

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ridge Management Board held on
23.12.2002

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 23.12.2002 at 5:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. List of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

1. Protection & Fencing of Central Ridge Area

Shri Subramanyam Chief Engineer, CPWD informed that the Ministry of Urban Development has not yet sanctioned the estimate for fencing the boundary of the Central Ridge Area, since the CPWD intends to handover the Ridge area to the Forest Deptt. Govt. of NCT of Delhi, for preservation & protection purposes. It was decided that in case the Central Ridge is handed over to the Forest Deptt., it should be done so along with the staff for efficient management purposes, as the Forest department is inadequately staffed and the department is already burdened with manifold responsibilities. The Chairman concluded with the observation that responsibility to manage the activities of the Ridge Area will continue to rest with the CPWD authorities until and unless the Ridge Area is formally transferred to the Forest Deptt. along with the staff.

The Secy. (Environment & Forests) informed that CPWD had started construction work of permanent nature within Mahavir Jayanti Park in Central Ridge Area and a few trees have also been felled illegally in proposed construction area. The Chief Engineer and Director (Horticulture), CPWD informed that the construction works were taken up in Mahavir Jayanti Park as it is not a part of the Ridge Area since the CPWD's claim was accepted by the Forest Settlement Officer. The Conservator of Forests informed that the Ridge Area is presently notified under section 4 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and therefore,

any non-forestry activity in such area is not permitted as per provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. If CPWD desires, they can seek clarification from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, in this regard.

The members of the Ridge Management Board were of the unanimous view that since Mahavir Jayanti Park is part of the Ridge Area, CPWD needs to take a holistic view on any kind of development work especially when DG, CPWD is a member of the RMB constituted by the Supreme Court. All the Ridge managing agencies were asked, not to take any action that would deteriorate the basic character of the ridge since RMB is being criticized at various forums like Bhurelal Committee etc. for not being effective in protecting the Ridge.

2. Shifting of Colonies from Wild Life Sanctuaries to alternative sites

It was informed that the matter of relocation of three colonies outside the Bhatti Sanctuary is already in the Supreme Court and the order/direction of the court is still awaited. The Secretary (E & F) informed that Public Accounts Committee has criticized the Forest Department for not relocating the colonies outside Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary even after paying of a sum of Rs.10.70 Crores to the Slum and J.J. Department, in September 1996.

3. Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station

The representative of L & D O informed that since detailed information is not readily available about shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station. Dr. K.K. Paul, Spl. Commissioner of Police informed that they require 1.1 ha. land for shifting of Maurice

Nagar Police Station, which may be made available at Majnu Ka Teela by L & DO. The Chairman observed that the L & DO/DDA should survey the area occupied for Police-Lines behind Daulat Ram College and Majnu Ka Teela and exchange the records with Police Deptt. and settle the issue of shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station on priority, as it is a long pending issue.

4. Final Notification of the Ridge

The FSO informed that out of 168 claims 167 claims have been settled and the remaining one settlement is under process. He informed that the list of settlement of claims is being sent to the Forest Department for necessary notification u/s 20 of IFA 1927. The Conservator of Forests cum Member Secretary of the Board informed that the FSO should provide settlement proceedings of all cases so that the same may be processed for appeal, if required. The Chairman desired that all settlements should be processed by the FSO within one month.

5. Demarcation in the disputed portion of Southern Ridge

DC (South) informed that the Govt. of Haryana has not yet accepted the reference point in the disputed portion of the interstate Border in Asola Area. The Chairman requested the Divisional Commissioner to take up this issue with his counterpart for approval of Haryana Government.

6. Ridge Area Notification

The Secretary (Environment & Forest) informed that the Ridge Area as notified under Section 4 of Indian (Forest) Act, 1927 is 7784 hectares approximately and as per

the information received from Ridge Area managing agencies, the total area of the Ridge is 7790.85 hectares. Of this, the area notified for South Central Ridge is 633 ha (approx) whereas the actual area in possession of DDA is only 403.5 ha, which is around 200 hectare less than the area notified. It appears that this may be due to large area under encroachment. The Chairman suggested that concerned agencies should recheck and confirm the exact area under the Ridge within a month.

