

**MINUTES OF THE NORTH SOMERSET LEVELS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2023 AT 14:30 IN KINGSTON SEYMOUR VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Attendance:</b>			
<b>Elected Members:</b> Mr T Bush (C) Mr N Cole Mr G Atwell Mr S Hutchings Mr R Mitchell Mr R Parsons Mr C Pyke Mr C Redding	<b>Appointed Members:</b> Cllr M Bird Cllr P Burden Mr J Cato Mr P Harris Ms S Hearne Cllr C Hunt Cllr Dan Thomas Cllr J Tonkin	<b>Officers:</b> Iain Sturdy Naomi Johnson Phil Brewin Giles Oliver Anthony Brinson Maggie Hammond Matthew Wall Rob King Dan Alsop David Crossman	<b>Public:</b> Will Barnard PIDB (part meeting)
<b>Approved Apologies:</b>			
Mr E Adams Mr A Mead	Mr R Westwood Cllr M Pepperall Cllr B Petty	Virginie Martin	
<b>Non-Approved Apologies:</b>			
Mr J Harris Mr P Kingcott Mr B Letts Mr G Plaister	Cllr C Gibbons Ms D Yamanaka		

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Detail:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
1. Attendance and Apologies	1.1. Apologies as per the above Attendance List. 1.2. Introductions were made for the benefit of new members.	
2. Items additional to the Agenda	2.1. Iain Study clarified that Mr Atwell and Mr Hutchings were new Elected members to the Board, not co-opted to the Board as had previously been stated. Elected members have all the statutory powers and obligations. Iain Sturdy thanked both Mr Atwell and Mr Hutchings for attending the recent new Board member training, and was pleased to see them in attendance at this full Board meeting.	

Each Board is a statutory public body with responsibilities for flood protection, land drainage and the environment.  
All are members of the Association of Drainage Authorities.

	<p>2.2 Recommendation made by the Health and Safety Committee to move Health and Safety up the agenda to reflect the importance that we need to place on this.</p> <p><b>Proposed by: Peter Burden</b>  <b>Seconded by: Peter Harris</b>  <b>All in favour</b></p> <p>2.3 Iain Sturdy reminded all Board members to submit their Declarations of Members Interests forms as a register is kept to monitor these. Cllr Sandra Hearne asked where these can be found. Iain Sturdy stated these can be found online and can be downloaded, printed and sent into the office.</p> <p>2.4 Cllr Bird would like to address the Board on some key issues. With the Chairman's permission Cllr Bird addressed the meeting. Summarised below</p> <p>Cllr Bird stated he'd like to take the Board back to 18/2/22 on this day North Somerset came 4 hours close to a catastrophe not seen for a number of years.</p> <p>Storm Eustice was predicted to arrive causing a storm surge up the channel. There would have been a major breach of sea defences, but that morning the winds changed and lowered the expected surge to 1m, markedly lowering the wave heights. By midday the wind had changed again producing a surge and wave heights of 3 metres, thankfully high tide was 4 hours past. Had the surge arrived at high tide, many parts of North Somerset would have been under water including Weston and Clevedon.</p> <p>North Somerset Levels covers around 40 square miles of the district and 10 square miles of flood plain have been built on. It's taken for granted that the sea can be kept out and the levels can be pumped.</p> <p>With climate change and the prospect of 18/2/23 being a regular event, things are now a lot more worrying.</p> <p>There is now a major issue as the moors are in a poor, they have been pumped dry, a recent report states Nailsea &amp; Tickenham Moor has dropped by 50cm in recent times.</p> <p>A wet moor can absorb more water than a dry moor. A dry moor can cause run off, soil erosion and flooding. Had the sea defences been breached on 18/2/22 the</p>	<p><b>RESOLUTION 1</b></p>
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sea would have rushed over the top of the fields and moor and this would not have been able to be absorbed.

It's not just about flooding that is a concern, our peat levels are a great asset regarding carbon capture and the fight against climate change, 30 square miles of moor stores a huge amount of carbon. However, the state they are in they are actually releasing carbon not storing it. We need to get moors back into a better wetland state to store and capture carbon. There is also the adverse effect on biodiversity and wildlife to be considered.

We need a rethink about how the moors are used and farmed, first and foremost we need higher water levels to rewet the peat. We need to talk to Farmers about Biodiversity net gain and ways they can return the levels to their natural state. The events of 18/2/22 will happen again.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bird for his address to the board and stated that the Environment report later in the meeting would cover many of the points that were raised. He stated that Defra, for the last 2 years, have been looking into the peat issue and have created a lowland peat taskforce for this matter. A report has been produced for ADA, and this Board have input into that report. There is funding available for those who would like to rewet their peat.

