

Minutes of the Ridge Management Board meeting held on 29.04.2005 in the Conference Room of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 29.04.2005 at 300 Hours. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The list of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

The Board reviewed action taken report on the directions given in the last meeting held on 03.09.2004. Thereafter the agenda items were discussed and the decisions taken in the meeting is as follows:

1. Protection & fencing of Central Ridge:

L&DO has issued a notification on 16.05.2004 transferring the area of Central Ridge of 864 ha under the management of CPWD to Forest Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi for management and protection, on as is where basis. Secretary (E&F) apprised that in pursuance of the directions of the RMB in its last meeting on 03.09.2004, the Forest Deptt. has taken over 423 ha area of Central Ridge from CPWD and only such area has been taken over which is free from encumbrances. L&DO is yet to hand over encroached area after vacation of encroachment.

Secretary (E&F) apprised RMB that the Forest Deptt. has already deployed 25 ex-servicemen and some regular field staff for patrolling & protection of the area. The malba has been removed along the roads and plantation is being taken up in the ridge area especially along the roadside. Salwan School is also associated in maintenance and plantation of the area. The proposal for providing fencing of vulnerable areas is under process.

(As L&DO was not present in the meeting Chairman, RMB desired that he would write to Secretary (UD), Govt. of India regarding displeasure of RMB on absence of L&DO from such an important meeting and for ensuring presence of L&DO in future. Secretary (UD), Govt. of India would also be requested to direct L&DO for handing over of the balance area of the Central Ridge to the Forest Deptt., Delhi after making it free from encroachment.)

(Action: L&DO & Conservator of Forests)

2. Unfiltered water supply to Budha Jayanti Park:

Regarding proposal of CPWD for unfiltered water supplier at Budha Jayanti Park Chairman enquired about the present watering facility at the Budha Jayanti Park. Representative of CPWD informed that presently four boring well exist in the park and some rainwater harvesting ponds are also available. Chairman, RMB directed to strengthen existing water harvesting system, which can be used for watering of plants.

RMB was of the opinion that as CPWD has been unable to provide Environment Impact Assessment Report for their project in spite of direction of RMB since last 3-4 meetings. Thus the proposal, therefore is dropped.

(Action: CPWD)

3. **Development of Mahavir Vanasthali:**

RMB was informed that the Report on action taken by the DG, CPWD against official responsible has not been received so far. Also, no proposal for obtaining approval of Central Govt. under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received in spite of reminders.

It was decided that Chairman, RMB would write to Secretary, UD, Govt. of India in this regard for issuing necessary directions to concern officers for submitting the action taken report on the decision taken in the last meeting.

(Action: CPWD, UD, GOI)

4. **Unauthorized construction in the Central Ridge near Dasghara village by DDA and dumping of malba on large scale:**

VC, DDA in the last meeting was requested to ensure compliance of the orders of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. It was informed by DCF (West) that following progress has been made:

- a. Crematorium removed.
 - b. Pakka path broken.
 - c. Malba removed.
 - d. About 180 numbers of pits of size 4'x4' has been dug but plantation is yet to be taken.
 - e. 20' wide road has been left for the approach to the village.
 - f. Kachha path exist as usual.
- Restoration of Water channel has not been done.

As regard to Park of R-Block Rajinder Nagar, it was decided in the previous RMB meeting that the VC, DDA would take a meeting with officials of DDA, Forest Deptt. and the representatives of NGOs namely Kalpvriksh and Srishti. If required an inspection may also be carried out. The Director (Landscape) informed that a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of VC, DDA for compliance of the direction. The minutes of the meeting of said meeting have not been received. DDA representative was requested to inform the decision taken in this regard for apprising RMB in the next meeting.

Representative of DDA informed that plantation will be taken up in the coming monsoon and all the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court will be followed.

(Action: DDA)

5. **Shifting of colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to alternative site:**

Shifting of three colonies namely Sanjay Nagar, Balbir Nagar and Indira Nagar has not been done by MCD. The Forest Deptt. has deposited the necessary funds to the tune of Rs. 10.71 crores with the MCD during 1996-97.

Addl. Commissioner, Slum & JJ, MCD informed that on 14.09.2004, I.A. No. 1821 of 2002, Rajni Kothari & Ors. Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors. in writ

petition (c) NO. 4677 of 1985, M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India & Ors. was listed for hearing in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, wherein it was observed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that no relocation work be done until the next date of hearing. The case has not come up for next hearing in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India till date. MCD authority informed that due to stay by the Supreme Court shifting of colonies could not be taken up as soon as the stay order will be vacated colonies will be shifted out.

RMB has desired that Hon'ble Court may be apprised that the relocation was to be done as per Hon'ble Court's directions and the site for relocation of these JJ clusters at Bawana has been made ready.

(Action: Forest & Slum & JJ, MCD)

6. **Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station:**

RMB was informed that Police Station has already been shifted out and DDA has already taken over the possession of the area in the Northern Ridge, which is looked after by DDA. DDA has been requested to clean the area vacated from the Police Station and undertake plantation in vacant areas.

Delhi Police representative informed that although Police Station has been shifted out, alternative land for Police Station has not been allotted by DDA. DDA was requested to look into the matter for allotment of alternative land to Delhi Police.

(Action: DDA)

7. **Final notification of the Ridge:**

RMB was informed that three cases are pending with the FSO and appeals pending with the appellate authority has not been decided yet. However, one appeal has been decided in favour of appeal.

FSO informed RMB that all the cases would be settled before the next meeting.

(Action: FSO & Div. Commissioner)

8. **Demarcation in disputed portion of Southern Ridge:**

Survey of India has given the Demarcation of the Inter- State boundary between G-6 and G-10 of the total length of 1150.35 M. Out of that 466 M length is encroachment, 267 M is under stay by High Court of Punjab & Haryana. Construction of wall has been completed in 418 M.

RMB desired that demarcation should be completed as soon as the stay of Court is vacated and proper fencing of the area should be done for protection from encroachment and illegal mining.

(Action: Dy. Commissioners (South and Southwest), Forest Deptt. & IFCD)

9. Status of encroachment in Southern Ridge:

In earlier meetings RMB desired that the Gaon Sabha Land of 14 villages falling in the Southern Ridge notified vide notification No. F1 (29)/PA/DC/95 dated 02.04.1996

RMB was informed that out of 4285.86 ha notified area 3039 ha has been transferred to Forest Deptt. and remaining 1246.86 ha area is yet to be handed over to the Forest Deptt. RMB was apprised that to resolve the issue a committee under the Chairmanship of DC, South has been constituted to looking into various issues and to expedite reconciliation of records of Notified Gaon Sabha lands and arranging for ground demarcation where demarcation is not done/ unclear. The committee meeting was held on 30.03.2005 and it was decided to take up case each village-wise.

DC (South) informed that the reconciliation of the area will be completed within 4 months' time and then only the ground demarcation will be possible. The survey and demarcation of the entire area will take more time and for this task a dedicated team may be made to complete the task in a time bound manner. RMB directed that matter may be followed up so that the same is completed in the earliest possible time.

(Action: Conservator of Forests, DC (South))

10 Proposal of MCD for using mining pits No. 2, 6, 10 & 12 at Bhatti Mines for sanitary land fill.

MCD has submitted a proposal for using mining pits No. 2,6,10 & 12 at Bhatti Mines for sanitary landfill along with an EIA Study. MCD Commissioner apprised the RMB on the salient points of the proposal and a presentation was made by Prof. Murty in this regard and on the EIA study.

Conservator of Forests informed that these pits are the part of Bhatti area notified as Wildlife Sanctuary vide Notification No. DCF/90-91/1382-91 dated 15.04.1991 so it will not be possible to allow it as a land fill site.

RMB in view of serious problem of scientific disposal of municipal solid waste in Delhi due to fast growing population of Delhi agreed to accord in principle approval for the proposal of MCD for using the 4 pits No. 2, 6, 10 & 12 as SLF subject to obtaining all necessary approval under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and meeting following conditions:-

1. It should not fall in the width of air funnel area.
2. Area for proposed landfill should be properly demarcated and there should be a defined area and road/ path for movement of vehicles carrying the landfill.

(Action: Conservator of Forests & MCD)

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11. Encroachment in Central Ridge by Springdales School

Representative of L&DO informed that the Springdales School had opened three gates in the strip of Central Ridge side. School authorities have been directed to close the gates but only two gates have been closed and third gate will also be closed in due course. Chairman, RMB desired to write a letter to Secretary, UD for immediate action in this regard.

(Action: L&DO, Ministry of UD)

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.