

**Minutes of the Engineering Committee
of the Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board
Meeting held Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 10.00 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Present:

Mr Barnes

Chairman

Mr W J Cornock

Cllr J Jones

Miss R Hewlett

Cllr M Williams

Staff:

Martin Dear

Accounts Officer

AO

James Druett

Land Drainage Engineer

LDE

James Thomas

Civil Engineer

CE

Kieran Warren

Principal Officer

PO

Louise Reading

Minutes

3082	<p>Appointment of Engineering Committee Chairman</p> <p>Resolved that: Mr Barnes be appointed Committee Chairman for the ensuing year.</p>	
3083	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Tom Cullimore, Ian Ratcliffe, Roger Godwin, Robert Hyslop, Robert Thatcher and Geoff Simms.</p>	
3084	<p>Declarations of Interest No interests were declared.</p>	
3085	<p>Minutes of Previous Engineering Committee Meeting</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2019 be approved as a correct record. 	
3086	<p>Capital Programme Progress Report The PO advised Members that the Quantity Surveyor's report for Elmore Back had been recently received; this meant that more detailed costings were available for consideration.</p> <p>The LDE updated Members on Elmore Back Pump Station replacement as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board were still awaiting 1 consent from the EA for the fish pass. • The pump station sump had been drained fully to allow for further concrete testing and; • Research into whether retaining the pump station building or demolishing the pump station had begun. Demolishing the building to allow easier pump access in the future seemed preferable. Pre planning talks were being arranged with the local authority. <p>The LDE advised Members that there had been an estimated increase of £80,000 in expenditure. This increase might require savings to be found elsewhere, e.g. from the £50,000 provision for an access road and the £25,000 for electrical installations and over-pumping. Members noted that tenders would be invited on the basis of the original specification with costed alternatives for some of the works.</p> <p>Ms Hewlett asked where the medical and health and safety supplies would be stored if the building were to be demolished. The LDE advised there would be a metal unit to house such items and the pump would be protected by a security fence around its perimeter.</p>	

	<p>In response to Cllr Jones, the LDE indicated that all the components were waterproof.</p> <p>Ms Hewlett asked if the fish pass consent was likely to hold up progress as it had done at Saul. The LDE confirmed that Motion, as the Project Manager, were chasing the EA for this.</p> <p>Mr Goodey asked if the weather would cause a problem as works were being completed over the winter months. The LDE advised that this shouldn't cause any issues. Provisions are in place and the majority of the works would be above ground.</p> <p>The LDE informed the Committee that the tenders for Elmore Back were due to be returned by the end of October. The Engineers and Motion would then be responsible for assessing all the bids and selecting a contractor to complete the works. The CE added that the selection process was rigorous and many factors were taken into consideration as well as the price.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his confidence in Motion as the Board had worked with them for many years and impressed Members over this time.</p> <p>At the request of Mr Simms, Members then went on to discuss the effectiveness of the reporting mechanism and liaison between the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Engineering Committee in respect of the Capital Programme. He proposed an additional Term of Reference for the Engineering Committee, viz:</p> <p><i>“To validate, agree and monitor the financial expenditure and deliverables of the Capital Programme, within the financial constraints of the agreed budget.”</i></p> <p>Mr Simms suggested that greater communication between the two Committees would be beneficial and proposed that more Engineering meetings be held and an annual joint meeting for both Finance and General Purposes and Engineering Committees.</p> <p>Members generally welcomed these proposals but felt that it would be unnecessary to have more meetings scheduled as additional meetings could always be arranged at relatively short notice as and when required.</p> <p>The PO reminded members that Engineering Committee meetings were arranged prior to Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings so that up to date information could be passed on. Items referred from any Committee to another were reported as they arose and Members were supplied with relevant extracts from minutes to aid their discussions.</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report be noted; and • The views of this Committee be referred to the F & GP Committee for consideration at the meeting scheduled for 9 September 2020. <p>It was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Term of Reference highlighted above be added to this Committee's existing Terms of Reference. 	
3087	<p>M49 Junction Drainage Arrangements</p> <p>The CE provided an update on the M49 Junction drainage works. Works had been completed and the Culvert provided additional water diversion from the Pilning and Severn Beach areas.</p>	

	<p>Mr Cornock asked about the impact of the bank being raised along the Avonmouth to Aust section of the riverbank.</p> <p>The CE advised that this was a positive action lowering the risk of tidal inundation and that Bristol City Council were creating wetlands in the area.</p> <p>Mr Goodey added that around 80 acres of land would be become wetlands and this would reduce water into the rhines and water excess in those areas. The bank walls would reduce tidal inundation and improvement in outfalls provided efficiently and easier maintenance.</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report to be noted 	
3088	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Members noted that the next Engineering meeting would be rescheduled from 21st October 2020 to allow time for the Elmore Back Pump Station tenders to be considered. The PO and Chair would discuss and confirm as soon as possible.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 15.00pm</p>	