Phil Brewin stated that he will be covering some of the above points later in the meeting. He stated that policies and action plans need to be discussed. We need to keep promoting good engineering and nature-based solutions to flood risk.

Iain Sturdy noted that our challenge going forward is to ensure we deliver our primary function in the best way possible. This issue is one of the many factors to take into consideration. We must get the balance right.

The Chairman stated that we will need to work with land owners who want to do it.

2.5 Iain Sturdy notified the Board of the Charity Coffee morning that is being held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at Bradbury House at 11am. All are welcome and it is to raise money for The Children's Liver Disease Foundation and Ronald Macdonald Homes for Families.

3. Declarations of Interest	3.1. None were made	
4. Opportunity for Members of the Public to address the Meeting	4.1. No members of the Public were present.	
5. Approval of Minutes	<p>5.1. The minutes of the NSLIDB Full Board Meeting held 21 June 2023 had been provided to the Board in advance.</p> <p><b>‘That the Full Board Minutes of 21 June 23 were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate reflection of the Meeting.’</b>  <b>Proposed by Cllr J Tonkin</b>  <b>Seconded by P Harris,</b>  <b>Vote: All agreed</b></p> <p>5.2 The Chairman made a comment regarding Page 2 – the legal agreement on Samson’s Sluice had not yet been signed.  Giles Oliver replied that he is expecting a final copy for signature from the solicitors imminently.</p> <p>5.3 Cllr J Tonkin made a comment regarding Page 4 - there had been flooding at Four Gables House due to many mounds of spoil on the Taylor Wimpey site and that this will lead to more flooding. Iain Sturdy thanked Cllr J Tonkin for raising this and said another site visit will be arranged.</p> <p>5.4 Bob Mitchell made a comment about Page 4 - Regarding the Cider Barn, we need to be aware of a deadline for the next budget. Iain Sturdy agreed and thanked Bob for reminding his about this.</p> <p>15.00pm - David Crossman joined the meeting</p> <p>5.5 Page 9 – It was noted that Peter Harris is not a Councillor although the minutes suggest that he is.</p>	<b>RESOLUTION 2</b>
6. Matters Arising	<p><b>Action NSL/20221116-2: A task and Finish Group to debate investments across the consortium and develop a policy for investment:</b> Iain Sturdy confirmed that Maggie Hammond has completed her review, and the draft policy is now with Iain Sturdy for his consideration before calling the Task and Finish group back together.</p>	<b>Action NSL/20221116-2 :Ongoing</b>

	<p><b>Action NSL/20221116-3: New sluice to improve water levels on Claverham Drove::</b> Dan Alsop updated the board that design is finished, and he is now getting prices for the fabrication of the structure that will be put in and then we will approach Yatton Wildlife Conservation Group for a contribution to the scheme.</p> <p><b>Action NSL/20221116-4 Make available a copy of a report due from ADA on managing peat resources:</b> This report is now available and a link was sent out to members.</p>	<p><b>Action NSL/20221116-3: Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Action NSL/20221116-4 Complete</b></p>
<p>7. Health &amp; Safety</p>	<p>7.1. Naomi Johnson updated the Board on training. Board Members were urged to spend some time looking at the training modules on the ADA website that are very informative.</p> <p>7.2 The new lone worker devices have been rolled out and are proving to be very effective.</p> <p>7.3 Naomi Johnson proposed one change to the Health and Safety policy and that is regarding the structural diagram which would reflect what we are doing on the ground more accurately.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Peter Burden</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Peter Harris</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All agreed</b></p> <p>7.4 Naomi Johnson asked the Board if a Chair of the Health and Safety Committee could be appointed for 3 years and if this would be agreed in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Peter Harris</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Peter Burden</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All agreed</b></p> <p>7.5 Mr J Cato stated that Health and Safety training is critical and questioned what training provision was in place for the Chair of the Health and Safety Committee.</p> <p>Naomi Johnson responded that most members of the committee had joined because of their interest and knowledge in this area. There are 3 ADA modules available for all members and these will be a good initial basic training.</p> <p>Mr J Cato responded that the whole board is responsible and therefore 3 x 20 mins modules feels insufficient.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy responded that the Board are non-technical experts and are there to promote good governance and</p>	<p><b>RESOLUTION 3</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION 4</b></p>

