

Minutes of the 26th Meeting of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)

The following Members of EKWMA and invitees attended the meeting held in the Conference Hall in 13th floor of Nabanna, Howrah on 11th February, 2015 at 11.00 am:

- 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) B.P. Gopalika, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Affairs Department
- 7) S.K. Gupta, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.
- 8) Khaleel Ahmed, IAS, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
- 9) Subrat Mukherjee, IAS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
- 10) Santanu Basu, IAS, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas.
- 11) Swami Pranananda, Joint Director, Ramakrishna Mission Lokashiksha Parishad, Narendrapur.
- 12) Smt. Bonani Kakkar, President, People United for Better Living in Calcutta.
- 13) G.M.P. Reddy, IPS, Director General & Inspector General of Police, West Bengal.
- 14) S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Disaster Management Department.
- 15) Malabika Jha, IAS, Directorate of Fisheries
- 16) Jose T. Mathew, IAS, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA.
- 17) R. Sivakumar, IPS, Addl. CP (IV), Kolkata Police
- 18) Saikat Kumar Dutta, WBCS(Exe.), ADM & AEO, North 24 Parganas ZP.

The Chairman, EKWMA welcomed the Members and invitees. Decisions were taken on the following agenda items:

1. Confirmation of the minutes on the 25th meeting of EKWMA

The minutes of the 25th meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 17th November, 2014 were confirmed.

2. Delegation of powers vide Rules 10(3) of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2006

EKWMA authorized the Member Secretary to issue regulatory or statutory orders with respect to EKWMA with the approval of the Chairman.

3. Formation of a committee for hearing of applications received under Rule 8 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2006

In the wake of applications received for change of character or mode of use of land in the East Kolkata Wetlands area, following Committee has been constituted to conduct hearings under Rule 8 of the EKW(C&M) Rules, 2006, for speedy and fair disposal of the applications and the committee's decision shall be final:

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| i) Chief Secretary, West Bengal | Chairman | |
| ii) Member Secretary, EKWMA | Member | |
| iii) Smt. Bonani Kakkar, PUBLIC | Member | |
| iv) Swami Pranananda, Ramakrishna Mission Lokashiksha Parishad | | Member |
| v) Pravrajika Atandraprana, Sri Sarada Math & Ramkrishna Sarada Mission | | Member |

4. Wetland Interpretation Centre (WIC):

Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department briefly described the present status of the Wetland Interpretation Centre at Captain's bheri. He informed that a separate room has been provided to EKWMA for the WIC in the existing building with provision for further extension of building towards the back if necessity arises. EKWMA will start preparing the exhibits etc at WIC soon.

(Action: Principal Secretary, Fisheries & CTO, EKWMA)

5. Miscellaneous:

a) Removal of illegal plastic, rubber and leather factories coming up on the wetlands adjoining Basanti Highway in district 24 Parganas South:

Municipal Commissioner informed that a survey was carried out for undertaking the work and they have identified about 380 factories. Report is under preparation which will be submitted to the Chief Secretary.

Principal Secretary, Environment Department informed that WBPCB has sent a proposal for setting up of an air pollution monitoring station adjoining Basanti Highway. The proposal was accepted.

(Action: Commissioner, KMC & MS, WBPCB)

b) Chromium accumulation in the fishes of EKW area from the tanneries:

Smt. Kakkar raised the issue. It was decided that CETP at KLC will examine and address the issue.

c) Smt Kakkar also informed that leachate from the Dhapa dumpsite is polluting nearby waterbodies. It was decided that KMC and WBPCB will look into the matter.

(Action: Commissioner, KMC & MS, WBPCB)

d) Virtual boundary demarcation of the EKW area:

Sri S.K. Dutta, ADM, North 24 Parganas informed that joint inspection of the waypoints was completed in the part of Dist. 24 Parganas (N) in EKW area and in house work of preparing maps is going on. CTO stated that most of the area of the EKW area is under Dist. 24 Parganas (S) and it is taking time to complete joint survey. Chairman set a period of six months to complete the survey. CTO suggested that the District Magistrate, 24 Parganas (S) may look into the issue and take necessary action by setting up additional team/s for surveying the area.

(Action: DM, 24 Parganas (S) & CTO, EKWMA)

Sd/-

(Sanjay Mitra)

Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA