

Minutes of the 27th 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 04th March, 2016 at 10.30 am:

- 1) Basudeb Banerjee, IAS, Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA.
- 2) Chandan Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment Department & Member Secretary EKWMA, and Principal Secretary, Forest Department.
- 3) Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department.
- 4) Sumanta Choudhuri, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Fisheries Department.
- 5) Naveen Prakash, IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department.
- 6) Md. Ghulam Ali Ansari, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.
- 7) Khaleel Ahmed, IAS, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
- 8) Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, IAS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
- 9) Barnali Biswas, IAS, Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management.
- 10) Dr. P. B. Salim, IAS, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas.
- 11) Manmeet Kaur Nanda, IAS, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas.
- 12) Swami Prananda, Joint Director, Ramakrishna Mission Lokashiksha Parishad, Narendrapur.
- 13) Pravrajika Atandraprana, Assistant Secretary, Sri Sarada Math & Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar.
- 14) Bonani Kakkar, President, People United for Better Living in Calcutta.

The following non-member officials also attended the meeting:

- 1) Sandipan Mukherjee, IAS, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA.
- 2) Smt. V. Lalithalakshmi, Joint Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Department

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

1. Confirmation of the minutes on the 26th meeting of EKWMA

The minutes of the 26th meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 11th February, 2015 were confirmed.

2. Committee for hearing of applications received under Rule 8 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2006

A Committee was constituted to conduct hearings under Rule 8 of the EKW (C&M) Rules, 2006, for speedy and fair disposal of the applications received for change of character or mode of use of land in the East Kolkata Wetlands. Pravrajika Atandraprana, Sri Sarada Math & Ramkrishna Sarada Mission expressed her unwillingness to be a member of this Committee due to her illness. The Chairman, EKWMA opined that a decision in this regard will be taken in due course.

3. Wetland Interpretation Centre (WIC):

EKWMA discussed the matter of Wetland Interpretation Centre at Captain's bheri in length. It was urged that as Captain's Bheri is already a developed spot for cultural activities, aqua hub and attraction of young students and tourists, it is utilised as Fisheries interpretation Centre. However, EKWMA will find a proper location for the Wetland Interpretation Centre and place it before the next EKWMA meeting.

(Action: MS, EKWMA & CTO, EKWMA)

4. Removal of illegal plastic, rubber and leather factories coming up on the wetlands adjoining Basanti Highway

Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation informed that land belongs to the PWD. A joint survey of Ambedkar Bridge to Bantala with the assistance of police and WBPCB was completed and half of the encroachment was removed. They are in search of land for rehabilitation. The Chief Secretary asked to put forward a detailed action plan within three months.

(Action: Commissioner, KMC)

5. Chromium accumulation in the fishes of EKW area from the tanneries and problem of leachate from the Dhapa dumpsite polluting nearby waterbodies

Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation stated that the bid process is ongoing and will be opened shortly. Chairman, EKWMA recommended to obtain special permission from election commission for opening of bids.

The Commissioner also informed that the old Dhapa dumpsite is at its saturation. New dumpsite within Dhapa has very limited area. He requested to remove some portion of land from notified EKW area. Ms. Kakkar emphasized on segregation of solid waste not on compacting.

(Action: Commissioner, KMC & MS, WBPCB)

6. Approval of Annual Accounts of the EKWMA for the year 2014-2015:

Annual Accounts of the EKWMA for the year 2014- 2015 was prepared and audited by a Chartered Accountant Firm and was presented before the EKWMA. EKWMA approved the said accounts.

(Action: CTO, EKWMA)

7. Publication of Book: Birding in East Kolkata Wetlands area

MS, EKWMA proposed to bring out a book on 'Birding in East Kolkata Wetlands' which includes most of the birds observed in the East Kolkata Wetlands along with photographs and brief description of the habitat. In persuasion of vast experience in birding Sri Kushal Mookherjee, founder member of the renowned NGO, 'Prakriti Sansad' has been entrusted to undertake the work for an honorarium of Rs. 50,000/-. The honorarium is in conformity with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI Office Memorandum vide No:2 /1(8)/ 08-FS dated 07/11/2013.

EKWMA approved the proposal.

(Action: MS, EKWMA & CTO, EKWMA)

8. Fixation of fees for the application in Form 1 for change of character or mode of use of land

EKWMA deferred the matter for next meeting.

(Action: MS, EKWMA & CTO, EKWMA)

9. Proposal for Wetland Interpretation Centre near the Munshir Bheri by Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority (NDITA)

EKWMA deferred the matter for next meeting.

(Action: MS, EKWMA & CTO, EKWMA)

10. Miscellaneous

a) **Violations of the Act/Rules governing the EKW**

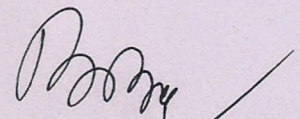
Considering the violations of the law the Chief Secretary desired to conduct a meeting with the Home Secretary and senior police officials so as to take legal action to discourage the violators. It was also decided that the EKWMA may purchase cars for survey and monitoring purposes.

(Action: MS, EKWMA)

b) **Awareness generation and erection of boundary pillars**

Besides erection of boundary pillars, the Chairman has emphasized to set up some awareness hoardings highlighting the importance of the wetlands.

(Action: CTO, EKWMA)



(Basudeb Banerjee)

Chief Secretary, West Bengal & Chairman, EKWMA