

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY KERALA  
(SWAK) HELD ON 15.02.2018 IN THE CHIEF MINISTER'S CONFERENCE HALL,  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**

The meeting started at 5.00 pm with Shri.Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala in the Chair. The following members were present:

1. Shri. Paul Antony IAS, Chief Secretary (Vice Chairperson, SWAK)
2. Shri. Tom Jose, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt, Water Resources Dept.
3. Shri P.H.Kurien IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Environment Dept.
4. Shri.V.S.Senthil, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt, (Planning)
5. Dr. Avinash M Kanfode, IFS, APCCF(C), MoEF&CC, Regional Office Bangalore
6. Smt. Padma Mahanti, IFS, Member Secretary SWAK
7. Shri.S. Jane Mithra, Scientist, KSREC
8. Shri. Anil Kumar V, Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board.
9. Shri. P.K.Kesavan, Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Head Quarters
10. Shri.T.A.Thankappan, Member Secretary KSPCB
11. Smt.Sheela A.M, Senior Environmental Engineer, KSPCB
12. Shri.Joshy K.A, Chief Engineer (Irrigation & Administration)
13. Shri.A.B.Ashok, Secretary (Urban) LSGD
14. Shri. A. Ajithkumar, Secretary (Rural) LSGD
15. Shri.B. Srinivas, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Dept
16. Shri. Venu.V, Principal Secretary, Forest Dept
17. Shri.S. Thilakan, Supply Engineer, Irrigation, Dept.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) explained the different agenda .

**Action taken on the decisions taken on the SWAK meeting held on 15.02.2018**

**Agenda No. 1**

- (i) **Formation of State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) and Designation of Vice-Chairperson and Member Secretary**

Kerala State Government [vide G.O.(Ms.) No.14/2017/Env. dt. 28-12-2017], as per section 5(1) of the new Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 (*Annexure-I*) has reconstituted SWAK and designated Hon'ble Minister for Environment as Chairman, the Chief Secretary to

Government as Vice Chairperson and the Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change as the Member Secretary. The list of members is nominated as per the notification is attached herewith. (*Annexure – II*).

**(ii) Expert Members**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Experts in the field of <i>Wetland Ecology</i>    | Dr.P.S.Harikumar (CWRDM),<br>Dr.P.Harinarayanan (KSCSTE)  |
| Experts in the field of <i>Wetland Hydrology</i>  | Dr.V.P.Dinesan (CWRDM)  |
| Experts in the field of <i>Wetland Fisheries</i>  | Dr.K.G.Padmakumar (Fisheries)<br>Dr.Dinesan Cheruvat (Fisheries)<br>Dr.Biju Kumar A (Kerala University)   |
| Experts in the field of <i>Landscape Planning</i> | Dr.G.Sankar (Twon Planning)<br>Dr. Kasthoori Rangan (Former Chief Town Planner)   |
| Experts in the field of <i>Socio-economics</i>    | Dr.T.K.A Nair. IAS (Rtd), Former Principal Secretary & Advisor to Prime Minister, Former Chief Secretary, Govet of Punjab<br>Dr. Rajan Gurukul, Former VC, M.G University<br>Dr.V.S.Vijayan, Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Former Director SACON. |

**Decision taken**

The chairman is authorized to select and finalize expert members one from each of the fields of Wetland Ecology, Wetland Fisheries, Landscape Planning and socio-economics.

**Agenda No. 2**

**Nomination of members to the Technical Committee and Grievance Committee**

As per the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017, the authority shall constitute Technical Committee and Grievance Committee within 90 days i.e., before 26<sup>th</sup> December 2017

- (i) The technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority

| <b>Proposed Technical Committee Members <i>Ex-officio</i></b>                                 |
|---|
| 1. Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) - Chairman  |
| 2. Expert Member on Wetland Hydrology   |
| 3. Expert Member on Wetland Ecology   |
| 4. Expert Member on Socio- economics  |
| 5. Expert Member on Fisheries   |
| 6. Dr. A. B. Anitha, Executive Director, CWRDM  |
| 7. Environment Programme Manager, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change -<br>Convenor |

#### **Decision taken**

The proposed composition of the Technical Committee as given above is approved. The Chairman is authorized to select and finalize expert members on Wetland Hydrology, Wetland Ecology, socio economics and Fisheries.

- i) A grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievance raised by public to the Authority.

| <b>Proposed Grievance Committee Members <i>Ex-officio</i></b>                |
|--|
| 1. Secretary in charge of Department of Law- <i>Ex-officio</i>               |
| 2. Secretary in charge of Department of Rural Development- <i>Ex-officio</i> |
| 3. Secretary in charge of Department of Revenue- <i>Ex-officio</i>           |
| 4. Nominated Expert in the field of <i>Socio-economics</i>                   |

The proposed composition of the Grievance Committee is approved as given. The Chairman is authorized to select the expert member in the field of Socio- economic for the Grievance Committee.

