

WEST BENGAL STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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To:

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
4. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
5. Prof. Amalesh Chowdhury, Ex – Head of the Dept., Marine Science, Calcutta University – **Member**
6. Sri Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Public Health Engineering, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
7. Dr. Parthasarathi Chakraborty, Former Chief Scientist, Geo – informatics and RS Cell, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of W.B. – **Member**
8. The Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University – **Member**
9. Prof. Sugata Hazra, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata-700032.
10. Mr. Arindam Mani, Addl. Director of Survey, West Bengal Survey Building, Gopalnagar Road, Alipore, Kolkata – 700027.
11. Ms. Subrata B Dutta, Sr. Scientist, Department of Science and Technology & Biotechnology, Bikas Bhawan, 4th floor, Kolkata – 700091.
12. Sri Biplab Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Secretary (Works), Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Jalsampad Bhawan, 3rd floor, Kolkata – 700091.
13. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
14. The Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management.
15. The Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs. Highway division, PW(Roads) Directorate, P-16, India Exchange Place Extn., 1st floor. Email – ee24parganas@gmail.com

Sir,

Please find herewith the minutes of the 9th meeting of WBSCZMA held on 09.11.2020 regarding CRZ clearance for the project of bridge over Bidya river proposed by PWD for your kind information and necessary action.


(Niraj Singhal, IFS)

Chief Environment Officer

Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal &
Member Secretary, WBSCZMA

Minutes of the 9th meeting of WBSCZMA, to examine the CRZ clearance for the project of bridge over Bidya river proposed by PWD, held on 09.11.20 at the Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

The virtual meeting of WBSCZMA was held on 09.11.20 at the conference room of Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Pranisampad Bhawan, 5th floor, LB - 2, Sector -III, Saltlake, Kolkata.

The meeting was attended by the following WBSCZMA officials:

1. Mr Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary, Environment Department – Chairman
2. Mr Niraj Singhal, Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department – Member Secretary
3. Mr Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Public Health Engineering, Expert Member, WBSCZMA
4. Dr Parthasarathi Chakraborty - Former Chief Scientist, Geoinformatics & RS Cell, Department of Science and Technology, Expert Member, WBSCZMA
5. Dr. Amallesh Chowdhury, Expert Member, WBSCZMA
6. Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Senior Environment Officer - Special Invitee
7. Md Abdul Gani, Special Secretary, Sundarban Affairs Department
8. Mrs Barnali Biswas, Director IESWM- Special invitee - attended online
9. Mr Siddhartha Roy, CZM consultant, IESWM- Special Invitee
10. Mr Chayan Gayen, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB - Special Invitee

The following persons attended the meeting on behalf of the project proponent i.e. S-24 Parganas Highway Division P.W. (Roads):

1. Mr AK Saha, Chief Engineer
2. Mr Apurba Bhowmik - Superintending Engineer, PW (R) Dte
3. Mr Debabrata Dhal- Executive Engineer, South 24 Parganas Division, PW (R) Dte
4. Mr Debasish Sengupta, Ultratech Environmental Consultancy & Laboratory (environmental consultant)
5. Mr Roshan Shrivastab, Ultratech Environmental Consultancy & Laboratory (environmental consultant)

The Principal Secretary welcomed all the participants and recalled that the project proponent was requested to address certain issues on the proposal i.e. 'Construction of bridge over Bidya river connecting Godkhali and Gosaba Bazar in the district of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal', raised in the earlier meeting held on 28.07.2020. The project proponent had submitted their reply and was asked to give a presentation on it.

Thereafter the project proponent gave a presentation which included the following-

1. The diagram of the pier to be put up on the riverbed was submitted. The diameter of the cylindrical pier would be 8.5 m above the riverbed.
2. The distance between two piers would be 106 m which is greater than IWAI requirement of 100 m. The proposal has received clearance from IWAI.
3. It was confirmed that no mangrove would be cut for the project.
4. Three alternative alignments were shown and it was told that alignment 1 (the northern most, passing over confluence of river Bidya with other tributary River Durgaduani) was chosen because it was found to be most environment friendly, as it would entail least cutting of trees and would take minimum time of construction thereby causing least pollution.

After the presentation was over, the following issues were raised by the Expert Members-

1. Sandbar formation (along with resulting bank erosion) is a critical factor which needs to be looked into while planning.
2. The project area has peculiar geo-morphology where river course and land area change with time.
3. It would be prudent to consult Geological Survey of India (GSI) which has done a recent study on the stability of land features in the area under consideration.
4. As per the Expert Members, Alignment 2 appeared to be more optimum option rather than Alignment I which had been chosen by the Project Proponent. Alignment 1 is at the confluence of two rivers where the chance of sand deposition is maximum.
5. A reputed institute like Riverine Research Institute (RRI) or Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology, Shibpur (IEST) who have expertise in dealing with such projects should be consulted for advice on the width and spacing of the piers for minimising the impact on river flow and adequate bank protection measures.

Project proponent informed the house that they had already approached RRI, a joint field inspection with them is in progress and a report for the same shall be made available shortly to the WBSCZMA.

After detailed discussion, it was decided that RII should be explicitly asked by the project proponent to look into and give their comments/suggestions on the following points -

- i. Formation of sand bars and resulting bank erosion.
- ii. Bank protection measures to be taken up- and down- stream of the river on both sides.
- iii. Out of the three alternative alignments which would be most environment-friendly and structurally sound, given the peculiar deltaic features of the location.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.



(Vivek Kumar, IAS)
Chairman, WBSCZMA