

**MINUTES OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
PUDUCHERRY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 10.12.2010 AT 11.00 A.M.  
IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE PHB BUILDING, PUDUCHERRY  
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The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority was held on 10.12.2010 under the Chairmanship of Thiru. G. Theva Neethi Dhas, Special Secretary to Govt. (Environment) / Chairman (PCZMA). The following were present:-

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	
1.	Thiru. G. Theva Neethi Dhas Special Secretary to Govt. (Environment)	Chairman – cum – Member Secretary
2.	Chief Town Planner Town and Country Planning Department, Puducherry Rep. by, Thiru. M. Kandar Selvam, Senior Town Planner	Member
3.	Tmt. G. Ramalakshmi, Director, Dte. of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Puducherry	Member
4.	Prof. Dr. R. Ramesh, Director, Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai	Member
5.	Thiru. Jurgen Putz, Director, Palmyra, Centre for Ecological Landuse, Water Management and Rural Development, Auroville	Member

**Agenda Item No. 1: Petition submitted by a consortium of NGOs under the banner of Alliance for Good Governance (AGG) to His Excellency Lt. Governor of Puducherry and Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment and Forests, GoI against the Minor Fish Landing Facility being constructed by the PWD at the Mullodai Back Water of Pudukuppam Village, Bahour Commune, Puducherry:**

The Public Works Department of Government of Puducherry is constructing a Minor Fish Landing Facility at the Mullodai Back Water of Pudukuppam Village in Bahour Commune of Puducherry U.T. A consortium of NGOs under the banner of Alliance for Good Governance (AGG) has submitted petitions addressed to His Excellency Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Shri. Jayram Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment and Forests, New Delhi, Shri. K. Kasturirangan, Member Planning Commission (Env't. & Forests), New Delhi and Shri. G.K. Pillai, Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi against this project, stating that the project would be a man-made disaster in the making in Pondicherry.

The members of the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority examined the concerns of the petitioners and discussed the subject in detail.

Thiru. R. Sai Subramanian, Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads – South Division, PWD and Thiru. V. Sathiamoorthi, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, PWD were present during the discussion and they made a presentation on the status of the project. They stated that the PWD had proposed to construct a minor fish landing facility on the Mullodai Backwater at Pudukuppam Village and to establish sea link by cut opening the sea mouth to connect the Mullodai Back water to the sea. The Detail Study and Estimate for the work was prepared by Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT, Chennai. The construction activity was commenced in September 2009 after obtaining necessary clearances including the Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI under the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. As of now, the construction of Jetty and a Drainage Channel is completed. Dredging the back water portion in front of the Jetty is under progress. The construction of training walls and revetment walls and cut opening of the sea mouth is yet to be commenced.

The Authority Member asked the PWD officials to clarify whether the backfilled soil will enter into channel or the back waters during heavy rain. The PWD officials stated that stone revetment wall is proposed to be constructed along the banks of the backwater to prevent re-entry of the back filled material. The height of the Backfilling will be up to the road level and the Height of the Drainage Channel is above the road height. Therefore the backfilled material will not enter into the channel.

Tmt. G. Ramalakshmi, Director, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department stated that the project would be absolutely necessary for the livelihood of the Fishermen Community of Pudukupam and the neighboring Fishermen villages in the UT of Puducherry. She stated that this project was taken up consequent to the loss of lives and livelihood in the tsunami that hit the coast in December 2004.

The Authority Member asked PWD who would be responsible for maintenance of the facility after completion of construction. PWD Officials replied that on completion of construction works the Fish Landing Facility would be handed over to Fisheries Department for operation and maintenance. The Authority Member expressed apprehension that Fisheries

Department would not be able to carry out the maintenance dredging and sand nourishment activities in as much as in the existing Fishing Harbor at Thengaithittu the maintenance dredging and sand nourishment activities could not be carried out regularly.

The PWD officials stated that there was no sand dunes at the site to be cut opened. They stated that the connection between the Mullodai Back Water and Bay of Bengal is at present blocked by a Sand Showl of about 80 meters width. This is proposed to be cut opened to form a permanent sea link for the Fish Landing Jetty. They showed the Survey Map of the year 1972 wherein it was marked that the Mullodai Drainage Canal was having natural confluence with the Bay of Bengal. The PWD officials also stated that a Tail End Regulator was available at about 700 meters upstream of the project site and the sea water would not intrude beyond this Regulator if the sea mouth were to get cut opened. They further claimed that there are several other such tidal inlets along the coast of the Puducherry and the project would not have any significant impact.

The members asked about the impacts of the Training Wall Construction on the shoreline changes. The PWD Officials stated that IIT Madras had done the modeling studies to predict the shore line evolution and recommended for Stone Pitching, if erosion was observed adjoining the Training Wall, particularly on the Northern Side. The Chairman of the Authority observed that IIT madras had not quantified the rate of erosion and accretion in their report. He suggested that Directorate of Survey and land records may be entrusted with the work of assessing the ongoing shoreline changes at the project site, to have a baseline data.

The members of the Authority visited the Project Site at Pudukuppam. It was observed that there were no sand dunes on the sea mouth portion proposed to be cut open. The members interacted with the local villagers. The villagers stated that the Mullodai Water Surplus Water Course would usually as a practice be cut opened and connected to the sea during heavy monsoon to prevent flooding of the upper lands. After monsoon the sea mouth used to get blocked by Sand Showl formation. They stated that the project is essential for having a safe landing facility for their fishing boats.

After detailed discussion and field visit the Authority observed the following:

1. Construction of Two Training Walls of 200 meters and 250 meters length perpendicular to the shoreline into the sea would affect the littoral drift and cause erosion on the northern side of the breakwater and accretion on the southern side of the break water.
2. This has been examined by MoEF while issuing Environmental Clearance and a specific condition was stipulated in the Environmental Clearance that 'Littoral drift management using Rainbow Technique should be adopted for beach nourishment on the northern side of North Break Water to combat coastal erosion problems' vide EC No. 11-51/2008        IA-III of MoEF dated 22.7.2008.
3. It is also stipulated in the Environmental Clearance that the funds earmarked for environment protection measures should be maintained, in a separate account and there should be no diversion of these funds for any other purpose. PWD has to submit year-wise expenditure on environmental safeguards to MoEF Regional Office at Bangalore and the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.
4. So far PWD has not earmarked any funds for Environmental Protection measures as stated in the Environmental Clearance condition.
5. Also there are no clear documents on who would own the facility and take care of the operation and maintenance and source of funding for regular maintenance dredging and sand nourishment works.

The Authority decided to recommend that PWD should obtain a specific order of the Government with the following details:

1. The ownership of the facility
2. The operation and maintenance responsibilities
3. Total Funds required for Environmental safeguards
4. Source of funds for Environmental Safeguards
5. Separate account for the funds required for Environmental Safe Guards.

Considering the importance of the project the Authority opined that PWD, GOP should be advised not to cut open the sand shawl formation until the G.O. as cited above is issued and effected.

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