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Minutes of the 6th Meeting of West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBSCZMA) held on 28th July, 2020 in the Department of Environment, Govt. of W.B.

The following members of WBSCZMA / officials attended the meeting-

1. Mr Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary, Environment Department – Chairman
2. Mr Niraj Singhal, Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department - Member Secretary
3. Mr KJS Cheema, Principal Secretary, Sundarban Affairs Department - Member
4. Mr Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Public Health Engineering – Member (attended online)
5. Dr Parthasarathi Chakraborty – Former Chief Scientist, Geoinformatics & RS Cell, Department of Science and Technology- Member (attended online)
6. Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Sr. Environment Officer – Special Invitee
7. Md Abdul Gani, Special Secretary, Sundarban Affairs Department - Special Invitee
8. Dr Sugata Hazra, Former Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University – Special Invitee (attended online)
9. Mr S. Mardi, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB - Special invitee
10. Mr Arindam Mani, Additional Director of Survey - Special invitee (attended online)

The following were present on behalf of the Project Proponent -

1. Mr Apurba Bhowmik – Superintending Engineer , PW (Roads) Directorate
2. Mr Debabrata Dhal, Executive Engineer, South 24 Parganas Division, PW (Roads) Directorate
3. Mr Debasish Sengupta, Ultratech Environmental Consultancy & Laboratory (environmental consultant)
4. Mr Bappaditya Nath, Ultratech Environmental Consultancy & Laboratory (environmental consultant)

The Principal Secretary, Environment Department and Chairman, WBSCZMA chaired the meeting and welcomed all the participants. After a brief round of introductions, the Project Proponent was requested to make a presentation on their proposal – “Construction of Bridge over Bidya river connecting Godkhali and Gosaba Bazar in the district of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal”. The project was presented in detail by the Project Proponent through a presentation along with maps.

The salient points of the discussion can be summarized as follows:

- i. It was stated that out of the total project area 2.853 % of area lies in CRZ-IA, 1.466 % in CRZ-IB, 4.564 % in NDZ, 25.877 % in CRZ-IV B and 65.228% is in non-CRZ area. The project proponent was asked to state the total length of the bridge, length of bridge over the river, total number of piers proposed in the river and the diameter of each pier. The schematic diagram of piers (with dimensions) across the river should be provided.
- ii. As the area is vulnerable to natural hazards like cyclones and the river water is saline, the project proponent was asked to highlight seismic safety features of the proposed bridge as per the latest report of Geological Survey of India keeping in mind the possibility that the intensity of natural disasters including cyclonic storms and tidal surge hazards may increase in future. Protective measures against salinity too need to

be informed so that salinity of sea water does not corrode the engineering structures of the bridge. For this purpose, the latest soil salinity figures also need to be incorporated.

- iii. One of the experts pointed out that entire Sunderban Biosphere Reserve has been taken out of CRZ-I by MoEFCC which needs to be verified & incorporated accordingly.
- iv. Highest inundation level in the area and the height of the proposed bridge need to be mentioned.
- v. Since the bridge would require construction of piers on the river and the silt load of rivers in Sunderban area is very high, there will be possibility of accumulation of sand because of obstruction of flow at the piers. In order to protect the ecological health of river, the expert members advised the Project Proponent to take the help of River Research Institute to properly plan the width and spacing of the piers minimising the impact on river flow and also to take adequate bank protection measures.
- vi. The Project Proponent will submit the supporting documents to establish that the present alternative has minimum adverse ecological impact in the area.
- vii. For the ground water table, authenticated data from SWID is to be used in the proposal by the Project Proponent.
- viii. The Project Proponent was asked to clearly state that no mangrove trees would be felled. It was stated by project proponent that the compensatory plantation for the project has already been completed based on which the felling permission for trees in non-mangrove areas has also been obtained from the Forest Department of the State Government.

The project proponent is advised to make a revised submission accordingly.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.



Principal Secretary
Department of Environment
&
Chairman, WBSCZMA