#### **Agenda No. 3**

##### **Co-opting of additional members**

Inclusion of three members from other relevant area as per the provision of Rule 5 sub section (3) of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017.

| <b>Proposed Members *</b>  |
|--|
| 1. Dr. K. K. Ramachandran, Scientist - F, NCESS, Thiruvananthapuram  |
| 2. Prof. P. O. Nameer, Head Chief Wildlife Studies, College of Forestry, Kerala Agri. University, Thrissur |
| 3. Dr. Kamalakshan Kokkal, Scientist - F, KSCSTE, Thiruvananthapuram                                       |

**Decision taken**

The proposed three members from other relevant area as per the provision of Rule 5 sub section (3) of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017 was approved.

**Agenda No. 4****Finalizing the list of wetlands to be submitted urgently to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**

As per the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017, prepare a list of all wetlands of the State within three months from the date of publication of these rules, i.e. on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

SWAK Governing Body held on 15.02.2017 decided to prepare the inventory of wetlands of Kerala by Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre (KSREC).

Approval may be given to the Draft list of 1762 wetlands of Kerala – Prepared by Space Application Centre (SAC), Government of India (*Annexure-IV*) for onward transmission to Government of India.

**Decision taken**

The list of 1762 Wetlands to be communicated to MoEFCC prepared by SAC was placed before SWAK. The list of Wetlands to be notified shall be done only after ground truthing and the final list of wetlands shall be placed before the SWAK for decision and onward submission to MoEFCC.

**Agenda No. 5****Other time line matters as per the new Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017 implementation**

- i. Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified within six months; taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State Acts (*on or before March 26, 2018*)[Action – KSREC]

- ii. Preparation of brief document on wetlands, and based on this documents recommend the identified wetlands for regulation under these rules.
- iii. Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within a period of one year (*on or before September 26, 2018*).
- iv. Brief documents on wetlands namely (i) Kavvayi, (ii) Kattampally, (iii) Kadalundy, (iv) Kottuli, (v) Pookode (vi) Ponnani estuary/Purathur (vii) Chetuvai kayal, (viii) Paravur (ix) Vellayani have been prepared by the DoECC by engaging CWRDM in addition to the three Ramsar Wetlands prepared by Wetland International South Asia (WISA) are already approved and forwarded to the MoEF&CC. The documents shall be reviewed by Technical Committee prior to submission to the MoEF&CC.
- v. For information and direction: SWAK may decide to entrust the work to (Item Nos i, ii and iii) KSREC as part of the earlier work commitment and take a decision on further action on notifying other wetlands of the State and on preparation of brief documents.

#### **Decision taken**

To look into people's problems/rights near the wetlands before taking a final decision. Ground truthing is required and after that the matter should be placed in technical committee. Representative from panchayath, district administration should also be involved at the time of ground truthing and final notification of wetlands and final decision shall be taken in the Governing body of SWAK.

#### **Agenda No. 6**

**Workshop on the Environmental issues of Munroethuruth on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and Special Assistance to Munroethuruthu Grama Panchayat - Funding from the SWAK for five years as part of the Integrated Management Action Plan (MAP) prepared for Ashtamudi Kayal Ramsar Site**

As directed by the Kerala State Planning Board, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change have prepared an action plan for special assistance to Munroethuruthu in collaboration with the Grama Panchayat of Munroethuruth.

The proposed budget for the Plan is 1219.05 Lakhs for five years and out of that Rs.75 Lakh is proposed in the current financial year. The detailed proposal is in *Annexure – V*.

Approval may be given to move to the Government for required funds and further action subject to the technical inputs received during the workshop and incorporating the necessary modification suggested there in.

#### Decision taken

- Salt tolerant coconut and weight less house has to be made in Mundroethuruth area
- Funding can be approved after the workshop organized in Mundroethuruth on 18.02.2018 and 19.02.2018.

#### Agenda No. 7

#### **Annual Plan for Ramsar Sites submitted to MoEFCC as part of the Integrated Management Action Plan (MAP)**

The State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) meeting headed by Chief Secretary to Government of Kerala, held on 22.08.2017 had approved the Integrated Management Action Plan of Ashtamudi, Sasthamkotta, Vembanad - Kol and Kattampally Wetlands and was forwarded to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Management Action Plan of Kattampally has been returned back to SWAK and MoEF&CC directed to include Kattampally in the list of wetlands.

After the initial scrutiny by the Ministry, as requested by the Ministry through a letter received on 4.12.2017 and several telephonic conversations after that, the appropriated funding proposals for the current financial year were sent to the Ministry on 26.12.2017 containing Rs. 144.75 Lakhs for Ashtamudy, Rs. 119.25 Lakhs for Sasthamkotta and Rs. 140.75 Lakhs for Vembanad-Kol.

Funding pattern is 60% Central Share and 40% State Share, so the State has to earmark/make available Rs. 161.9 Lakhs which is total of the 40% state share of the total of Rs. 404.75 lakhs for all the three ramsar sites in the current financial year, if the proposals are sanctioned in totality.

Please see *Annexure VI* for detailed proposal submitted.

**For information and directions to resubmit Kattampally wetlands through the Government to MoEF&CC.**

**Decision taken**

- Kattampally may be considered for notification after ground truthing, public consultation and in consultation with Kerala Water Resources Department.

