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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON  
18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2013 AT 1700 HRS

The following attended the meeting:-

1. Sh Sanjiv Kumar, Secretary (E&F) : In chair
2. Sh. Amit Yadav, Secretary (Finance) : Representative (Finance Deptt.)
3. Sh. Chandu Bbutia, Director (Planning), DDA : Special Invitee
4. Sh. Anand Prakash, Dy. Director (Plg.), DDA : Special Invitee
5. Sh. Uttam Gupta, Asst. Director (Plg.), DDA : Special Invitee
6. Sh. Dina Nath : Representative, DDA
7. Sh. Brijlal, Director (Horticulture), DDA : Representative, DDA
8. Brig. N. Balan, Brigadier Admin. HQ : Special Invitee
9. Col. Vishal Bhargav, Col. Land, HQ : Special Invitee
10. Col. I.J. Singh, S.O Land, HQ : Special Invitee
11. Dr. Arun Banerjee, CMO (Hospital Cell) : Special Invitee
12. Sh. Renoy G., Advisor, GSDL : Special Invitee
13. Ms. Sumita Narain, CSE : Member
14. Sh. A.K. Shukla, CCF, Govt. of NCT of Delhi : Member
15. Sh. G.N. Sinha, APCCF, Govt. of NCT of Delhi : Member Secretary

The Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Chairman, RMB could not chair the meeting as he was preoccupied. Secretary (E & F), welcomed the members and special invitees asked the Member Secretary of RMB to put up the proposals pending for consideration. After detailed deliberations, the decisions taken were as under:

Agenda 1: Clearance for construction of infrastructure on army land in area adjacent to the Central Ridge Area.

A proposal of Defence Ministry was under consideration before the Ridge Management Board towards construction of infrastructure facility for 3 units namely B Squadron 61 CAVALRY, 105 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) Rajputana Rifles and Air Support Signal Unit on 87.09 acres of Defence land adjacent to Notified Ridge Forest land.

In the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 the Defence Authorities were requested to provide details like the total morphological ridge area in their possession adjacent to the ridge forests land along with details of earlier land use patterns (including constructions in the area adopted by them in the region etc., details of green area, vacant land and area under different types of roads.

Brigadier N. Balan informed that the total land area under their jurisdiction in that area is 771 acres. The utilization of this land involves 13.89% under accommodation, 16.8% under stores and offices, 3% under roads and tracks and 66.39% as green/open area. The proposed project involves construction on 18 acres of land. This will reduce the green/open area by just 1.5 - 2%. He also informed that the Defence Authorities have an Ecological Battalion to take care of the greening of the area.

Secretary (E & F) was of the view that the proposal may be recommended noting that this was not being proposed in the notified ridge area but on adjacent land, already in possession with the Defence Authorities. The clearance was given with the condition that construction activities will be restricted only on 18 acres of land of the total 87.09 acres. Further the Defence Authorities would submit a detailed plan on the ecological conservation of the area. The time bound plan should involve details on proposed tree plantation, creation and maintenance of water bodies along with their watershed area etc. To ensure monitoring of the afforestation and conservation plan, the Defence Authorities would provide a map benchmarking the current situation on ground and their proposal plan for improvement, with indicators for monitoring performance.

Agenda 2: Proposal for construction of 225 bedded Hospital, at village Chattarpur (Mehrauli) from Ridge Management Board - Regarding.

Directorate of Health Services, GNCT of Delhi had submitted a proposal to Ridge Management Board regarding clearance for construction of 225 bedded Hospital at village Chattarpur (Mehrauli).

A meeting on the above issue was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 where it was informed that the hospital was to be constructed on Gram Sabha land on the fringe of the ridge forests. However, it was seen that the approach road to the site of proposed Hospital was passing through a very

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congested and built-up area. The approach road to the Hospital was also very narrow which may not be sufficient for movement of 3000-4000 people to the Hospital per day. A water body was also noticed near to the proposed construction site.

In view of these limitations, DDA was requested to submit a presentation before the Board on future developmental plans in that area. Sh. Chandu Bhutia, (Director) Planning, DDA, informed that the area concerned falls under zone J of the Zonal Plan. The proposed construction site lies at the boundary of Lado Sarai revenue estate and Chattarpur revenue estate. As far as the waterbody adjacent to the proposed construction site is concerned its ownership could not be confirmed. It was also informed that the Zonal Plan of the area has the provisions of construction of a 100 ft wide road connecting the road at Chattarpur on one side and IGNOU on the other. This road is expected to serve as an approach road to the hospital. However, from the presentation it seemed that the proposed road is running through the ridge area.

It was decided that further clarity on the issue is required regarding ownership of the waterbody and whether construction of the proposed road requires clearance from the Forest Department or not. If so, the construction of hospital should be linked with the construction of road and due permission should be considered as per the guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

DDA may provide details on plans for construction of road in that area along with Khasra numbers under its jurisdiction and should approach the RMB for clearance for the construction of the aforesaid road.

### Agenda 3: Conservation of the Ridge Area – Regarding.

For preservation of the Ridge area the Special Task Force (STF) was constituted for the purpose of identification and demarcation of notified forest land in South and South-West Revenue Districts vide order No. F.8(328)/Forest Land/Plg./2011-12/1204-25 dated 16.02.2012. The STF has to identify the notified forest land (WLS, RF, PF), land allotted to the Forest Department by various authorities for the purpose of plantation and creation of Reserved Forests (1996 Notification). The Task Force has already finalized the assigned job in 15 villages namely: Chattarpur, Satbari, Rajokri, Rangpuri, Mahipalpur, Neb Sarai, Devli, Jonnapur, Sahurpur, Mehrauli, Ghitorni, Deramandi, Rajpur khurd, Ayanagar and Pulpehladpur. The progress in

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remaining 6 villages could not be completed due to their mutilated masavis. This table top exercise is being finalized by ground truthing through Total Station Method (TSM).

Ms Sunita Narayan, Member, RMB proposed that the conservation action plan for the ridge area requires following steps to be taken:

1. The process of settlement of rights and claims to declare the area as forest area must be expedite and carefully monitored for progress.
2. The process of demarcation of 'Ridge' area, proposed under section 4 will require all land owning agencies to submit land records, with khasra number of the ridge area under their management. The area must be demarcated and physical boundary made.
3. The exact boundaries as identified will be put with lat-long and all other data on map and will be publicly available.
4. There must be conformity between the master plan, which categorize ridge land as regional park and the ridge conservation plan, which categorize area as forest land. The list of permissible activities must be harmonized.
5. Once the ridge map is delineated, all land controlling agencies will be required to submit an action plan for its protection, rejuvenation and management to the Ridge Management Board.
6. The land falling under morphological ridge will also be identified in consultation with Geological Survey of India and Forest Survey of India and Delhi State Geospatial Data Infrastructure. The current confusion on the extent of this land is adding to the problem of encroachment as well as harassment of land owners.
7. The ridge management Board will do annual surveys, using remote sensing and spatial technologies, to assess tree cover under each agency. Any evidence of encroachment or degradation from the baseline will be severely penalized, including the take over of ridge/reserve forests from the management agencies to GNCTD.

It was also agreed that RMB should take up steps on the above mentioned lines. RMB agreed that to begin with the demarcation of the Southern Ridge be carried out on priority on the basis of the 1996 notification. This work can be used as a template to extend and further cover the entire Ridge Area. The forest Department and DDA need to submit the khasra nos. of the

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Southern Ridge under their jurisdiction to GSDL at the earliest to facilitate the demarcation process. Once the area is demarcated on the map, it will clarify the specific problem areas, which require resolution on ground. It was agreed that this work would be undertaken in the next 15 days and the map would be presented at the next meeting of the RMB.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE  
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F. No.11 (26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol. X/2826--37

Dated: 05.08

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. Commissioner (Planning), DDA, Vikas Minar, New Delhi 110002.
5. 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.
6. The Chief 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. Brig. N. Balan, Special Invitee, RMB, Brigadier Administration Headquarters, Delhi area, Delhi Cantt., Delhi-110010.
10. CMO (Hospital Cell), Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Government of NCT of Delhi, F-17, Karkardooma, Delhi 110032.
11. Chief Engineer, PWD B-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MSO Building, IP Estate, New Delhi 110002.



(G.N. Sinha)

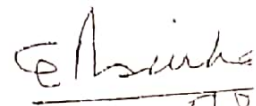
Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Member Secretary, RMB

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Copy to:

- 1 The Chief Secretary, Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi- 110002.

  
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(G.N. Sinha)

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