

Agenda

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Meeting

10.00am – 1.00pm, Friday 8 March 2024

at the Somerset Council offices in Cannard's Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT .

Members of SRA Board:

Cllr Mike Stanton - *Chair*, Somerset Council (SC)
Tony Bradford - *Vice-Chair*, Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB)
Dr Rachel Burden, Environment Agency
Cllr Mike Caswell, Somerset Council
Cllr Simon Coles, Somerset Council
Cllr Dixie Darch, Somerset Council
Jeff Fear, Axe Brue IDB
Andrew Gilling, Axe Brue IDB
Rebecca Horsington, Parrett IDB
Cllr Harry Munt, Somerset Council
Claire Newill, Natural England
Matt Wheeldon, Wessex Water
Cllr Ros Wyke, Somerset Council

In Attendance:

Caroline Dunn, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)
Amanda Gallacher, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest
Donna Gowler, Natural England
Sam Hitchcott, Somerset Council
Jonathan Hudston, SRA
Kirsty Larkins, Somerset Council
David Mitchell, SRA
Sean Papworth, Somerset Council
John Rowlands, SRA
Iain Sturdy, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium

PLEASE NOTE: The main reports for Items 7 and 11 are not confidential, but additional detailed financial information has been made available only to SRA Board Members. The additional detailed financial information contains exempt information and is therefore marked Confidential – Not for Publication. At any point if Members wish to discuss the detailed financial information within this paper, then the Board will be asked to agree the following resolution to exclude the press and public:

Exclusion of the Press and Public: To consider passing a resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

AGENDA

Item No	Title	Purpose	Lead
1.	Apologies for absence	Clarification	Chair
2.	Declarations of Interest	Transparency	Chair
3.	Minutes of previous meeting 19 January 2024	To agree accuracy	Chair
4.	2024-25 SRA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Constitution	To agree and sign the 2024-25 SRA Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution	Chair
5.	Public Question Time	To allow the public to ask questions	Chair
6.	SRA News	Verbal update on SRA-funded activities	Jonathan Hudston
7.	SRA Finance Report	To update the Board: Quarter 3 2023-24 Finance Report and Annual Summary	Sam Hitchcott
8.	SRA Strategy and Flood Action Plan	To approve for publication the <i>Somerset Rivers Authority Strategy 2024-2034</i> Update on progress with preparing Flood Action Plan	David Mitchell / Jonathan Hudston
9.	Break		
10.	Hills to Levels Presentation	Presentation on the successes of the FWAG SW Hills to Levels project	Amanda Gallacher
11.	SRA 2024-25 Enhanced Programme & Budget	To review and approve the draft 2024-25 Enhanced Programme and Budget	David Mitchell
12.	Risk Report	Annual Review of the SRA Risk Register	David Mitchell
13.	River Sowey-King's Sedgemoor Drain	Verbal Update on progress to complete King's Sedgemoor Drain bank raising	Iain Sturdy
14.	Any other business (AOB)	Please notify the Chair of AOB in advance of the meeting	Chair
Next meeting: 14 June 2024			

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) GUIDANCE NOTES

For the SRA Board Meeting 10am – 1pm, Friday 8 March 2024 at the Somerset Council offices in Cannard's Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT

For further information about the meeting, please contact Somerset Rivers Authority on (01823) 355111 or email sra@somerset.gov.uk

This meeting will be open to the public and press.

The agenda, reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via Somerset Rivers Authority's website on www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings



1 Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect reports or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Somerset Rivers Authority on 01823-355111 or email sra@somerset.gov.uk. Papers can also be accessed at www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings

2 Notes of the Meeting

Details of issues discussed, and decisions taken at the meeting, will be set out in the Minutes, which the Board will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of decisions and draft minutes will be available on the SRA website seven days after the meeting has taken place: www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings

3 Public Question Time

At the Chair's invitation, you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Board's agenda. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Board's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered at the Chair's discretion.

If you wish to speak at the meeting, or submit a petition, then you will need to submit your statement or question in writing to Somerset Rivers Authority by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2023. Email sra@somerset.gov.uk

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish. If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred because you cannot be present at the meeting.

Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted normally to three minutes only.

4 Access and Attendance

The Board meeting at Cannard's Grave is open to the public and press but there is limited capacity for health and safety reasons.

The venue has ample parking available at Commercial Road Car Park, BA4 5DX, which is Pay and Display. The car park is approximately a 10-minute walk from the meeting venue. There are a limited number of accessible parking spaces at the meeting venue.

The venue has a maximum capacity and cannot be exceeded. If numbers attending exceed capacity, then priority will be given to those who have registered to speak at Public Question Time and thereafter admittance will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

5 Hearing Aid Loop System

To assist hearing aid users, the venue is fitted with a hard of hearing loop system. This works in conjunction with a hearing aid in the T position. If you require assistance on the day then officers will be happy to assist.

6 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The emergency evacuation procedures are displayed on notices throughout the venue.

7 Recording of meeting

Somerset Rivers Authority supports the principles of openness and transparency, it allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone who is wishing to film part of or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of

the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to Somerset Rivers Authority so that the Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

Somerset Rivers Authority makes audio recordings of Board meetings in order to have verbatim records of what was discussed. A copy of the Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact Somerset Rivers Authority in advance.