

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority, held on June 19th, 2007

The fourth meeting of the West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority was held on June 19th, 2007, under the Chairmanship of Shri M.L. Meena, IAS, Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal. The meeting was attended by the following members and officers:-

1. Prof. Ananda Dev Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, Digha Shankarpur Development Authority
2. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Professor & Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University
3. Shri Sandipan Mukherjee, CEO, Deptt of Environment
4. Shri Debal Roy, Member Secretary, WB PCB

The Chairman initiated the meeting by briefly introducing the agenda items, after which, each of the agenda items were discussed separately.

1. Discussion on the Hon'ble High Court Order in the writ petition no. 7772(W) of 2007 filed by DISHA :

In the above noted case, the hon'ble High Court has directed the respondents, including the Secretary, Deptt. of Environment, to treat the petition as a representation and to take steps for its disposal. Disha, an NGO, in its petition had prayed strict implementation and compliance of the provisions of the CRZ notification and for demolition of hotels/resorts which have come up in Mandarmoni area in gross violation of the provisions of the said notification.

Shri Debal Roy, Member Secretary, WBPCB informed the members present that some of the hotel owners of Mandarmoni, who had constructed the hotels/ resorts within the CRZ, had obtained stay order on demolition, from the High Court of Calcutta. The demolition order was issued by the Appellate Authority, WBPCB. This case was independent of the case filed by DISHA, as these were directed against orders on consent to establish and consent to operate by WBPCB and subsequent order for demolition issued by the Appellate Authority.

The members present debated at length on the construction of hotels / resorts within the Coastal Regulation Zone of Mandarmoni in gross violation of the CRZ notification and unanimously opined that such violations need to be opposed. It was emphasized that it is the duty of the Panchayat to act in accordance with the provisions of the existing rules and regulations in respect of Coastal Zone Regulation.

The Chairman, informed that the district administration, who are the ground level enforcement authority, have been requested to ensure stoppage of construction and operation of any such hotel/ resort in the area till their cases are disposed by the Coastal Zone Management Authority. The Authority was also informed that the Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt has also been apprised of the provisions of the CRZ notification, with a request to issue notification to the Gram Panchayats so that they insist upon a WBSCZMA clearance before issuing permission for land use in CRZ area.

In view of the above, the Authority recommended that the petition of DISHA be disposed of by the Secretary, Deptt of Environment, GOWB.

2. Revision of the High Tide Line of Mandarmoni Area:

The Authority discussed the question of reviewing the High tide line of the Mandarmoni area, and suggested that in case of any revision, a uniform policy should be adopted for all the coastal areas of the state. It was decided to hold detailed discussion on the subject in subsequent meeting.

3. Approval for land use map of Nayachara island prepared by National Institute of Ocean Technology, for the project for river regulatory measures for improvement of draught in Hoogly estuary, submitted by Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port Trust:

Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port Trust Had submitted proposal for CRZ categorization of the Nayachara island, for the purpose of utilizing one site on this island for dumping of dredged materials of Hoogly river. The Map of Nayachara, indicating the Site of dumping, submitted by Haldia Dock Complex, had been referred to the Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management for CRZ categorization. The said institute submitted the map of Nayachara Island indicating the position of the dumping site as well as indication the CRZ categories on the island. The Coastal Zone Management Authority examined the map and approved the categorization as proposed by the IESWM.

4. Proposal for manufacture of Salt from Sea Water, at Ramnagar, Purba Medinipur submitted by Shri Chandan Devroy, Shri Nandan Devroy and Shri Tapan Kumar Maity:

The Authority considered the proposal and approved it.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


Sd/-
(M.L. Meena)
Chairman, West Bengal State Coastal Zone
Management Authority
&
Secretary, Environment Department

No. EN/1308 /T-II-4/007-i/2003 /1(11)

Date : 13 /07/2007

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal.
2. The Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal.
3. The Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, Government of West Bengal.
4. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
5. The Director, Institute of Environmental Studies & Wetland Management.
6. Prof. S.K. Dubey, Director, IIT Kharagpur.
7. Prof. Anandadev Mukhopadhyay, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University and Chairman, Digha Shankarpur Development Authority.
8. Dr. J.S. Parihar, Mission Director, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad.
9. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Professor & Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University.
10. The Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Nimpith. South 24 Parganas.
11. The Chairperson, Haldia Municipality.


(Sandipan Mukherjee)
Member Secretary, WBSCZMA &
Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department

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