

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY
KERALA (SWAK) HELD ON 18.06.2020 IN THE CHIEF MINISTER'S
CONFERENCE HALL, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**

The meeting started at 10.00 am with Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon`ble Chief Minister of Kerala in the Chair. The following members were present:

1. Dr. Vishwas Mehta IAS, Chief Secretary (Vice Chairperson, SWAK)
2. Shri. T. K. Jose IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources
3. Dr. Asha Thomas IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Wildlife
4. Dr. V. Venu IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs
5. Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD
6. Shri. Biswanath Sinha IAS, Principal Secretary, LSGD (Urban)
7. Dr. Usha Titus IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment
8. Dr. B. Ashok IAS, Secretary, Water Resources
9. Smt. Tinku Biswal IAS, Secretary, Fisheries
10. Smt. Rani George IAS, Secretary, Tourism
11. Shri. Mir Mohammed Ali IAS, Director, Environment & Climate Change
(Member Secretary, SWAK)
12. Shri. B. N. Anjan Kumar , DCF (for Chief Wildlife Warden)
13. Dr. Preetha, Representative, Kerala State Biodiversity Board
14. Er. Sreekala S., Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board
15. Shri. Nizamudeen A., Director, Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre
16. Smt. Preetha Nair, Joint Secretary, Environment
17. Smt. Sheena M. S., Under Secretary, Revenue Department
18. Shri. T. K. A. Nair IAS (Rtd), Expert Member (Socio-economics), SWAK
19. Dr. Dinesan Cheruvat, Expert Member (Wetland Fisheries), SWAK
20. Dr. Dinesan V. P., Expert Member (Wetland Ecology), SWAK
21. Dr. Harikumar P. S., Expert Member (Wetland Hydrology), SWAK
22. Dr. Kamalakshan Kokkal, Member (Co-opted), SWAK
23. Dr. K. K. Ramachandran, Member (Co-opted), SWAK
24. Prof. P. O. Nameer, Member (Co-opted), SWAK

Principal Secretary (Environment) welcomed the members of SWAK to this second authority meeting.

Member Secretary, SWAK explained the various agenda items of the meeting, with the permission of the Chairman.

Decisions taken in the 2nd Authority Meeting of the State Wetland Authority Kerala held on 18.06.2020

Agenda No. 1

Action taken on the decisions of the First Authority meeting held on 15.02.2018.

The committee agreed and decided to continue the actions pending in the decisions of the first authority meeting. The activities to be continued are as follows

Agenda No.	Subjects	Decision
4	Finalizing the list of wetlands to be submitted urgently to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change	To be finalized only after detailed study and consultation as mentioned in Agenda No.2.
5	Other timeline matters as per the new Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017 implementation	
6	Workshop on the Environmental issues of Munroethuruth on 18 th & 19 th February 2018 and Special Assistance to Munroethuruth Grama Panchayath	Reviewed the progress of the work and decided to continue the activities.
7	Annual Plan for Ramsar Sites submitted to MoEFCC as part of the Integrated Management Action Plan (MAP) under NPCA scheme	To proceed as per Agenda 2
8	Fund Utilization a) Documentary films on the three Ramsar Wetlands of Kerala b) Signboards in and around the Three Ramsar Sites as per the Ramsar Convention Specifications	To proceed as per Agenda 2, after completing the notification process
9	Development of a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017	To continue as per Agenda 2
10	Documentary on Munroethuruth Island	To proceed in the current financial year by issuing a fresh notification
11	A study on carrying capacity of the House Boats - Vembanad, Ashtamudi and Kavvayi	To proceed in the current financial year through nationwide competitive bidding. For this an amount of Rs. 60 Lakh was approved and to be met from State Plan and request to be given along with Agenda 3 & 8

Agenda No. 2

Finalizing the list of wetlands to be submitted urgently to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for notification

Dr. Jane Mitra, Scientist, KSREC presented the draft list of 40 wetlands proposed to be notified along with their boundary and draft a comprehensive list of all the wetlands in the State comprising all the forms of wetlands and paddy fields having area >2.25 Ha (186 major wetlands and 10785 paddy fields).

