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Minutes of Meeting of the Ridge Management Board held

19.07.2002

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 19.07.2002 at 5:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. List of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the new Members Sh. Ravi Aggarwal from 'Shristi' and Sh. Ajay Mahajan of 'Kalpavriksh' who were co-opted as the members of the Board.

The following items on the agenda were thereafter discussed and the decisions taken on these items are as below:

① Protection and Fencing of Central Ridge:

The Director (Hort.) C.P.W.D. informed the Ridge Management Board that sanction for the estimates of fencing of Ridge was yet to be received from Ministry of Urban Development, Govt of India. The Chairman took a serious view on the undue delay on the part of C.P.W.D., and directed that matter be taken up with the Secretary, Urban Development, Govt of India.

Instances of dumping of malba and polythene bags in the Central Ridge, specially along Shankar Road and near Manavsthal School was brought to the notice of Chairperson. The Chairperson, directed that a joint inspection of the Central Ridge be carried out by the Director (Hort.), C.P.W.D., and Conservator of Forests and report be submitted immediately, preferably within fifteen days.

2. Shifting of colonies from Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary to alternative site:

The Chief Engineer (Slum & JJ) informed the Board that notices have already been served on the residents of three colonies and actual shifting would begin from 6th August. The entire shifting would take about a month as atleast 5000 families are required to be shifted to the rehabilitation site. The Chief Secretary, directed that the Slum & JJ Deptt., should ensure that minimum facilities like power and water should be provided as per the rehabilitation plan.

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3. Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station:

The Board was informed that the proposed site at Dheerpur was found by the Delhi Police to be outside the jurisdiction of the Maurice Nagar Police Station. The Joint Director, D.D.A., informed the Board that D.D.A., has no other suitable alternative land which can be allotted for Maurice Nagar Police Station. Chairperson directed that either DDA, or L & DO or Delhi Police should locate an alternative site for the Police and Wireless Station failing which the Board will take decision on its own in order to implement the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order.

4. Interim Order Dtd. 19.09.2001:

The Director (Hort.) C.P.W.D., confirmed that the Mandir which was on public land in Ridge has been removed as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order.

5. Final Notification of the Ridge :

The Divisional Commissioner informed the Ridge Management Board that a total of 140 objections were received by Forest Settlement Officer and all except one in Central Ridge have been settled. The Board directed the Conservator of Forests to take immediate action to issue notification for appointment of new Forest Settlement Officer so that necessary certificate is issued by F.S.O., so as to enable issuance of the final notification of Ridge.

6.

Survey of Southern ridge to ascertain encroachments:

The D.C. (South and South West) were directed to give the report on the status of encroachments within two months time. The CS desired that Forest Department should plant trees of native species on the encroachment free lands, which are under the control of Forest Department.

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7. Demarcation in the disputed portions:

D.C. (South) informed that a common reference point in the disputed portion on the inter state border in Asola has been arrived at during the joint survey and inspection with DC (Faridabad) and Survey of India officials. DC (South) was directed to communicate the approval to Forest Department immediately so that boundary wall could be constructed.

8. Nanaksar Satsang Sabha – Parking of Vehicles in the Ridge :

The Board rejected the request of the Nanaksar Satsang Sabha for permission for parking space in the Central Ridge in view of the specific orders of the Supreme Court not to permit any vehicles to enter the Ridge area and also because of the fact that similar requests of the Manaysthal and JD Tytler Schools were rejected in the past on the same ground.

9. Improvement/Development of Vanasthali Park in Central Ridge:

The Members discussed the issue in detail and it was unanimously felt that converting a natural forest into a park amounts to degradation of Ridge forests which is contrary to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Board felt that there was no justification for increasing the area of the existing park by including 25 acres of Central Ridge as this will adversely affect the bio-diversity and multi-layered structure of the flora. The Ridge Management Board, therefore, rejected the request of the C.P.W.D., to give an NOC for the extension of Vanasthali Park in the Central Ridge.

10. The Board directed Sh. Ajay Mahajan and Sh. Ravi Aggarwal to suggest a committee of experts which would help in formulating plans for conservation and extension of water bodies in the Ridges and suggest steps to increase the native floral species in the Ridge.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair

List of Participants who attended the Meeting of Ridge Management Board held on 19th July, 2002 at 5:00-P.m.

1. Sh. Satish Chand. Pr. Secretary, Finance, Delhi
2. Sh. G.S. Patnaik Divisional Commissioner
3. Sh. S.S. Yadav D.C. (South) Revenue
4. Smt. Naini Jayaseelan Secretary, (Environment, Forest & Wildlife)
5. Sh. S.S. Garbyal Conservator of Forests
6. Sh. H.S. Dhillon Jt. Director, D.D.A.
7. Sh. Ashwani Kumar D.C. (South West)
8. Sh. S.K. Trivedi D.C. (South)
9. Sh. C.L. Munshi Chief Engineer. (S)
10. Sh. Ajay Mahajan Kalpavriksh (NGO)
11. Sh. Ravi Aggarwal Shristi (NGO)
12. Sh. S.K. Jha A.D.M. Hq.)
13. Sh. R.S. Prashanth Dy. Conservator of Forests (South)
14. Smt. Archana Singhi Dy. Conservator of Foests (Hq.)
15. Sh. A.K. Shukla Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central)
16. Sh. Subhash Chandra Dy. Conservator of Forests (West)
17. Sh. D.P. Singh Director (Hort.)
18. Sh. S.P. Singh Director (Hort.)
19. Sh. R.N.S. Tyagi Director (Hort.), C.P.W.D.
20. Sh. R.L. Singla Building Officer, I & DO