

Lower Severn IDE

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.

Executive Committee

Members: Mr M Barnes (Chair), Mr R Godwin, Mr J Hore, Cllr M Riddle (Vice Chair), Mr G Simms

NB The quorum for this meeting is 3 Members

Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 10:30am, IDB Offices/Hybrid

DRAFT MINUTES

Item	
1.	<p>Apologies/Welcome Present: Mr M Barnes (Chair), Mr R Godwin, Mr J Hore, Mr G Simms, Glenn Taute, Jim Druett, James Thomas (for programme section only)</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr M Riddle (Vice Chair)</p> <p>MB welcomed all to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Declaration of Members' Interest: RG declared a standing interest, in laydown area on his land being rented.</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the last committee meeting for approval: GT read through each page. All in favour; minutes accepted.</p>
4.	<p>Comments on brought forward Exec Actions:</p> <p>GT reported that he and Vicky Bailey attended the Gloucestershire Flood Warden event on behalf of LSIDB and found it very useful. There have been follow up emails and feedback since attending, especially flooding relating to Berkeley which JD is dealing with. RG thanked GT and VB for supporting the event.</p> <p>MB noted he doesn't see the need for Flood Warden's in his area.</p> <p>RG added that his area is subject to both fluvial and river flooding; most Flood Warden's deal with fluvial flooding. It is up to the District Councils to appoint a Flood Warden. GS added that it is not up to Parish Councils to appoint a Flood Warden as instructions come from the District Council of the area. RG is his Parish's Flood Warden.</p> <p>GT read an email reply from Cllr Matthew Riddle: There are currently 95 volunteer flood wardens registered across Gloucestershire County, as part of flood warden schemes managed or supported, on behalf of the district and borough councils in Stroud District, Cheltenham Borough, Cotswold District, and Tewkesbury Borough. In South Gloucestershire there is no volunteer flood</p>

warden scheme, even in the parishes that border the Severn: Pilning and Severn Beach, Aust, Littleton, Oldbury and Hill. Reflection on this difference is that with regard to communities adjacent to the River Severn, those in Gloucestershire are more likely to experience flooding caused by over toping of the river bank than those lower down the river in South Gloucestershire.

JH noted that the Environment Agency take an active role in informing residents in South Gloucestershire (e.g. JH's experience sheep farming in Pilning) of risks from flooding. JD noted that Severn Beach has a Flood Warden (through their Parish Council) who contacts him regarding blockages etc.

RG noted that the Flood Warden system works well; all local reports of flooding (there could be hundreds) go to the designated local Flood Warden who then directly contact the EA which streamlines the process (rather than the EA receiving multiple calls on the same issue).

GS reported that at Slimbridge Parish Council they have formed a 'Slimbridge Drainage Board' to co-ordinate issues of flooding in the Parish; they discovered they had a Flood Warden through this.

GT read action item 92; To assess a ditch running into the Longdon Brook as it was last cleared decades ago, indirect effect on IDB. JD has liaised with MB to arrange a site visit on 8 May.

5. SLT April 2026 Reports Review (previously circulated)

JT's report to be taken as read.

JD read highlights from his report including:

- No Health and Safety issues
- Operator on long term sick and unfortunately in hospital
- Fire Risk Assessment completed with actions to be implemented
- Fire training completed by JD and Denise
- PAT test and installation surveys upcoming
- Celebrated Nigel's retirement – went well
- Interviews taken place for Operator role
- Culvert completed in Hallen
- New pump should be installed in June – paid for by landowner
- Culvert improved and replaced in Eastlington

JD noted that he advertised the Operator role in the Gazette and on the rates letter for Operator role – no response from these channels.

JD reported that due to having one excavator driver at present there has been minimal dredging. Operators have been busy completing hand work, tree work, culvert replacement etc. Depot improvement - concreting of yard now complete and aggregate bays are done, as is cladding, so the generator and pump can be stored.

GT noted the Finance Report and highlighted the following:

- Decided to have LSIDB Full Board meeting in the morning of 3rd June, followed by the Pumping Station tour then the SWADA meeting in the afternoon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra loan application was granted and approved • Looking at how to use the loan money • Costs running mostly as expected, as delivered in February's Board meeting • Cash balance as expected at the end of the period • Land purchase at Wicks Green – transfer likely to happen in May • Audit had a good outcome • Possible future audit on grant money received • Balance sheet in order • Debtors balance -at about £500 left to collect – some in probate, other individuals being pursued • Bristol City Council prepaid 26/27 levy in March • Interest on investments good at around 4+% • Lapperditch and Marshfield completion likely to be the end of summer
<p>6.</p>	<p>Pump Program Report/Update</p> <p>JT joined the meeting. GS noted the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factory Acceptance Testing undertaken at CW Group, King's Lynn by officers • Overall build quality of weed screens reported as exceptional (notably high-quality stainless-steel components) • Only Lapperditch unit operational at time of visit; Marshfield unit incomplete • Follow-up inspection completed via video by contractor's designer - outcomes satisfactory • Dependency identified: electrical control panels required completion at IMAC, Coventry • Equipment subsequently transported to IMAC for panel and kiosk completion (Lapperditch, Marshfield, Elmore) • Request made to transport units fully assembled to site to avoid dismantling and reassembly • Agreed approach: delivery via low loader and installation directly onto prepared pads • Installation at Lapperditch expected imminently (likely within the following week) • Fixing to pads to be completed on site using standard methods. • Anticipated that Lapperditch installation will be visibly progressed by next Board meeting • Board continuing to assist with a planning application at Wicks Green (not the Board's own application) • Application has been ongoing for approximately 8 months • General expectation of progress in coming weeks, alongside wider pumping station works. <p>GS reported he attended a difficult meeting with residents last night; lack of communication from LSIDB flagged as an issue. GS will discuss this with the site project manager and at Programme Board this afternoon; this will be</p>

	<p>addressed with residents. GS reiterated the importance of LSIDB accepting responsibility and the need to communicate sensitively.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the boundary and fencing off of the land around the NE sides of the Oldbury pump station property. It was decided to obtain the deed maps, agree the boundary with the adjacent landowner, and have a survey mark out the boundary, and fence it.</p> <p>Discussion on the 3th June Site Visit (Lapperditch), board meeting timetable and logistics to be finalised.</p>
7.	<p>Any Other/New/Update Item which the Chair/CEO decide is urgent/be mentioned</p> <p>GT noted that the online Training Portal has had two users; would like to see more Board members complete the courses.</p> <p>GT said that Board policies would be reviewed on a schedule; seven policies are due to be reviewed this year. Two have been completed; all will be reviewed and offered to the Board for approval in November 2026.</p>
8.	<p>Confirmation of new Actions</p> <p>GT Deal with the situation with the fencing off of the Oldbury pump station. GT Circulate the schedule of activities for the board meeting 3 June 2026.</p>
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 20 May 2026</p>
10.	<p>Close 11.32pm</p>