	<p>good decisions based upon the issues brought before them by staff and technical advisors</p> <p>Peter Harris said that the Health and Safety Committee are supported by external experts, they audit and make sure we do what is necessary. Peter Harris is satisfied that we are adequately covered.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy stated that it is essential that Health and Safety systems function effectively and we are also actively monitoring performance and reacting to issues.</p> <p>7.6 The Chairman told the Board that there is a vacancy on the committee that needed to be filled by this Board.</p> <p>7.7 Bob Mitchell asked if there should be a paragraph available for extraordinary items/conditions, and can this be considered next time round.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy reassured the Board that, safe systems of work are in place and active monitoring and reporting is being encouraged throughout the organisation.</p> <p>7.8 Peter Harris stated that disaster recovery incidents should be dealt with in a separate process. Iain Sturdy responded that the boards had previously drafted an incident response handbook, he will check if NSL was part of the consortium at the time this was written. It deals with setting up control and operations and communications structures and high priority tasks in an event.</p> <p>7.9 Peter Burden drew focus to 4.114 – Dynamic Risk Assessments on the Health and Safety policy. Iain Sturdy told the Board that the concern seemed to be that this was not explicit enough, and would take action to review. There was a discussion that followed and Iain Sturdy talked to the Board about how the H&amp;S Executive might investigate any serious H&amp;S incidents or respond to concerns as a result of their routine monitoring.</p> <p>Naomi Johnson stated she is encouraged by how H&amp;S culture is becoming more ingrained into everyone in the organisation.</p> <p>7.10 Naomi Johnson drew the Board’s attention to item 5 in her report regarding the issues in the office regarding the leak and subsequent works.</p> <p>Naomi Johnson discussed the near miss register and the four incidents that have been included in the report.</p> <p>7.11 The Chairman asked for expressions of interest in being part of the Health and Safety Committee. Dan Thomas said he would be happy to join.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> <b>NSL/20231017- 1</b></p>
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	<p><b>Proposed: Cllr Clare Hunt</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr James Tonkin</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All in favour</b></p> <p>7.12 Cllr Sandra Hearne said that the regulations regarding necessary tetanus vaccinations have changed. Iain Sturdy thanked Sandra Hearne for this information Naomi Johnson will look into this.</p>	<p><b>RESOLUTION 5</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> <b>NSL/20231017- 2</b></p>
<p>8. Governance Updates</p>	<p>8.1 Iain Sturdy stated that we are currently two appointed members short on the Finance and Works Committee. Ms Sandra Hearne and Cllr Clare Hunt put their names forward to join.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Robert Mitchell</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr James Tonkin</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All in favour</b></p> <p>8.2 Calendar of Board meetings – Iain Sturdy highlighted the Consultation paper regarding this. This is to share the difficulties presented by the current number of meetings in place and to investigate what could work in order to reduce the number of meetings. Meetings require a lot of preparation, administration, and tidying up afterwards.</p> <p>There are a number of options in the consultation paper, of which option 7c was the favoured option. We can still call extraordinary meetings if required. Option 7C would reduce the burden of the administration of these meetings considerably.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy stated that he was very keen to maintain local engagement, this can be supported by creating bi-monthly surgery sessions where members can raise issues, actions can be taken and then reported back at the full board meetings.</p> <p>The Axe Brue Board had decided to adopt option 7C in the consultation paper.</p> <p>The Chairman said he was happy for this to happen but would like there to be a tour of inspection for the fourth meeting, which would give an opportunity to talk about what is happening on the ground or, failing that, a board meeting solely for operations and environment in a less formal format.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy stated that he thought a work focused meeting would fit well with option 7C.</p> <p>Peter Burden – focus diary meeting to consider works is vital if we go down 7C route.</p>	<p><b>RESOLUTION 6</b></p>

	<p>Robert Mitchell – Happy to support option 7C.</p> <p>John Harris – in principle will support. Curious about the proposed surgery sessions. Keen to see opportunities for informal conversations before a paper is written.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy confirmed bi-monthly meetings would be diarised.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that this is trialled for 1 year and review in 2025.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr James Tonkin</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Colin Pyke</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All in favour</b></p>	<b>RESOLUTION 7</b>
<p>9. Finance Report</p>	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>9.1 Maggie Hammond asked for the Finance Report to be taken as read.</p> <p>9.2 Outstanding Drainage Rates</p> <p>We are in a good position at this point in the year with the total outstanding drainage rates. Despite the cost-of-living crisis, people are still paying their rates.</p> <p>Maggie Hammond suggested that any outstanding drainage rates above £25 should be taken to court.</p> <p>Maggie Hammond explained that it costs the Board 50p per person we take to court, but it's the staff costs that are the main cost. We can add court costs of £101.75 onto what the rate payer owes us when we take them to court.</p> <p>After some debate the Chairman asked for a vote on debts over £50 being taken to court.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Bob Harris</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Chris Redding</b></p> <p><b>Vote: All in favour</b></p> <p>9.3 Maggie Hammond drew the members' attention to section 4 of the report – Current Investments.</p> <p>The Chairman asked if the deposit account was instant access, Maggie Hammond confirmed this.</p>	<b>RESOLUTION 8</b>



10. Engineering & Operational Report

Engineering report:

10.1 Matthew Wall talked about item 4 on the report – Contracted operational support and maintenance works.

- The CPI that the contractors will be applying to their work this in Year 2 is 12.63%. Feedback from contractors is that this is covering additional costs with the rise in inflation. Year 3 in Axe Brue and Parrett is 18.44 %.
- A few issues with maize. In some areas we haven't been able to do the 2<sup>nd</sup> weed cut due to maize. Despite early weed cuts, maize is becoming more of a problem for us.
- Also have had issues with developers in the area not leaving space for access.
- Land Yeo had quite a severe blockage, access was restricted due to bank instability. The proposal is to flail the debris and reinstate access to the Rhyne. Work expected to be done before the end of February 2024.
- Some maintenance has not yet been done these are Heathgate Rhyne , Gooseum Rhyne, Redcroft Kew Stoke, a section of Cross Rhyne and a section of Balls Yeo in Puxton Park due to access issues.

David Crossman stated that he and the contractors are making good progress in his area.

Matthew Wall said that they are running approximately 1 week behind schedule due to health issues with the contractors work force.

Chris Redding asked what the legal aspect is with regards to the landowner and access due to maize.

Iain Sturdy responded that notice is served under the Act, time is given to the landowner to make any necessary adjustments. If the landowner suffers a loss as a result of our work, they are entitled to claim for losses, but we try to work with landowners and engage with them which does mean there are delays and extra costs incurred.

Iain Sturdy reiterated that we try hard to be reasonable with people. ADA are doing some work around planting grasses and wildflower mix in the margins, that would be beneficial for access but also for habitats. Although landowners can be paid to do this, not everyone will want to.

Nigel Cole asked if the margin width was 8 metres and stated that he believes this is overkill.

Iain Sturdy stated that this was the byelaw width, we only need sufficient access for a machine to work in, but experience has been that land owners often will plant right up to the edge of the channel, in the hope that it will be harvested before we arrive to do the maintenance.

Matthew Wall added that the issue is also driving in and out of the field to get to the and also and the impact on the machine itself. Driving back over flattened crops can damage the underside of the machine.

Iain Sturdy added that considering national bylaws at some point in the future the Board may need to decide whether or not they put on their notice of entry that they will be driving over crops that are in the way.

Notices currently state work will be done sometime between June – Nov, which is not helpful for landowners who want to plant to the edge of the rhyne. We need to consider this issue in more detail in the future.

10.2 Operations update- Rob King updated the board on a few additions regarding operations.

- St Georges – Has had another herbicide treatment. It remains a constant fight to control Floating Pennywort.
- Flooding reported at Hewish, the EA were notified along with the council.
- The Deputy Area Supervisors are doing their pole saw courses this Friday, another course that will increase their skill levels.
- Regarding the proposed open surgery sessions, please be aware that members can contact him at any time in work hours if there is an issue.

10.3 Engineering - Giles Oliver took members through the Engineering section of the report, there were some items to bring to the Board's attention and some recommendations.

There are two recommendations to take ordinary watercourses into viewed Rhyne status. The first is Engine Lane Rhyne. The cost to get this into view will be £1,970 (256 metres), there is a lot of vegetation and this watercourse will need reprofiling. This watercourse is the only route out of the new development for run off water, therefore this needs a publicly maintained route. Giles Oliver explained then it would need two cuts per year at a cost of £195.

David Crossman stated that he would like to just cut once a year and see how they get on; this would reduce the cost to around £100 a year.

Cllr James Tonkin recalled previously there being a discussion about the Engine Lane site merging with the potential St Modwen site. Giles Oliver said he was unaware of this.

Dan Alsop replied that the St Modwen site drains to the River Kenn at the moment. The outline development proposal shows diversion to the Kenn, although there has been no detailed discussion with St Modwen yet.



	<p>10.6 Regarding Item 9 in the report, Giles Oliver highlighted the ongoing issue with Milleaze tidal outfall. The EA haven't been maintaining the tidal flap and there have been a lot of issues with it sticking. This was raised with the EA at a recent high level strategic meeting and the outcome was that they are now prioritising that and adding it into the programme.</p> <p>10.7 The EA have also committed to installing CCTV onto the culvert at Milleaze and we will be pushing for this to get done. David Crossman has concerns about the condition of the culvert.</p> <p>Nigel Cole indicated there is a hole on the top of the pipe, rather than damage to the pipe.</p> <p>10.8 Dan Alsop updated members regarding the gauge board scheme. Currently the existing level control benchmarks are going to be checked by survey contractors. Dan Alsop and David Crossman have checked all gauge boards and assessed what work was needed and Dan will compile a schedule of works for this.</p> <p>10.9 Dan Alsop stated that he was shocked by how little keetching has been done by the EA. David Crossman has compiled a list of what has and hasn't been done, and it looks as though the EA have done less than 50% of what they should have done this season. Out of a total of main river 11 areas, 3 have been done, 3 nothing has been done, 3 have been partly attended to.</p> <p>Dan Alsop feels this is something that needs to be addressed at the top level. He stated prior to Covid the Operational teams of the EA and IDB used to meet to communicate issues and it would be helpful if this could happen again.</p> <p>Iain Sturdy asked Dan Alsop to provide him with a detailed list so that he could take it to the EA.</p> <p>10.10 John Harris asked if the hydrometric reports are within the expected levels</p> <p>Iain Sturdy replied that this is a facts of the matter hydrometric report and there is not a lot we can do about that, but we can control the way we react.</p> <p>Giles Oliver commented that last summer there was a drought whereas this summer was wet. Telemetry helps us identify trends and trigger points.</p> <p>10.11 John Harris asked about the floating pennywort situation and how we are handling that at the moment. The Chairman replied that this would be covered in Phil Brewins section.</p> <p>10.12 David Crossman told the Chairman that the EA seemed to have lost interest and maintenance is not a priority. There is not enough staff and as such he had been told that they are sending office staff out at the weekends to check levels and they don't understand this.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> <b>NSL/20231017-4</b></p>
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Chris Redding replied that he remembers when the NRA (prior to the EA) flooded Wick St Lawrence because they refused to mend a hole in the sea wall.

10.13 Dan Alsop updated the board on Crossman's Hatch. The structural calculations are being done currently by a consultant Structural Engineer. They are due to finalised the drawings in order for the project to be ready to go early next year.

10.14 Cllr Mike Bird asked what the current state of the constructed wetland in Nailsea, what is the timeline?

Dan Alsop replied that it's stalled at the moment. There is some uncertainty regarding the funding. There is supposed to be a hydraulic design in progress by others, but we have been promised that for the last 18 months.

10.15 Sandra Hearne asked if the staff are aware of National Grid works in Nailsea affecting the rhynes. Giles Oliver replied that we are talking to the National Grid in regards to this.

10. 16 Development Control - Giles Oliver told the board that Virginie Martin is currently off sick but that any questions regarding Development Control, he would take back to the office.

#### 10.17 Environment Report

Phil Brewin said he would like to pick out some key points of the report and draw the boards attention to the flow diagram in particular the new legislation we are operating under along with all public bodies. It shows the Government's evolution of the Environment Act essentially the need to do better for the environment and focuses on nature recovery. We have to consider these aspects in our strategies and actions.

10.18 Phil Brewin wanted to update the Board on some developments to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in particularly the developments in North Somerset. These actions are being done by the West of England Combined Authority and they have done quite a lot of work already, and they are very interested in working alongside the drainage boards.

Phil Brewin explained that this is something we should want to engage with as it may bring funding which would allow us to deliver some of the actions. It really kicks off next year which is when we can expect information being brought back to the Board. It is a good opportunity to develop our own plans, as required by the Act – by the end of the year we should have an idea of actions that we want to take forward that can them be embedded into the strategy.

10.19 Phil Brewin brought a recommendation to the Board that in the course of the next year a best practice manual is created. The biggest activity we do is channel maintenance, there is potential to do more for nature recovery, the work we currently do is pretty good but there are inconsistencies in how we are applying

specifications. This manual will ensure more consistency in our approach to activities.

