

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2013**

The following attended the meeting:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Sh. D.M. Spolia, Chief Secretary, GNCTD      | :In chair.           |
| 2. Sh. Shakti Sinha, Pr. Secretary (Finance)    | : Member             |
| 3. Sh. Arun Baroka, Secretary (E & F)           | : Member             |
| 4. Dr. S. Buxy, CF                              | : Member             |
| 5. Sh. Ravi Singh, Secretary General, WWF India | :Member              |
| 6. Ms. Sunita Narain, DG, CSE                   | :Member              |
| 7. Sh. T. Johri, DCF (North)                    | : Special Invitee    |
| 8. Sh. Nisheeth Saxena, DCF (South)             | : Special Invitee    |
| 9. Sh. R. Gopinath, DCF (P & M)                 | : Special Invitee    |
| 10. Sh. A.K. Agarwal, PM, PWD                   | :Special Invitee     |
| 11. Dr. Arun Banerjee, CMO, Hospital Cell       | : Special Invitee    |
| 12. Sh. R. Sahai, Director (Horticulture), DDA  | : Representative DDA |
| 13. Sh. Dina Nath, DDA                          | : Representative DDA |
| 14. Sh. Brijlal, Director (Horticulture), DDA   | : Representative DDA |
| 15. Dr. N.V. Kamath, DHS                        | : Special Invitee    |
| 16. Sh. Chandu Bhutia, Director (Planning), DDA | : Representative DDA |
| 17. Sh. G.N. Sinha, APCCF, GNCTD                | : Member Secretary   |

The Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Chairman RMB welcomed the members and special invitees to the Ridge Management Board meeting and asked the Secretary (E & F) & Member Secretary, RMB to put forth the agenda for discussion and for consideration of the Board members.

Shri. Arun Baroka, Secretary (E & F), at the outset, pointed out that henceforth the first agenda of the meetings shall be confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting. He further stated that the agenda during the future meetings of the RMB should be crisp and clear without any ambiguity so that the members can take judicious decisions on each issue during the meeting itself. He also explained the purpose of the meeting. The Chairman requested the Member Secretary to initiate discussion on Agenda notes.

The Member Secretary informed the house that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 had been circulated to members and the minutes have been confirmed after approval of the Chairman, RMB. The minutes were taken on record without any amendment.

*o/c*

**Agenda 1: Demarcation and mapping of the Ridge area.**

Shri D.M. Spolia, Chief Secretary, GNCTD and Chairman, RMB stated that the Conservation Plan should ascertain the area under ridge on ground and envisage steps to protect and manage the same. However, he stated, that the first precursor to the preparation of such plan requires ascertaining the exact extent of area under Ridge and the present status of actual possession of such land by different land owning agencies.

(Shri. G.N. Sinha, APCCF, GNCTD and Member Secretary, RMB apprised that the work of preparation and validation of maps of the ridge area as per notifications of 1994 and 1996 had been entrusted to Special Task Force (STF) and GSDL. They had completed majority of the maps showing details of area, boundaries, latitude, longitude and thematic details in compliance with NGT order also. Dr. SuneeshBuxy, Conservator of Forests apprised the House that STF constituted in Feb 2012 had completed the work of preparation of geo-referenced maps in respect of 15 villages of the Southern Ridge while remaining 5 villages could not be completed due to their mutilated masavis and that presently ground trothing of completed maps were being finalized. The Chairman advised that remaining 5 villages should not be generalized and the villages where the maps had been finalized should be taken on record so that their areas can be worked out for preparation of boundary wall.)

Ms Sunita Narain stated that there were 4 notified ridge areas under GNCTD with a total area of about 7784 Ha as per notification. She emphasized that since the management of different ridge areas is vested with different agencies including the forest department, DDA, MCD, SAI and others so the extent of area may be clarified to the Board by all agencies in the next meeting of RMB. The Chairman said that amongst all four notified ridges Southern Ridge is having maximum area of 6200 Ha so it may be worked out first.

The Member Secretary explained in detail that as regards to Southern Ridge, it has an area of 6200 Ha as per notification of 1994. However the management of approximately 1938 Ha is with the Forest Department which constitute the Asola and Bhatti Wild Life Sanctuary (ABWL). Apart from that, another 4207 Ha of uncultivated Gram Sabha land forms part of Southern Ridge as per notification of 1996. Out of this uncultivated land of 4207 ha of, 3200ha is handed over to Forest Department by Panchayat Department as per the records. The Member Secretary further explained that an area of 32 Ha and 120 Ha of Southern ridge is under the management of Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) respectively.

Shri.Arun Baroka, Secretary, (Env. & Forests) enquired the area of Ridge under encroachment and requested that each agency should categorically give a figure of encroachment in Ridge land under their possession.

Shri. Shakti Sinha, Principal Secretary (Finance), stated that before the encroachment figures are brought on record exact area from all the land owning agencies of Ridge and it's compilation is necessary to avoid any duplication. It may be placed before the Board in its next meeting.

Shri Chandu Bhutia, Director (Planning), DDA informed the House that in the Southern Ridge, as per records, the DDA has 125.38 Ha. under their management/control. He was requested by Member Secretary to provide complete detail of Ridge land under possession of DDA in next meeting of RMB.

Ms. Sunita Narayan emphasized that the members of the RMB are concerned about the respective areas under the control of different agencies specially Forest Department and DDA its jurisdiction and the encroachments (if any) on it. She further commented that the identification of Southern Ridge area may involve following three logical steps which need to be completed on top priority by each of the stakeholders to enable the RMB to arrive at an authentic and conclusive data.

- a) Geo-referenced mapping of an area under possession.
- b) Ground truthing done in the field.
- c) Encroachments and actual possession of land in the field.

The Chairman, RMB concluded that all agencies owning ridge should furnish details of the area under them as per notification, area under actual possession, steps taken to take over remaining area, area under encroachment and steps taken to provide protection to the ridge like construction of wall or fencing etc. The Chairman directed the Member Secretary to provide complete details of ridge land under 1994 & 1996 notification and morphological ridge. All these details be provided in the next meeting of RMB.

**Agenda 2: Conservation Action Plan for the Ridge Area.**

The conservation action plan for the Ridge was presented by Member Secretary, RMB in detail for an amount of Rs. 3,92,10,500/-. The members noted with concern that plantation of indigenous species in Ridge area was the prime strategy put forth for the restoration of the Ridge to its pristine glory. The species suggested for planting were minutely scrutinized, deliberated and agreed upon by the members.

Shri. Ravi Singh, WWF India, however, pointed out that the second strategy regarding conservation of habitat of house sparrow in Ridge area needed certain refinements. He volunteered to guide the department of Forests & Wildlife in preparation of more specific and result oriented action plan for the house sparrow. The House appreciated his efforts towards the cause and advised the Member Secretary to avail his services for refinement of the proposal on house sparrows.

The Chairman asked the Member Secretary about the justification for consideration of the action plan and also to inform about the availability of funds. The Member Secretary informed the House that total fund under RMB at present stands to Rs 77,36,20,354/-. The entire money is invested in the form of fixed deposits except Rs 3,49,369/- which is in the saving account. Money under RMB has accumulated from projects cleared by it from the notified ridge and morphological ridge at the rate of 5% of the project cost as decided by the Supreme Court in BRO case in W.P (civil) No. 3339/2011 in the matter of Ashok Kumar Tanwar vs. Union of India & others. Details of the finds under RMB are given below:-

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (in Rs.)
1	From Projects	57,48,11,500
2	Interest from FDRs	19,87,28,616
3	Interest from Savings Bank a/c	80,238
	Total	77,36,20,354

RMB fund is managed on the lines of CAMPA funds under which expenditure towards the development, maintenance & protection of forests & wildlife management is permissible as per approved action plan. Further non-recurring as well as recurring expenditure including the salary and allowances payable to its officers and employees by utilizing a part of the income from interest received on funds invested is permissible. As on date Rs. 19.87 crore has been received from interests and no expenditure has been done so far. Therefore action plan prepared for protection and management of ridge may be considered and supported from the interests accrued.

The Board, therefore, unanimously approved the action plan proposed by Member Secretary, with all its contents except the proposal on house sparrows as mentioned above with the advice to place it at a later date after incorporating the suggestions of Sh. Ravi Singh.

Following is the summary of the action plan approved by the Board:

S. No.	Item	Rate	Total amount (Rs.)
1	<b>Plantation works</b>		For 1000 saplings per hectare
a	Fencing	For 1000 saplings per hectare	4000
b	Removal of dead wood & dry bushes etc. & levelling	@ Rs. 6000 per hectare	6000
c	Uprooting of root stumps, weeds etc. & site preparation	@ Rs. 6000 per hectare	6000

d	Mechanical digging of pits	@ Rs. 180 per pit	180000
e	Application of Chloro-pyro-phos and Gypsum for termite etc.	@ Rs. 6000 per hectare	6000
f	Watering the pit	@ Rs. 10 per pit	10000
g	Treatment of pits with FYM (5 cft. per pit), Bone meal (5 kg. per pit) and neem cake (5 kg. per pit)	@ Rs. 20 per pit	20000
h	Cost of saplings	@ Rs. 80 per sapling	80000
i	Transportation cost of saplings from nursery to the site	@ Rs. 60 per sapling	60000
j	Irrigation during month of planting and remaining months of the seven years of creation of plantation	@ Rs. 84 per sapling	84000
k	Casualty replacement in 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year for 20% of the plantation		16000
l	Maintenance of plant for 7 years	@ Rs. 45 per month including watch and ward related to the plantation activities	37,80,000
m	Contingency @ 5% expenditure		1,89,000
	<b>Total estimated cost of creation and maintenance including fencing</b>		<b>44,41,000</b>
n	Overheads/ Administrative Expenses @ 10% of the total cost of plantation		4,44,100
	Amount to be realized for 1 ha		48,85,100
	<b>Total amount for plantation in 5 ha of area</b>		<b>2,44,25,500</b>
2	Engagement of 3 (three) Project Associates for Forestry, Wildlife and Land Management	@ Rs. 25,000 per month each for four years	36,00,000
3	Engagement of 2 (two) Data Entry Operators	@ Rs. 9000 per month each for four years	8,64,000

4	Engagement of 1 (one) Account assistant and 1 (one) Record keeper	@ Rs. 9000 per month each for four years	8,64,000
5	Procurement of 4 (four) Vehicles(SUV/LMV) for field level monitoring, Scorpio type		32,00,000
6	Procurement of 6 (six) motorcycles		4,50,000
	<b>Total administrative expenses</b>		<b>89,78,000</b>

S.No.	Head	Amount
1.	Plantation works	
2.	Administrative expenses	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,34,03,500</b>

Shri. Arun Baroka, Secretary (E & F) informed the House that this action plan shall be taken up earnestly by the Department of Forests & Wildlife and will be subject to correction midway, if required.

The Ridge Conservation Action Plan for 2013-14 was thus approved for an annual outlay of Rs. 333.7 lakh after deducting Rs. 58.40 lakh on sparrow conservation activities which shall be placed later on after modifications. The Board also authorized the Member Secretary to incur expenditure upto the amount not exceeding 333.70 lakhs.

**Agenda 3: Proposal for construction of 225 bedded Hospital at Chattarpur (Mehrauli) from Ridge Management Board-regarding.**

Clearance of proposal of 225 bedded Hospital at Village Chattarpur is dependent on two pre-conditions. Firstly, that, DDA should submit a proposal to construct a 100 feet wide road connecting Chattarpur on one side & IGNOU on the other. This road is expected to serve as an approach road to the hospital. This road passing through the ridge area should be treated as an integral part of the project of construction of 225 bedded Hospital. Provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 also mandates that if a project falling in the forest area entails road, then approval for diversion of road should be taken first prior to diversion of forest land for the main project. The Board decided that the user agency should arrange submission of a composite proposal on road alongwith the component on hospital. DDA should also inform Khasra No. involved in the construction of the said approach road passing through ridge.

Second pre-condition related to the measures taken to ensure that water-body is not contaminated in the event of the project on hospital is completed after receiving necessary

statutory clearances. It was decided that Department of Forest & Wildlife will provide necessary guidance to the user agency to develop a plan for protection of water-body which is located in the close vicinity of the proposed site for construction of hospital in Chattarpur.

The Board decided that all the above details should be made available to the Board in its next meeting.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

**GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE  
A-Block, II Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi-02**

F. No.11 (26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol. X/ 5570-79

Dated: 24/9/13

**Distribution :**

1. The Pr. Secretary (Finance) & Member, RMB, Department of Finance, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 4th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary (E & F) & Member, RMB, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 6<sup>th</sup> Level, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi.
3. The Vice Chairman, DDA & Member, RMB, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.
4. The Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, RMB, Vikas Bhawan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, A-Block, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002.
5. The Chief Conservator of Forests & Member, RMB, Vikas Bhawan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, A-Block, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002.
6. The Conservator of Forests & Member, RMB, Vikas Bhawan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, A-Block, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002.
7. Sh. Ravi Singh, WWF-India, 172-B, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-03.
8. Ms. Sunita Narain, Centre for Science & Environment, 41 Tughlaqabad Institutional Area, Delhi-62.
9. CMO (Hospital Cell), Directorate of Health Services(DHS), Government NCT of Delhi, F-17, Karkardooma, Delhi- 110032.

**(G.N. Sinha)**  
Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Member Secretary, RMB