

Minutes of the 24th Meeting of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)

The following Members of EKWMA attended above meeting held in the Conference Hall in 13th floor of Nabanna, Howrah on 8th September, 2014 at 10.00am:

- 1) Sanjay Mitra, IAS, Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA.
- 2) Chandan Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment Department & Member Secretary EKWMA, and Principal Secretary, Forest Department.
- 3) A.K. Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Department.
- 4) Debashis Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department.
- 5) S.A. Baba, IAS, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department.
- 6) Saurav Kumar Das, IAS, Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development 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) Prasanta Kumar Sarkar, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
- 11) Sanjay Bansal, IAS, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas.
- 12) Santanu Basu, IAS, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas.
- 13) Pravrajika Atandraprana, Assistant Secretary, Sri Sarada Math & Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar.
- 14) Swami Prananda, Joint Director, Ramakrishna Mission Lokashiksha Parishad, Narendrapur.
- 15) Smt. Bonani Kakkar, President, 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) Tanmay Roychoudhury, IPS, Superintendent of Police, North 24 Parganas.
- 3) Praveen Kumar Tripathi, IPS, Superintendent of Police, South 24 Parganas.
- 4) Pravrajika Paramatmaprana, 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. Confirmation of the minutes on the 23rd meeting of EKWMA

The minutes of the 23rd meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 10th June, 2014 were confirmed.

2. Wetland Interpretation Centre (WIC):

Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department informed that HIDCO with the technical advice of People United for Better Living in Calcutta (PUBLIC) has already started work for development of the interpretation centre at Eco Park. No permanent constructional work will be done at that WIC. For development of an interpretation centre by Fisheries Department, it was decided that Fisheries Department will develop the wetland interpretation centre at Captain's bheri with the broader theme of the wetlands.

(Action: Principal Secretary, UD, Principal Secretary, Fisheries and Smt. B. Kakkar, PUBLIC)

3. Killings of Aquatic Birds around the Wetlands:

Principal Secretary, Environment informed that the PCCF Wildlife has already set up three hoardings on this issue.

4. 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 the KMC had to postpone the action for the time being.

(Action: Commissioner, KMC)

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

CTO informed that a field inspection was conducted and it was noticed that four project proponents namely Unnayan Developers (P) Ltd., Shyam Greenfield Developers Pvt. Ltd., Sankalp Vanijya Pvt. Ltd. and Kalyan Bharati Foundation did not comply with the Reasoned Order vide No. CTO/EN/060/161/2009-10 dt. 14.02.2014. It was decided that Member Secretary, EKWMA may write a DO letter to the Director General of Police, WB in this regard for necessary action.

(Action: Member Secretary, EKWMA)

6. World Bank funded CBIPM project for Dhapa dumpsite:

MS, WBPCB informed that fresh tenders have been called.

(Action: MS, WBPCB)

7. Virtual boundary demarcation of the EKW area:

CTO informed that this matter was discussed with Dy. DLLRO, 24 Parganas (South) in a formal meeting but there is no response from DM, 24 Parganas (North). The CTO informed that the tentative duration for execution the work shall be about three months.

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

8. Filling of wetlands near Goltala Fisheries:

It was decided that Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department would look into the matter and take appropriate action.

(Action: Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department)

9. Beautification at Nalban Fisheries:

The plan was examined. It was found to be very construction intensive and expensive. Hence, Chairman, EKWMA constituted a Committee with following members who after a quick visit to Nalban, give suggestions on the issue. The Plan will be revised accordingly.

1. Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department -Chairman
2. Mr. Chandan Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment Department
3. Mr. S.A. Baba, IAS, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department
4. Smt. Bonani Kakkar, President, PUBLIC
5. Mr. Jose T. Mathew, IFS, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA

Schedule date of visit is fixed on 13/09/2014.

10. Approval of Annual Accounts of the EKWMA for the year 2013-2014:

Annual Accounts of the EKWMA for the year 2013- 2014 prepared and audited by a Chartered Accountant Firm and was presented before the EKWMA. EKWMA approved the said accounts.

(Action: CTO, EKWMA)

11. Proposed construction of elevated corridor by HIDCO connecting EM Bypass with New Town over East Kolkata Wetlands:

EKWMA decided to defer the issue for the time being.

(Action: CTO, EKWMA)

12. Violation case involving Netaji Subhas Engineering College, Sonarpur: PIL involving Jibendra Prasad Das vs The State of West Bengal & Ors. (W.P. No. 16604 (W) of 2012):

It was decided that Member Secretary, EKWMA would write to Chief Secretary to Govt. of West Bengal in this regard, on the present status of the case.

(Action: Member Secretary, EKWMA)

13. Miscellaneous:

a) Report of the EKWMA (November 2005 to March 2013): Report of the activities of the EKWMA (November 2005 to March 2013) was circulated among the Members of the EKWMA.

b) Police action on 249 FIRs on violation in EKW(C&M) Act, 2006: SP, 24 Parganas (South) informed that out of 150 cases pertaining to P.S. Sonarpur and P.S. KLC 121 charge sheets were submitted. Police have perusing the 29 pending cases with BLLRO. It was decided that SP, 24 Parganas (South) will handed over the list of all cases including pending cases to LRC for necessary action.

(Action: SP, South 24 Parganas and ACS and LRC, L&LR Deptt.)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Sd/-

(Sanjay Mitra)

Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA