

**MINUTES OF THE 10th GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE
WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

DATE: 31st October 2023; **TIME:** 3.00 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: AUDITORIUM, 2nd FLOOR, OFFICE OF GOA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, OPP. SALIGAO SEMINARY, SALIGAO, BARDEZ, 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.	Shri. Shivprasad Naik, Dy. Collector (LA)	Representative of North Goa Collector
3.	Smt. Snehal S. Prabhu, Dy. Collector, (Revenue), Collectorate South Goa	Member
4.	Smt. Durga Kinlekar, Under Secretary (Revenue)	Member
5.	Shri Ganesh K. Barve, Dy. Director, Department of Urban Development.	Member
6.	Smt. Meeksha Naik, Block Development Officer (BDO) II, HQ, Directorate of Panchayat (DOP)	Representative of DOP
7.	Adv. Sapna Mordekar	Member
8.	Shri. Noel Tavares, Block Development Officer	Representative of DOP
9.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA & Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)	Convenor



10.	Shri Akash Naik, Block Development Officer & Secretary, Village Panchayat	Representative of DOP
11.	Shri Devanand M. Naik, Chairperson of Biodiversity Management Committee, Querim Ponda	Invitee

- The attendance of the Grievants present of the 10th GC meeting is attached herewith with the Draft of Proceedings.

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

Agenda 1 : Personal Hearing to the objectors regarding draft notification of Arla Keri Lake and Betal Lake (Querim, Ponda), as Wetland under Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

1. Sarpanch/Secretary, Village Panchayat, Querim along with Biodiversity Management Committee Querim (Arla Keri lake and Betal Lake)

There was no representation from Village Panchayat, Querim, Ponda but Biodiversity Management Committee conveyed that wetland notification can be done only after proper public consultation. In this regard GC informed about awareness programme already held in Village Panchayat of Querim, Ponda.

2. Shri. Prasanna Naik, Shri Shantadurga (Sateri) Devalaya Keri Ponda

The Grievant was represented by Shri Prayan Dhamaskar President of Sateri Devalaya Keri Ponda along with Adv. Jitendra their Legal Counsel.

The Legal counsel informed the Committee that the temple performs various ceremonies on the bank and in the vicinity of Betal Lake & Arla Keri Lake and temple is major stakeholder in both the lakes. The "*Bara Wangdis*" perform various rites & rituals since the inception. He asserted that the properties are paddy fields. Also various restrictions on the extraction of water is an impediment to the use of water by local community for *Kulagars* & paddy fields. He also said that there was no public consultation prior to draft notification. He intimated the committee that the traditional paddy cultivation is carried out in the core wetland area and should be allowed to continue.

GC informed that objections and grievances are invited in the course of 60 days after Draft notification of wetland and that various traditional & existing privileges & rights will be

protected and any traditional activities that are inadvertently missed out in the notification are being noted and will be included in the final notification. Also that as per Gazette notified Lake Management committee of local BMC, Chairperson, Assistant Engineer of WRD and major stakeholders and other members will manage the notified wetland locally.

Decision: GC agreed to the request of Temple Committee to provide 7 days time to submit the traditional activities to be permitted in the wetland notification.

2. Shri. Ramkrishna Jalmi & Others

The grievants appeared in person. Mr. Sudhir Desai informed that in the Betal lake traditional temple ceremonies like *Sangod Utsav* are performed. He further said that the notified area is called *Holiye Bhat* and is a stream and not a lake and few years ago the retaining wall was built by the Water Resources Department. He further asked GC to de-notify the Draft notification of Betal Lake and informed that the local community manages the lakes. He further informed that in Arla Keri Lake, major cultivation is done by ST Community. He further requested that construction be allowed to in the buffer zone. He also asserted that due to marginal economy it is not possible for locals to approach GSWA for permissions hence this wetland should not be notified.

Further Mr. Premanand Gurav informed that water from Arla Keri Lake is utilized for irrigating the *kulagars*. The existing wall at the edge of the lake is in a dilapidated state and needs repair but prohibition on construction in Buffer Zone will hinder the repair of the wall. He further asked that concerned authority may assist the locals in repair of the edging wall. To this GC informed that maintenance works of existing edge wall is permitted using traditional methods.

Decision: GC informed that the existing structures can be repaired and renovated after availing required permissions from other concerned authorities. GC further informed that there exists no provision in the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 to de-notify the Wetland however GC will convey the inputs received from grievants to GSWA to take further decision in this regard.

3. Shri Rohidas G. Kerkar & Others

Shri Rohidas G. Kerkar and others were represented by the Shri Rohidas G. Kerkar. He extended support towards wetland notification. He informed the GC that a total 150 locals depend on Arla kerri Lake for their livelihood through *kulagars* irrigated from the waters of the said lake hence it is important to conserve the lake for future use.



Further Gauresh Kerkar further informed that the lake is heavily silted and dilapidated wall needs to be repaired and water is a bit polluted hence is no longer potable.

