

# Lower Severn IDB

## 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.

## Board Meeting

Draft Minutes of the Full Board meeting of the

### Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board

Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 10:30am

Fromebridge Mill, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Gloucester, GL2 7PB

#### Board Members:

Mr. Mike Barnes (Chairman)

Cllr. Matthew Riddle (Vice Chairman)

Mr. Charles Daniell

Mr. Geoff Simms

Mr. Roger Godwin

Mr. John Hore

Mr. James North

Cllr. Milly Hill

Cllr. Simon Phelps

Mr. Jim Nichols

Cllr. Liam Harries

Cllr. Mark Williams

*Minutes taken by Victoria Bailey*

#### Board Members continued:

Cllr. James Crawford

Ms. Rachael Chamberlayne

Cllr. Liz Harvey

Ald. Nikki Barton

Mr. Richard Hewlett

Mr. Robert Hyslop

Cllr. Andrew Brown

#### Officers:

Glenn Taute- CEO and RFO

Victoria Bailey – Minute Taker

James Thomas-Civil Engineer

Jim Druett – Head of Operational Services

Ramsey Mokatren – Programme Officer

Karen Waldron – Accounts Manager

<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Minute Reference</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Apologies/Welcome</b></p> <p>MB opened the meeting and listed the following apologies:</p> <p>Mr. John Cornock</p> <p>Cllr. Heather Mack</p> <p>Cllr. Tony Williams</p> <p>Cllr. Christine Wild</p> <p>Mr. Tom Cullimore</p> <p>Cllr. Jayne Stansfield</p>	3687
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Announcements</b></p> <p>MB provided an update on the plan for the day (Board meeting, coach visits followed by SWADA meeting.)</p> <p>MB thanked all past members for their participation and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr. Jayne Stansfield replaces Cllr. Simon Johnstone (representing South Gloucestershire Council)</li> <li>• Cllr. Milly Hill replaces Cllr. Terri Kinnison (Stroud District Council)</li> <li>• Cllr. Heather Mack replaces Cllr. Abi Finch (Bristol City Council)</li> <li>• Cllr. Andrew Brown replaces Cllr. Mary Sykes (Bristol City Council)</li> </ul> <p>MB welcomed the new Board Members and thanked all outgoing Board Members for their work.</p> <p>MB gave special thanks to Ald. Mary Sykes, who has retired from the Board after many years of service, for her support, hard work and dedication.</p> <p>Operator Nigel Gardiner has retired, and a replacement has been recruited. Due to several field staff retiring over the next few years an additional Operator has also been recruited.</p>	3688

	The ADA Conference will be held in London on November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2026 – all Board Members are invited to attend – contact the office for more details.	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Declaration of Members Interests</b></p> <p>RG declared an interest due to his land being used during the pumping station replacement at Lapperditch.</p>	3689
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Minutes/Actions of Previous Meetings</b></p> <p><b>a. To approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held 04/02/2026</b></p> <p>Proposed: RG</p> <p>Seconded: JH</p> <p>All in favour; minutes approved</p> <p><b>b. Board meeting and Committee Meeting current actions for information and review</b></p> <p>GT listed all actions.</p> <p>MR resolved a previous action regarding financing IDB's; he had spoken with the Local Authority who confirmed that IDB's do not receive a precept; their funding comes from levies within the Council's budget. IDB'S do not operate or receive a collection fund. This being about why IDB aren't affected by surplus/deficits in council tax collections.</p> <p>JT to prepare a written update on the historical financial activity, and future expectations, in Avonmouth, for November's Board meeting.</p> <p>MR noted the difficulties caused by members not attending committee meetings and of not sending their apologies in advance; MR offered the solution of sending another Board member as a substitute or of joining the meeting online; Defra have granted special permission for IDB online meetings to have equal legal status as in-person committee meetings. Ex-Officio members will count as part of the quorum (of three LSIDB members.)</p>	3690

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Confirmation of incumbents for the committee vacancies in:</b></p> <p>- <b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p>Roger Godwin offered to fill this vacancy.</p> <p>Proposed: Geoff Simms</p> <p>Seconded: Matthew Riddle</p> <p>GT indicated that an additional vacancy has arisen for the Finance committee, and requested whether the meeting could offer an interested member for this position. Cllr. James Crawford indicated his interest.</p> <p>Proposed: Geoff Simms</p> <p>Seconded: Matthew Riddle</p> <p><b>All in favour; resolved for Roger Godwin and James Crawford to be a members of the Finance Committee</b></p> <p>- <b>Business Services Committee</b></p> <p>Jim Nichols offered to fill this vacancy.</p> <p>Proposed: Geoff Simms</p> <p>Seconded: Matthew Riddle</p> <p><b>All in favour; resolved for Jim Nichols to be a member of the Business Services Committee</b></p>	<p>3691</p>
<p><b>6. a</b></p>	<p><b>AGAR Report</b></p> <p><b>a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2025/26 Report for approval</b></p> <p>Proposed: Cllr. Harries</p> <p>Seconded: MR</p> <p><b>All in favour: AGAR 2025/ 2026 section 1 approved by Board. Signed by Chairman and Clerk, being MB and GT respectively.</b></p>	<p>3692</p>
<p><b>6. b</b></p>	<p><b>AGAR Report</b></p> <p><b>b) LSIDB internal audit report 2025/2026 for noting</b></p>	<p>3693</p>

