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MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF RECONSTITUTED WEST BENGAL STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WBSCZMA) HELD ON 23RD MARCH, 2018 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, PRANISAMPAD BHABAN, SALT LAKE

The following members/officials attended the meeting :

1. Shri Arnab Roy, IAS, Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Environment & **Chairman**, WBSCZMA
2. Smt. Sukti Sita Bhattacharyya, Joint Secretary, Fisheries Department
3. Dr. R. P. Saini, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, GoWB
4. Prof. Amalesh Chowdhury, Ex-Head of the Deptt., Marine Science, Calcutta University
5. Dr. Parthasarathi Chakrabarti, Former Chief Scientist, Geo-informatics and RS Cell, Deptt. of Science & Technology, GoWB
6. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University
7. Shri Sandipan Mukherjee, IFS, Chief Environment Officer & **Member Secretary**, WBSCZMA

The following officials attended the meeting as invitees:

1. Smt. Barnali Biswas, Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM)
2. Shri Siddhartha Roy, IFS, Senior Environment Officer of the Department
3. Sri R. Jakher, IFS, Addl. Project Director, ICZMP & Addl. Director, IESWM
4. Sri Debajyoti Bhomik, Consultant, GIS group of IESWM and his team
5. Smt. Amrita Ganguly, M/s. KPMG
6. Smt. Sohini ghosh Mukherjee, M/s. KPMG

*The officials/Consultants/Representatives of the **Indian Coast Guard** attended the meeting*

PROCEEDINGS

The Chairman welcomed the members, invitees and the Project Proponent and initiated the discussion after introduction amongst them. The following issues were discussed *ad seriatim*:

1. CRZ recommendation for Defence Project at Mouza-Lakshmipur Abad, P.S. – Namkhana, South 24 Parganas – by Indian Coast Guard

Indian Coast Guard station at Frezerganj was commissioned on 14th April, 2014 as a forward operating base for undertaking coast guard operation deep into the Bay of Bengal. The main purpose of the station is to enhance maritime surveillance of the international border with Bangladesh. Presently, Indian Coast Guard hovercrafts are being deployed from Haldia for surveillance of Frezerganj, Jambu Dweep and other sensitive shallow water areas around sand heads and off Sundarban areas. Due to sensitivity and strategic location of the area and limited endurance of hovercraft deployed from Haldia, it was a necessity for Indian Coast Guard to commission a forward operating base. Hence, Indian Coast Guard came up with a proposal for construction of a

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hovercraft station at Frezerganj, Namkhana for surveillance of the maritime border with Bangladesh. The entire project was discussed in details by the Project Proponent through their consultants using Power Point presentation along with maps. It was agreed that the project needs waterfront for acting as a hub for coastal security and SAR operations for which land has already been allocated to them. During discussion of the project the following anomalies emerged for which proper clarification and amendments were needed in the project proposal prior to final recommendation:-

- 1) Though the Coast Guard Project would require fresh water of 21 KLD and flushing water requirement is around 9 KLD and the total waste water generation will come 24 KLD. They will have a sewage treatment plant of 25 KLD which would produce treated water of 23 KLD and out of that 15 KLD of recycled water would be used for landscaping and flushing water requirement. The proposal also contained that the fresh water requirement would be met from groundwater through deep tube well. Though the permission of deep tube well has been provided to them by the Gangasagar-Bakkhali Development Authority as well as the State Water Investigation Directorate but the experts of the WBSCZMA apprehended that the sweet water aquifer would be at a depth of 300 meters or more. So, the expert committee proposed, if rainwater can be stored and used instead and supplemented by ground water. The Project Proponent (PP) also incorporated rainwater harvesting for ground water recharge in the area. But the experts were of the opinions that as the top aquifers in the area are all brackish in nature, so the groundwater recharge would be a futile attempt. Rather, impounding of rainwater and using of the same after filtration would be more appropriate in the area having proximity to the sea.
- 2) During discussion, some discrepancies were noticed in the list of zooplankton and phytoplankton as well as the mangrove species. The consultant was advised by the expert members to go through the entire list and amend the same.
- 3) While going through the maps prepared by the Anna University it was noticed that there is a creek shown towards the western side the project land. But field survey report of WBSCZMA depicts that there is no creek on that place rather it was a damaged metallised road bordered by borrow pit (nayanjuli). So, the PP was requested to get the map rectified through the authorized mapping agency.

The authority thus was of the opinion that the project can be recommended in principle on the location but would be recommended to MoEF&CC, GoI after submission of the project incorporating the points mentioned above.

2. Finalization of Coastal Zone Management Plan and maps

The Coastal Zone Management Plan and maps as finalized by the Working Group and thereafter Steering Committee were placed before the WBSCZMA. The process of formulation of the Maps and Plans were informed to the members. The GIS personnel of Institute of Environmental Studies & Wetland Management (IESWM) displayed the details of the CZMP maps prepared.

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The Authority was also appraised of the following matters:

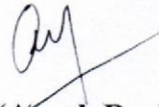
- 1) NCSCM has supplied the HTL for the maps while LTL maps were drawn by IESWM. The Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) maps were also sent by NCSCM. Some mistakes were found and these were corrected and NCSCM was also appraised.
- 2) The future development requirements and urbanization trends were incorporated by designating all built up areas and areas under jurisdiction of municipalities or development authorities as CRZ-II.
- 3) The proposed areas of Tajpur Port & Kulpi Marine Industrial Cluster along with other projects such as the proposed Hovercraft station of Indian Coast Guard; regassification installation area of M/s. H-Energy, Eco-tourism project at Jharkhali etc. were indicated on the maps.

On going through the maps and after detailed discussion, the members approved the procedure and contents of the map. It was found that the maps being printed in A2 size papers would not be in the actual scale of 1:25,000. So, it was decided to incorporate in the report that the maps on A2 size paper are not true to scale and is being sent for reference purpose only. A1 size maps would also be prepared.

3. Proposal for declaring IESWM as technical secretariat of WBSCZMA to provide technical assistance in all CRZ related issues

- The Chairman proposed that IESWM should be declared as the technical secretariat of WBSCZMA for providing all sorts of technical assistance related to CRZ issues in addition to their own duty. A notification to that effect would have to be issued by the Department of Environment.

As there was nothing more to discuss, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.

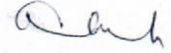


(Arnab Roy)
Principal Secretary
Department of Environment
&
Chairman, WBSCZMA

No. 814 /EN/T-II-4/013/2015/1(9)

Date: 04/04/2018

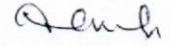
1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, GoWB.
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, GoWB.
3. The Secretary, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department, GowB.
4. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, GoWB.
5. Prof. Amalesh Chowdhury, Ex-Head of the Deptt., Marine Science, Calcutta University
6. Shri Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Deptt. of Public Health Engineering, GoWB-
7. Dr. Parthasarathi Chakrabarti, Former Chief Scientist, Geoinformatics and RS Cell, Deptt. Of Science & Technology, GoWB
8. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University
9. Sr. P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Department of Environment

Member Secretary
WBSCZMA

No. 814 /EN/T-II-4/013/2015/1(10)

Date: 04/04/2018

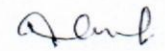
Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to Director, IESWM.

Member Secretary
WBSCZMA

No. 814 /EN/T-II-4/013/2015/1(11)

Date: 04/04/2018

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to: Mr. Avijit Dasgupta, Commandant, Commanding Officer, Indian Coast Guard, ICGS Frazerganj, Vill : Frazerganj, P.O. : Lakshmipur Pravartak Ashram, South 24-Parganas, PIN : 743357

Member Secretary
WBSCZMA

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