

MEETING AGENDA

JBA Project Code 2011s5031
Contract Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors WLMP Implementation
Client Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board
Day, Date and Time 20/02/2014 14:00
Meeting Advisory Group
Venue Epsom House



Attending	Ken Knight	Doncaster East IDB (Chair)	KK
	Tim Kohler	Natural England	TK
	David Hinchliffe	Thorntree IDB	DH
	Matthew Blissett	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	MB
	Sam Longthorp	Black Drain IDB	SL
	Roland Backhouse	Swinefleet and Reedness DB	RB
	Helen Kirk	THMCF	HK
	Kieran Sheehan	JBA Consulting	KS

Notes/Minutes to be taken by JBA

Action

1 Apologies

Vaughan Grantham East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Bob Dawson North Lincolnshire Council
Darren Whitaker JBA Consulting
Helen Markland DMBC
Michael Dougherty Goole Fields IDB

2 Matters Arising / Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Minutes

These were sent out to all those present on 20th February 2013 and no comments were received. These were reviewed again at this meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

Natural England to organise emergency procedures meeting – **Done (JS)**.

DW to report back to next Steering Group meeting – **Done (KS)**. KS said that all contractors working on-site now provide certification for all their competencies and this is shared between JBA (DEIDB) and Natural England. Method Statements and Safe Systems of Work are prepared for and agreed by each and every contractor working on the site in writing. All contractors are given a site safety briefing, including emergency procedures in place. This is signed for.

DW to record number of accident free hours on site – 7,878 hours **Done (DW)**.

No agreement on Terms of Reference. Sub-committee to take this forward has not been constituted.

DH commented that it was not really acceptable that, nearly three years into the project, this had not been agreed. HK reminded those present that this had been attempted on a number of occasions but there had been no progress or agreement by this group. KK reminded the group that HK had circulated an exemplar Terms of Reference at the last meeting but nothing had come of this. HK said that she was happy if people kicked this around and tracked changes to see if something could be agreed that could be taken to the Doncaster East main board. This was agreed.

DH said that his main objection is that the WLMP is funded through Doncaster East IDB but when it should have been a collaboration between IDBs and landowners. However, this was water under the bridge now and we are where we are. HK said that this project was scrutinised more than any other IDB project she has ever seen. KK suggested that

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HK's exemplar Terms of Reference be used as a template. TK agreed to amend the draft Terms of Reference on behalf of the landowners.

TK, Group

[A copy of the exemplar Terms of Reference supplied by HK has been circulated with these minutes.]

Landowners meeting proposed – TK to arrange this – **Done (TK)**.

TK took notes of this meeting but these have not yet been written-up. TK apologised for this.

Discharging water into Swinefleet Warping Drain not guaranteed (RB).

DH asked whether Health and Safety procedures on-site had been reviewed following an incident that took place with Natural England contractors last year. KS replied that maps were now routinely supplied to all contractors working on site and that these contained the grid references as well as the locations (visually) of all the access points to the moors as well as the names of the locations and the names and phone number of the local hospitals and the contact details for JBA and Natural England, including mobile numbers. All contractors working for JBA (DEIDB) were given a site induction and toolbox talk (which was signed for) and Method Statements and safe Systems of Work were agreed with all before works commenced. In addition the competencies of all staff were recorded and certification for this was required from all on-site workers and the relevant paperwork was then copied to Natural England.

SL asked whether contractors working for JBA (DEIDB) were allowed to work alone. KS replied no, they worked in groups with a minimum of two but usually more.

DH raised the point that in emergencies it was difficult to get a response as the moors was between different administrative areas for a number of authorities. KS agreed with this and said that the relevant phone numbers were on the maps provided to the contractors.

KK asked whether a 'dummy run' had been undertaken to see how the present emergency procedures worked? KS replied no as this was quite difficult to organise. KK put out this to the group who agreed that such an exercise should be undertaken. KS & DW to organise.

KS, DW

3 Health & Safety

No incidents to report. Other matters were covered in Matters Arising.

4 Progress to Date

4.1 Southern Boundary Drain

KS reported that work on this has now finished and the new dam and weir as well as the bund are functioning correctly. This work was undertaken as a matter of priority as there was a danger to public safety if the existing peat bund structure was allowed to remain, i.e. flood risk and over-riding public interest. Water levels here have already been raised by 0.6m since the dam was made watertight by Dinsdales Moorland Services Ltd.

4.2 Crowle Moors

KS reported that scrub clearance here is ongoing and that a number of dams have now been put in with more planned in 2014. This work was undertaken on land owned by North Lincs Council, which had a site-specific EIA in place.

4.3 Thorne Moors

KS reported that scrub clearance funded by the NIA (through DEIDB) had been

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undertaken in Green Belt as well as near Angle Drain in advance of planned works in these areas later in 2014. Ancillary works to the WLMP, funded from the Humberhead levels NIA, have allowed for the inspection of the Bailey Bridge to allow access for machinery to Crowle Moors as well as the viewing platform. Repair works for these structures are now planned. Rhododendron clearance has also taken place along the western edge of the mire under the auspices of the NIA.

4.4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Most of the data for this is now to hand, with only the results of the Yorkshire Triangle work left to be gathered. Some additional archaeology work has also been requested but this is anticipated within the next couple of weeks. Other data, such as from the pump study and the Swinefleet Flood Risk Study is now to hand and this will be incorporated into the EIA which should be ready for initial consultation in March 2014. This should allow for an eight month period to finalise the document, prior to major works commencing on-site in November 2014.

4.5 Progress Reports

SL said he had not seen these. KS responded that they were originally written for the Executive of Doncaster East IDB and were only circulated wider on the instruction of the IDB Chair. KK said that, in future, these should be sent to all members of the Steering Group by email and in the post to RB. The Spend Profile spreadsheet should be amended to run over two pages.

