

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of State Level Steering Committee for Preparation of Union Territory of Puducherry Action Plan on Climate Change held on 22.10.2019 at 03.30 PM in the Chamber of the Chief Secretary for reviewing the progress of the project “Integrated Surface Water Management through Rejuvenation of 25 Tanks and 32 Village Ponds for Climate Change Adaptation in Puducherry”

The list of Officers who attended the meeting is enclosed as Annexure.

Agenda Item No. 1: Review of the progress of the project “Integrated Surface Water Management through Rejuvenation of 25 Tanks and 32 Village Ponds for Climate Change Adaptation in Puducherry”

1. At the outset of the meeting, the Chairman reviewed the status of inclusion of additional members in the TRPP Steering Committee as per the directions dated 29.04.2019 of the Hon’ble High Court of Madras in WP No.24640 of 2017. Chairman stated that PWD and Commune Panchayats are yet to furnish the compliance for further filing of status before High Court as directed by it. Secretary – PWD informed that the file has been submitted to the Government for necessary approval and G.O. will be issued as soon as the approval is obtained. The Chairman requested to expedite the process and issue the G.O. within one week.

(Action: PWD)

2. The Chairman stated that, PWD has been submitting the Progress Reports on Tank works. Likewise, the Commune Panchayats should also submit the progress reports on the works. The Chairman requested Secretary (Works) and Secretary (Local Administration) also to share the progress reports with the petitioners in W.P. No.24640/2017 as a measure of transparency. They shall also place copy of the inspection reports on their websites for information of general public immediately. Further, they shall prepare draft affidavits for submission before the High Court as directed in WP No.24640 of 2017 and send it to Secretary (ST&E), who will consolidate and submit final draft for approval for filing.

(Action: PWD / LAD / Commune Panchayat/ DST&E)



3. Science, Technology & Environment Department informed that out of 5.16 Crores sanctioned for 25 Tanks an amount of Rs. 2.21 Crores remains unspent. The Chief Engineer, PWD informed that desilting is completed in 15 tanks, desilting work is under progress in 1 tank, retender to be done for in 5 tanks and in 4 tanks the works are proposed to be dropped due to continuous water stagnation. It is proposed to take additional works with the savings. The Chairman observed that at present PWD / Commune Panchayat / LAD is carrying out only shallow and peripheral desilting of tanks in the areas closer to the bunds only. They should work out a plan to improve the coverage of project tanks, both depth wise and area wise. Additional tanks may also be included in the revised proposal. The present fund and saving should be utilized for the purpose and the revised proposal shall be submitted to DST&E as soon as possible. The expenditure required for preparing the revised DPR shall be met from the Project Execution Cost funds sanctioned under the project.

(Action: PWD / LAD)

4. The committee instructed the executing agencies to spend on deepening of ponds and tanks, which should be a priority as it will enhance water storage and recharge capacity. The recharge bore wells are likely to pollute aquifers and spending money on retaining wall etc. is a lopsided priority and this component of cement and concrete raises the cost while there is no good addition to the storage / recharge capacity. The CGM, NABARD stated that any changes in the approved DPR, would again require a fresh approval from the Ministry. Revised DPR shall be submitted as soon as possible to DST&E to obtain approval of the Ministry.

(Action: PWD / LAD / Commune Panchayat / DST&E / NABARD)

Agenda Item No. 2: Seeking extension of time line from MoEF&CC for completion of the NAFCC project “Integrated Surface Water Management through Rejuvenation of 25 Tanks and 32 Village Ponds for Climate Change Adaptation in Puducherry”

The Committee discussed the proposal in detail and decided to request MoEF&CC and NABARD to extend the timeline for completion of NAFCC project till December 2020 for all the project component.

The committee directed Science, Tech. & Env't. Department to prepare DPRs to include additional Tanks and Ponds / additional works as soon as possible without delay.

(Action: PWD / LAD/ Commune Panchayat/ DST&E / NABARD)

Agenda Item No. 3: Approval for execution of Recharge Borewell and construction of retaining wall.

The Chairman said that the issue of recharge borewells and retaining / revetment walls was discussed in the 6th State Level Steering Committee meeting and the committee had emphasised that money shall be better spent from the limited availability of funds on enhancing the storage of ponds / tanks by deepening / desilting rather than spending on recharge borewells and retaining walls. Enhanced desilting would achieve the objective of safe recharge of ground water with limited expenditure. PWD and LAD / Commune Panchayat should take up extensive activity of deepening / desilting of the existing Tanks and Ponds. The revised proposal shall be submitted to the Ministry for obtaining necessary approval, as required.

(Action: PWD / LAD/ Commune Panchayat / DST&E)

Agenda Item No. 4: Review of the Action taken in the last meeting

The Chairman reviewed the action taken in the last meeting and directed the Executing Entity to submit the compliance on the same to DST&E.

(Action: PWD / LAD / Commune Panchayat)



Annexure

Chaired by:

Shri. Ashwani Kumar, Chief Secretary to Government, Puducherry.

Officials from Govt. of Puducherry:

1. Shri. A. Anbarasu, Development Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government (Education, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry), Puducherry.
2. Shri. Shurbir Singh, Secretary to Government (Planning & Research, Public Works), Puducherry.
3. Shri. Ashok Kumar, Secretary to Government (Local Administration), Puducherry.
4. Shri. Arjun Sharma, Secretary to Government (Science, Technology & Environment), Puducherry.
5. Er. S. Mahalingam, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Puducherry.
6. Smt. R. Smita, Director, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Puducherry.
7. Shri. A. S. Sivakumar, Transport Commissioner, representing Secretary (Transport, Industries & Commerce), Department of Transport, Puducherry.
8. Shri. R. Mounissamy, Director, representing Secretary (Fisheries) Department of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, Puducherry.
9. Dr. K. Srinivasamoorthy, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Pondicherry University, Puducherry.
10. Shri. J. Lucien Pedro Kumar, SE, Circle – II, PWD, Puducherry.
11. Shri. S. Sekaran, SE, LAD, Puducherry.
12. Dr. R. Sagaya Alfred, Senior Scientific Officer, DST&E, Puducherry.
13. Shri. K. Jeevadayan, EE, Irrigation Division, PWD, Puducherry.
14. Shri. D. Sathyanarayana Murthy, EE, LAD, Puducherry.
15. Shri. K. Kalamegam, Environmental Engineer, DST&E, Puducherry.
16. Shri. D. Govindaraj, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Puducherry.
17. Shri. A. Manohar, Commissioner, NCP and BCP, Puducherry.
18. Shri. N. Jayakumar, Commissioner, MCP, Puducherry.
19. Shri. D. Arumugam, Commissioner, VCP, Puducherry.
20. Shri. R. Thirunavukkarasu, Asst. Engineer, VCP, Puducherry.
21. Shri. K. Karuthayan, Asst. Engineer, NCP, Puducherry.
22. Shri. R. Thamizharasan, Asst. Engineer, NCP, Puducherry.
23. Shri. P. Najaradjan, Asst. Engineer, MCP, Puducherry.
24. Shri. A. Madhivanan, JE, Irrigation Division, PWD, Puducherry.

Officials from NABARD:

1. Smt. Padma Raghunathan, CGM, NABARD, Chennai.
2. Shri. Baiju Kurup, GM, NABARD, Chennai.
3. Smt. Uma Gurumoorthy, AGM, NABARD, Puducherry.
4. Shri. M. A. Rawoof Shaik, Asst. Manager, NABARD, Chennai.

M/s. Dhan Foundation:

1. R. Prakash, Team Leader, M/s. Dhan Foundation