b. The site is to be kept clear of stock or other obstructions during the time of erection.
- c. A supply of Water and Electricity adjacent to the site is to be made available if required.
- d. If any change in the specifications are required by the Customer after the work has started the Customer must contact our Office to discuss such matters. Our Erectors have no authority to vary the work they do from the original drawings without further instructions from DeVille and Lear Ltd.
- e. It is normal for a small quantity of spare materials to be delivered with each contract. Such items remain the property of DeVille and Lear Ltd. and will be removed from the site after the building is completed.

#### FAULTS

Should the Customer consider there to be any faults in the completed building he shall notify DeVille and Lear Ltd. in writing within 14 days of completion (or of delivery if self erected), otherwise under no circumstances will any complaint be considered.

#### TERMS

The Terms stated in the quotation or otherwise agreed shall be strictly adhered to. Extended credit is not available.



Middle Level – Bodsey Bridge Level Summary Summer 2017 (01/05/2017 to 27/09/2017)

An Introduction to the  
Guide to Management Strategies and  
Mitigation Measures for Achieving  
**Good Ecological Potential in  
Fenland Waterbodies**



**Water has always been at the heart of the Fens**, and its management is vital to the life and livelihoods of the communities that live there. Modifications by man over hundreds of years to facilitate the passage of water from the land have left us a hidden wetland network of thousands of miles of ditches and drains within a vitally productive farmed landscape. These channels are not only essential today for this purpose but also provide an important refuge to nature, much like hedges in other farming landscapes.

Fenland watercourses are very different from rivers, these channels usually contain slow-flowing water, retained behind sluices and pumped into main rivers or the sea; most have no 'natural' flow at all. Whilst the management objectives for water conveyance and ecology in this environment may appear to conflict there are techniques available that maximise the benefits for both at a range of spatial scales.

Our challenge today in valuing our water environment is to ensure that any improvements we seek to make work in tandem with the wider needs of society to manage the risk from flooding and drought. This guide offers a key tool to considering how we can incorporate environmental enhancements into the lowland water bodies of the Fens whilst retaining these functions.

We hope that this introduction can inspire water managers in the Fens, whether they are a local farmer, Internal Drainage Board or national agency, to take further steps to improve the ecological potential of Fenland waterbodies. The more detailed guide explains how to interpret the relevant parts of the Water Framework Directive in the context of this lowland landscape and provides a consensus view of the Mitigation Measures available to water managers through a series of case studies.

**The Water Framework Directive (WFD)** puts the ecosystem at the heart of how we manage and protect the water environment, seeking more naturally functioning waterbodies, sustainable use of water resources, protection of water uses and high quality habitats for wildlife.

The WFD prescribes that the 'natural' condition of the water system should be used as the basis for determining the Good Ecological Status (GES) of each waterbody. However, the hydrology of the Fens is the result of centuries of human intervention and for cases like this, the WFD offers an alternative solution whereby competent authorities must define the ecological status they are actually going to strive to achieve Good Ecological Potential (GEP).



Schematic section through Fenland



Fenland urban areas and rivers



Typical Fenland Landscape

© Water Management Alliance

**For artificial and heavily modified Fenland waterbodies** the WFD is about achieving GEP, not GES. So rather than trying to restore the water environment to a set of physical characteristics it had in the past, we are seeking to increase the diversity of a channel's physical characteristics, its hydromorphology. This will result in a more diverse assemblage of habitats, species and communities whilst maintaining a channels core functions in conveying water.

The WFD requires that operating authorities look at what Mitigation Measures, or management interventions, can be taken to improve each waterbody's hydromorphology and ecological potential. However, a Mitigation Measure must avoid having a significant adverse impact on the use and functions of the waterbody.

