

Agenda

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Meeting

9:45am – 1:00pm, Friday 6 June 2025

at Somerset Council, Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR

Members of SRA Board:

Cllr Mike Stanton - *Chair*, Somerset Council
Tony Bradford - *Vice-Chair*, Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB)
Cllr Steve Ashton, Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Caswell, Somerset Council
Cllr Nick Cottle, Somerset Council
Vicky Farwig, Wessex Water (*substitute*)
Andrew Gilling, Axe Brue IDB
Piers Hooper, Environment Agency (*substitute*)
Rebecca Horsington, Parrett IDB
David Jenkins, Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
Claire Newill, Natural England
Cllr Nick O'Donnell, Somerset Council
Cllr Ros Wyke, Somerset Council
TBC, Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board (IDB)

In Attendance:

Rachel Burden, Environment Agency
Nicola Dawson, Somerset Council
James Divall, Somerset Council
Caroline Dunn, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)
Ross Edwards, Environment Agency
Alex Farris, Exmoor National Park Authority
Amanda Gallacher, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW)
Sam Hitchcott, Somerset Council
Jonathan Hudston, SRA
Alasdair Maxwell, Environment Agency
Steve Mewes, Somerset Wildlife Trust
David Mitchell, SRA
Neil Ogilvie, Somerset Council
Iain Sturdy, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium
Hugo van Dorssen, FWAG SW

Apologies:

Matt Wheeldon, Wessex Water
Ian Withers, Environment Agency

AGENDA

Item	Title	Purpose	Lead
1.	Apologies for absence	Clarification	Chair
2.	Declarations of Interest	Transparency	Chair
A	Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Board of Directors Elections	To seek support for Cllr Mike Stanton's election to the ADA Board as the Local Authority representative.	David Mitchell
3.	Minutes of previous meeting 7 March 2025	To agree accuracy	Chair
4.	Public Question Time	To allow the public to ask questions	Chair
5.	Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) Update	Report outcome of first round of CFAF applications	David Mitchell
6.	SRA Annual Report 2024-25	Review and approval of 2024-25 Annual Report	Jonathan Hudston
7.	Finance Report and Enhanced Programme Performance Monitoring	To update the Board: a. Quarter 4 2024-25 Finance Report b. 2025-26 Finance Annual Summary c. Quarter 4 2024-25 Enhanced Programme Performance Monitoring	Sam Hitchcott Caroline Dunn
8.	Grant amendment and top-up funding requests	a. Upper Barle Catchment Project – deferral of funding request b. Act to Adapt – top-up funding c. Somerset Prepared – Community Resilience Equipment and Training Grants	Alex Farris Steve Mewes Nicola Dawson
9.	River Sowy-King's Sedgemoor Drain Enhancements Scheme	Progress update and next steps.	Iain Sturdy
10.	Natural Flood Management Presentation	National picture and evidence base. Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest Community advisors.	Alasdair Maxwell, Hugo van Dorssen
11.	River Brue Modelling	Update on progress and next steps	Neil Ogilvie
12.	Matters arising from last meeting		Chair
13.	Any other business (AOB)	Please notify the Chair of AOB in advance of the meeting	Chair
Next meeting: 12 September 2025			
	Bridgwater Tidal Barrier	Presentation about the Barrier in advance of site visit after the meeting	Rachel Burden

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) GUIDANCE NOTES

For the SRA Board Meeting 9:45am – 1:00pm, Friday 6 June 2025
at Somerset Council, Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR

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



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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 12 noon on Monday 2 June 2025. 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 Bridgwater House is open to the public and press but there is limited capacity for health and safety reasons.

There is a public pay and display car park a short walk from the venue. The Postcode is TA6 3EU. What3words *progress.pest.shippers*

The venue has a maximum capacity which 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 X (formerly 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.

Somerset Rivers Authority
County Hall
Taunton, TA1 4DY



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.