

**MINUTES OF 14<sup>th</sup> GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE  
WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024; **TIME:** 2.00 PM ONWARDS

**VENUE:** ROOM NO.407, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SOUTH GOA COLLECTORATE, MATHANY SALDHANA ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX, OFFICE OF DISTRICT COLLECTOR, SOUTH GOA

**THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY RTD. JUDGE SHRI DESMOND D' COSTA, CHAIRPERSON, GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (GC) OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA).**

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Hon'ble Rtd. Judge Desmond D'Costa	Chairperson
2.	Ms. Vrushika Kauthankar, Under Secretary I, Department of Revenue	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member
3.	Shri Laxmikant Kuttiker, Deputy Collector Revenue, representative of The Collector, North Goa	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member
4.	Adv. Sapna Mordekar	Member
5.	Shri Prathamesh Shankardas, Block Development Officer, Directorate of Panchayat	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member
6.	Ms.Nadia A. Shekoli, Deputy Director, Department of Urban Development	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member
7.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA & Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)	Convenor
8.	Shri. Divaker Gauns, Junior Engineer, Water Resource Department	Representative of WRD
9.	Shri Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly (Curtorim Constituency)	<i>Special Invitee</i>
10.	Shri Peter Quadros, Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Raia	<i>Special Invitee</i>



11.	Shri. Antonio Xavier Fernandes, Chairperson, Biodiversity Management Committee Raia	<i>Special Invitee</i>
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- The attendance for the Grievants present for the 14th GC meeting is attached herewith.

At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA extended a warm welcome to the members of the Grievance Committee of GSWA. The following Agenda was transacted:

**Agenda 1 : Confirmation of 13<sup>th</sup> Grievance Committee meeting minutes**

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Grievance Committee Meeting were circulated before the Committee Members for confirmation.

Proposed by: Adv. Sapna Mordekar (Member)

Seconded by: Hon'ble Rtd. Judge Desmond D'Costa (Chairperson)

The same was approved by all the members present at the meeting.

**Agenda 2: Action taken report 13<sup>th</sup> Grievance Committee meeting**

The details of the action taken on the agenda points of the 13<sup>th</sup> GC Meeting were placed to the members for information and perusal. Agenda no. 1 & 2 were complied with and agenda 3 is ongoing.

**Agenda 3: Personal hearing to the objections regarding draft notification of Bachbhatt Lake & Bebki Lake (Salcete)**

At the onset HNA, GSWA explained in brief the entire process of Wetlands Identification & Notification in the State of Goa as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017, He informed that Space Application Centre in year 2009 prepared National wetlands Atlas and depicted the presence of 550 waterbodies in the State of Goa. Further Government of Goa entrusted the task of segregation of these waterbodies and preparation of Brief Documents to CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography. After the segregation and removing the waterbodies falling under CRZ Regulations, Forest laws and mining pits, temple ponds, Goa State Wetland Authority finally identified 44 waterbodies as wetlands. The Brief documents Once approved by GSWA the wetlands are draft notified for 60 days wherein its open to receive objections & suggestions. After receiving the grievances, the grievances are addressed by the Grievance committee of GSWA. Once the Grievances are addressed, GSWA takes final decision regarding final notification of Wetland. Following this the grievances were addressed.



**Oscar Abreu**

The grievant expressed his objection towards identification of Bacbhatt lake as wetland and the waterbody is seasonal in nature. The notification doesn't provide any details of existing structures.

GC informed as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 even temporary waterbodies can be identified as Wetlands and that repair to the existing premises is also permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities.

**Adv. Radharao F. Gracias** representing A. I. Savio Gomes, Eromita Fernandes, Shelma Fernandes, Estevao Gomes, Matheus DaCruz, Manoj Borkar, Eugenio D'costa, Marco Continho, Eulanio Silveira, Rosa Dias submitted vakalatnama on behalf of above mentioned grievants. He requested for some time so that he can represent the grievants properly. GC agreed to grant some time to the legal counsel and directed him to present his grievances in the grievance committee meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.

**N.R. Kamat**

The Grievant was present in person and expressed his objection towards identification of Bacbhatt lake as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and he has plot which partly falls in notified area where he intends to construct. The GC decided to refer the same to authority.

**Remedios Marcelino Gomes & Gleena Angela Cabral e Gomes Alias Gleena**

The Grievant was present in person and has plot survey no.222/1-D which partly falls in notified area where he intends to construct. The GC decided to refer the same to authority.

**Loyall Quadros**

The grievant was present in person and had objection that Bachbhatt Lake do not qualify as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. The GC explained in brief the identification of waterbodies as wetlands as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

**Hon'ble MLA Shri Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco**



The Hon'ble MLA put forth proposal that only core waterbody should be notified considering existing structures and future possibility of expansion & potential development in the area. The GC decided to refer the same to authority.

### **Village Panchayat Raia**

The Sarpanch suggested that whether the wetland can be notified without the Buffer or whether the lakes can be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site. HNA, GSWA explained that the proposal to declare the lakes as Biodiversity Heritage Site should come from Biodiversity Management Committee of the Village and then the State Biodiversity Board will decide on the matter.

