

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GNCT OF
DELHI, SH. R. NARAYANASWAMI, ON 03.07.2007 AT 1800 HOURS IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY.**

The following attended the meeting :-

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| 1. | Shri V.V. Bhat, Pr. Secretary (Finance & Planning) | - Member |
| 2. | Shri K.S. Mehra, Pr. Secretary (PWD) | - Spl. Invitee |
| 3. | Shri J.K. Dadoo, Secretary (Environment & Forests) | - Member |
| 4. | Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Srishti | - Member |
| 5. | Shri A.K. Singhal, Chief Engineer, Delhi, PWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 6. | Shri Om Pal Singh, Director Horticulture, DDA | - Spl Invitee |
| 7. | Ms. Savita Bhandari, Director (Landscape), DDA | - Spl Invitee |
| 8. | Smt. Kamal Preet, DCF (HQ) | - Spl Invitee |
| 9. | Shri Prabhat Tyagi, DCF (South) | - Spl Invitee |
| 10. | Shri Umesh Mishra, PM, F11, PWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 11. | Shri B.K. Sinha, EE, F 111, PWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 12. | Shri Pawan Soni, AE(C), DDA | - Spl Invitee |
| 13. | Shri Vivek Tandon, Advocate, PWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 14. | Shri D.M. Shukla, Conservator of Forests | M.Secretary |

The Vice-Chairman, DDA, Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpavriksh, New Friends Colony, New Delhi and the Representative of the Prakriti Centre for Environmental Protection could not attend the meeting due to their pressing prior commitments.

2. The Chief Secretary & Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB) welcoming the Members and the Special Invitees, explained the purpose of convening the Special meeting of the Board at the short notice and requested the Chief Engineer, Delhi, PWD to brief the Members about the background of their proposed construction of bridge over Neela Hauz Pond in South Central Ridge.

3. The Chief Engineer gave a detailed account of the project in chronological order including the operative part of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court contained in its order dated 08.03.2002 in the matter of Vinod Kumar Jain vrs. GNCTD and Others. Thereafter, at the request of the Chairman, the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee conveyed

vide its No. 1-19/CEC/SC/2006-Pt.XV dated 17.4.2007 were read out for the information of the members and Special Invitees present in the meeting.

After detailed deliberations and careful consideration of the proposal, the Ridge Management Board recommended PWD's proposal of construction of bridge over Neela Hauz pond in the Central Ridge with the following conditions:-

The Public Works Department (PWD) of the Government of NCT of Delhi shall comply with the stipulations made by the Central Empowered Committee in its letter No. 1-19/CEC/SC/2006-Pt.XV dated 17.4.2007.

PWD shall hand over the S-bend stretch of road after dismantling and removing the debris there, using sound scientific techniques, causing little impact to the environment and the ridge, to the Forest Department, for taking up compensatory afforestation thereon. PWD shall ensure that the portion of the road to be handed over to the Forest Department is free of debris and properly demarcated and fenced.

The Deptt. of Forests & Wildlife shall take up compensatory afforestation of 2300 saplings in lieu of 230 trees required to be felled/ transplanted on the piece of land made available by PWD and other remaining area in the Ridge.

The selection of species shall be made by the Deptt. of Forests & Wildlife in consultation with Prof. C.R. Babu of the Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Delhi.

The Forest Deptt. shall get the compensatory plantation so raised, inspected by the High Level Committee constituted vide GNCT of Delhi's Order No. F.8(192)/CF/MCCP/07-08/633-36 dated 8.5.2002007 under the Chairmanship of Pr. Secretary, Power and the progress/status report placed before RMB.

All funds received from PWD and other User Agencies other than Net Present Value (NPV), Cost of Compensatory Afforestation on account of diversion of forest land for

non-forestry purposes, shall be managed through a separate designated account as "Ridge Management Board Fund" to be operated jointly by the Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, RMB and the Chief Secretary & Chairman, Ridge Management Board for development of infrastructure of the Deptt, conservation and development of the Delhi Ridge Area including the preservation of the water bodies therein with the approval of RMB.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

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New Delhi.

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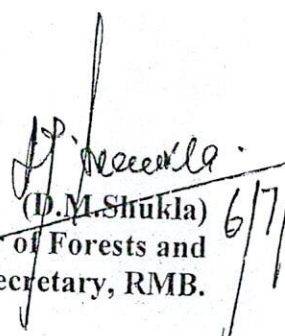
Dated: 06.07.2007

Distribution :-

All Members of Ridge Management Board.

Copy for information to:-

1. The Pr. Secretary, PWD, GNCT of Delhi.
2. The Pr. Secretary, Power, GNCT of Delhi.
3. The Chief Engineer, CPWD, Delhi.
4. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (South), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (HQ), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.


(D.M. Shukla) 6/7
Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary, RMB.