Therefore, the key to improving the water environment is to get the maximum gain that can be achieved by implementing Mitigation Measures across the whole of the catchment, including private drains. In developing the guide we have identified 16 Mitigation Measures that may be implemented in Fenland waterbodies. For ease of reference these have been broken down into the following five key themes:

**Working with form and function – improving the marginal habitat alongside Fenland watercourses and increasing their connectivity**

- A** Remove obsolete structures
- B** Remove hard bank reinforcement / revetment, or replacement with a soft engineering solution
- C** Preserve and, where possible, restore historic aquatic habitats
- D** Increase in-channel morphological diversity, for example install in-stream features and 2-stage channels
- E** Re-open existing culverts and alter the channel bed (within culvert)
- F** Flood bunds (earth banks) in place of floodwalls; set-back embankments; improve floodplain connectivity

**Structural modifications – enabling fish passage around and through water management assets and using soft engineering solutions where appropriate**

- G** Enable fish to access waters upstream and downstream of impoundment
- H** Prevent fish entrainment in intakes
- I** Preserve and, where possible, enhance ecological value of marginal aquatic habitat, banks and riparian zone
- J** Operational and structural changes, for example to locks, sluices, weirs and beach control.

**Operations and maintenance – appropriate management of marginal and channel vegetation and sediment as well as controlling invasive non-native species.**

- K** Appropriate techniques to prevent transfer of invasive species
- L** Appropriate vegetation control regime
- M** Retain marginal aquatic and riparian habitats
- N** Sediment management strategies (develop and revise)
- O** Appropriate channel maintenance strategies and techniques

**Water management**

- P** Appropriate water level management strategies, including timing and volume of water moved
- Q** Appropriate techniques to align and attenuate flow to limit the detrimental effects of pipes, inlets, outlets and off-takes

**Education**

- R** Educate landowners on sensitive management practices

We have shown how all 16 of these Mitigation Measures can be implemented across a catchment on the schematic map inside, and highlighted nine case studies.

# Actions to improve the water environment



## Increasing channel diversity

Water management systems are often designed to be efficient, but this can reduce the natural diversity of the watercourse. This can be improved by creating a more diverse watercourse. This can be done by creating a more diverse watercourse. This can be done by creating a more diverse watercourse.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Fish and Eel Passage

Fulney Lock, in Spalding, was an obstruction to the movement of fish, including eels, from the tidal to the non-tidal River Welland. To overcome this, a new lock was built. This lock has a unique design, with a narrow window in which weirs could be raised to allow fish to pass. This lock has a unique design, with a narrow window in which weirs could be raised to allow fish to pass.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Floodplain connectivity

The Long Eau was a typical example of an agricultural improvement scheme where flood defence banks cut off contact between river and floodplain. By setting back the banks, washlands were created in the floodplain, opening up areas for seasonal flooding. This created valuable wetland that supports feeding wildfowl and waders, and where lapwing and meadow pipit breed. With the additional benefit of flood protection locally as water spills onto the reconnected floodplain.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Creating habitats

Artificially created habitats can provide a range of benefits to the watercourse. This can be done by creating a more diverse watercourse. This can be done by creating a more diverse watercourse.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Sensitive land management

Watercourses can be impacted by high levels of nutrients and pesticides from agricultural and urban areas. This can be managed by creating a more diverse watercourse. This can be done by creating a more diverse watercourse.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Marginal habitats

As shallow water areas where emergent plants can thrive are a scarce but ecologically valuable feature, the solution is to construct a submerged berm. This is a narrow ledge at the base of the bank just below the normal summer water level, creating new marginal habitat where aquatic plants can establish. Ideally the berm should not be absolutely level as the different water depths will favour different plant species creating a more diverse habitat structure. This two stage channel also increases the capacity to store additional volumes of water during flood conditions.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Water level management

Following agreement between the EA and the IDB, growers concerned about access to water during dry years, joined forces and funded a scheme to transfer water from the River Witham into the upper reaches of the Witham Fourth catchment. The IDB manage the water transfer enabling them to maintain levels across the catchment. The scheme has provided additional improvements to water quality, by refreshing up the usually static network of watercourses, increasing connectivity and a more consistent depth of water for navigation, recreation and angling.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

## Erosion control

Hard engineering construction work may prove expensive and significantly impact the ecology and hydrology of the watercourse. Soft engineering uses natural products such as brush logs, natural products such as brush logs, natural products such as brush logs. The challenge is to find a sustainable solution to fix the problem that suits the natural environment. In some cases, this may be a combination of both hard and soft engineering methods depending on access to site and availability of local soft materials.