Decision: GC conveyed that repair of existing structures is allowed, after availing required permissions from other concerned authorities and wise use of the wetland can be decided by the Lake Management Committee.

4. Shri. Rohidas Baburao Satarkar

Grievant was present in-person. He informed that his livelihood depends on the existing recreational activity which is ecofriendly spice plantation in and around the Karmale Lake and he should be allowed to continue. He further added that there also exists a temporary bridge over the wetland which is the only access to his traditional house.

Decision: GC informed that existing recreational activity will become part of grievant's existing rights and privileges and all the pre-existing ownership rights and privileges pertaining to identified and notified wetlands will be maintained. GC further informed that the existing structures shall continue to exist & it is permitted to repair and renovate the same after availing required permissions from other concerned authorities without affecting the ecological character of the wetland.

5. Shri. Vinay K. Borkar & Others

Grievant was represented by Shri Prabhakar Kerkar and grievances are related to Arla Lake Draft notification and they oppose wetland notification. He further informed that due to non-maintenance of lake, they are unable to cultivate but if properly managed and land becomes cultivable, then he is ready to re-cultivate. The constructed edge 135 meter long has collapsed and needs to be repaired for better management of their *Kulagars*. The lake is heavily silted and needs to be desilted for better water storage and better downstream irrigation. He has landed properties in the buffer zone and existing structures and has plans for new constructions.

Decision: GC informed that the existing structures can be repaired and renovated after availing required permissions from other concerned authorities and activities like desiltation & other activities will be part of wise use of the wetland and can be decided by the Lake Management Committee after the final notification.



6. The Farmers-ward Karmale

The Farmers-ward Karmale was represented by Shri. Sachin Kerkar. He suggested that protection wall needs to be constructed so that proper water storage can be done and help in ground water recharge.

Decision: GC informed that the said activity is part of wise use of the wetland and will be decided by the Lake Management Committee.

Conclusion of the meeting: GC decided that the existing structures are allowed to be repaired and renovated after availing required permissions from other concerned authorities by the Grievants and wise use of the wetland can be decided by the local Lake Management Committee. GC decided that there exist no provision in the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 to de-notify the Wetland however GC will convey the inputs received from grievants to GSWA for further decision.

Agenda 2: Any other matter with the permission of the chairperson.

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 (GSWA)

ATTENDANCE

Time: 02:30 pm onwards

Date: 31/10/2023

Venue: 02nd Floor, Auditorium, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao, Bardez - Goa

Purpose: 10th Grievance Committee Meeting of Goa State Wetland Authority regarding grievances received for draft notification of Arla Keri Lake, and Betal Lake (Querim - Ponda) as wetland under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

Sr. No	Name	Contact details	Signature
1	Devanand M. Naik	9049566704	
2	Vishant S. Desai	9923487415	
3	Premanand P. Gaurav	7507645977	
4	Vinay K. Borkar	9823446974	
5	Aniket A. Desai	9823023822	
6	Rohidas B. Saterkar	9823643809	
7	Gaurav	9226195139	
8	Niraj Naik	9049930013	
9	Prayon Dhamaskor	9822136633	
10	Ashu Shankar J. Gaurav	9049600261	
11	ANAND SAVANT	9049938400	
12	SUDHIR B. DESAI	9823171732	
13	Vishal R. Sawarkar	9923477137	

14.	Wilson Pereira	9822177582	<u>W Pereira</u>
15	विष्णु म केरकर	9022815067	<u>विष्णु</u>
16.	Kartik T. Gaude	8007945927	<u>Kaude</u>
167	Prlemanand M. Sataris	8806045639	<u>PrM</u>
18	Rupesh R. Gaude	7798124731	<u>Rupesh</u>
19	गणेश गो गोड		<u>Nagesh</u>
20	विष्णु वि. विष्णु		<u>विष्णु वि. विष्णु</u>
21	Krishna S. Gaude	9764239483	<u>Kaude</u>
22	Dipu S. Gaude	9309890100	<u>DGaude</u>
23	गोविंद वि गोड	9168930146	<u>गोविंद वि गोड</u>
24	Jaduram Gaude		<u>Jaduram Gaude</u>
25	Babuso B. Gaude	9764315192	<u>Baude</u>
26	किरीट विष्णु		<u>किरीट विष्णु</u>
27	Satish Kerkar	9764803232	<u>S</u>
28	Pradeep B. Gaude	9822585878	<u>PB</u>
29	Gokuldas S. Gaude	9764682252	<u>(97)</u>
30	Anand B. Gaude	8007716219	<u>AGaude</u>
31	Kashinath V. Gaude	9765896215	<u>KV Gaude</u>
32	Sachin H. Kerkar	8459563142	<u>SK</u>
33.	Rajani Rohidas Gaude		
34.	Anandi Anant Gaude		

