

**Minutes of the 29th meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Room, Nabanna**

Members present:

1. Prof. (Dr.) Soumen Kumar Mahapatra, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department – Chairman
2. Shri Rajiva Sinha, Chief Secretary – Member
3. Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Environment Department – Member Secretary
4. Shri S. Kishore, Additional Chief Secretary, Fisheries Department – Member
5. Shri Manoj Pant, Principal Secretary, Land & Land Reforms Department – Member
6. Smt. Nandini Chakraborty, Principal Secretary, Tourism Department – Member
7. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Expert Member
8. Shri Subrata Mukherjee, Managing Director, West Bengal State Fisheries Development Corporation – Expert Member
9. Shri Khalil Ahmed, commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation– Permanent Invitee
10. Dr. P. Ulanganathan, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas– Permanent Invitee
11. Smt. Chaitali Chakraborty, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas– Permanent Invitee

Special Invitees:

1. Additional District Magistrate (LR), North 24-Parganas
2. Shri Dibyendu Das, Special Secretary, Panchayats and Rural Development Department.
3. Shri Manas Chakraborty, Joint Secretary, Irrigation and waterways Department
4. Shri Nitish Dhali, DL&LRO, South 24-Parganas
5. Shri Bhaskar Pal, Dy.DL&LRO, South 24-Parganas
6. Shri Partha Samanta, Dy. CE(C)/E&H, KMC
7. Shri Niraj Singhal, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA

The Chairperson, EKWMA welcomed all the Members and Invitees. After discussion, the following decisions were taken.

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting of the EKWMA held on 14/07/2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 14th July, 2017 were confirmed.

**2. Annual accounts of the EKWMA for 2018-19**

Annual accounts of the EKWMA for the year 2018-19, audited by a Chartered Accountant Firm, was approved by the EKWMA. Principal Secretary, Environment Department informed that Officer of the Principal Accountant General (Economics & Revenue Audit), West Bengal had recently conducted the audit.

**3. Closure of Bank Accounts of EKWMA**

At present there are three savings bank accounts in the name of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority with different Nationalized Banks. Out of the three accounts, accounts pertaining to Bank of India and UCO Bank became inoperative and last cheque was issued from the accounts of those bank on 01/12/2008 and on 16/03/2018 respectively. The authority approved to close two inoperative bank accounts with following details:

- (i) Bank of India, Branch: Kolkata Main, 23A-B, N. S. Road, Kolkata – 700001, A/c No.- 400010110000050
- (ii) UCO Bank, Branch: Yuba Bharati Kirangan, Salt Lake, Sector – 3, Kolkata – 700098, A/c No.- 18980100001833



#### **4. Miscellaneous unauthorised constructions over the East Kolkata Wetlands**

The Principal Secretary, Environment Department informed the Authority that a meeting was conducted on 02.12.2019 with the Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, and Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, District Magistrate North and South 24 Parganas, police authorities of Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, Kolkata Police Commissionerate and Baruipur Police District on this issue. It was decided that

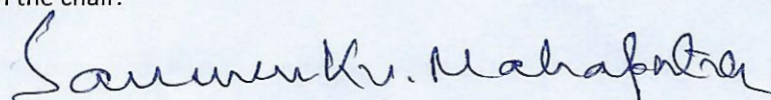
- The Police Authorities would expedite the processing of FIRs lodged against the violators within a stipulated time frame and take pro-active action in case of any complaints/FIRs within the EKW so that no further violation takes place.
- The District Administration and KMC would take initiatives for demolition and restoration work within their respective jurisdiction.
- The pending cases in courts would be pursued for early disposal.

The Authority took a serious note on the violation of the acts, rules pertaining to the wetlands. It was recommended that strict action would be taken against the violators by the concerned departments/agencies.

#### **5. Integrated Management Plan of the East Kolkata Wetlands**

The matter was discussed and it was decided that copy of earlier management plan prepared by the Wetland International for East Kolkata Wetlands of 2008 would be circulated among the expert members of State Wetlands Authority/EKWMA for their suggestion and recommendations for its updation. The Technical Committee constituted under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 would supervise the updation. The Environment Department will finalise the plan by 31st March, 2020.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.



(Prof. (Dr.) Soumen Kumar Mahapatra)  
Chairman, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority  
&  
Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department