Decision

- A consultation and discussion shall be conducted with Local Self Governments including matters related to the boundary, survey numbers, the zone of influence, restricted activities, permitted activities. Based on the concurrence of local bodies, SWAK shall take a decision on this notification.

Agenda No. 3 & 8

Fund for SWAK

Expected Expenditure for SWAK 2020-21		
Sl. No.	Activities	Amount (Rs.)
1	Preparation of brief document and Detailed Project Reports/Integrated Management Action Plans (IMAPs) of wetlands by CWRDM	1,00,00,000/-
2	Third installment to KSREC – Wetland Mapping project	21,50,000/-
3	Wetland Conservation and Awareness Campaign 2020-21	50,00,000/-
4	Administrative Expenses: IT infrastructures, computers, stationary, salary of the staff, vehicles, sampling boat expense for convening the meetings, field survey, expenditure and allied activities for functioning of all Project Management Units and other anticipated expenses	50,00,000/-
Total		2,21,50,000/-

Decision

- Approved an amount of 221.5 lakh for the State Wetland Authority to implement various activities and other responsibilities to be met from the State Plan
- State Planning Board and Finance Department are directed to take necessary action to revive the SWAK State Plan Head of Account 3435-03-101-89 and transfer funds for the implementation of various activities to be undertaken by State Wetland Authority of Kerala (SWAK).

Agenda No. 4

Installation of Plastic shredding unit in Vembanad Lake - recommendation of Kerala Legislative Committee on Environment 2016-19

Decision

- Approval was given for conducting a detailed scientific study and preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- An amount of Rs.30 lakh is approved for the same and shall be released from the State Plan and request to be met along with Agenda 3 & 8.

Agenda No. 5

Wetland City Accreditation Programme

Decision-

- Noted.

Agenda No. 6

Consolidated Reports based on Complaints received

1. **Complaint against houseboat terminal construction at Nalupanku, Kumarakom and Thanneermukkom**

Decision

As watch towers/viewing pavilions are part of the boat jetty permission is granted to Tourism Department for Kumarakom House Boat Terminal (Nalupanku) and Thanneermukkom House Boat terminal subject to the condition that strict measures such as provision for separate collection bins, treatment system/ handing over the waste to a common treatment facility for the effective control of liquid/solid waste generated from the boat terminal area. Toilet complexes also should be minimum 50m away from the boundary of the wetland.

2. **Clarification on clearance for building permit for local inhabitants within 50 m boundary**

Decision

Noted. Decided to take necessary steps to obtain the clarification from the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India at the earliest

Agenda No. 7

Appointment of Contract Staff for the effective implementation of Integrated Management

Action Plans (MAPs) for the 3 Ramsar Wetlands of Kerala: Vembanad-Kol, Ashtamudi, Sasthamkotta

Decision

- Approved the recruitment of additional contract posts to SWAK for the implementation and monitoring of the Management Action Plans (MAPs) for the three Ramsar Wetlands at Kollam and Alappuzha. The expenditure shall be met from the State Plan Head as decided in Agenda 3.
- Decided to extend the services of Administrative Officer, Finance Officer and Head Accountant of DoECC and Standing Counsels of KCZMA at Hon'ble NGT and Supreme Court to SWAK too.

Agenda No. 9

Status of the Implementation of the approved Management Action Plans (MAPs) of three Ramsar Wetlands in Kerala

Decision

- Noted and approved to extend the activities pending in the MAPs to the current year.

Agenda No. 10

World Wetland Day Observance by State Wetland Authority Kerala (2019 and 2020)

Decision

- Noted. Awareness to public on wetlands, the rules applicable, allowed and restricted activities, mechanisms to protect/conservate the Ramsar and other wetlands of the State etc shall be held in collaboration with LSGs, NGOs in and around the major wetlands.

Agenda No. 11

Bathymetry Survey of Sasthamkotta Lake


Decision

- Directed the District Collector, Kollam to examine the proposal and take an appropriate decision in this regard to select between the two options such as mechanized or conventional vessels. The availability of a vessel/ running electric engine may be explored to avoid pollution due to oil spillage during the survey.

Agenda 12

Any other item approved by the Chair

- There were none.


21/7/2020