**Agenda No. 8****Fund Utilization**

An amount Rs. 500 Lakh was allocated for State Wetland Authority Kerala in the current financial year. In this, administrative sanction is accorded for an amount of Rs. 50 Lakh.

| Sl. No.  | Expenditure till December 2017   | Expenditure in Rs. |
|--|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Second instalment to KSREC for inventory of wetlands                                 | 20,00,000          |
| 2  | Miscellaneous – (TA, printing charges, one-day workshop and Salary of project staff) | 1,88,545           |
|  | <b>Total</b>   | <b>21,88,545</b>   |
| <b>Expected Expenditure for the current financial year</b> |  |                    |
| 1  | Documentary films on the three Ramsar Wetlands                                       | 15,00,000          |
| 2  | Sign Boards in and around the three Ramsar wetlands                                  | 35,00,000          |
| 3  | Special assistance to Munroethuruth  | 75,00,000          |
| 4  | Workshop on Munroethuruth  | 5,00,000           |
| 5  | State share of the implementation of other works as per the MAPs of 3 Ramsar Sites   | 1,20,00,000        |
| 6  | Re-appropriation from SWAK to KCZMA  | 2,00,00,000        |
|  | <b>Total</b>   | <b>4,50,00,000</b> |

**To reappropriate the budget of this financial year place the rest of the amount with SWAK.**

**Decision Taken:- Approved****a) Documentary films on the three Ramsar Wetlands of Kerala**

Documentary films on the salient features, ecosystem services and socio-economic specialties of the three Ramsar Wetlands in Kerala are to be prepared.

There is no such authentic documentary film existing as such. The documentary film highlighting the three Ramsar sites will serve as awareness building tools of the Authority. This will cover all the past history of the nomination to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and further developments, current status and the management plans. The present proposed film will act as a base line on the status of the three Ramsar Sites. After this, periodical updating shall be done as and when needed based on the developments that need to be documented in the Ramsar wetlands of Kerala.

**Decision Taken:-**

Approved. This will be done by the empanelled agencies of Departments like Tourism/Culture as per the government norms. The total amount estimated for the film is Rs. 15 Lakhs (approx).

**b) Books on the MAPs of the three Ramsar Wetlands of Kerala**

Three Books on the Management Action Plans of the 3 Ramsar Wetlands in Kerala are to be published for public information.

This work will be done by Wetland International South Asia (WISA) for SWAK. WISA was earlier entrusted with the preparation of the MAPs of the three Ramsar Sites of Kerala. There will not be any cost involved for this work. Please find the proposal letter from WISA on this (*Annexure-VII*)

**Decision Taken: - Approved**

**c) Sign boards in and around the Three Ramsar Sites as per the Ramsar Convention Specifications**

As per the Ramsar Convention agreement signboards has to be erected in and around all the Ramsar Sites. About 52 Nos. of signboards of various sizes for three Ramsar Sites will be established as per Ramsar Secretariat guidelines. The total cost estimated for this is 35 Lakh. These will be undertaken as per government norms.

**Decision taken**

Sign boards in and around the three Ramsar Sites as per the Ramsar Convention Specifications- Sign boards of about 52 or more numbers as per the requirement was approved to be erected in



three Ramsar sites but it should be of good quality, concrete, weather resistant and long lasting as per Government norms.

#### **Agenda No. 9**

#### **Development of a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017**

As per the Rule 5 (3) (e), (f) of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rule 2017, the authority has to develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence; recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands.

SWAK has already communicated this to all the line departments and received reply from few departments, copies of the same are enclosed as **Annexure – VIII**. After receiving communication from all line departments, the list has to be placed before SWAK for final approval.

#### **Decision taken**

- Regulatory action on wetlands based on thorough understanding should be made.
- A brain storming session is to be done by incorporating environmental experts, developmental people, officials, people representatives and local people for selecting the restricted activity and then placed in the next meeting of SWAK, before communicating to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

#### **Agenda No. 10**

#### **Documentary on Munroethruthu Island**

A short documentary on environmental issues of Munroethruthu Island and its mitigation/adaptation measures on sustainability will be prepared through the empanelled agency.

#### **Decision taken**

Approved. Documentary of Munroethuruth Island will be prepared through empanelled agency of Tourism/ Culture of the Government of Kerala as per the existing norms.

**Agenda No. 11**

**Any other items permitted by the Chair**

**Additional agenda****A study on carrying capacity of the House Boats**

To undertake a study on the carrying capacity of the house boats plying in selected wetlands namely; Vembanad-Kol, Ashtamudi and Kavvayi. The study shall be completed within a period of one year through a reputed R & D Organizations/ National institution.

**Decision taken**

- Boats with specification as per the existing Rules are only to be allowed.
- Carrying Capacity study of Vembanadu, Asthamudi and Kavviai approved and should be completed as early as possible.

**The meeting ended at 5.45 PM.**

  
9/3/18

**Chairman**

Shri.Pinarayi Vijayan

Hon'ble Chief Minister

  
12/3/18