

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
2ND FLOOR, A-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAVAN
I.P ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02**

F. No. 11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol X/Part-4/7359-61

Date: 3 January 2018

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 15.12.2017
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, DELHI**

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held on 15.12.2017 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Delhi to discuss the management of ridge areas in Delhi and proposals ancillary to it.

The list of participants is annexed.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Board members and participants representing the relevant Agencies. The Addl. PCCF, Member Secretary, RMB welcomed the new Chairman and introduced members present.

Thereafter, the RMB reviewed the status and action taken on the following proposals as per earlier RMB directions given in the last meeting held on 3.8.2017 and noted the progress and confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 03.08.2017.

(A) Action taken on minutes of meeting held on 3.8.2017

It was informed by Member Secretary RMB that as per directions in the last RMB, the following proposals had been forwarded to the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for their report to be filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It was also informed that the CEC had taken up the site visits in some cases and had submitted their report to Hon'ble Supreme Court while in some other cases the report from CEC was awaited.

1. Development of Johad in Bhatti Mines area by Delhi Jal Board.
2. Construction of International Craft Complex at Vasant Kunj.
3. Construction of residential building for CISF at Maidangarhi.
4. Construction of 220 KV substation, Sector 9, Vasant Kunj by Delhi Transco Ltd.
5. Setting up of Jan Suvidha Complexes in Ridge Areas by DUSIB.
6. Laying of LILO (Loop In- Loop Out) Transmission lines by Power Grid Corporation.
7. Establishment of Waste to Energy plant at Tehkhand, Okhla.
8. Construction in the campus of South Asian University.

The status of following projects was intimated by Member Secretary RMB to the members present as detailed below:

9. **Construction in Government Co-ed Senior Secondary school, Bhatti Mines:** In the last meeting, the Department of Education had been directed to explore the possibilities for de-notification of the land from Sanctuary area and necessary clearances under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in consultation with concerned authorities. No proposal had been received yet.

10. **Demarcation of Morphological Ridge based on GSI map and Morphological features of Ridge to maintain the area as Natural Conservation Zone:** The Member Secretary, RMB informed the issue of delineation of morphological ridge is being taken up with FSI so that the confusion as to its location and extent is settled at the earliest.
11. **Final demarcation and notification of Ridge Forest land under Section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927:** The Board was informed that demarcation of Southern Ridge forest area by Revenue Department through TSM survey was in progress and encroachment free land in Jonapur and Aya Nagar had been taken over by Forest Department.

The Chairman directed that a detailed report on the demarcation status may be put up to the RMB along with NGT orders on the issue for consideration in the next RMB. Meanwhile, the Forest Department should ensure that the area is secured while the Revenue Department should initiate action for removal of encroachments where found and a quarterly progress report be submitted on action taken.

(B) Compliance of minutes of meeting held on 3.8.017

The RMB in its last meeting held on 3.8.2017 had given certain directions for compliance after which these proposals were to be re put up for discussion in the RMB.

Thus the Member Secretary, RMB brought the status and compliance to the notice of RMB as under:

Agenda Item 12

12. **Construction of Bird Rescue Centre at Rajokri:**

The APCCF and member secretary informed the Board that as decided in the last meeting of RMB, Dr. Vibhu Prakash, Dy. Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Vulture Conservation Centre, Pinjore, Haryana had been invited to visit the proposed Bird Rescue Centre at Rajokri and had given his report on site selection stating that the existing un-used monkey shelter may be utilized with additional adjoining area of about 1 acre to accommodate the proposed aviaries. This seems to be reasonable instead of new area in the Ridge.

Since Dr. Vibhu Prakash was not present the report was not discussed and the matter was deferred for the next RMB meeting.

