

**MINUTES OF THE 03<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA) HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018.**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR MEETING

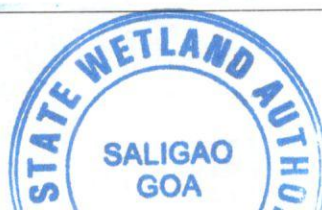
**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018; **TIME:** 4:45 PM

**VENUE:** CHAMBER OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER- GOA STATE, ASSEMBLY BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM- GOA

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. MANOHAR PARRIKAR, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, GOA STATE, CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

The following members attended the meeting:

| Sr.No. | Name   | Designation       |
|--------|--|-------------------|
| 1.     | Hon'ble. Chief Minister, Government of Goa; Minister for Environment; Chairperson, Goa State Wetland Authority | Chairperson       |
| 2.     | Secretary (Revenue)  | Ex Officio Member |
| 3.     | Director, State Remote Sensing Centre  | Ex Officio Member |
| 4.     | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ Chief Wildlife Warden  | Ex Officio Member |
| 5.     | Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)  | Ex Officio Member |
| 6.     | Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board  | Ex Officio Member |
| 7.     | Dr. G.N. Nayak, Goa University   | Expert Member     |
| 8.     | Shri. Sreepada Anantha R., NIO   | Expert Member     |
| 9.     | Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Goa University  | Expert Member     |



|     |   |                  |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 10. | Shri. Devanand Kavalekar, NIO               | Expert Member    |
| 11. | Dr. Vinod Dhargalkar, Former Scientist, NIO | Expert Member    |
| 12. | Director, Department of Environment         | Member Secretary |

Chief Secretary, Secretary (Environment), Secretary (Forests), Secretary (Urban Development), Secretary (Rural Development), Secretary (Water Resources), Secretary (Fisheries), Secretary (Irrigation and Flood Control), Secretary (Tourism) and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and were unable to attend the meeting.

At the onset, Member Secretary, GSWA extended a warm welcome to the members of the Authority.

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the meetings of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cont.) meeting of Goa State Wetland Authority.**

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of GSWA and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cont.) meeting of GSWA were confirmed by the Members present for the meeting.

Proposed by: Head of Nodal Agency; Member Secretary, GSBB

Seconded by: Dr. G. N. Nayak, Expert Member- GSWA

**Agenda 2: Draft policy for preservation, protection, conservation and development of wetlands in Goa.**

Member Secretary, GSBB proposed that policy for preservation, protection, conservation and development of wetlands in Goa needs to be drafted. Shri. Manohar



Parrikar, Chairperson, GSWA and Member Secretary, GSWA recommended that such policy may not be required in view of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 which by itself may be observed as a policy. The same was agreed by the members.

**Agenda 3: Identification and notification of wetlands in Goa based on criteria specific to the State of Goa.**

Member Secretary, GSBB proposed that identification and notification of wetlands in Goa should be based on criteria specific to the State of Goa. Member Secretary, GSWA suggested that there is no need to identify separate specific criteria for wetlands in Goa and the process of identification and notification should be carried out as per the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. The same was approved by the members present and Chairperson, GSWA.

**Agenda 4: Approval for basic criteria specific to the State of Goa by GSWA after discussion.**

Member Secretary, GSWA said that State specific criteria may not be legally permissible and hence this idea was dropped. Since the members present felt that the concept of State specific criteria in this agenda point was discussed in agenda point 3, this agenda point was decided as discussed.

**Agenda 5: Selection of appropriate agency to conduct detailed study of the wetlands identified for notification under the guidance of appointed committee.**

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of the GSWA that as directed by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Directorate of Settlements and Land records (DSLRL) was contacted to ensure segregation of wetlands as per forests



and CRZ areas, however DSLR has expressed inability to carry out the above task citing lack of technical capabilities and resources as the work involves geo referencing, physical delineation, ground truthing, etc. DSLR has suggested that GSWA should appoint a specialized agency for the said purpose. Further, Member Secretary, GSBB informed members that in the above context Ministry for Environment and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was contacted. Further he also informed that some organisations were also contacted and GSWA has received applications for identification, delineation and notifications of wetlands in Goa from Wetlands International South Asia and ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia. Member Secretary, GSBB also informed the members that Government agencies such as National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has already been approached and Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad would also be approached for involving them in the process of identification and notification of wetlands in Goa.

Member Secretary, GSWA informed the members of GSWA that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and National Green Tribunal are keenly monitoring/ observing the process of wetland identification in all the States and further added that in case of engagement of private agency for identification and notification of wetlands, the process will be delayed due to codal formalities.