7. NanakSar Satsang Sabha parking of vehicles

It was decided that the Authorities of MCD will clear the area presently occupied due to dumping of Malba to provide space for parking of vehicles on full moon days and annual function day only, at Nanak Sar Satsang Sabha.

8. Request from MCD from Sanitary Landfill site in Southern Ridge at Bhatti

The Commissioner, MCD informed that the study conducted by DDA estimated that the garbage generation in Delhi is presently 7,000 metric tonnes per day, which is likely to go up to 15,000 metric tons within next ten years. As per the preliminary study conducted by the Santec Company of Birla Group and Environmentalists group from Canada, two pits of Bhatti i.e. pit no. 8 & 10 may be useful for dumping the garbage for 40 to 45 years. The MCD is planning to segregate the garbage at house level so that nothing hazardous/noxious will be dumped into the pit and only biodegradable garbage is allowed for dumping into these pits. The Secretary (E&F) informed that the pits identified are within the Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary and also within the Southern Ridge Area notified under section 4 of Indian (Forest) Act, 1927.

Sh. Ravi Aggarwal, Member of the Board objected to the proposal of using these pits for dumping of garbage. He said that it is bound to contaminate the ground water and deteriorate the ambient air quality due to plying of thousands of vehicles for dumping of garbage into the pits. He also emphasized that this proposal shall have serious repercussion on the basic ecology of the area. He also raised doubt on the proposed claim of MCD about segregation of garbage at house level.

Shri Ajay Mahajan, Member of the Board, also raised objection to the dumping of garbage, which would damage/pollute under ground water.

The Chairman was of the opinion that the future scenario of garbage of Delhi is very alarming and needs immediate attention. She suggested that the Commissioner MCD should arrange for environment impact study by competent authority on his proposal of dumping of garbage into the pits, for consideration.

9. Bapu Asaramji Ashram

The Chairman desired that L & DO should settle the issue on priority on their own, in view of the Supreme Court directives issued to the L & DO, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India.

On conclusion of discussions on agenda items, Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Member requested for constitution of a Sub Committee to identify the suitable species for plantation in the Ridge Area, so that it may be recommended to all agencies involved in management of the activities in the Ridge Area for plantation purposes to ensure increase in the density of forest cover of suitable species in the Ridge Area.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants who attended the Meeting of Ridge Management Board held on 23.12.2002
at 5:30 P.m.

1.	Sh. Ashok Kumar	Divisional Commissioner
2.	Sh. S.S. Yadav	D.C. (South) Revenue
3.	Smt. Naini Jayaseelan	Secretary, (Environment, Forest & Wildlife)
4.	Sh. A.K. Sinha	Conservator of Forests
5.	Sh. H.S. Dhillon	Jt. Director, D.D.A
6.	Sh. Ajay Mahajan	Kalpavriksh (NGO)
7.	Sh. R. Aggarwal	Shristi (NGO)
8.	Sh. S.K. Jha	A.D.M. (Hq.)
9.	Smt. Archana Singh,	Dy. Conservator of Foests (Central)
10.	Sh. A.K. Shukla	Dy. Conservator of Forests (H. Q.)
11.	Sh. Subhash Chandra	Dy. Conservator of Forests (West)
12.	Sh. D.P. Singh	Director (Hort.)
13.	Sh. S.P. Singh	Director (Hort.)
14.	Sh. R.N.S. Tyagi	Director (Hort.), C.P.W.D.
15.	Sh. R.L. Singla	Building Officer, L & DO.
16.	Sh. V.N. Tripathi	Dy. Dir. L& Do.
17.	Sh. S.C.S. Saini	Director (H)S
18.	Sh. B.D. Ram	Director (Hort.) N
19.	Sh. R. Subramanyam	C.E. ND Z-1
20.	Smt. Savita Bhandari,	Director (Landscape)
21.	Sh. A. Panensu	Additional Commissioner, MCD.
22.	Sh. K.K. Paul	Sp. CP/Adm. Officer Police
23.	Sh. Rakesh Mehta	Commissioner, MCD.
24.	Sh. Shashi Kant Mehta	Dy. Commissioner
25.	Sh. Uttam Waswani	JDCSE/ MCD
26.	Sh. V.K. Mehrotra	Director L & B