Agenda Item 13

13. **Project on eco restoration of Central Ridge area through biodiversity enrichment:**

The Board had earlier directed that Prof. C.R. Babu, Chairman, CEMDE may give a presentation of the complete proposal for next five years for consideration by the RMB in its next meeting. Member Secretary also informed that Prof. Babu has also submitted a proposal for the financial year 2017-18 for Rs. 61 Lakhs for eradication of *P. juliflora* in a controlled manner by canopy lifting in a phased manner for restoration of biodiversity on Central ridge along Sardar Patel marg. As Prof. Babu was not present in the meeting, the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 14**14. Construction of sump well and pump house near Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Ward No. 171 & 172 in South Zone, Vasant Kunj:**

The proposal was deferred to the next RMB.

Agenda Item 15**15. Development of alternative site for Gas Godown near MTNL office, Motia Khan, New Delhi:**

The proposal of DDA for development of alternative site for gas godowns near MTNL office Idgah, Motia Khan was discussed by the Board.

The DDA representative informed the Board that number of existing gas godowns were situated in thickly populated by-lanes near Jhandewalan Mandir. It was also brought to the notice by DDA officials that due to increase in population of the area and large number of devotees coming to the Mandir, the site of existing gas godowns was vulnerable to accident/ tragedy and therefore was proposed to be shifted out of the populated area.

DDA stated that shifting the existing gas godowns was in public interest to avoid any possibility accident and the proposed new site near MTNL office, Idgah, Motia Khan involved a mere 1515 sqm of the Morphological Ridge area.

The DDA agreed to convert the area retrieved from shifting of existing godowns into a green area and submit a note approved by Chairman DDA highlighting the need for shifting of gas godowns and the danger these pose in a populated area. The representative of DDA assured the Chair that the retrieved area shall be converted into and subsumed with the larger green area adjoining the existing gas godowns and submits the said note.

The DDA vide D.O. No.PA/AC (LS)/DDA/2017/284 dt. 21.12.2017 has since submitted a note dt. 18.12.2017 approved by Chairman DDA that the existing godowns have to be shifted to the available vacant site away from densely populated area and as per master plan, the land use is PSP. It has also been stated that the green area next to the existing gas godown has already been upgraded and the landscape plan of the area has been appended with the said note. This matter will be placed before the next RMB meeting for a decision.

Agenda Item 16**16. Construction of Naval infrastructure at 183-Brar Square, Construction by Ordnance Factory Board, New Delhi Office and Grant of clearance for construction of office building for WESEE, at survey no. 183, Brar Square:**

During the RMB meeting held on 03.08.2017, three projects of Defense (WESEE, Ordnance Factory Board and Indian Navy) had been discussed and as the Forest Department and Defense had conflicting views so it had been decided that the Secretary (E&F) Delhi shall scrutinize the documents of both and give his views to the RMB.

As per the said decision, the Addl. PCCF and the officers of Navy, Ordnance Factory Board and WESEE had presented their case before Secretary (E&F), GNCTD to

arrive at a decision. The Secretary (E&F) found that the Addl. PCCF claimed that the land proposed for afore mentioned three projects was falling within the boundary described in the preliminary notification of Central Ridge issued in 1994, while the officials of Naval Authority, OFB, WESEE and the Defense Estate Officer countered that as per their records, the area proposed for three projects was part of Morphological Ridge (and not Ridge) as mentioned in the records of Defense Estate Office and the DEO had made allotment in Morphological ridge and so was not falling within 864 ha of the 1994 notification. Therefore, the Secretary had expressed that the 1994 notification of the Central Ridge Reserved Forest is not clear as the area mentioned in the notification did not match with the boundary description given in the same notification.

During the meeting on 15.12.2017 the representatives of Naval Authority, OFB, WESEE and the Defense Estate Officer again reiterated their stand and produced maps and documents to establish their point.

The Board observed that the map of Central ridge prepared by GSDL showed an area of 1812 ha as per boundary notification, while the area mentioned in the said notification was only 864 ha approx. In view of the above, the Board decided to visit the area anytime after 2nd January, 2018 to physically assess the actual position in the field with reference to the trees in the area, their height and coverage of the area etc before taking a decision in the matter for referring it to CEC for advice and directions.