Representative of Chief Wild Life Warden suggested that since NCSCM is overburdened Remote Sensing Agency and Goa Bird Conservation Network could also be considered.

It was unanimously resolved that Government agencies such as NCSCM and other renowned Government agencies could be engaged in the process of identification and notification of wetlands in the State of Goa. Chairperson, GSWA also suggested that



DSLIR should monitor the process. The approval for selection of agency may be moved on file.

**Agenda 6: Approval for the 'Expert Committee for suggesting wetlands in Goa' and setting up of 'Working Committee' to oversee the progress of above mentioned agency for monthly review and conducting review meeting of GSWA for hearing the matter. Member Secretary, GSWA may be authorized.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed members of GSWA that: a Technical Committee consisting of 07 members to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by GSWA and a Grievance Committee consisting of 04 members has already been approved by Chairperson, GSWA.

Further Member Secretary, GSBB informed that as resolved during 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cont.) meeting of GSWA, Expert Committee for suggesting wetlands in Goa consisting of 07 members is being proposed for approval.

The same was unanimously approved by members of GSWA and suggested that the names of the same should be communicated to the GSWA members and the Committee members as well.

Member Secretary, GSBB suggested that to avoid delay in resolving matters pertaining to GSWA a Working Committee be constituted to address the routine matters, to oversee the progress of GSWA, for periodic review and conducting review meeting of GSWA for hearing the matters. Chairperson, GSWA suggested that Director Environment should chair the same. Other members of the Working Committee would comprise of Member Secretary, GSBB; *Ex officio*-Member, GSWA; Dr. G. N. Nayak, Member- GSWA; Dr. Vinod Dhargalkar, Member- GSWA; Dr. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Member- GSWA; Shri. Sreepada Anantha R, Member- GSWA; Shri. Devanand Kavalekar, Member- GSWA and any other *ex officio* member of GSWA as



may be invited by Chairperson, GSWA or Member Secretary, GSWA based on the issue under consideration. The same was unanimously approved.

**Agenda 7: Taking decision on applications received by GSWA regarding:**

- a. Request from Village Panchayat Chimbhel, Tiswadi to declare Chimbhel Lake as wetland- Letter no. VP/CHIM/2017-2018/2504 dated: 13/03/2018.
- b. Request to examine and take necessary action regarding excavation of pond called 'Nag Tollem in village Candolim- Letter received from Shri. Agnelo Baretto, Sequeira Waddo, Candolim dated: 21/02/2018.

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of GSWA that the some applications are received requesting to declare lakes as wetlands. Chairperson, GSWA suggested that such applications should be referred to the agency selected for the process of identification and notification of wetlands in Goa. Further Chairperson, GSWA also suggested that identification and notification process should be carried out as per the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

c. Development of Carambolim Lake.

- (i) Letter no. GSIDC/Engg/Work/6762 dated: 09/02/2018 from GSIDC. (Forwarded to GSWA by Director (Environment)- Letter no. 17-1-2017/ENVT/ Part I/872 dated: 28/02/2018)
- (ii) Letter received from Minister for Power and Social Welfare (Letter no. Min/Power/SW/NCE/2018/1135 dated: 16/01/2018)

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of GSWA that Water Resources Department has requested to grant approval for the beautification of Carambolim Lake in Village Panchayat, Tiswadi- Goa and has proposed for building/ making 03 islands in the lake apart from other works to be carried out in the process of beautification of lake. Chairperson, GSWA suggested that concretisation should not be involved at any



point and guidelines could be issued for the same in association of Department of Forests. Further Chairperson, GSWA suggested the matter should be referred to the Working Committee.

d. Gram Sabha resolution 6(3) dated: 28/01/2018 to rectify Regional Plan 2021 to show wetlands. (Letter received from V. P. Navelim- letter no. VP/N/106/2018-19/26 dated: 12/04/2018).

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of GSWA that V. P. Navelim has sent Gram Sabha resolution 6(3) dated: 28/01/2018 to rectify Regional Plan 2021 to show wetlands. Chairperson, GSWA suggested that the same should be referred to the agency selected for identification and notification of wetland in Goa and further addressed in GSWA.

**Agenda 8: Recruiting staff for GSWA.**

Chairperson, GSWA suggested the Member Secretary, GSWA to take appropriate action and do the needful. The same was agreed by the members.

**Agenda 9: Any other matter with the permission of Chair.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of GSWA that scheme for providing Grant in Aid by GSWA has been notified vide notification no. 175-10-2017/STE-DIR/Part- I/781 dated: 18/01/2018.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Member Secretary, GSBB.



Ravi Jha, IAS  
Member Secretary, GSWA