Photo: Fenland Waterways Trust

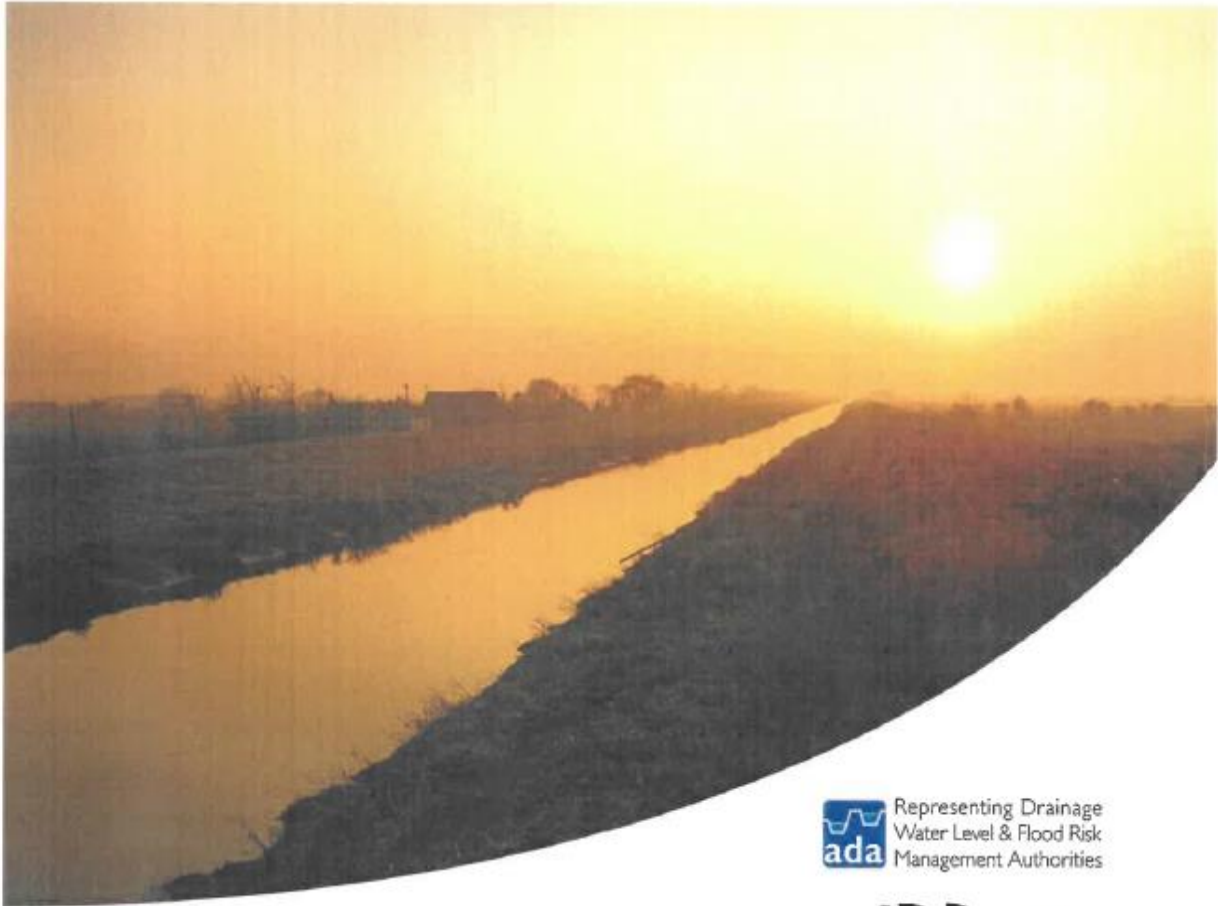
**KEY**


- Lock gates
- Septic tanks
- High Level Current/ tidal River
- Old Main Drain
- Old Watercourse
- Landowner Drains
- SOLE DYKE
- Embankments
- Road
- Urban area