Agenda Item 17

17. Construction of CC road upto Nanaksar Satsang Sabha:

Nanaksar Satsang Sabha is part of Central Ridge and the Bhawan is constructed in an area of 1.5 acres. The approach road to Bhawan is having a width of 45 ft. which was earlier divided at the centre with the provision of kutchha pathway on either side. Therefore, the Sabha had started a construction of CC type road on this existing black top road which was stopped by Forest claiming violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The RMB noted that the Hon'ble Supreme Court had given certain specific instructions regarding the land allotted to Gurudwara Nanaksar in 1971. RMB directed the Deputy Conservator of Forests (South), in whose jurisdiction the area falls, to get the area surveyed and plotted on a map and directed the Member Secretary to study the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to the area allotted to Gurudwara Nanaksar and the actual area in possession. It was decided to place the matter in the next RMB with such details for a rational decision in accordance and compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme.

Agenda Item 18

18. Installation of 06 nos. of tube wells in Sanjay Nagar colony:

It was decided to defer the discussion for the next RMB.

Agenda Item 19**19. Construction of new buildings for up gradation of IIMC to international standards:**

The IIMC informed that only 15 acres had been earmarked for their Institute within JNU campus and so they were not the right authority to demarcate proposed green cover of 369 acres inside JNU campus and their project of construction of IIMC within JNU campus should not be linked to the overall task assigned to JNU by CEC.

Since the area allotted to IIMC was inside existing JNU campus which falls inside morphological ridge, the Board directed the Deputy Conservator of Forests (West), in whose jurisdiction the area falls, to physically inspect the area of 15 acres allotted to IIMC within JNU campus and place his inspection report in the next RMB for decision.

Agenda Item 20**20. Construction of Mahilpalpur By-pass connecting Ryan International School on Mehrauli-Mahilpalpur Road to Shiv Murti on NH-48:**

The item was deferred for the next RMB.

New Agenda items

The following new agenda items were discussed and decisions taken as below:

Agenda Item 1**1. Improvement of T-Junction near Dhaula Kuan Metro Station including widening of National Highway from Dhaula Kuan up to end of Junction on NH-8 and Improvement of T-Junction near Defence Area including widening of National Highway upto Defence area on NH-8:**

A proposal has been received from National Highway Authority of India Limited for widening of National Highway from Dhaula Kuan up to end of Junction on NH-8 and up to Defense area on NH-8.

The Member Secretary, RMB informed the Board that as per lay out/ alignment of the proposed construction and geo-coordinates provided by the User Agency, an area of 12.28 ha was falling under Morphological Ridge. However, 4.817 Ha was unpaved and the remaining 7.463 Ha was paved (road + berm) out of the total 12.28 ha area. It was also informed that 930 trees were standing in the Morphological Ridge portion while the proposal involved total felling of 2142 nos. of trees. However, DDA had already allotted an area of 21.52 Ha near Shastri park Metro Station, for carrying out ten times Compensatory Afforestation of 21420 nos. of trees as per provisions under Delhi (Preservation) of Trees Act, 1994.

The Board observed that out of 12.28 Ha falling in morphological ridge, an area of 7.463 Ha was the present NH-8 road and median which existed since much earlier. Therefore, the RMB members considered that 7.463 Ha was already paved and existing. On the other hand, the unpaved area of 2.878 Ha had not been broken up yet.

Since the proposal for improvement and widening of NH 8 from Dhaula Kuan to Airport road is for decongestion of traffic which would reduce idling time of vehicles due to frequent jams and ultimately lead to reduction of pollution, it was in public

interest. The Board therefore decided to recommend the proposal to CEC for consideration as per merit subject to payment of 5% cost of the project to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA NO. 1868 in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of ridge and ten times compensatory plantation of the number of trees to be felled at the identified location at the cost to be borne by user agency.

