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.

Operations Service Committee

Members: Mr M Barnes (Chair), Mr R Godwin (Vice Chair), Mr T Cullimore, Mr J Hore, Mr R Hyslop, Cllr S Phelps, Cllr C Wild.

NB The quorum for this meeting is 5 Members

Wednesday 4th November 2026 @ 10:30am, Lower Severn IDB Offices/Hybrid

MINUTES

Minute number	
OSC/2026/01/011	**Apologies/Welcome** Present M Barnes (Chair), T Cullimore, R Hyslop, Cllr S Phelps, R Hewlett, P Camamile, J Thomas, J Druett, A Terrett. Online - R Godwin (Vice Chair) and C Wild Apologies – J Hore
OSC/2026/02/012	**Declaration of Members' Interest** Roger Godwin owning and renting land that benefits from the new pumping stations.
OSC/2026/03/013	**Minutes of Previous Meeting** Error noticed on page 2, amended from "Hitachi" to "Hyundai" JD wanted to keep. Minutes accepted – all in favour.
OSC/2026/04/014	**Matters Arising from the Minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda,** Are we taking opportunities to retain water rather than work it away. Biodiversity discussed re. future frequent droughts and water level management. We do work with Rivers Water Trust and Severn River Trust. Dams were discussed but these don't always work as it's difficult to maintain the level. We work from the biodiversity book. Some areas they are looking to put in dams and hold water back. All land owners and occupiers in the catchment areas have to be onboard for any changes as holding up water downstream may affect people further upstream. Engineers discussed factors and what we've done in the last year. Storage may be an option for farmers, but doesn't work for the ones who are in a high area as well as low levels.

OSC/2026/05/015	**Comments on Engineer's Monthly Reports** Engineers went through the report and current work programmes. Works going well due to very dry weather. New operatives settled in really well. Reports are that ratepayers have remarked positively on their work to date. Variance budgets report discussed. Lapperditch and Marshfield almost complete. Data discussed that we can see and manage for the power stations without leaving the office. Parish meetings being attended by Engineers. Lapperditch discussed in length, planting and trying to rectify the look as a bit of an eyesore. Plans were ariel view, maybe should have been at ground level. We have looked at changing the grab etc., but it's not cost effective. It has sensors and fabrication issues if we attempt to move. May decide to paint the gantry green. Health and Safety has to be priority. Agreed it would be better for members to see Lapperditch as Marshfield is lower and you can't see it as well. Discussed electric, can we do work at night rather than the day to reduce electricity costs. Need to see how much each site uses. Discussed pumps and what we do with the old ones. We will modify and keep one as a spare and then try and sell the remaining.
OSC/2026/06/016	**Machinery Capital Replacement 2027/28** To approve the purchase of 1 new tracked excavator & 1 new wheeled excavator. This needs to go through the board as terms of reference have been changed so full board have to have final say. To be addressed 18th November. Went through machinery costs. All budgeted as per the plan report at the end of the meeting notes. The tracked and new wheeled excavator agreed after explanation from Engineer and Field Manager on extra reach, short back, weight and fuel costs as we're close to the road and we need to be mindful when we're on roads. Not economical to hire.. We will extend warranty on all new machines to 5 years. Discussed these need road tax and have registration plates as they go on the roads. This will now go to the board for approval.
OSC/2026/07/017	**Strategic Structures Identification** Discussion to get a feel of the assets in our district, identify what the failure of these would be, culverts etc. and then look at any risks there are to the board. Should we look at repairing or lining pipes. No acceptance of liability, just to assess risks and do a report ready for February 27 board meeting. First job is to investigate what these risks are, and what can be done. Need to see if the board are in agreement.
OSC/2026/08/018	**Field Manager and Operative Employment/Overlap** Discussion over retirement September 2027 of Field Manager and Operative retirement June 2027. Agreement made to advertise in January for Field manager as he covers so much and will need to work with new starter for 6 months so they see

	all aspects of role. This is in the budget. New employees need to be more hands on with health & Safety, and carrying out regular toolbox talks. Solar farm sites, risk assessments. Operative leaving has been working on his own mowing, weed cutting, timber cutting and as he has so much knowledge to transfer we need to overlap with him. We need to advertise for this role too. Agreed with committee.
OSC/2026/09/019	**Any Other Business, with leave of the Chair** Nothing else to discuss.
OSC/2026/10/020	**Advised date of Next Meeting: 5th May 2027**
OSC/2026/11/021	**Close** Meeting closed