

Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of High Power Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at  
3.30 p.m. in the Conference Room of WBPCB

The Thirty-fourth meeting of the High Power Committee was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at 3.30 p.m. in the Conference Room of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB). The meeting was chaired by Mr Prasanta Kumar Sarkar, Member Secretary, WBPCB.

The meeting was also attended by the following members:-

1. Dr Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, Member
2. Dr Kalyan Rudra, Member
3. Shri H. Singha Roy, Member
4. Shri Sujoy Das Gupta, Additional Secretary, Land & Land Reforms Department, Govt. of West Bengal
5. Shri Chandan Chayan Guha, Joint Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of West Bengal
6. Srimati Mira Ray, Joint Secretary, Urban Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal
7. Shri R Foning Lepcha, Additional Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department, Govt. of West Bengal
8. Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty, Environment Officer, Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal and Member Convenor.

The Chairman welcomed all and initiated the discussion.

1. As per the decision of the last meeting, a draft order prepared based on the discussion in previous meetings, documents sought by the committee from various departments/agencies and findings therefrom was presented before the members by the member-convenor. After that, opinion of the members was sought.

- i) Dr Dhrubajyoti Ghosh made the following observations:-
  - a) To comment on the richness of biodiversity, the committee should not totally depend on the contents of the writ petition. To know the status of bio-diversity the committee may look into the works of NGO's e.g. Prakriti Sansad.
  - b) The committee should seek the opinion of wetland communities. However, the methodology for obtaining such opinion was not spelt out.
  - c) The committee might seek ways to preserve the area under wetland rules 2010.
  - d) The committee should procure the zoning map of the region.
  - e) The drainage pattern of the area needs to be studied.
- ii) Dr. Kalyan Rudra said that the zoning map might not be of great help since the magnification used in them would not serve the purpose. Dr. Chakraborty told that, as far his knowledge, the landuse maps of land department only show the current land use and not zones designated by the Government for different purposes.

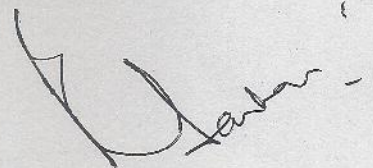


- iii) Shri R Foning Lepcha told that regarding drainage flow of the area the fisheries department can provide some help. He, therefore, invited the interested members to the fisheries data centre so that members can themselves find the requisite materials. The members agreed to visit the centre and the date of visit was fixed on 14.05.2014 at 2 pm.
- iv) Shri Sujoy Das Gupta pointed out that after determining whether the entire area is wetland or not, the committee could look into individual cases. On query, Dr. Chakraborty told that the committee had already received 60 applications and may receive still more in future.
- v) Shri Chandan Chayan Guha opined that industries might be divided into two parts. These are existing industries and upcoming industries. The guidelines to be given by the committee would be applicable for upcoming industries. For existing industries, District Magistrate would be requested to verify whether the industries had followed all existing rules.

Some of the members told that it would be better if a copy of the draft order is given to them preferably by e-mail so that they can give their studied opinion on it. The member convenor told that the draft was not previously sent via e-mail due to fear of leaks before its finalization. The members assured that proper care would be taken to keep it confidential. Thus it was decided that the draft would be circulated via e-mail and depending on the comments received thereon the draft would be subject to changes which may be addition, deletion, correction, alteration or complete revision. All comments made in the meeting and those to be received would be thoroughly discussed in the next meeting.

2. The members studied the draft of the field visit and approved it. The field visit report contained the following observations –“ i) It was found that while few industries are old, some are nascent. Some vacant plots are enclosed with brick boundary walls. All the plots developed or intended to be developed for industries occur alongside the Durgapur expressway, apparently to take the benefit of physical infrastructure (i.e. the road) as well the location (i.e. proximity to the city of Kolkata). ii) It was observed that some restoration work, though insufficient, had been carried out in the land owned by Unnayan Developers Pvt. Ltd. iii) Broad nayanjulis occur on both sides of the Durgapur Expressway. At the time of the visit most of the land adjoining the road was found dry to semi-dry (marshy) with occasional growth of long reeds which indicated water logged condition of some of the land at some point of time. iv) Paddy cultivation was going on in interior areas. v) Dankuni canal was found in a much deteriorated condition mainly due to clogging by wastes from cattle shades along its sides.”

The meeting then ended with thanks to everyone.



(Prasanta Kumar Sarkar)  
Chairman, High Power Committee &  
Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution control Board