

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
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F. No.F5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/ 3258-3298.

Dated: 10/10/2024.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY OF DELHI, GNCTD HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, DELHI ON FRIDAY, 09.08.2024 AT 3:00 PM.

Sixth meeting of the Wetland Authority of Delhi (WAD), GNCTD was held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Delhi with the members of Wetland Authority and water body owning agencies/their nominees looking after management of water bodies on Friday, 09.08.2024 at 3:00 PM in the Conference Hall- 2, Delhi Secretariat Building, New Delhi. List of participants is annexed as Annexure A.

With the permission of the Chief Secretary, the Member Secretary of the Authority Dr. Suneesh Buxy, CEO, DPGS welcomed the members of the authority and highlighted the main issues taken up by the authority in previous meetings.

Thereafter, Dr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary (Environment) gave a presentation on the progress made in conservation and management of Wetlands as well as the action taken in pursuance of previous meeting of the Authority.

The Authority was briefed about the judicial directions towards protection of water bodies such as Hon'ble Supreme court of India's orders in Writ Petition (s) (Civil) No(s). 230/2001 directing protection of water bodies in compliance with Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Similarly Hon'ble NGT, in OA No. 325/2015, (Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs. Union of India & Ors.) had directed preparation of action plans for restoration of all wetlands, and observed that there can be no dispute that water bodies play significant role in recharge of ground water, preventing soil erosion, harnessing rain water and maintaining micro-climate in area, and need for conservation and protection of water bodies is thus obvious.

The statutory duties of the Authority under the Wetland Rules-2017 including its mandate was apprised to the members of the Authority. The progress made so far against these statutory duties were apprised to the Authority as presented below:-

1. Listing of Wetlands

- 1.1 The Authority has so far listed 1045 Wetlands in Delhi based upon the reports of Court Commissioner (Water Bodies), Hon'ble Delhi High Court and Departmental submissions and UID numbers were allotted to 1045 water bodies.
- 1.2 The listing of the second tranche of 322 water bodies reconciled through satellite imagery of GSDL, Jal Shakti Ministry's First Census Report is in progress. The authority directed that the listing be completed expeditiously.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

2. Preparation of Brief Documents

- 2.1 The Authority was briefed that 710 brief documents has so far been prepared in coordination with the land owning department.
- 2.2 Chief Secretary, Delhi directed preparation of brief documents for 674 water bodies which have been ground truthed recently so that their notifications can be examined.

**[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi,
District Magistrates and Land owning departments]**

3. Recommendation of Wetlands for regulation

- 3.1 It was informed that Technical Committee consisting of six wetland experts was formed on 01.07.2021 and so far seven meetings were held and as a result 20 water bodies were prioritized for immediate notification. The authority directed that the prioritized water bodies should be processed for immediate notification.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

4. Notification

- 4.1 It was briefed that draft notification of three water bodies such as Sanjay Lake, Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj) and Tikri Khurd Lake were sent to DDA for comments. DDA had replied that that area of Sanjay Lake and Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj) already notified under Forest Act 1927.

[Action: DDA]

- 4.2 Chief Secretary queried about the said notifications and asked DDA to confirm whether final notification under Forest Act has been completed.
- 4.3 Draft notification of the fourth wetland which is Welcome Jheel, was sent to MCD for comments and their comments are being examined.
- 4.4 It was decided that notification of prioritized water bodies be expedited so that their long term protection is ensured.
- 4.5 Additional Chief Secretary (IFCD) mentioned that the comments from the land owning agencies on draft notification should not be open ended and should be time bound given a period of 30 days so that the notification of prioritized water bodies can be expedited.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

5. Comprehensive Digital Inventory

- 5.1 It was briefed that the Govt. of India web portal acts as single point access system that synthesizes information on wetland sites, projects, initiatives and trainings. Till now 473 Brief Documents has been uploaded on Wetlands of India portal, by the Wetland Authority.

6. Restoration Actions

- 6.1 The Authority was briefed that restoration actions are encouraged and monitored in coordination with 16 water body owning agencies. Out of 1367 water bodies, all the water bodies were ground truthed and it was found that 674 water bodies were found existing on the ground. In terms of the land owning department, DDA hosted the largest number of water bodies (822), while in terms of the district-wise distribution, South West district had the maximum which is 216 number of water bodies. The breakup of remaining 693 water bodies was also briefed to the members of the Authority
- 6.2 The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Hon'ble HC WP (C) 7594/2018) order dated 08.04.2024 had directed Revenue Department to prepare estimates for restoration of water bodies after ground truthing for which the time lines were 30.05.2024.
- 6.3 Chief Secretary directed IFCD Deptt. to undertake the rejuvenation of 674 water bodies on a war footing, and District Magistrates should ensure compliances of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court .

[Action: IFCD & District Magistrates]

- 6.4 The budgetary funding for restoration of water bodies may be sourced from the Gramodaya Scheme as far as urban areas are concerned; while DVDB can fund in areas where Gramodaya Scheme will not be able to fund.

[Action: District Magistrates & Development Deptt.]

- 6.5 The Hon'ble Delhi High Court had also directed that appropriate measures shall be taken for making entries of water bodies in revenue records by assigning responsibilities of each of such water body to specific officer, who shall visit such water body every fortnight to ensure its upkeep and proper maintenance. District Magistrates were directed to ensure complete action in this regard in letter and spirit.

[Action: District Magistrates]

- 6.6 The District Magistrates were also directed to explore public participation for operation and maintenance activities of water bodies in accordance with direction of said Hon'ble High Court order.

[Action: District Magistrates]

- 6.7 The Hon'ble Delhi High Court had also held Committee responsible for ground truthing and rejuvenation of these water bodies and execution of projects at ground at District Level for each of 11 Districts consisting of: District Magistrate, Revenue Deptt. GNCTD; Deputy Commissioner, MCD (in case of NDMC include Secretary NDMC; and in case of Delhi Cantonment Board include CEO Delhi Cantonment Board); Superintendent Engineer DDA, Superintendent Engineer DJB and Superintendent Engineer I&FC Deptt.

- 6.8 The District Magistrates were directed that completion of the restoration of water bodies has to be ensured through the District Committees formed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 08.04.2024 (W.P(C) No. 7594/2018) and it shall be ensured without fail that the work is completed after removal of encroachment before 31.12.2024.

[Action: District Magistrates in coordination with land owning departments]

- 6.9 Special Secretary (Environment) also presented Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's order dated 01.06.2020 (OA No. 325/2015) regarding restoration/creation of model ponds wherein all District Magistrates were directed to ensure as far as possible atleast one pond/water body must be restored in every village. Seven Districts has already identified 118 wetlands so far and the remaining District Magistrates was directed to comply with Hon'ble NGT's direction. The identified model ponds shall be monitored by the District Magistrates.

[Action: District Magistrates]

7. **Directions to land owning agencies under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.**

- 7.1 One of the statutory duties of Wetland Authority of Delhi is to issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies. Draft directions to ensure that certain activities (encroachments, C&D/sewage disposal, permanent construction) shall be prohibited within wetlands, and that prohibited activities are taken cognizance of, swiftly acted upon and removed, if needed through existing mechanisms of STF for encroachment removal. The Authority discussed the draft direction and approved the same.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

- 7.2 Pr. Secretary (Environment) also felt that the work estimation of restoration should be based upon low cost restoration techniques completely in line with the restoration guidelines released by CPCB and Ministry of Jal Shakti and highly capital intensive activities such as concretization and boundary wall construction should be avoided.

[Action: IFCD & District Magistrates]

- 7.3 GSDL was directed to purchase DGPS and give necessary training to the District Magistrates so that water bodies are properly geo-fenced and referenced. Pr. Secretary (Environment) informed that DPCC should also do the procurement of DGPS and provide to District Magistrates.

[Action: GSDL & DPCC]

8. **Protection of Major Wetlands**

Tikri Khurd :

- 8.1 DDA is already under Hon'ble NGT directions to remove encroachments and undertake beautification of the water body. DDA has undertaken several encroachment removal drives, and as per information available with the authority 2 bighas land (2000 Sq. yards) of encroachment have been removed. DDA was directed to submit the total area of encroachments in the lake and the encroachment removal plan.

[Action: DDA]

Najafgarh Jheel :

- 8.2 Additional Chief Secretary (IFCD) mentioned that there are three drains from Haryana emptying polluted waters into the Najafgarh Jheel and IFCD had written a letter in this regard to Haryana State Govt. He desired that the comments of IFCD be also factored in future deliberations on the issue.

