

## **Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)**

The following Members of EKWMA attended above meeting held in the Conference Hall in 13<sup>th</sup> floor of Nabanna, Howrah on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 at 11.30am:

- 1) Sanjay Mitra, IAS, Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA.
- 2) Trilochan Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department & Member Secretary, EKWMA.
- 3) Dr. Subesh Kumar Das, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Department.
- 4) A.K. Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Department.
- 5) Debashis Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department.
- 6) S.A. Baba, IAS, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department.
- 7) B.P. Gopalika, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Affairs Department
- 8) S.K. Gupta, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.
- 9) Khaleel Ahmed, IAS, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
- 10) D. Mukherjee, Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department.
- 11) Prashanta Kumar Sarkar, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
- 12) Sanjay Bansal, IAS, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas.
- 13) Santanu Basu, IAS, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas.
- 14) Pravrajika Atandraprana, Assistant Secretary, Sri Sarada Math & Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar.
- 15) Swami Prananda, Joint Director, Ramakrishna Mission Lokashiksha Parishad, Narendrapur.
- 16) Smt Bonani Kakkar, People United for Better Living in Calcutta.

The following non-member officials also attended the meeting:

- 1) Jose T. Mathew, IFS, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA.
- 2) Sri Ujjwal Bhattacharya, IFS, PCCF Wildlife, West Bengal.
- 3) Pravrajika Asheshprana, Sri Sarada Math & Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar.

The Chairman, EKWMA welcomed the Members. Thereafter discussion of the agenda was undertaken and following decisions were taken.

### **1. Wetland Interpretation Centre (WIC):**

Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department informed that HIDCO with People United for Better Living in Calcutta (PUBLIC) has already started work for development of the interpretation centre by setting apart 3 acres of land at Eco Park. For development of an interpretation centre by Fisheries Department, it was decided that Commissioner, KMC will give a copy of concept plan of interpretation centre already done by KEIP to Fisheries Department for further action and PUBLIC has assured that full cooperation shall be extended to both WIC and assist in managing the same.

*(Action: Commissioner, KMC, Principal Secretary, Fisheries and Smt. B. Kakkar, PUBLIC)*

### **2. Killings of Aquatic Birds around the Wetlands:**

Sri Ujjwal Bhattacharya, IFS, PCCF Wildlife, West Bengal informed that they have identified one of the wrongdoers and a motorcycle was seized and filed a case against him. PCCF Wildlife was asked by Chairman, EKWMA to give a report to CTO, EKWMA in this regard immediately. PCCF Wildlife assured that he will set up Awareness Boards in the vulnerable areas.

*(Action: Sri U. Bhattacharya, IFS, PCCF Wildlife, West Bengal)*

### **3. Issuance of necessary administrative orders:**

Both DM 24 Parganas South and North stated that instructions issued by LRC & ACS, Land and Land Reforms Department that conversion of land cannot be done without permission of EKWMA, were

informed to all concerned BL&LRO and panchayat bodies for necessary action. A copy of order may be sent to CTO, EKWMA. It was further decided that Environment Department may write to the Panchayat and Rural Development Department to issue and circulate an order that instructs its functionaries not to give approval for the building plans within EKW area as per the existing Acts/Rules.

*(Action: CTO,EKWMA and Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department)*

#### **4. Setting up a task force for cases of violations of Rules/Act relating to EKW:**

It was decided that Environment Department should personally contact again Director General of Police, West Bengal again for setting up a task force with SPs and In-Charge of the concerned police stations for filling charge sheet against the FIRs and expediting investigation within the EKW area.

*(Action: CTO,EKWMA)*

#### **5. Removal of illegal plastic, rubber and leather factories coming up on the wetlands adjoining Basanti Highway in district 24 Parganas South:**

Municipal Commissioner stated that Joint inspection with police is being completed and illegal factories are being identified. The process of removal of such illegal factories will commence with announcement through loudspeakers shortly. Eviction must be followed by immediate tree planting at the evicted site.

*(Action: Commissioner, KMC)*

#### **6. Violation cases / court cases pertaining to EKWMA: Unnayan Developers Pvt. Ltd vs State of West Bengal & Ors:**

CTO issued a reasoned order vide CTO/EN/060/161/2009-10 dated 14.2.14 for cancellation of NOC issued for fencing around project sites for development of ecotourism within EKW to Bengal Sunny Rock Estates Housing, Development Company Ltd., Unnayan Developers (P) Ltd., Greentech Farms & Agro Private Limited, Green Concretex Developers Pvt. Ltd., Shyam Greenfield Developers Pvt. Ltd., Sankalp Vanijya Pvt. Ltd. and Kalyan Bharati Foundation. EKWMA endorsed said order.

CTO will conduct a field inspection to identify the current status of the project sites substantiated with photographs.

*(Action: CTO,EKWMA)*

#### **7. World Bank funded CBIPM project for Dhapa dumpsite:**

MS, WBPCB informed that evaluation of Tender was done and after getting concurrence from World Bank, work order will be issued. B. Kakkar informed that leachate from existing Dhapa dumping ground flowed to nearby water body and polluting it. It was decided that the matter would be taken care by Commissioner, KMC and MS, WBPCB for remediation measures.

*(Action: Commissioner, KMC and MS, WBPCB)*

#### **8. Virtual boundary demarcation of the EKW area:**

EKWMA discussed the issue. It was recommended that after completing the 'ground truthing' of the waypoints, physical demarcation by erecting pillars at regular intervals in the manner of forest boundary demarcation.

*(Action: CTO, EKWMA and DM, North and South 24 Parganas)*

#### **9. Miscellaneous:**

a) Allegation regarding the filling of wetlands with desilted soil near Goltala Fisheries: It was decided that Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department would look after the matter.

*(Action: Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department)*

b) Beautification at Nalban Fisheries: EKWMA would expedite the clearance. The exact boundaries of the EKW would be clearly demarcated.

*(Action: CTO, EKWMA and DM, North 24 Parganas)*

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Sd/-  
(Sanjay Mitra)  
Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA