

Minutes of 31st Meeting of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) held at the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal at Nabanna on 31.10.2023 at 5:00 p.m.

The list of attendees is attached.

The Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Environment chaired the meeting and welcomed all the attendees. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal co-chaired the meeting. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment made a presentation on the following agenda items:

1. Minutes of the 30th meeting of the EKWMA held on 03.06.2022 was confirmed.
2. Principal Secretary, Environment Deptt. briefed the members about different activities and initiatives being carried out by EKWMA:
 - Regarding enforcement of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Acts 2006 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 within the East Kolkata Wetlands area following actions have been taken;
 - a. 499 complaints have been lodged with concerned police stations.
 - b. 229 notices to stop work / show cause/ provide hearing opportunity have been issued.
 - c. 86 reasoned orders for demolition / restoration have been issued.
 - d. 8 demolition and restoration works in water bodies have been done.
 - In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble High Court dated 25.07.2023 in WPA No. 358 of 2023 in the matter of Priyanjana Majumdar & Anr. Vs State of West Bengal & Ors, East Kolkata Wetlands Vigilance Committee has been constituted by EKWMA for prevention and removal of illegal constructions / encroachments and for effective implementation of the management plan of EKW in conjunction with other State Departments such as Irrigation & Waterways, Fisheries, Panchayat & Rural Development, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, North & South 24 Parganas and the petitioner.
 - With a vision to educate people in the EKW and its surroundings including Kolkata regarding importance of East Kolkata Wetlands being a Ramsar site and a wetland of international importance, the following programs have been undertaken by EKWMA:
 1. Erecting banners and hoardings displaying message on importance of the EKW at different places.
 2. Arranging bicycle trip as part of the **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) on the occasion of World Environment Day to make people aware about the importance of wetlands and its ecosystems.
 3. Distributing leaflet among the local people with information about the East Kolkata Wetlands.
 - To demarcate the area of East Kolkata Wetlands on the field as shown in Schedule-II of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006, 1048 monolith pillars have

been erected along the boundary of the EKW through the District Administration. The work is still in progress.

- EKWMA selected two Civil Society Organizations namely, Amra Susama Jalprapat and BITAN Institute of Training Awareness and Networking for Solid Waste Management Project at Kheadaha II Gram Panchayat and Bamanghata Gram Panchayat within EKW area. The work is being executed.
- To improve livelihood and economy of wetland community in East Kolkata Wetlands, work on establishing a hatchery at 4no. bheri, Sector-IV has been undertaken through the NGO SCOPE. The work is to be done in convergence mode.
- As per the decision taken in the meeting held on 03.06.2022, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) is required to regularly monitor the water quality of water bodies in the East Kolkata Wetlands area at different locations. WBPCB shall submit the water quality monitoring report to the Member Secretary, EKWMA on a monthly basis. Accordingly, EKWMA has requested WBPCB to carry out regular testing of water quality and send the reports to EKWMA.
- It was decided in the meeting held on 03.06.2022 that to enforce prohibition on conversion of land use / change of character of land / construction of permanent nature within 37 Mouzas of EKW, an online flag / pop-up message would be incorporated in the existing property Registration Portal by Finance Department and in the Banglarbhumi Portal by the Land and Land Reforms Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Accordingly, Deptt. of L&LR has incorporated a pop-up message at the time of registration of land on wbreistration portal within EKW area.
- West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited has been intimated that electricity connection within the EKW area should not be given without clearance letter from the EKWMA.

3. The members were also briefed about activities being carried out for implementation of Integrated Management Plan of East Kolkata Wetlands as follows:

- One day stakeholders' workshop was organized on 13.01.2023 at Biswa Bangla Milan Mela Prangan. Officials of the concerned departments, NGOs working in the EKW and representatives of local communities participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to identify problems of the local communities and to resolve their problems through intervention of the concerned departments, NGOs and local communities.
- Installation of signages in different location of EKW area to generate awareness on the importance of the East Kolkata Wetlands is proposed in the IMP. Public Works Department has submitted a proposal for erection of 35 signages within EKW containing message for saving water bodies with a total estimate of Rs.3,06,24,879. The work has received

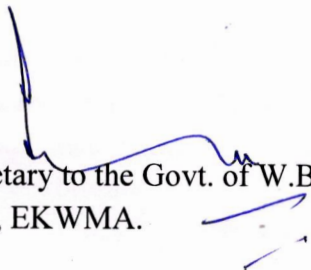
administrative and financial approval from Finance Department. A work order has been issued to PWD for execution of the work.


- The members were informed that IMP includes a component on conducting a study on heavy metal contamination in vegetables and fishes grown in the EKW area with possible remedial measures. EKWMA has requested IESWM for conducting the study and has released fund of Rs. 10 lakhs from 1st year of IMP.
- The IMP of EKWMA includes a component on establishment of a Nature Interpretation Centre. The Nature Interpretation Centre will be set up at Nalban Bheri under State Fisheries Development Corporation (SFDC), Sector-V, Salt lake. The facilities to be developed in the NIC include exhibits, viewing gallery, watchtower, cycling tracks / nature trails, waste recycling model of EKW, children's area, auditorium, souvenir shop etc. The members were briefed that an e-RFP for selecting an agency for preparation of DPR with design, drawing, estimation and supervision for establishment of NIC has already been uploaded on WB Tender Portal. The last date for submission of online bid is 28.11.2023.
- To maintain optimum level of water conducive to pisciculture and for overall water management within the bheries, canal de-siltation is imperative from time to time. There is a provision for de-siltation of 14 canals in the IMP of the EKW. As decided in the previous meeting, EKWMA has requested Water Resources Investigation & Development Department (WRI&DD) to execute de-siltation of 14 canals within the East Kolkata Wetlands area. Accordingly, WRI&DD has already started the work for de-siltation of two canals namely Bidyadhari and Tihuria.
- De-siltation of bheries is a major component of the IMP. EKWMA has released approx. 70 lakhs to State Fisheries Development Corporation to de-silt four ponds of Nalban Bheri. Moreover, WRIDD has been requested to execute bheri de-siltation further and to submit an estimate in this regard.
- A 300 KLD Leachate Treatment Plant had been set up at Dhapa by KMC. To maintain the level of effluents at the desirable limits of Leachate Treatment Plant at Dhapa by the KMC, a small financial support will be provided to KMC by the EKWMA, as per the budget provision of the IMP.
- To generate awareness on the importance of EKW and monitoring of EKW area, Environment Governed Integrated Organization (EnGIO) has been engaged for content generation of website and social media, publication of newsletter, design an EKW interactive app, community engagement meeting as proposed in IMP.
- As proposed in the IMP, a study on assessment of production of fishes, agriculture (paddy), horticulture, medicinal plants, floriculture in EKW has to be undertaken with the help of local community to increase the production of fishes, agriculture (paddy), horticulture,

medicinal plants, floriculture products etc. In this regard, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) had submitted a proposal which has been approved by the chairperson and work order would be issued shortly.

- i) A study on feasibility assessment of indigenous fish species and establishing fish stock at different bheries of EKW area is proposed to increase the production of indigenous fishes.
- ii) If production of indigenous fishes is feasible within the EKW area, four hatcheries involving Self Help Groups (SHG) is to be established as proposed in IMP. Accordingly, proposal submitted by CIFRI has been approved.
- For management of invasive fish species in EKW area, the proposal submitted by CIFRI has been approved.
- To document and sustain the diversity of waterfowls and smaller mammals in EKW area, proposal submitted by Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS) a civil society organization has been approved.
- Regarding upgradation of Laboratory and Wetland Monitoring Centre, fund has already been released for upgradation of the laboratory of IESWM for the purpose of monitoring of wetland. EKWMA has also sought a proposal from WEBEL for further upgradation of laboratory in GIS format for wetland monitoring.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.


Chief Secretary to the Govt. of W.B.
& Member, EKWMA.


Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge,
Environment Department, &
Chairperson, EKWMA

Following persons were present in the meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) held at the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal at Nabanna on 31.10.2023 at 5:00 p.m.:

1. Md. Ghulam Rabbani, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department, the Government of West Bengal and Chairperson, WBSWA & EKWMA
2. Dr. Hari Krishna Dwivedi, Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal and Vice-chairperson, WBSWA & Member EKWMA
3. Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
4. Dr. Manoj Pant, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance and Member, WBSWA.
5. Ms. Roshni Sen, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Member Secretary, WBSWA & EKWMA
6. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) & Chairman of the Technical Committee, WBSWA and Expert Member, EKWMA.
7. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Member Secretary, WBPCB and Member, WBSWA.
8. Shri Debol Roy, PCCF, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal & Member, WBSWA.(online)
9. Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources Investigation and Development & Department of Irrigation & Waterways and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
10. Smt. Nandini Chakravorty, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
11. Shri Binod Kumar, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation & Permanent Invitee, EKWMA.
12. Smt. Neelam Meena, Principal Secretary, Government of West Bengal and Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetlands Management.
13. Smt Smaraki Mahapatra, Secretary, Department of Land and Land Reforms & Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
14. Shri Avanindra Singh, Secretary, Department of Fisheries and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
15. Dr. P. Ulaganathan, Secretary, Department of Panchayats and Rural Development and Member, WBSWA & EKWMA
16. Ms. Srabani Dhor, Special Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Biotechnology.
17. Mr. Santhosha G.R., Additional Secretary, Department of Panchayat & Rural Development
18. Smt. Tripti Sah, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment and Member Secretary, West Bengal Biodiversity Board and Member, WBSWA and Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA.
19. Shri Sharad Kumar Dwivedi, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas & Permanent Invitee, EKWMA. (online)
20. Shri Sumit Gupta, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas & Permanent Invitee, EKWMA. (online)
21. Smt. Pausali Pahari, Senior Law Officer, Department of Environment.
22. Mr. Zulfikar Hasan, PS to MIC, Department of Environment.

23. Ms. Subrata B. Dutta, Sr. Scientist, Department of Science and Technology and Biotechnology.
24. Prof. Gupinath Bhandari, Expert Member, WBSWA.
25. Dr. Srikanta Samanta, Expert Member, WBSWA.
26. Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Expert Member, WBSWA.
27. Dr. Neera Sen Sarkar, Expert Member, EKWMA.
28. Dr. Saptarshi Biswas, Expert Member, EKWMA.
29. Dr. Debarati Das, Expert Member, EKWMA.
30. Dr. Subhasish Chattopadhyaya, CME (SWM), KMC.
31. Mr. Robert Lee - Representative of M/s Greentech Farms & Agro Private Limited
32. Dr. Nitai Kundu,- Representative of M/s Greentech Farms & Agro Private Limited
33. Mr. Naresh Agarwal - Representative of M/s Kushal Agrigenix LLP
34. Mr. Kushal Agarwal - Representative of M/s Kushal Agrigenix LLP
35. Mr. Aditya Goswami - Representative of M/s Kushal Agrigenix LLP
36. Mr. Sanjay Sharma - Representative of M/s Kushal Agrigenix LLP