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**MISSION STATEMENT**

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

**Draft Minutes from the Executive Committee held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 10.30am at Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board Offices/ Hybrid**

*Minutes taken by Victoria Bailey*

1. **Apologies/Welcome Board Members**

Present: Chairman Michael Barnes, Vice Chairman Matthew Riddle, Geoff Simms, Roger Godwin.

Officers Present: CEO Glenn Taute, Vicky Bailey and Jim Druett.

Apologies: John Hore.

1. **Declaration of Members' Interest**

None received.

1. **Comments on brought forward Actions**

GT listed actions; no comments received

1. **Minutes from the last Exec meeting for approval**

Minutes proposed for acceptance by GS, seconded by RG. All in favour; minutes accepted.

1. **Comments on SLT Reports**

SLT reports read aloud.

1. **Strategic Planning draft outline for discussion**

GT said that as the current Strategic Plan is very broad it was decided to create a new Strategic Plan focussed on realistic objectives. GT reported that the team had input into the plan during a recent team day. GT read through the new proposed Strategic Plan; JD requested the removal of the suggestion of a pump at Awre and explained that Frampton on Severn may need a pump in the future. GT would like to include in-house expertise in the environment and biodiversity and partnership working with outside organisations. GT invited comments:

GS felt that it was not worth trying to plan for longer than five years, and should integrate a time-scales into the operating plan. GS suggested revisiting the Capital Investment Plan as it created the Pump Programme, and ask the other committees for input.

RG reported that a lot of organisations are thinking about the future of water resource management as the upcoming NFU meeting shows, and we need a united approach.

MB would like the inclusion of de-maining Longdon Brook due to flooding in the area and concern over lack of EA maintenance. MB would like MR to raise this at the upcoming NFU meeting as Chairman of RFCC. GS proposed making a case for de-maining Longdon Brook as he believes the legislation is already in place. JD said that a few years ago a letter was sent to residents of Longdon and Eldersfield asking for support for de-maining but as only 70% responded in favour the EA could not permit de-maining to go ahead. GS queried whether this may be worth trying again as planning laws have changed since then. GS sees de-maining as a way of retaining staff skills and knowledge after the pumping replacement programme is complete; LSIDB could transition into de-maining as a strategic goal. JD confirmed that LSIDB has the machinery and staff capability and resources to complete this work. GT added that the budget and environmental factors need consideration. MR said that there was a strong case for de-maining having a positive environmental benefit, as seen by River Lugg IDB’s recent work on de-maining. GS requested de-maining be added to the Strategic Plan, GT will review the Strategic plan at the next Executive Board. RG requested that de-maining discussed at a higher level within the NFU and CLA. MB is a member of the CLA so will try to influence. JD said that a de-maining report had been written a few years ago; GS suggested forming a small working group to manage the approach to de-maining.

1. **Activity Log Schedule Update**

This was read through; no comments received

1. **Pump Program Report/Update, and Outcome re Programme requests**

GS said that he had covered most of this in last week’s Extraordinary General Meeting, which had a good outcome. PB are in discussions with Marshfield and awaiting to hear back from landowner regarding the storage/ access area. Similar situation at Lapperditch. Lapperditch will be the centre of operation for Marshfield, Laperditch and Wicks Green. After a consultation at Lapperditch a fencing solution has been found, which is post and rail with a hedge. Work will start in October 2025 at Lapperditch and finish in February 2026. No other issues to report; all is going well.

GS reported that he and JT had a positive meeting at Wicks Green with a Planning Officer from Stroud District Council who gave them helpful advice. Surveys are being carried out; no issues expected. Land price has been agreed within budget at Wicks Green with a greater boundary to allow more room for a weed/ screen cleaner and access. Noted this area could be used for storage post-construction.

GT and GS said the 2025/ 2026 spend profile had yet to be agreed upon.

RG asked whether the license for a set down area at Lapperditch had been resolved; GS answered that they are waiting for a response for final consideration.

GS said that the initial planning stages had been difficult as the application submitted by the landowners hadn’t reflected LSIDB’s needs. MR added that as planners and Councillors don’t always have a lot of interaction it is worth having a site meeting with District Councillors too.

1. **Any Other/New/Update Item which the Chair/CEO decide is urgent/be mentioned**

GT reported that JT and JD are attending this years ADA conference on 25th November. GS and RG expressed an interest in attending; MB and MR are unable to attend this year.

GS suggested postponing August Executive Committee and meeting again, as scheduled in September, due to expected low attendance. All agreed.

1. **Confirmation of new Actions**

GT read through actions

1. **Date of next meeting**

Confirmed as Wednesday 24th September 2025

1. **Meeting Closed: 12.02pm**