**Mitigation Measures Themes**

- Working with form & function
- Structural flood defence
- Operational & Maintenance
- Water Management
- Education





 Representing Drainage  
Water Level & Flood Risk  
Management Authorities

 IDB  
Bedford Group

Cambridgeshire  ACRE

in partnership with  
 Environment  
Agency



 South Holland  
Drainage Board

 Water  
Management  
Alliance

**Where can I find out more?**

The full guide and this brief introduction are available to download in pdf form from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)

**Who was involved?**

This guide was completed through the willing input of the staff of the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards who steered its content. Cambridgeshire ACRE was instrumental in bringing this content together and publishing the guide.

Front cover photo © Martin Redding  
Back cover photo © Kelvin Brown

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT  
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Cover Design Management © 2011 192114



# Ouse Washes

August 2017

## Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works

### What are we doing?

We are raising the Middle Level Barrier Bank (MLBB) and a section of the South Level Barrier Bank (SLBB) of the Ouse Washes reservoir.

We are importing clay material from local quarries to raise the crest level of the MLBB between Welmore Lake Sluice and Earith. We are also raising a low section of the SLBB between Sutton Gault and Chain Corner.

The works are being carried out during the summer months to avoid disturbing the over wintering and ground nesting birds on the Washes.

Our plan is currently:

#### Year 1 construction works: July – October 2017

MLBB - Welmore Lake Sluice to Welney

SLBB - Sutton Gault to Haddenham Pumping Station

#### Year 2 construction works: July – October 2018

MLBB - Welches Dam to Mepal

SLBB - Haddenham Pumping Station to Chain Corner

#### Year 3 construction works: July – October 2019

MLBB - Welches Dam to Welney and Mepal to Earith

### Traffic management and access

Traffic management has been carefully considered to minimise disruption to road users and residents in the surrounding villages.

MLBB Year 1: the material will be delivered to the Welney site access from the quarry in Mepal using the A142, A10 and A1101. In Years 2 and 3, the lorries will use a temporary access road which is being installed to avoid using the local roads.

SLBB Year 1 and 2: material deliveries will be delivered from the quarry in Earith to the Sutton Gault access, using the B1050, A1123 and then turning left into Bury Lane.

Regular vehicle monitoring is undertaken using the GPS trackers which are installed in each lorry to ensure speed limits are adhered to.

### Progress – Year one

Our contractor, JacksonHyder, started work in July and has employed local earthworks contractor Mick George Ltd to supply and place the material.

Following some preliminary works, construction started on the MLBB between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney on 2 August 2017. The work involves stripping the topsoil, placing the clay to build up the bank and replacing the topsoil. This is being done in 200m sections with four working faces active at any one time. During the first 14 days of construction the site has received 654 lorries delivering 11,120 tonnes of clay - 10% of the total for this year. Of the 6.7km bank planned in Year 1, a total of 1.2km has now been stripped.



MLBB at Welmore Lake Sluice

### Public footpath diversions

The footpath along the top of both banks is diverted during the works and will remain so until sufficient grass cover has re-established. Grass cover is an important part of the works as it stabilises the bank and reduces erosion. The grass growth will be regularly monitored and we will work hard to remove diversions as soon as possible.

Public access along the existing haul road at the bottom of the MLBB will be restricted during the working window. For your safety, please use the footpath diversion along the Counter Drain. During the winter, the haul road will be available to use as a permissive route.

Landowners and tenants will still be able to gain access over the MLBB. If you need access during the works, please contact Monica Stonham (contact details overleaf).

### Welmore Lake Sluice – Welney

The footpath here has been diverted to the Low Bank.

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Welney – Railway Bridge

The footpath here has been diverted to the Low Bank. Although construction work has not started in this section, preparation works to the haul road are underway for Year 2.

### Railway Bridge – Welches Dam

The footpath here will remain open for this year with normal access to the RSPB bird hides. Bank works in this section will start in July 2018.

### Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

The footpath here is closed.

As the work progresses please check the noticeboards for any changes and updates. Notices and maps have been posted on site at key access points.