Agenda Item 2

2. Conversion of O/H line with U/G XLPE cable from Bhoop Singh Colony Mor, Rajpur Khurd Village and colony to Maidangarhi village, S/Stn, New Delhi:

The Board decided to defer the considerate proposal.

Agenda Item 3

3. Construction of Fixed Compactor Transfer Station at Maidangarhi:

The Board noted that since the site for installation of Fixed Compactor Transfer Station (FCTS) at Maidan Garhi village was falling under Ridge area notified under 1996 notification as per the map received from GSDL so it was decided to place the matter in the next meeting of RMB for a justified decision.

Agenda Item 4

4. Laying of Optical Fibre Cable through Central Ridge by Ministry of Defence (Navy):

The Board decided to place the matter of grant of ROW permission for laying of optical fibre cable (OFC) by Ministry of Defense (Navy) along the inside of the boundary of Central Ridge in the next meeting of RMB for a justified decision.

Agenda Item 5

5. Laying of perimeter pathway by Indian Air Force:

The proposal for construction of a perimeter pathway and installation of security lights inside the periphery of the Defense establishment falling inside Central Ridge area was perused. The Board directed the Member Secretary RMB to put up a detailed assessment of the project for discussion in the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6

6. Laying of water pipeline in colonies of Sangam Vihar and Aya Nagar:

Dy. Conservator of Forests (South) informed that the layout of pipelines is not superimposed by Delhi Jal Board on GSDL maps showing Khasra numbers and ridge area. So the matter was deferred for the next meeting of RMB.

It was decided that the Member Secretary will forward the proposals recommended by RMB to the CEC as per RMB's comments above. After approval, necessary action may be taken as per FCA, 1980 and DPTA, 1994 as applicable.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board**

Distribution:

1. All RMB members.
2. All representatives of User agencies as per list of participants.
3. Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee for kind information.



**Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

Date: 15.12.2017

Time: 03:00 PM

Sub: Meeting of Ridge Management Board

S.N.	Name	Designation	Tel. No.	Email ID	Signature
1	R Adm Kishan Pandey	ACOP(AC)	9810827519	kishpandya@yahoo.com	
2	Rakesh Kumar	S.D.O.	9899139091	deodahia@dgst.org	
3	RAJEEV SINGHAL	C.E.	9460432297	epmndp3@gmail.com	
4	RAJIV SHARMA	BE, C.P.W.D	9810598911	eeh3sudb@gmail.com	
5	Naveen Venug	CE (south)	9717788058		
6	S.P. Singh	JWM	9899347760		
7	D.N. MINZ	DY. DIR(PIS)	9810836694		
8	SUDHIR KR. KAIN	DIRECTOR CPG AP-II, DDA	9650779893		
9	Dr. K. SRIRANGAN	Dir (PP) DDA	9818842304		
10	SANJAY KHUR	AD(PIS) AP-I	8527331118		
11	B.S. Jaglan	DM (South East)	8130500999		
12	J.D. GIRI	Representative	9810133804		
13	SAURABH SHARMA	Gurudwara Namakan DCF (HA)	8729981933	dchhgncdd@gmail.com	
14	BHARAT MAHESHWARI	DCF	9410148001		
15	R GOPINATH	DCF (W)	7838558570		
16	T.S. GROVER	SE, DUSIB	9717999144	se2.dusib@gmail.com	
17	A.K. Jain	BE/ND-5/DDA	9717766770		
18	Manoj Kumar Shama	Dy Secretary (Finance)	9810271280		
19	RAM RATAN	AE/ND-2	8285142477		
20	Dy Cdr em Misra	Chief MO, P&SS	904969951	emm3007@gmail.com	

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ATTENDANCE SHEET

Date: 15.12.2017

Time: 03:00 PM

Sub: Meeting of Ridge Management Board

S.N.	Name	Designation	Tel. No.	Email ID	Signature
21	B.B. Jindal	Manager,	9810477321	piugur@gmail.com	Amr
22	Puneet Khanna	Dy. Manager	8433451863	piugur@gmail.com	PK
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