Bhalswa Lake :

- 8.3 DDA is already under directions of Hon'ble NGT case OA No. 105/2021 disposed off on 21.05.2021 to plan remedial measures needed to be undertaken by concerned department:

- 1) Cow dung from dairy owners into storm water drain into lake into damage storm water drain - Interceptor drain to intercept incoming dung into supplementary drain (DJB)
- 2) DJB was constructing RCC box drain for trapping (2022)
- 3) Repair of damaged storm water drain by PWD
- 4) Construction of damaged boundary wall by DDA along Bhalswa dairy village

It was informed that Hon'ble Delhi High Court is also monitoring the rejuvenation of Bhalswa Lake in OA No. 105/2021 where the Hon'ble High Court directed *the* Chief Secretary to take note of the newspaper reports pertaining to drying up of Lake Bhalswa and threat of encroachment in the said area.

DDA, DJB and PWD were directed to expedite necessary actions and submit action taken reports and ensure compliance to Hon'ble NGT and Hon'ble Delhi High Court's directions.

[Action: DDA, DJB & PWD]

9. Grievance framework

9.1 The Authority was informed that Grievance Committees were constituted in every District vide Authority's order dated 01.07.2021 with the mandate as a mechanism for hearing the grievances raised by the public on wetlands falling under their respective jurisdiction. Major Grievances related to water bodies was briefed to the Authority and are presented as below alongwith concerned districts:-

- Mamoor pur (District: North)
- Ghewara ((District: North West)
- Hiranki (District: North)
- Prasad Nagar Lake (District: North)
- Pooth Khurd (District: North)
- Holambi Khurd (District: North)
- Lam Pur (District: North)
- Najafgarh Jheel (District: South West)
- Mayapuri (District: South West)
- Ashoka Park, New Friends Colony (District: South East)
- Mundka (District: West)

9.2 The major issues in these water bodies were sewage discharge and solid waste dumping. District Magistrates were directed to take up such disturbed water bodies on priorities for restoration.

[Action: District Magistrates]

9.3 To deal with the manpower shortage in the Wetland Authority of Delhi, the Authority requested the Services Department to post one Section Officer and one Assistant Section Officer on diverted capacity.

[Action: Services Department]

9.4 The Authority approved the proposal to engage an institution, organization or public agency, to assist the authority in coordination, monitoring of implementation of action plans through various line departments, undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands

[Action: District Magistrates and All land owning agencies]

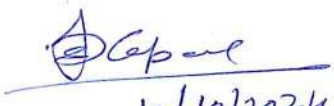
- 9.5 Pr. Secretary (Environment) the Vice Chairman of the Authority reiterated that District Magistrates need to be proactive and utilize the existing mechanisms such as District Committees constituted by the Hon'ble High Court as well as the statutory institutional mechanism of District Grievance Committees constituted by Wetland Authority of Delhi vide order dated 01.07.2021.
- 9.6 Concluding the meeting, Chief Secretary directed that 674 water bodies existing on the field are now the immediate priority and they shall be geo tagged on a mission mode in one month incorporating all boundary coordinates alongwith the Khasra Numbers and ensure restoration of the water bodies as per Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

[Action: District Magistrates]

- 9.7 Chief Secretary further directed that the District Magistrates shall be the custodian of the water bodies and ensure that the directions of the Authority as well as the crucial order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court dated 08.04.2024 (WP (C) 7594/2018) are complied with, in the letter and spirit, without fail.

[Action: District Magistrates]

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


10/10/2024
Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi

F. No.F5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/ 3258-3298.

Dated: 10/10/2024

To,

1. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi (**Member**)
2. Commissioner, MCD, 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi- 02 (**Member**)
3. Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Dev.), Development Department, GNCTD, Under Hill Road, Delhi-110054 (**Member**)
4. Secretary (Revenue)/Divisional Commissioner, Revenue Department, GNCTD, 5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54 (**Member**)
5. The Pr. Secretary (Environment), Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi (**Member**)
6. The Pr. Secretary (PWD), Public Works Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi (Member)