### Our Environment

We have discussed any potential impact of our works on the environmental interests of the Ouse Washes with Natural England, RSPB Wildlife Trust and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. This has helped us to identify areas of temporary mitigation measures required to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

### Working in partnership

The project is being carried out by contractor JacksonHyder on behalf of the Environment Agency with support from the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust, the Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.

We are also supported by Natural England, Middle Level Commissioners, Cambridgeshire County Council and Norfolk County Council.

### How to find out more

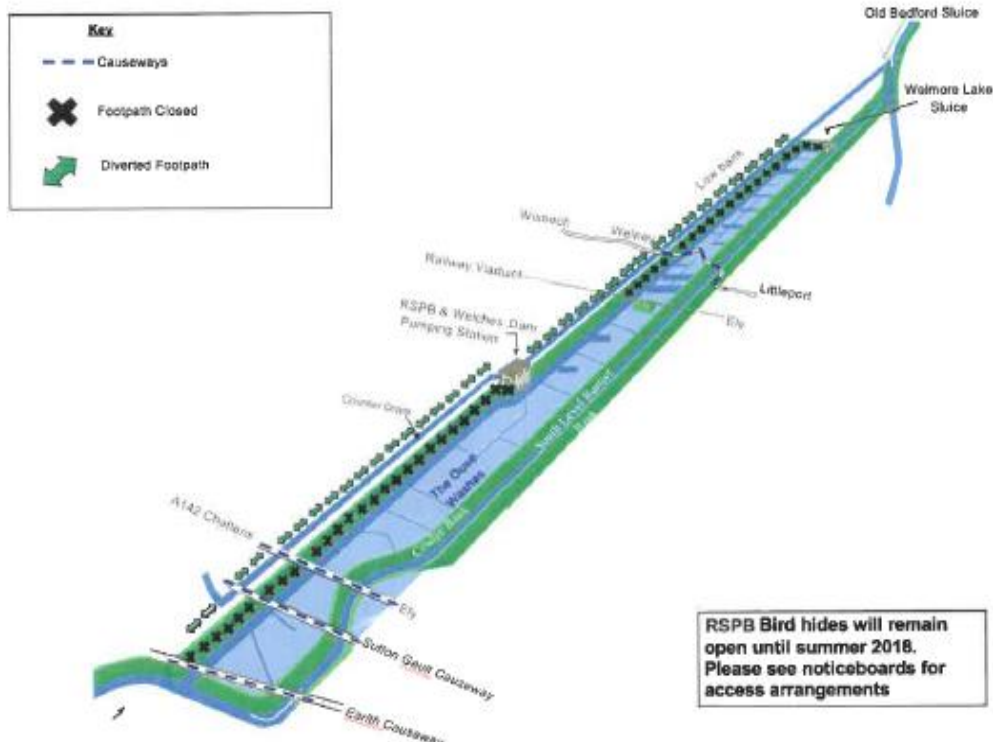
We have noticeboards displaying project information and contact details. These are located at Welney, near the old parish hall, and at Welches Dam on the RSPB Reserve. We will be installing another noticeboard at The Anchor Inn, Sutton Gault and on the bank at Earith.

### Our Public Liaison Officer

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer, Monica Stonham using the details below. The project team also welcomes the opportunity to work with the local communities and schools; do not hesitate to contact Monica for more information.

Telephone: 07577 470803

Email: [OusewashesProjectEA@gmail.com](mailto:OusewashesProjectEA@gmail.com)



customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.environmental-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environmental-agency.gov.uk)

## Ouse Washes

### Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank works

September 2017

#### Year 1 works

The first season of bank works on the Middle Level and South Level Barrier Banks (MLBB and SLBB) is coming to an end.

Our work involves cutting steps into the existing bank to ensure that the new material ties into the existing material. The excavated material is stockpiled and new clay is placed into the bank, before top soiling and grass seeding. We use the stockpiled material and new clay as fill in the next section of bank.

On the MLBB between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney we found areas of material that we have had to stockpile and test to confirm if it is of a suitable standard to go back into the bank. The stockpiled material will remain on site over winter.

In addition to this, the wet weather in August & early September has made the imported clay too soft to work with. This has also slowed our progress and we have not completed as much as planned. As a result, the works between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney will not be finished this season and we will have to return in 2018.

The haul road works that we originally proposed between Welney and Welches Dam has changed. An evolving design has resulted in an alternative solution for this section which means that we will not need to do as much preparation work.

A similar process has been carried out on the SLBB design. Work is progressing between Sutton Gault Pumping Station and The Anchor Inn. Work around the pumping station and up to Chain Corner will now be finished in 2018. The methodology for working here must take account of our agreed working hours and the tidal range in the Hundred Foot River. To maintain the bank stability, we stop work when the tide level reaches a pre-set threshold.

During the works the public footpaths are closed and signed diversions are in place. The grass plays an important role in the long-term stability of the banks and the footpaths will remain diverted until good grass coverage has been established. We will lift the footpath diversions as soon as possible. During the winter periods, when we are not working, there will be a permissive route along the MLBB haul road.

We are now progressing with grass cutting on the MLBB and SLBB as part of ongoing site management throughout the winter and spring.

Bank works will finish on 31 October 2017 and start again in July 2018 as per our agreement with Natural England. We are exploring the possibility of extending this working window with stakeholders.

We apologise for any inconvenience that our work may cause and would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your co-operation while we carry out this project. ..../continued

Once this year's works are complete we will be holding a drop-in feedback session and would like to hear from you, we will display the progress to date along with revised plans of the works.

The event will be held at:

**William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney, PE14 9SD**

**on 16 November 201**

**4.00pm – 8.00pm.**

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact our Public Liaison Officer Monica Stonham on 07577 470803 or email [ousewashesprojectEA@gmail.com](mailto:ousewashesprojectEA@gmail.com)

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The Chief Executive highlighted a number of items contained in the Annual Report including that Defra had now issued the Government response to the Consultation on Water Transfer Licences which ended in January 2017 and it appears that, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Defra will require Boards that transfer water from Main River to District Drains to obtain a licence. He advised that the licence fee will be £1,500 which would cover a 12 year period, however no inter-district IDB transfers will be caught by the licencing regime. At the moment Defra have said the details to be contained in the licence will be flexible and that only if there is significant risk to water quality will a lot of detail be required in the licence. Only basic detail will be required where there is no risk to water quality and the environment.

ADA's position has been that they were reasonably happy with the licencing, but wanted an exemption for IDBs from paying the fee as the Boards get no income from Main River to IDB extractions.

On behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners and IDBs, the Clerk had written to Sarah Hendry, Policy Director for Floods and Water at DEFRA, requesting further information, expressing his disappointment with the lack of engagement with IDBs and with the implementation of the changes being made with virtually no notice.

It was likely that ADA would raise the Water Transfer issue at the forthcoming Conference.

The Chief Executive reported on the proposed changes to the Annual Defra IDB1 Returns.

He advised that the IDB1 form is completed each year in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and is submitted to Defra, the Environment Agency and to each Council which pays an IDB Special Levy. The form provides information on such items as income, expenditure, a policy delivery statement, the bio-diversity action plan, asset management and governance matters.

The Chief Executive reported that for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the IDB1 return was amended and additional information requested, such as details of board membership, attendance at meetings, whether elections are held and confirmation that the complaints procedure is accessible from the home page on an IDB's website. This information will enable Defra to gather more data in relation to IDBs.

For 2018 the IDB1 form will be further expanded. The additions were developed in co-operation with the Environment Agency, ADA and invited IDB representatives including David Thomas on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners. The inclusion of items within the form which would either be difficult to report on or provide information which collectively would be of little value have been resisted and the new IDB1 form should, as a result, allow Defra to gain a much clearer insight into what IDBs deliver annually. It is hoped that this in turn will assist with raising further the profile of IDBs.

## RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

### B.3423 Executive Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

## RESOLVED

That the Executive Committee's minutes and recommendations be approved

### B.3424 Future Planning for the MLC and Associated Boards

The Chief Executive reported that the Executive Committee had agreed that the Middle Level Commissioners should host a Chairs meeting inviting all administered IDBs and DDC Chairs to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to plan for the future.

## RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive make appropriate arrangements and that Innes Thomson, the ADA Chief Executive, be invited to talk on what happens with other IDB groups around the country.

### B.3425 Financial Update

Members considered the report of the Treasurer on the projected financial position at the year end.

The Board considered the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The Board considered the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The Board approved the current insured values for properties.

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

The Treasurer detailed the out-turn for the period to 30th September 2017 and the assessment of likely expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

The Board reviewed and approved the forecast.

## RESOLVED

- i) That the Report of the Treasurer be approved.
- ii) That the Auditors' reports and comments be approved.
- iii) That the present policy as regards risk management and insured value of properties be continued.

### B.3426 Middle Level Navigation Bill

The Solicitor/Assistant Clerk updated the Board on the progress of the Navigation Bill. Although the Bill had previously passed the second reading stage, due to the General Election in June 2017, the Bill could not be progressed and it was necessary to have the Bill revived formally in Parliament. Time for the motion to revive was allocated by the whips on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and the Bill was again sponsored by Keven Foster, the MP for Torbay.

Following some discussion on the Bill, and opposition from Christopher Chope, MP for Christchurch, and Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge, the Bill was formally moved on to the next stage which is a hearing before the Committee for Opposed Bills and it is hoped that some time will be allocated in January 2018 for this hearing.

The Treasurer updated the Board on the additional expenditure on legal fees and advised that a further £65,000 had been forecast to cover fees until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

#### B.3427 Unlicensed Boats

The Solicitor/Assistant Clerk reported that Fenland District Council had served formal notice on the overstayed boat on March moorings and that all the boats had now moved from the moorings.

#### B.3428 Inspection of Works 2017

The Chief Executive reported that the Inspection of Works had taken place on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and encompassed visits to Stanground, Horseway and Salters Lode Locks, Yaxley and High Lodes.

#### B.3429 Water Resources Committee

Further to minute B.3396, Mr H Whittome reported on the activities of the Water Resources Committee.

It was noted that it had been a drier than average winter and a dry spring which led to early irrigation of spring crops up until mid April when significant rainfall arrived. Mr Whittome had met with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water to discuss the upcoming season. There had been a number of staff changes at the Environment Agency which meant that some of the trust built up over the years had been lost and there was a need now to build relationships with the new personnel. The main event of the summer was the heatwave in June/July and the text message system had worked well to manage the reducing flow. A four night restriction had been put in place from the 21<sup>st</sup> June until the 10<sup>th</sup> July until further rainfall had arrived. During the heatwave Anglian Water were asked to reduce their abstraction of water but they declined to do so. The Water Resources Committee will raise this with Anglian Water at their next meeting.

#### B.3430 Ralstonia Solanacearum – Brown Rot

Further to minute B.3397, the Chief Executive provided an update on this matter and advised that Defra would be producing the results of the sampling in the near future.

#### B.3431 Conservation Committee

Members considered and approved the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.



### B.3432 Environmental Officer's Report

The Board considered and approved the Report of the Environmental Officer.

### B.3433 Association of Drainage Authorities

#### a) Annual Conference

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and there were still places available if any Member wished to attend.

#### b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch

The Chief Executive reported that the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association would be held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

He also reported that there had been a review of the branch and it had been suggested that the Middle Level Commissioners take over the role of Secretary and Chairmanship of the branch.

### RESOLVED

That, subject to ensuring that reasonable costs can be recovered, the Middle Level Commissioners offer to take over management of the River Great Ouse branch of ADA.

#### c) Subscriptions

The Chief Executive reported that subscriptions had not increased for the current year but it was likely that there would be a small increase for 2018/2019 which would be discussed and approved at the forthcoming Conference.

#### d) Liability of Board Members

The Chief Executive referred to, and Members noted, a Guidance Note received from ADA dated the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 which summarised the issue of when Members of an Internal Drainage Board may be held personally liable for actions which they take in that capacity.

### B.3434 Anglia Farmers

Members considered the contractual arrangements with Anglia Farmers for the supply of electricity.

### RESOLVED

That the current arrangements be continued for a further contract period, during which time the service provided by them, in relation to the running of the contract, be monitored.

## B.3435 Applications for byelaw consent

The Chief Executive reported that the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last meeting of the Board, viz:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Michael Channing	Replacement of an existing steel bridge with a new steel bridge -Yards End Dyke, Yaxley	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Cambridgeshire County Council	Construction of a 3m wide dual use footpath/ cycleway – West End Park, March adjacent to the Old River Nene, March	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Natural England (Kier Construction)	Replacement of existing steel bridge with new steel bridge – Raveley Drain	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Natural England (Kier Construction)	Temporary Works in connection with replacement of existing steel bridge with new steel bridge – Raveley Drain	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Network Rail	Strengthening Works to Harts Railway Bridge - Whittlesey Dyke	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Network Rail	Install pipework, manholes and 2 no. outfalls to provide drainage from Harts Railway Bridge – Whittlesey Dyke	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Michael Channing	Laying utilities across existing steel bridge – Yards End Dyke	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
The Hollies (Upwell) Ltd	Formation of a 5m wide estate road (Blunt’s Orchard Drive) with 2m wide footpaths - Well Creek, Upwell	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Mr & Mrs P M Russell	Erection of 31m of close board fence, height varying from 1m-2m, including a 2m pedestrian gate and the laying of a grassed garden area – Well Creek, Upwell	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
Waldersey Farm	Installation of an electrically operated hydraulic gate – adjacent to Exmoor Grange Bridge – Sixteen Foot Drain	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
Mr M Grimes	Construct a 4m long timber landing stage including steel/plastic sheet piling as erosion protection, steps and handrail	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
Mr & Mrs J Stanford	Works linked to construction of detached dwelling/utilities/fence/barrier to protect Ash Tree. Well Creek, Upwell	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Mr & Mrs J Stanford	Landing stage on river frontage of Plot 1, St Peters Road, Upwell	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

Mr & Mrs Lazenby

Erection of detached dwelling including foundations and patio and removable fence/gates re-position access point at 19 Love Lane, Whittlesey – Kings Dyke

20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

B.3436 Rental of Grass Banks

With reference to minute B.3374, the Board considered arrangements for the hiring of the Commissioners' grass banks in 2018.

The Chief Executive reported on the position regarding vacant Bank Lots and it was agreed that grass banks should be let on short term grazing licences only when the land was unsuitable for arable farming.

RESOLVED

That no change be made in the rents for the hiring of the grass banks in 2018 and that the present hirers be offered a licence in 2018.

B.3437 Fisheries

a) Further to minute B.3207(ii), consideration was given to the level of rental paid by Whittlesey Angling Association, currently £971.00 per annum.

RESOLVED

That the rate should remain unchanged.

b) Further to minute B.3261, the Chief Executive reported that tenders would be invited for fishing rights on the Forty Foot and Sixteen Foot Rivers for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

He further reported that the existing grants were as follows:-

<u>Name of Hirer</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Lot No</u>	<u>Rent paid in</u> <u>2016/2017 (ex VAT)</u>
Ramsey Angling Club	Forty Foot River from Wells Bridge to Puddock Bridge	22 ) )	300.00
The Chatteris Working Mens Angling Club	Forty Foot River from Puddock Bridge to Horseway Sluice	23 ) ) )	75.00
	Forty Foot River from Childs Bridge to Horseway Lock	24 ) )	75.00

Parkfield Angling Club	Sixteen Foot River from Forty Foot Junction to Boots Bridge	26A )	50.00
		)	
R M Field	Sixteen Foot River from Boots Bridge to Bedlam Bridge	26B )	200.00
		)	

RESOLVED

That those fishing clubs which presently hire fisheries be offered lettings at the same rent.

B.3438 Date of Meetings

RESOLVED

That the next meetings of the Commissioners and the Middle Level Board be held as follows in 2018, viz:-

- i) Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> April
- ii) Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> November