

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON 19.11.2003 AT 1700 HOURS

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 19.11.2003 at 1700 HRS under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. List of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

1. The Board reviewed action taken report on the directions given in the last meeting.

The agenda items were discussed and the decisions taken in the meeting are given as follows:

2. **FRI study on the Flora of Ridge area:**

A brief on the Interim Report of FRI on the aspects of (i) re-introduction of extinct species, (ii) species recommended for regeneration and (iii) analysis of the data with some conclusions for future guidance was placed before the Board. The Board desired that

(I). Interim report regarding suitable species should be circulated to Ridge managing agencies namely CPWD and DDA for afforestation of the Ridge.

(II). the Director, FRI be requested to remain present in the next meeting for apprising the members of the Board regarding application of report in scientific management of Ridge.

(III). the Board was of the opinion that there is no justification for further extension being sought by FRI for submitting final report. The FRI should, therefore, submit 'Final Report' at the earliest and in any case within 31st December 2003.

3.

Protection and fencing of Central Ridge :

The Chief Engineer CPWD, NDZ-1 informed that estimates had been submitted to the Ministry of Urban Development for according necessary sanctions during September, 2003, however, the necessary sanctions have not yet been received by him. The Board took a serious note of inordinate delay in completion of fencing along the Central Ridge by CPWD. The Board decided that

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(I) the Chairperson would write to the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development for undertaking the fencing within 15 days.

(II) this being a Supreme Court matter, the Board would be constrained to inform the Supreme Court regarding non-implementation of its directives in case the fencing is not completed within 15 days time.

4. **Unfiltered water supply to Budha Jayanti Park**

Chief Engineer, NDZ-1, CPWD informed that provisions for rain water harvesting in the Budha Jayanti Park and Mahavir Vanasthali will be made. CPWD stated that they had already consulted Central Ground Water Board on the issue. It was further informed that rain water harvesting measures will no doubt improve ground water regime of the area, but it will serve the purpose only for a period of three months in a year during rainy season. The laying of untreated water pipeline is therefore essential to supplement water requirements for the remaining period of 9 months. The Board directed that

- (a) the implications of the proposal are to be examined by an expert committee in totality so that it does not lead to adverse ecological impact.
- (b) the Secretary, Environment may decide an expert agency out of a panel of eminent institutions/experts in the field of environment and ecology. The Board after examining expert opinion may consider further action on the proposal.
- (c) the CPWD meanwhile will submit a detailed plan for execution of the project and the time frame required after consulting concerned land owning and civic agencies.

5. **Development of Mahavira Vanashtali**

CPWD displayed a prototype of project proposal and informed that they want to improve existing paths only by using red sand stones tiles for the benefit of visitors. The Board desired that

- (I) the Secretary, Environment would inspect the area and give her opinion on the proposal for consideration of the Board.

6. **Unauthorized construction in Central Ridge area by DDA near Dasghara**

The Board deliberated upon the report of the inspection committee and took a very serious note on the violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the Central Ridge by the DDA officials being custodian of the area. The Board had also gone through the reply of Shri C. Banerjee, Engineer Member, DDA informing that an action plan has been drawn for removing malba and afforestation of vacant species within a period of six months. The DDA representative informed the Board that process for removal of malba has already started. He further informed that the action for removal of obstructions to the natural drainage caused during constructions of Red Bajri Road has also been initiated and will be completed by 30.11.2003.

The Board was informed that a PIL is already filed in the Delhi High Court in this matter. The Divisional Commissioner informed that as per the Deputy Commissioner's report, the last jamabandi of the village, which is for the year 1983-84, there is no mention of any crematorium at the site. The crematorium is also not recognised by MCD. The Board is therefore of the opinion that the crematorium is an unauthorized construction in the Ridge. The Member Secretary, RMB informed that since this is a matter concerning violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the matter should be brought to the notice of Vice Chairman, DDA.

The Board took following decisions:

- (I) same inspection committee will monitor the progress of removal of malba and submit monthly report on action taken by DDA.
- (II) the Chairperson would write to Vice Chairman, DDA with intimation to Lt. Governor for taking deterrent action against the official(s) responsible for violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- (III) the DDA should also find out the official(s) responsible for allowing unauthorised construction of crematorium and take deterrent action against them.

7.

Shifting of Colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to alternative site:

Shri Bhuvneshwar Singh, Addl. Commissioner, Slum & JJ Deptt. of MCD assured the Board that the shifting of colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary will be done in settlement colonies at Bawana and for this purpose the necessary infrastructure and basic services are being developed and are in the process of completion. The Board directed that

(I) the process of shifting of colonies should be completed within February, 2004 and the progress made so far should be communicated to the RMB within 10 days. In addition MCD should submit monthly progress report in the matter.

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

Shri K.K. Paul, Special Commissioner, Delhi Police informed that they have already identified two sites in consultation with Delhi University authorities and DDA, out of which they will be finalizing a site soon. The process of shifting will be completed within 4-5 months time. He informed that in view of sensitivity of area the shifting of Police Station would be done at the end of academic session. The Board directed that

(I) Delhi Police authorities to expedite shifting of police station after finalizing the site by using semi permanent structures and not to wait till construction of proper buildings.

9. **Final Notification of the Ridge :**

The Board was informed by the Forest Department that the copies of the orders of the FSO in settlements of various claims in respect of notified Ridge area were provided to concerned land owning/ managing agencies i.e. CPWD and DDA. The Board directed that

(I) The Forest Department would examine all orders and file appeal to the appellate authority in deserving cases. Forest Department was asked to prepare a comprehensive list giving details of decisions and points of disagreement with FSO's orders for filing of appeals in deserving cases and put up all such cases within 15 days.

10.

Demarcation in the disputed portion:

RMB expressed concern that the issue has not yet been resolved even directions given in the last meeting held on 19.07.2002. DCF (South) info that there is a gap of 500 M in the boundary wall of Asola between 35000-35500, near Anangpur of Haryana. Due to this gap Wildlife Sanctuary is experiencing lot of Biotic pressure. The I&FC Department was requested by DCF, South to construct the wall on priority to plug. However, I&FC Department expressed inability to prepare estimate to execute work for want of physical demarcation of boundary. The Board directed that

(I) Since the matter has not yet finalized, the Divisional Commissioner was requested to look into the matter and sort out the problems in this regard by convening a meeting of Deputy Commissioner (South), DCF (South) and concerned officials of I&FCD.

11. Status of encroachment on Southern Ridge Land:

RMB was informed that this issue also has not been settled, as requisite information on allotment of lands in the Gaon Sabha of Southern Ridge land could not be made available to Board despite its direction in the meeting held on 29.01.2002 & 19.07.2002.

(I) The Board requested Divisional Commissioner to look into the matter and sort out the problems in this regard by convening a meeting of concerned officials.

12. Parking of vehicles near Gurudwara Nanaksar:

The Board heard the Nanksar Gurudwara authorities regarding their request to allow use of a portion of the Central Ridge for parking of vehicles of devotees during 18 days in a year when their religious ceremonies are held. The Board was informed that there is a proposal of MCD for developing a parking space outside Ridge Forest and Gurudwara authorities should use that parking for the purpose. The decision to develop parking space was taken after a committee comprising officials from the L&DO, CPWD, Forest Department, MCD and Traffic Police inspected the site together with representatives of Nanaksar Gurudwara committee. The Board decided

(I) that as the request of Gurudwara authorities is for utilising Ridge land it cannot be considered for parking purpose. However, the Commissioner, MCD may be requested to expedite development of parking space.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.