7. The Pr. Secretary (I&FC), Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD, Under Hill Road, Delhi- 54 **(Member)**
8. The Secretary (Deptt. of Fisheries), Fisheries Department, GNCT of Delhi, Under Hill Road, Delhi- 54 **(Member)**
9. The Secretary (UD), Deptt. of Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi **(Member)**
10. The Secretary (Tourism), Department of Tourism, Govt. of NCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, Delhi **(Member)**
11. The Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Varunalaya, Jhandewalan, New Delhi **(Member)**
12. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi **(Member)**
13. All District Magistrates, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
14. Addl. PCCF of the regional office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Lucknow **(Member)**
15. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, GNCTD, ISBT Building, Delhi **(Member)**
16. Director, Delhi Zoo, Zoological Garden of Delhi, Mathura Road, New Delhi **(Member)**
17. CEO, DPGS, Department of Environment, GNCTD, C-Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat Building, New Delhi – 110002 **(Member)**
18. Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of UT, Delhi **(Member)**
19. CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board, Kirby Place, New Delhi **(Member)**
20. Sh. Manu Bhatnagar, Pr. Director, INTACH, 71, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003 **(Member)**
21. Prof. S.K. Singh, Delhi Technological University (DTU), Shahbad, Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi-110042 **(Member)**
22. Sh. I.H. Khan, PCCF (Retd.), E-87/1, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, IIIrd Floor, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 **(Member)**
23. Dr. Man Singh, Professor & Project Director, Water Technology Centre, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Janak vihar, Pusa, New Delhi- 110012 **(Member)**
24. Managing Director, Geo Spatial Data Ltd. (GSDL), Govt. of NCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, Delhi **(Member)**
25. Head of Delhi unit of CGWB, Central Ground Water Board, New Delhi **(Member)**
26. Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, GPO Complex, Block-D, IIIrd Floor, Puratatva Bhawan, INA, New Delhi – 110023 **(Member)**
27. Director (Environment), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002 **(Member)**
28. Director General, CPWD, A-Wing, Room No.- 111 , Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
29. Secretary (ACL)-cum-HOD (Archaeology), GNCTD, Department of Archaeology, Vikas'B' Block, II floor, Vikas Bhawan-2, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054
30. Managing Director, DSIIDC, N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi -110001
31. CEO, DUSIB, GNCTD, 'C'Wing, 4th Floor, Vikas Bhawan-II, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54
32. C.E.O, Delhi Wakf Board, GNCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Upper Bela Road, Delhi- 54
33. Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110067
34. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Dharohar Bhawan, 24- Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001
35. Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), HauzKhas, New Delhi – 110016
36. DCF, South Forest Division, Near Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tuglaqabad, Delhi- 66
37. DCF, North Forest Division, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi- 07
38. DCF, West Forest Division, Mandir Marg, Delhi- 60
39. DCF, Central Forest Division, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi-07

40. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Khare, Chief Engineer (HQ & QAC)/ Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, DDA, E-3, Ground Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023
41. Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta, Chief Engineer, MCD/(Nodal Officer, Water Bodies), 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi – 110002
42. Sh. Anil Bharti, Superintending Engineer/Nodal Officer (Water Body), Delhi Jal Board, A-Bldg, Varunalaya, Jhandewalan, Delhi – 110005
43. Sh. Manoj Garg, Superintending Engineer, DC 2, CPWD, Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, CPWD, Vigyan Bhawan Circle, New Delhi - 110011
44. Superintending Engineer, Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Office of the Executive Engineer, C-11, DUSIB, First Floor, Circle Office Building, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007
45. Sh. Pawan Aggarwal, Executive Engineer (CD-12)/Nodal Officer-Water Bodies, DSIIDC, DSIIDC Site office, Auchandi road, Bawana, Delhi-110039
46. Executive Engineer-civil/Nodal Officer- Water Bodies, Jawahar Lal University (JNU), New Delhi – 110067
47. Sh. K.K. Tripathi, Executive Engineer (CD-II), Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016
48. Sh. Kulveer Singh, AGM (Civil), NTPC Ltd., Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Mathura Road, New Delhi -110003

Copy to:-

1. Divisional Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Rev.), Rev. Deptt., GNCTD, 5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54
2. OSD to Chief Secretary, 5th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002
3. PS to Pr. Secretary (E&F), Environment Deptt., GNCTD, 6th Level, C-wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002


10/10/2024

Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi