

SOUTH HOLLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OPERATIONS

WATER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

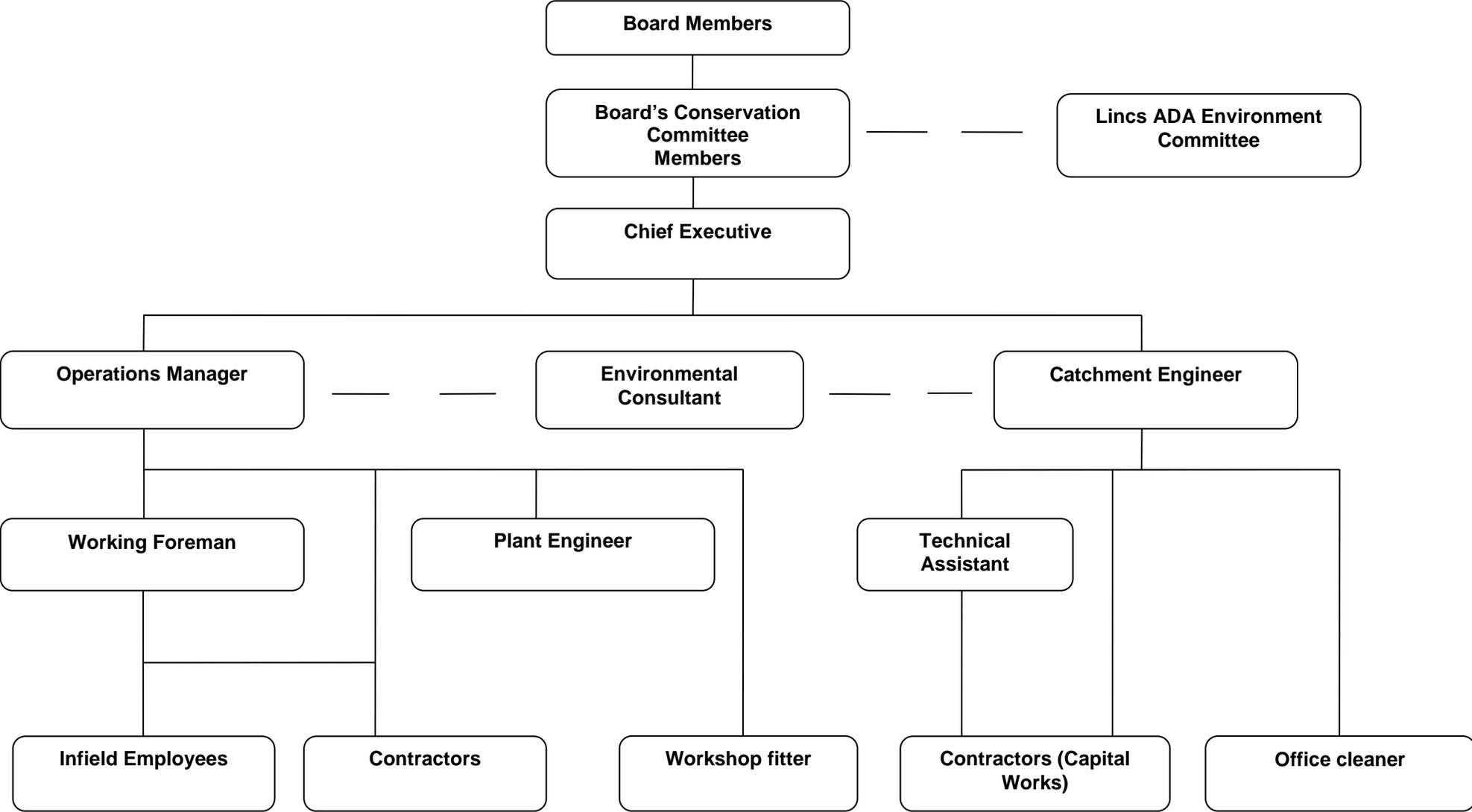
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Version 2

The Board has a legal duty to carry out its work so as not to damage or recklessly endanger important species and habitat. This document sets out in detail the formal lines of accountability and the environmental responsibilities of the Board and every employee within the organisation.

ENVIRONMENTAL HIERARCHY AND RESPONSIBILITIES



BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Internal Drainage Boards have legal obligations towards conservation:

Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended in 1994)

Section 12 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 obliges IDB's and Ministers to:-

- a) further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, consistent with any enactments relating to their functions;
- b) further the conservation of wildlife and geological and physiographical features of special interest consistent with any enactments relating to their functions;
- c) have regard to the desirability of:-
 - i) protecting and conserving buildings, sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest; and
 - ii) preserving the public rights of access to area of mountains, moor, heath, down, cliff or foreshore and other places of natural beauty; and
- d) take into account the affects of any proposals on the preservation of the rights of access and on the beauty or amenity of an area, or on wildlife, features, buildings, sites or objects.

Habitats Directive

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations became law in 1994. The Regulation transpose the European Habitats Directive into UK Law, and the Boards are bound by this legislation with respect to work which may affect European wildlife sites or listed habitats and species which occur outside these sites. European sites are defined in the Regulations as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), classified under the EC Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 imposes a duty on drainage boards to take reasonable steps consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to further conservation and enhancement of the special features on Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

To comply with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975) by using the best practicable means, within a reasonable cost, to prevent from doing injury to fish or to the spawning grounds, spawn or food for fish.

Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

To comply with the Environment Agency's requirements under these regulations.

The Board recognise and accept their responsibility for environmental matters, and will ensure that the following arrangements are in place to satisfy the obligations that are applicable to the Board's operations and undertakings.

The general responsibilities are to:

- Ensure adequate resources are provided to allow the organisation's environmental obligations to be met.
- Ensure the Chief Executive, amongst other things, takes appropriate action when statutory and/or corporate standards are breached.
- Consider recommendations put forward by the Board's Conservation Committee and officers.
- Foster an ethos of environmental awareness throughout the organisation.

BOARD'S CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

To look in detail at environmental matters concerning the Board, and make recommendations to the Board.

LINCS ADA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Lincs ADA Environment Committee has no direct responsibilities to the Board, but through regular meetings, provides a means of sharing knowledge amongst other IDBs and Risk Management Authorities.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual environmental responsibilities of an employee, the Chief Executive Officer has the following additional duties:

- Ensuring that the Board's Environmental responsibilities are fulfilled, both by his own actions and by delegating authority to others in the organisation with Environmental responsibilities (see hierarchy).
- Ensuring those employees with delegated authority are competent to undertake the task.
- Understanding, initiating, and monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the Environmental Policy, Environmental Risk Assessments etc.
- Taking appropriate action when statutory and/or corporate standards are breached.
- Being ultimately responsible to the Board for all Environmental matters within the organisation.

CATCHMENT ENGINEER'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual environmental responsibilities of an employee, the Catchment Engineer and Technical Assistant have the following additional duties:

- Liaising with the Board's Environmental Consultant, where considered necessary, on capital works.
- Preparing environmental risk assessments, where necessary, for capital works.
- Preparing and presenting the Board's annual Conservation Committee report.
- Ensuring capital works are carried out so as not to damage the environment, and where possible enhance the habitat.
- Ensuring environmental assessments are provided, where necessary, by contractors undertaking capital works, and ensuring these are adhered to.
- Liaising with Natural England where capital works would impact on a SSSI, or any other environmentally protected/designated site.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual environmental responsibilities of an employee, the Operations Manager has the following additional duties:

- Liaising with the Board's Environmental Consultant, where considered necessary, on maintenance works.
- Preparing environmental risk assessments, where necessary, for maintenance works.
- Providing information for, and attending the Board's Conservation Committee meetings.
- Ensuring maintenance works are carried out so as not to damage the environment, and where possible enhance the habitat.
- Ensuring environmental assessments are provided, where necessary, by contractors undertaking maintenance works, and ensuring these are adhered to.
- Liaising with Natural England where maintenance works would impact on a SSSI, or any other environmentally protected/designated site.
- Establishing an environmentally friendly culture within the workforce, both direct labour and external contractor.

- Addressing environmental concerns throughout all of the Board's operations and across all sites.
- Ensuring that environmental risk assessments are communicated and explained to the workforce, and ensuring that these are complied with.
- Carrying out spot-checks on the workforce, and recording that these have been done, to ensure environmental standards are being met.
- Organising Environmental training, when the need is identified, within the workforce.
- Undertaking regular environmental "Toolbox talks" with employees and contractors about various environmental risk assessments, and record that this has been done.
- Recording incidents of environmental damage, and near misses, and reporting these to the Chief Executive at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensuring the Board's Reed Cutting Policy is complied with.
- Ensuring maintenance works take in to account Tree Preservation Orders and liaising with the South Holland District Council where necessary.
- Ensuring the agreed annual maintenance programme is undertaken on the HLS site on the South Holland Main Drain.
- Ensuring maintenance works on watercourses designated as County Wildlife Sites is undertaken in an appropriate way.
- Ensuring the Board's annual cutting programme is timed, as far as is reasonably practicable, to have minimum impact on nesting birds, spawning fish etc., while taking in to account the need for flood protection within the Board's district.
- Ensuring bushing and tree works are timed to fall outside of the bird nesting season where possible, and if it is necessary to undertake such work during the nesting season then a pre-works survey must be undertaken and recorded and any necessary mitigation measures included.
- Ensuring pre-works surveys are undertaken where appropriate for protected species such as water vole, badger, otter, bats and these surveys are recorded and any necessary mitigation measures implemented.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board's Environmental Consultant has no direct responsibilities to the Board, but can be called in as and when deemed necessary to provide professional advice on environmental matters.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual health and safety responsibilities of an employee, the Technical Assistant has the following additional duties:

- Assisting the Catchment Engineer in the implementation of his environmental duties.
- Ensuring all work under his supervision is undertaken in line with environmental risk assessments and policies.

WORKING FOREMAN'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual environmental responsibilities of an employee, the Working Foreman has the following additional duties:

- Assisting the Operations Manager in the implementation of his environmental duties.
- Ensuring all work under his supervision is undertaken in line with environmental risk assessments and policies.

PLANT ENGINEER'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the usual environmental responsibilities of an employee, the Plant Engineer has the following additional duty:

- Ensuring all work under his supervision is undertaken in line with environmental risk assessments and policies.

EMPLOYEES' AND CONTRACTORS' ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all employees, whether they be direct labour or contract, to co-operate in the implementation of the Board's Environmental arrangements. Employees must therefore:

- Always work in a manner which, as far as is practicable, reduces environmental damage to a minimum, and ideally enhances the environment.
- Always ensure the work you undertake complies with the Board's Environmental Policies and Environmental Risk Assessments.
- If you are working on a site or in a situation where you feel unnecessary environmental damage is being caused, report this to your supervisor, it may be that the work can be undertaken differently to avoid such damage.

- Report any incidents of accidental environmental damage or near misses to the Operations Manager or the Working Foreman, so that they can be recorded in case of any problems that may occur in the future as a result.