

**Minutes of the Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority, held under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson PWRDA, through Video Conference on Tuesday 20 April, 2021 at 03.00 pm.**

The Meeting was attended by Shri Sushil Gupta, Member and Shri Surinder Singh Kukal, Member.

Shri A.S. Miglani, Secretary and Shri JK Jain, Senior Manager, in attendance.

Agenda		Proceedings
<p><b>Item No.1</b></p>	<p><b>Setting up of Implementing Agency. :</b>                      The issue of an Implementing Agency to be established by the Government has been taken up with the Government but the IA has not set up so far. In the meeting held with PSWR on 24.3.2021 the issue was again discussed by the Secretary, PWRDA. It appears that currently the Government is not very clear on the work and composition of IA.</p> <p>As the setting up of the IA is crucial for implementing the directions of the Authority, it is proposed that a detailed proposal indicating the proposed functions of the IA and its composition may be sent to the Government on the following lines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Authority has deliberated over the matter and is of the considered view that the Government must expeditiously approve in-principle a full-fledged Implementing Agency to perform the following functions:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>a. <i>To implement various directions to be issued by the Authority under the Punjab Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2020.</i></li> <li>b. <i>To conduct inspections and monitor the compliance of the Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions by water users.</i></li> <li>c. <i>To monitor the implementation of the State Water Plan.</i></li> <li>d. <i>To monitor and manage the payment of groundwater extraction charges by water</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>This item was taken up and discussed. It was decided to continue discussion in the next meeting.</p>

	<p><i>users and to collect the same on behalf of the Authority from the units.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>e. <i>To frame &amp; monitor various water conservation schemes.</i></li><li>f. <i>To redress complaints regarding issues related to water regarding which the Authority has issued any Directions.</i></li><li>g. <i>To carry out surveys and research regarding matters related to water and provide data and detailed technical advice to the Authority.</i></li><li>h. <i>To assist the Authority in the task of fixation of water tariff under the Water Resources Act.</i></li><li>i. <i>Develop and manage communication platforms for water education and behavior change of all stakeholders.</i></li><li>j. <i>To document and publicize good practices.</i></li><li>k. <i>To develop and manage software systems related to use of water potential of the state and for billing &amp; accounting activities related to extraction permission, conservation schemes etc.</i></li><li>l. <i>To provide periodic reports to the Authority in the above related matters.</i></li></ul> <p>2. The IA may be headed by a Chief Engineer and in order to carry out its functions the IA may be composed of the following wings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Engineering Wing for implementation and monitoring of the Directions along with a Billing section for Groundwater Charges;</li><li>B. Research and Development Wing;</li><li>C. Water Conservation in Agriculture Wing;</li><li>D. Information, Education &amp; Communication Wing, and</li><li>E. Information Technology Wing</li></ul> <p>3. I) The Engineering wing may be headed by a SE, and may be composed of six divisions; two at HQ and four in the field. The details of staff required for the Engineering wing may be seen at <b>Annexure</b></p>	
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	<p>A.</p> <p>II. The Research and Development Wing may be based at the HQ and may be composed of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 Technical Experts in Hydrogeology</li><li>• 2 Environment Engineers</li><li>• 2 Economists</li><li>• 8 Clerks/ Data Entry Operators</li><li>• Support staff</li></ul> <p>III. The Water Conservation in Agriculture Wing may be composed of 30-40 officers of different levels at HQ and in the Districts from the Department of Agriculture and from the Soil and Water Conservation Department. Details can be worked out with the concerned departments.</p> <p>IV. The IEC Wing at HQ may be composed of experts in advertising and publicity possessing skills for development of online and offline platforms and content for water education of various stakeholders.</p> <p>V. Information Technology Wing at HQ may be composed of experts in software who can run, maintain and upgrade the various software systems to be acquired by the IA.</p> <p>The Government may be requested that the above-mentioned composition of the IA may be considered and approved in principle. However, initially, the IA may begin with a small number of personnel, and when the work increases more staff may be added as proposed above.</p>	
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The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair

Chairperson