KS

4.6 Steering Group Meetings

DH said that the cost of these in the Spend Profile was high. KS explained that these were estimated figures and this included reporting and minutes etc. and not just the cost of meeting on the day. KS said that, as this was just indicative, there was no need on this to include every penny and, if he were to do this, it would take too much time and cost too much, especially as the detailed financial information was contained elsewhere in the Monthly Report. This was agreed by the group.

5 Swinefleet Warming Drain Pump Study

5.1 Swinefleet Flooding Modelling

KS reported that the results of this were now in and showed maps and return period for the flooding. These showed that the flooding was not that extreme, even at a 1:1,000 year event and would not change dramatically as a result of increased pumping from Thorne Moors.

5.2 Catchment Study

KS reported that this had now been completed and showed that there will be very little difference in the amount of water being discharged from the site. The headlines are:

- there will be an 4% decrease in effective rainfall over the whole of Thorne Moors as a result of the WLMP;
- There will be a 2% increase in effective rainfall over the pumped catchment on Thorne Moors;
- There will be an 11% decrease in effective rainfall on the areas outwith the pumped catchment on Thorne Moors.

5.3 Pump Study

KS reported on this. In summary if a new pump were installed at Black Dike (NGR SE76642101) this would increase water levels at Reedness Junction PS. If this increase went above 1.3mAOD then water would flow backwards into the Reedness and Swinefleet IDB system. However, if a pump were installed at Black Dike and a flap valve fitted at Reedness Junction PS, then the water levels in the Foulsea Dike West would be lowered substantially. If discharge levels from Thorne are kept the same then there is no effect on the Swinefleet Warming Drain or Swinefleet Village. However, a new pumping

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station at Black Dike would help alleviate flooding in Swinefleet village.

6 Work Programme

6.1 Angle Drain and New Mill Drain

KS reported that new weirs will be installed in these drains in 2014. These will allow finer control over water levels along the drains and in Will Pitts Scrape.

6.2 Electricity Supply

KS said this will be installed along the Swinefleet Warping Drain once a price has been agreed with Northern Power Networks (NPN).

DH asked what the price was. KS replied that the quoted price was in excess of £600k. RB said that a previous price was much lower, c. £150k. KS agreed and said that discussions with NPN were ongoing but it was difficult to pin them down without Natural England committing themselves to a draw for their sheds. However, this had now been done and we were going back to NPN again. All agreed that NPN were in a monopoly situation which they were exploiting. RB suggested that, if the new pumping station at black Dike were agreed, then we should probably install the cabling to there at the same time. This was thought a sensible suggestion and, if possible, should be considered.

KS, DW

6.3 Pumping Station

KS reported that the groundworks for this are proposed in 2014, if there are no objections from statutory bodies to this. The exact specification of the pump has yet to be agreed but it is likely to be 0.3 cumecs/sec, i.e. the same size as the existing diesel pump that Natural England use, although with 100% redundancy built-in, i.e. a second back-up pump of the same capacity. DH said that the water being pumped into the Swinefleet Warping Drain has nothing to do with Doncaster East IDB. KK asked what benefit dealing with this water has for Doncaster East IDB. DH replied that disposal of water is effectively an agreement between Reedness and Swinefleet DB and the landowner (Natural England). RB agreed and said that once upon a time water had seeped out naturally all around the moors and was not concentrated in one place. KK explained that he was acting as Devil's advocate in asking this question as there are clearly wider societal benefits in controlling water on and off the moors but this needs to be explained to the Board of Doncaster East IDB. KS was tasked with finding additional sources of funding to support an application to the Environment Agency for a new pump at Black Dike. KS suggested that the WLMP might like to make a contribution if Doncaster East IDB were minded but there was no agreement from the group on this.

KS

The Group agreed that, in order to progress things, JBA should provide a quote to Doncaster East IDB for the production of a Project Appraisal Report (PAR) for the proposed new pumping station. KS will ask the Shire Group to formally request a quote from JBA.

KS

RB asked that KS confirm that the pump on Thorne be linked to the other Reedness and Swinefleet DB pumps on Swinefleet Warping Drain to ensure that pumping does not take place from the Moors when the other pumps are in operation. KS gave assurances on this and said this would be minuted and he was on record saying so previously. The plan was to do this via telemetry and, in addition, even though there would be two parallel pumps at Thorne Moors, only one would ever operate at one time: the other was only a back-up. This was normal practice. RB and SL said they had heard this before, however, KS said he was happy to provide a written guarantee.

RB then gave some background information on the history of the pump on Thorne Moors. Historically a small area of 160 acres had been gravity discharged into the Swinefleet

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Warping Drain. When Fisons were later working the moors for peat, they had asked to pump the volume of water arising from their land in addition to that above, some 2,600 acres. This had been opposed by the Reedness and Swinefleet Drainage Board but Fisons had threatened legal action. In view of the fact that Fisons were very rich and had deeper pockets than the Board, the Board relented and agreed that Fisons could pump a certain amount of water into the Swinefleet Warping Drain. It is this amount that Natural England had inherited when they took over the land in 2003 and it is this that they now pay the rateable value of.

6.4 Northern Goole Moors

KS said that Ground Investigation Works are proposed here, however, this is conditional upon the agreement of the landowner. RB said that this area was regularly burned in the past in a controlled manner although, on occasion, these burns had gotten out of control.

7 Any Other Business

KK stated that this item should not be on the agenda for future meetings as all items for discussion should be notified beforehand.

8 Date of Next Meeting

TBA – early November 2014.

DW