

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

F.NO 6(3)/Env/2017

Dated: 02-03-2020

**Minutes of the Meeting**

In compliance of the Rule 5(1) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, State Wetland Authority, Rajasthan was constituted vide F.6(3) Env/2017/Part, Jaipur, dated 27.11.2019. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Wetland Authority was organized on 24-02-2020 at 04:00 PM in the Conference Hall of Secretariat Jaipur under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forests & Environment, Government of Rajasthan. The list of participants is at appended to these minutes of the meeting.

At the onset, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests welcomed the members and briefed regarding the background of the constitution of the State Wetland Authority and its terms of reference. Secretary, Environment & Forests made a presentation on the agenda items. After discussions and deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

1. It was observed that several issues related to Wetlands, including encroachments, land settlement, water inflow and storage, setting up of industries around the wetland are also related to Industries, Revenue and Irrigation. It was decided that the Principal Secretary/ Secretary of these Departments may be included as members of the State Wetland Authority (SWA). **(Action: Environment Department)**
2. Chief Secretary observed that in coherence with Wetlands Rules, Principal Secretary of various departments are members of the SWA. However, in the notification constituting the SWA, an expression—"his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary" has been added. As the Authority is chaired by Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests and the Chief Secretary is the Vice Chairperson, it is required that only Principal Secretary/Secretary of the various Departments should participate in the meetings. Necessary

modification may be made in the notification. **(Action: Environment Department)**

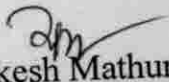
3. A Lake Conservation Authority had been constituted under the LSG Department. Due to various constraints, functioning of this Authority has been less than optimal. It was observed that since the State Wetland Authority has been constituted as per the provisions of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the Lake Authority may be considered for repealing and all Wetlands may be brought under the State Wetland Authority. LSG department may examine the issue and initiate appropriate action in this regard. **(Action: LSG Department)**
4. The proposal for Technical and Grievance committees under the SWA was considered. It was directed that proposals for the committees may be put up on file for approval of Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests. **(Action: Environment Department)**
5. Chief Secretary observed that there are several Committees constituted for Sambhar Lake on various issues. It was decided that the Terms of Reference of these Committees may be examined by the Environment Department and proposals for discontinuing /continuing these Committees may be submitted. It was also decided that the reports of various Committees constituted by the State Government on wetland related issues may be submitted to the State Wetland Authority for review. **(Action: Environment Department, Industries Department)**
6. It was decided that the reports of NERRI, Shree Vinod Kapoor Committee and MoEF&CC may be examined consolidated recommendation for the potential implementation may be placed before the SWA. As decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee for Management of Sambhar Lake, a subcommittee may be constituted for the examination of the reports for their relevance in the present scenario in terms of the potential implementation in the field. **(Action: Environment Department)**
7. The Wetland Atlas for Rajasthan was prepared by ISRO in the year 2011 and Wetland Rules were notified in 2017. Therefore, it is possible that some of the wetlands may have been classified as wetlands in the Atlas that may not be in coherence with the definition/ illustration given in the Rules of 2017. For example, Chief Engineer, WRD and Addl Chief Engineer, WRD zone Udaipur referred to rule 2(g) of Wetland (Conservation and Management)

Rules 2017, where it is noted that structures constructed specifically for irrigation purpose shall not be classified as "wetland". It was pointed out that Udaisagar Mediam Irrigation project is a 400 year old reservoir of 1100 mcft storage capacity and has a well laid out 86 km canal network that irrigates 4653 ha agriculture land spread over 28 villages. Once the water is released for irrigation, the submerged khatedari land gets exposed, the cultivators start bed cultivation in Udaisagar. CE WRD submitted that in the light of these facts, Udaisagar Irrigation project should be excluded from the list of already identified 6 wetlands. Thus it was decided to move a case to MOEF&CC accordingly for exclusion of any irrigation dam in the list of wetlands as per rule 2(g) of Wetland rules, 2017. Also, the status of wetlands in the state may be reviewed as per the present definition of wetlands given in the Rules of 2017. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**

8. In the first phase, only those wetlands which are large in size, facing increased threats of pollution, encroachment, extraction etc may be taken up for development. Initially, 2 wetlands per district, as directed by the MOEF&CC GOI may be identified. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or manage water bodies/ wetlands.)**
9. Every department will review the status of wetlands under their jurisdiction and submit a list of wetlands to SWA, conforming to the definition given in the Wetland Rules, 2017. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**
10. The Department having ownership and /or maintain or managing various concerned wetlands will be nodel Departments for the preparation, approval and implementation of the wetlands, after getting approval of the SWA. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**
11. It was decided that the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change will be the Secretariat for the State Wetland Authority. The Directorate will take action for getting the allocation of necessary budget from the Finance Department for the functioning of the SWA. **(Action: Environment Department)**
12. Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forests, directed that information may be obtained regarding land details with Sambhar Salt Limited as given in the


relevant MoU and the land actually being used by SSL, Khatedari land near the lake, and area where mass deaths of birds have occurred due to avian butolism, illegal encroachment and illegal extraction of salt brine. **(Action: All concered Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**

13. Next meeting may be kept in the month of May 2020. Before the meeting, all decisions taken in the meeting may be implemented by the concerned Departments and action -taken reports should be submitted to SWA. **(Action: All Departments)**
14. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
Rakesh Mathur  
Member Secretary  
State Wetland Authority  
Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Copy to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Special Asssistant to Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forests
2. Senior Deputy Secretary, Chief Secretary Office
3. PS to Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
4. PS to Principal Secretary, UDH
5. PS to Principal Secretary, Revenue Department
6. PS to Principal Secretary, Environment Department
7. PS to Principal Secretary, Tourism
8. PS to Principal Secretary, PHED
9. PS to Secretary, LSG
10. PS to Secretary, WRD
11. PS to Secretary, Forest Departement
12. PS to Secretary ,Animal Husbandary
13. PS to Secretary, Environment Department
14. PS to APCCF, Lakhnow, UP
15. CWLW, Jaipur
16. Member Secretary, RSPCB
17. Member Secretary, RSBDB
18. Director, ISRO Jodhpur

  
(Rakesh Mathur)  
Member Secretary  
State Wetland Authority