Proposed: RG  
Seconded: RC

**All in favour; internal audit report noted.**

GT noted the following financial updates for the year 25/26:

- Income statements were presented and explained, with favourable outcomes regarding income lines and expenditure
- Balance Sheet was presented, which shows a strong position for the board
- The AGAR figures have been verified and are consistent with the financial statements
- Cash in bank, and an approved 2<sup>nd</sup> loan, is available to fund the completion of the pump programme
- The pump programme financial report was presented, showing a 67% spend of the total budget

GT invited questions:

RH: Is it a concern that 67% has been spent and there are two more pumps to be built of the 4 in construction?

GT: Some payments have already been made for the two remaining pump stations, for example surveys are complete on the other sites and the pumps and weed screens have been purchased, so there is enough money to cover the remaining costs.

L Harvey: Is this based on accruals or cash invoices?

GT: Confirmed that this was on invoices and not accruals.

GT: Required to show LGPF pension figures in financial reporting as a debit and a counter credit, in response to a question in this regard from Cllr. Andrew Brown.

GT welcomed the positive findings of the Internal Audit report and noted his satisfaction with the assurance provided.

J Hore thanked Glenn, Karen, and all staff for the work gone into finances, and re the finance committee. JH praised Glenn and Karen for their clear, transparent and efficient practices and reporting. JH thanked Mr. Jim Nichols for ensuring the Boards finances were invested wisely.

6.c

**AGAR Report**

3694

	<p><b>c) Section 2- Accounting Statements of AGAR 2025/ 2026 return for approval</b></p> <p>Proposed: JH Seconded: RG</p> <p><b>All in favour; AGAR 2025/ 2026 return approved, and signed by the Chairman MB.</b></p>	
7.	<p><b>Pump Station Program Report – Geoff Simms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Eel Regulations 2009 programme continues to address compliance requirements and replace ageing infrastructure, much of which is over 50 years old.</li> <li>• The programme is managed through the Programme Board, which has provided effective oversight, focus on deliverables, and resolution of issues as the project has progressed.</li> <li>• Thanks were recorded to the project team, including John, Glenn, Jim, Ramsey, James and Karen, for their ongoing contributions.</li> <li>• Significant progress has been made at Lapperditch and Marshfield. Civil engineering works are nearing completion, pumps and pipework have been installed, electrical kiosks and telemetry are in place, and work continues on the inlet chamber and culvert extension at Lapperditch.</li> <li>• Factory Acceptance Testing has been completed for weed cleaning equipment, electrical kiosks, switchgear and telemetry for Lapperditch, Marshfield and the Elmore retrofit works.</li> <li>• Progress has been delayed by three principal issues: flooding over the Christmas period, the diversion of an unidentified three-phase power cable, and the discovery of a poorly constructed inlet chamber at Lapperditch requiring additional remedial works. The latter has been treated as a contractual compensation event.</li> <li>• Lapperditch, Marshfield and Elmore are currently expected to enter the commissioning phase towards the end of July.</li> <li>• Oldbury has progressed well through the design phase.</li> </ul>	3695

- Wicks Green has experienced significant delays due to the planning process, although planning consent has now been secured and land acquisition is imminent. Survey work is due to commence shortly. The scheme incorporates a new design to improve operational safety and facilitate over-pumping arrangements.
- The project team continues to target completion of the overall programme within the 2027/28 financial year, approximately one year ahead of the original programme.
- Communications remain an ongoing focus, with efforts continuing to keep stakeholders informed throughout the programme.
- The programme remains forecast to be delivered within the approved £10.5 million budget. To date, £6.2 million of grant funding has been secured, and opportunities for additional funding will continue to be explored.
- An updated variance log has been prepared and will be circulated to Board members for information.

GS invited questions.

L Harvey said her local authority had issues with unrecorded cables from broadband providers; many Board members experienced the same problems within their area.

J North shared that broadband cables present depth challenges when being laid as it can affect the freehold of a property.

James Thomas noted that the laying of broadband cables over ditches presents issues for LSIDB Operators conducting routine maintenance. LSIDB are not the landowners and not notified of cable installations.

L. Harries recommended that LSIDB subscribes to one.network to improve access to information on the location of underground utilities, including cables and other infrastructure. James Thomas agreed to do this – ACTION JT

MR praised the foresight, planning and preparedness of the Programme Board; LSIDB have received the most funding of all applicants due to this.

	<p>GS thanked MR for this. Although due to delays at Wicks Green an amount regarding the land purchase past the deadline so may need to be returned to Defra; this pending a final decision from the EA.</p> <p>MB said that LSIDB are indebted to GS and his team.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Review of Actions Agreed at The Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JT to prepare a written update on the historical financial activity, and future expectations, in Avonmouth, for November's Board meeting.</li> <li>• JT to join one.network for reports on cable laying.</li> </ul>	3696
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Item Which the Chair decides is Urgent AOB</b></p>	3697
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2026</b></p> <p>Venue TBC</p>	3698
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Close of Meeting 11.20am</b></p>	3699