

F. No.- F5(01)/WA/2019-20 / 255-68

Dated: 26/4/2023

MINUTES OF SIXTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UNDER WETLAND AUTHORITY OF DELHI, HELD UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF DR. MADHU VERMA, SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISOR, IORA ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS, NEW DELHI, DELHI WITH THE MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 18TH APRIL 2023 AT 03:00 PM

Sixth meeting of the Technical Committee under Wetland Authority of Delhi was conducted under the chairpersonship of Dr. Madhu Verma, with the following members of Technical Committee joining in person and online on Tuesday, 18th April 2023 at 03:00 PM to discuss further notification of wetlands and management of Sanjay Lake.

1. **Dr. Madhu Verma**, Senior Economic Advisor, IORA Ecological Solutions, New Delhi
2. **Prof. J.K. Garg**, Director, Tribhuvan College of Environment and Development Sciences, Neemrana, Rajasthan
3. **Dr. Suneesh Buxy**, Member Secretary, Wetland Authority of Delhi, New Delhi

Dr. Ritesh Kumar Director, WISA, New Delhi and Sh. Pranay Lal, Member PM-STIAC, New Delhi had sent their comments which were internalized in the meeting deliberations.

Mr. Amit Kumar introduced the following agenda points of the meeting to the members of Technical Committee:

- a) Next wetland for notification.
- b) Way forward with the wetlands which are already protected under Indian forest Act.
- c) Discussion on proposal received from CPWD for Landscaping of a wetland in Village Mehrauli.
- d) Restoration and Rejuvenation of Wetlands.
- e) Management of Sanjay Lake.

Dr. Madhu Verma enlightened all the members that a total of ten wetlands were placed in second Technical Committee meeting for approval from the members of technical committee. In second meeting it was finalized that only natural wetlands will be taken up for notification and out of the five natural wetlands Sanjay Lake was processed for notification. It has been found now that the Sanjay Lake falls in protected forest which is already notified under Indian Forest Act, 1927, thus does not require any separate notification.

Dr. Madhu Verma also stated that Najafgarh Jheel is a trans-boundary issue with Haryana, which is yet to be cleared up. The matter may be initiated which might take long time, therefore, wetland authority can initiate the notification of Welcome Jheel, Tikri Khurd, and Smriti Van Vasant Kunj, as all three are natural wetlands.

Member Secretary, Wetland Authority stated that Neeli Jheel in Asola Bhatti shall be considered in the next list of wetlands for notification. He added that a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model is necessary and an EoI shall be formulated to form a panel of Agencies, NGOs, Organizations and Individuals working actively on restoration and rejuvenation of wetlands. Wetland Authority will not provide any financial assistance for this and the proposals shall be assessed on the bases of Technical Bid only. Further, Health cards for each wetland shall be made as per the MOEF&CC guidelines.

He further showed the urgent need for creation of research cadre in the office for handling desirable data base and monitoring of various activities of wetlands management.

Prof. JK Garg emphasised that for the restoration of wetlands, we should have prior information on (i) the major issues faced by wetland; (ii) provisioning of various social, economic and ecological services that the wetland is offering; (iii) the major areas of restoration and rejuvenation and these questions should be dealt with while preparing the plan for restoration and rejuvenation of Wetlands of NCT of Delhi.

Dr. Ritesh remarked on the management of Sanjay Lake. During committee members visit to the wetland and his subsequent visits, he noted considerable desilting being done in littoral zones which may be an ecologically counterproductive. He requested for developing a framework for management considering ecological, hydrological and social dimensions of wetlands.

Sh. Pranay Lal suggested that wetland authority can collaborate with DJB, PWD and others to advise them on future of artificially built lakes. There is a lot of surplus treated water that can be channelled into artificial waterbodies but it requires careful planning.

Dr. Madhu Verma led emphasis on:

- Assessment of blue Carbon from wetlands for earning Carbon Credits
- Developing a Business model for sustainable management of wetlands and engaging business /companies for the same
- Recreation of fishes and aquatic life in wetlands
- Documentation of complete information on wetlands
- Preparation of Short films/videos on Delhi wetlands for knowledge and awareness building
- Integrating Amrit Sarovar scheme with Delhi wetlands which aims at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

After deliberate discussions, Member Secretary, Wetland Authority also added that a stakeholders meeting shall be arranged on 17.05.2023 to discuss the mechanism and methods for the empanelment of agencies for financing and management of Delhi wetlands. All the landowning agencies, related CBOs, NGOs and many spiritual organisations interested in wetlands conservation shall be invited in the multiple stakeholders meeting.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


(Member Secretary)
Wetland Authority of Delhi

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Copy to:-

To,

1. Dr. Madhu Verma, Senior Economic Advisor, IORA Ecological Solutions, 635 – 636, GF, Lane Number 3, Westend Marg, Garden of Five Senses Road Saidulajab, Sainik Farm, New Delhi, Delhi 110030
2. Prof. J.K. Garg, Tribhuvan College of Environment and Development Sciences, Neemrana, Rajasthan
3. Dr. Man Singh, Professor & Project Director, Water Technology Centre, IARI, Janak vihar, Pusa, N.D - 12
4. Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South Asia (WISA), A-25, Second Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110024
5. Sh. Pranay Lal, Member of Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC), P291 ATS Village, Sector 93 A, Noida (UP)
6. PS to Pr. Secretary (E&F), GNCTD


(Member Secretary)
Wetland Authority of Delhi