**Proposed : Peter Burden**

**Seconded : Dan Thomas**

**Vote: All in Favour**

10.20 The Chairman asked Phil Brewin and Giles Oliver why nothing had been spent from the Telemetry Budget this year.

Giles Oliver replied that they have been looking at a different system to the other boards, but first we must get the basics and benchmarks sorted before we can get this installed.

The Chairman stated he would look forward to this being spent.

Iain Sturdy responded that it will be spent, if it is not spent this financial year, it will roll over into next financial year.

10.21 Phil Brewin updated the Board on the floating pennywort situation on smaller to medium sites, we are making progress but it's not completely eradicated.

It is still spreading, it's a very persistent plant, we need to have rigorous bio security policy measures.

Chris Redding commented that more resources must be put into this.

Phil Brewin replied that the Operations Team are able to carry out spraying, and 2 new team members have been trained to do this in smaller sites this year. There has been funding put aside but he hasn't yet found a contractor to do this.

In response to a query Phil Brewin replied that glyphosate is used on pennywort.

10.22 Phil Brewin referred the Board to the Peat map within his report, this shows that a large area is covered.

The report from the Lowland Peat Taskforce has now been published.

Phil Brewin explained that DEFRA have made some funding available to promote works that will benefit the preservation of peat, however there are short timescales for bids and delivery of works.

10.23 Iain Sturdy stated that regarding the Lowland Agricultural Peat Small- Infrastructure Pilot, we have expressed an interest in this but we need to be realistic with what we are able to deliver in the timescale.

Will Barnard said that the spending is the tail end of this year's funding to inform what is required the following year.

## RESOLUTION 11

	<p>10.24 Nigel Cole asked if the Sedgemoor water level management plan has been successful.</p> <p>Phil Brewin responded that in relation to wintering birds it has been successful.</p> <p>10.25 Iain Sturdy stated that when groups with common objectives come to the drainage boards and ask for water levels to be managed in a certain way, it's been very successful.</p> <p>The problem with these two projects is the short times scales.</p> <p>He was encouraged by Will Barnard that funding will be coming. It is important that we have time to ensure that we can deliver.</p> <p>Nigel Cole added that there needs to be a landowner joined up approach to this and the Chairman added that it must not disadvantage those who don't want to be a part of it</p> <p>Dan Alsop said that the link to the Cauldwell Report is helpful to understand what is going on and to also look at alternatives. Worthwhile to read the links provided in Phil Brewin's paper.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Bird pointed out that we are in a climate emergency and need to do things quickly. The Drainage Boards have some influence in maintaining higher water levels.</p> <p>10.26 Dan Alsop said at the moment the Lowland peat areas water is held as high as it can be but there is no scope for raising it. To get the peat wetter would require water levels to be raised, which would mean the current grassland farming system would not be practicable</p> <p>Nigel Cole responded that farmers already know about different farming methods.</p> <p>The Chairman concluded that this is not an easily solved issue but that we will be engaging in this going forward.</p>	
<p>11. Correspondence and Engagement with other Authorities</p>	<p>11.1. Iain Sturdy stated that he has nothing special to report in this regard.</p>	
<p>12. AOB</p>	<p>There was no other business.</p>	
<p>13. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 17.15.</p>	

Annex:

A. NSLIDB Board – Table of Outstanding Actions

CHAIR.....DATE .....



**ANNEX A TO  
NSLIDB BOARD MINUTES  
DATED 17 OCTOBER 23**

**NSLIDB BOARD – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Action Number:	Action:	Actionee:
<b>NSL20221116 - 2</b>	Group of Board members to debate investments across the consortium of Boards and develop a policy for investment. The policy is currently under development.	M Hammond In progress
<b>NSL20221116 - 3</b>	New sluice to improve water levels on Claverham Drove; designs have been completed and prices to be sought.	D Alsop
<b>NSL/20231017- 1</b>	Review Dynamic Risk Assessments on the Health and Safety policy.	I Sturdy
<b>NSL/20231017- 2</b>	Review tetanus vaccinations regulations	N Johnson
<b>NSL/20231017- 3</b>	Giles Oliver to meet Cllr James Tonkin and Sandra Hearne at Four Gables House site	G Oliver
<b>NSL/20231017- 4</b>	Dan Alsop to provide Iain Sturdy him with a detailed list of issues so that he could take it to the EA	D Alsop