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Minutes of the Meeting of the Ridge Management Board

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary on 28.06.2001. The list of officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

The following agenda items were discussed.

1. **Shifting of three colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to Jaunapur project site:**

Slum & J.J. department of NCT of Delhi informed the Board that Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Vidyut Board and other agencies providing civic amenities have been requested to submit estimates for re-habilitation of these colonies. Principal Secretary, Urban Development has conducted a series of meetings with these agencies on this issue. The Board observed that the pace of work of shifting of these colonies has been very slow. The Slum & JJ Department of NCT of Delhi was asked to expedite the matter on an urgent basis.

2. **Protection, fencing & afforestation of the Ridges:**

C.P.W.D. informed that the estimates for fencing of ridge have already been submitted and approval by Govt. of India is awaited. The work of fencing will be taken up after the required budget is allotted from Govt. of India.

The Chairman of the Board emphasized that all the agencies like D.D.A., C.P.W.D., N.D.M.C., etc which are managing the ridge should ensure that no non-forestry activity may be taken up in the Ridge. This has been strongly objected to by the Ministry of Environment & Forests as this contravenes the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The problem of dumping of malba was discussed in the meeting. The representative from C.P.W.D., informed that most of the illegal dumping takes place at night and therefore it is difficult to take action against the offenders. C.P.W.D. further suggested that limited powers of forest officials can be provided to the officials of C.P.W.D., who are managing the ridge so that prompt action can be taken against the offenders. It was decided that Forest department will examine this issue.

3. **Settlement of claims by Forest Settlement Officer & Final Notification of Ridge:**

The matter of shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station and Wireless Station in the Central Ridge was discussed. It was decided that the Home Secretary will take up the matter with the Police Commissioner to comply with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

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In the meanwhile D.D.A. was asked to locate an alternative site for shifting of the Maurice Nagar Police Station & Wireless Station.

The Forest Settlement Officer informed the Board that except one claim of Army in Central ridge, all other claims in Central and Northern ridge have been settled. He further informed that there are certain discrepancies in the boundary of Northern Ridge which need to be reconciled. The representative from D.D.A., stated that there is a large variation between the notified boundary and the corresponding acreage. The actual area may not tally with the area notified. The Conservator of Forests explained that the boundaries notified under Section 4 are only approximate. The final notification is issued under Section 20 after settlement of all claims by Forest Settlement Officer. If there is any discrepancy in the area notified under Section 4, it can be corrected at the time of final notification.

In Asola, the inter-state boundary dispute still exists with Govt. of Harayana. Dy. Commissioner (South), informed that a common point of reference has already been agreed to by both the states but for the remaining boundary the matter has to be resolved at Govt. level. The Chairman of the Board consented to make a request to Director General, Survey of India to resolve the issue at an early date and take up the matter with Chief Secretary, Harayana.

Conservator of Forests informed the Board about the problem of private lands existing as islands within the ridge. These private lands need to be shifted out in the interest of the management of the Ridge. The problem of access passage to the private areas through Ridge was also discussed. According to Forest (Conservation) Act, passage to the private lands through the ridge cannot be permitted without the prior approval of Govt. of India. Possibility of exchanging these islands with other Govt. lands outside the ridge as per existing law and regulation was also discussed. The Development Commissioner informed that it is very difficult to confirm if such colonies habitations are private or mere encroachments. In some cases these settlements/colonies are as old as 25 years and have been in existence much before the notification.

The Board decided that such colonies/human habitations should be surveyed, measured and verified to find out if they are encroachments. If necessary, legal advice should be sought on approaching Hon'ble Supreme Court to apprise them of the position.

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4. **Taking over Petrol Pumps in the Central Ridge:**

The representative of C.P.W.D., informed that one of the Petrol pumps has already been demolished and the process of planting trees on the vacated land has started. The Board directed that L & D O should immediately take up the matter of demolition and handing over area of the remaining Petrol pump to C.P.W.D., as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

5. **Metro Rail Project from ISBT to Delhi University along Mall Road passing through Northern Ridge:**

The Conservator of Forests informed that clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is still awaited.

6. **Proposal for Solid Waste Disposal site in Bhatti Mines area:**

Additional Commissioner M.C.D., requested the Board to consider the proposal for Solid Waste Disposal Site in Bhatti Mines. The Chief Secretary, stated that as the Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the consultants is still under preparation, the Board cannot take a decision at this point. However, the consultants have been instructed that no destruction of habitat or breaking of land, cutting of trees should take place while the DPR is being prepared. In case, the Board finds DPR feasible for the ecology of Bhatti Mines, approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Indian Wildlife Board and Govt. of India shall be sought for taking a decision in the matter as per law and laid down procedures.

7. **Proposal of Metro Railway for use of existing roads within Kamla Nehru Park in view of the proposed work at Mall Road:**

The Ridge Management Board decided that the existing roads can be used for temporary diversion of traffic provided no trees are damaged and no widening of roads take place. The D.D.A., should ensure that the Forest Conservation Act is not violated during this temporary period of traffic diversion.

Meeting then ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

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Annexure

List of participants who attended the Ridge Management Board Meeting held on 28.06.2001

1. Sh. Rahul Khullar Development Commissioner
2. Sh. Akshay Kumar Prakriti
3. Smt. Sindhushree Khullar. Secretary (E & F),
4. Sh. S.S. Garbyal Conservator of Forests
5. Sh. R. Negi Addl. Commissioner, M.C.D
6. Sh. C.L. Munshi Chief Engr., (Slum & JJ), M.C.D.
7. Sh. D.P. Verma S.E., (Slum) III, M.C.D.
8. Smt. Archana Singh Dy. Conservator of Forests (H.q)
9. Sh. R.S. Prashanth Dy. Conservator of Forests (S)
10. Sh. A.K. Shukla Dy. Conservator of Forests (C)
11. Sh. Subhash Chandra Dy. Conservator of Forests (W)
12. Sh. R.N.S. Tyagi Director of Horticulture, C.P.W.D.
13. Sh. Ravi Dass Director (S.E.) M.C.D.
14. Sh. S. Bhamrai Director (Landscape), D.D.A
15. Sh. Virender Kuma S.D.M. (H.q)
16. Sh. Sukhbir Singh Dy. Director of Horticulture, P.W.D
17. Sh. Jay Shree Raghuraman D.C. (South)