However GC decided to refer the proposal to authority.

### **Antonio Inacio Savio Gomes & 20 others.**

Antonio Inacio Savio Gomes represented his own grievance and also 20 others. He asserted that the waterbodies are well managed by the local community and do not require government intervention. He also put forth the opinion that it is manmade waterbody specifically constructed for the purpose of irrigation hence cannot qualify as wetland. Also the locals have ancestral houses in the Buffer Zone with the adequate permissions. Restrictions on the construction will cause distress to the locals. He also requested that re-site inspection needs to be conducted to verify the facts on ground. Also there is ongoing slab making activity in the Buffer Zone of Bachhatt lake. He expressed strong objection for the wetland notification. 4

The GC decided to refer this grievance to authority.

### **Mario Quadros**

The grievant was present in person and had objection that Bachhatt Lake do not qualify as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and the said notification will cause great distress to the community. He said that the entire identification is a erroneous. The said notified area is depicted at fields in the land records hence cannot be notified as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. He further stated that it will be hardship faced by the locals due to undue restrictions due to prohibition on the new construction in area that is 50 meter from mean high flood level.



The GC decided to refer the same to authority since its beyond the powers of GC to resolve the query regarding classification of waterbody as wetlands and prohibition on new construction in 50 meter from mean high flood level.

**Rosada C. Rodrigues**

The Grievant was present in person and has plot which partly falls in notified area where she intends to do new construction.

The GC decided to refer the same to authority. GC also explained that all the pre-existing rights and privileges are protected including agriculture activities, under wetland notification as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

**Romouldo Rebelo**

The grievant was present in person and represented other grievants too namely Benajmin Rebelo, Maria Magdalena Rebelo, Francisco Rebelo, Inacio Rebelo, Jose Aleluia Rebelo and stated that they are siblings and are agricultural tenants of the plot.

GC explained the grievants that all the pre-existing rights and privileges are protected including agriculture activities, under wetland notification as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.


However grievant expressed objection to the wetland notification of Bebki Lake.

**Conclusion:** GC informed the grievants that all the pre-existing rights and privileges are protected including agriculture activities, under wetland notification as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. The GC decided to refer to the authority since its beyond the powers of GC to resolve the query regarding classification of waterbody as wetland and prohibition on new construction in 50 meter from mean high flood level. GC decided that final decision regarding final notification to be taken by authority.

**Any other Agenda with the permission of the chair: NIL.**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA.



  
Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam  
Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA



GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY

GRIEVANTS PRESENT FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 IN Room no 407, Seminar Hall, South Goa Collectorate, Mathany Saldhana Administrative Complex, Office Of District Collector, South Goa FROM 2.00 P.M. ONWARDS.

Sr. No.	Grievants	Signature
1	Simon Masanda	
2	Shelma Fernandes	
3	Marcos ne catho	M.R.
4	Rosie Reis	
5	Maujij Boudar	
6	OSCAR W. ABREU	
7	Lizy Fernandes	
8	EULARIO Silveira	FSilveira
9	Exomita Fernandes	Fernandes
10	Valency Saldanha	
11	Bocorrina Rodrigues	S. Rodrigues



12	Rosaida C. Rodrigues	R.C. Rodrigues
13	ESTEVAO GOMES	<del>Estevo</del>
14	Michael Rodrigu	M.R.
15	NICHOLAS REVEREDO	Reveredo
16	JUDY REVEREDO	Reveredo
17	Charlene Quadros	C. Quadros
18	Maria Pereira	M Pereira
19	Zeena Gomes	Z. Gomes
20	LOYALL QUADROS	<del>Loyall</del>
21	MARIO QUADROS	M. Quadros
22	Cynthia Fernando	C. Fernando
23	LESTER PEREIRA	L. Pereira
24	SANSAY MONTEIRO	S. Monteiro
25	Remedios M. Gomes	R. Gomes
26	Cilene Angda Cabral c. Gomes	C. Gomes
27	Kamal Kamat	K.K. Kamat
28	N.R. Kacuat	<del>N.R.</del>
29	Lubino Pin	L. Pin
30	Sauro Reveredo	S. Reveredo
31	Eugenio D'Costa	E. D'Costa
32	Joel BERTAMAZ	J. Bertamaz
33	Iraio Caetano Rebelo	I.C. Rebelo
34	Francisco XAVIER Rebelo	F. Rebelo
35	Novilde Fernandes (Magdalena Rebelo)	N. Fernandes
36	Sebastiao R. Rebelo (Romualdo C. Rebelo)	S. Rebelo
37	Sebastiao R. Rebelo (Benjamin V. Rebelo)	S. Rebelo
38	EUSEBIO BRAGANZA (Sec. Rata BMC)	E. Braganza
39	Alex edallena Rebelo	A. Rebelo
40	Krishna c. Dessai (VPS Raia)	K. Dessai
41	Mildred Pereira	M. Pereira
42	Clarinda Rodrigues	C. Rodrigues



