

Minutes of the 26th Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 11.08.2021 at 3.00 PM under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson PWRDA in the office of Authority.

PRESENT :

1. Sh. Sushil Gupta Member. 2. Sh. Surinder Singh Kukal Member.

In attendance: Sh. JK Jain Sr. Manger Admn. & Coord.

Agenda		Proceedings
Item No. 26.01	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of the PWRDA meeting held on 29.07.2021.</p> <p>The minutes of the PWRDA meeting held on 29.07.2021 were emailed to all concerned. No comments received. May be confirmed.</p>	Confirmed.
Item No. 26.02	<p>Extension of date for rebate on proposed groundwater charges due to COVID-19.</p> <p>In the Draft Punjab Guidelines for Ground water Extraction and Conservation, 2020 the provision on Covid-19 Rebate was as under:</p> <p><i>“The COVID-19 epidemic has caused considerable hardship to the economy of the State. Hence, all Groundwater Charges and security deposit required to be paid under these Guidelines will be reduced by 20% till March 31st, 2021.”</i></p> <p><i>Thereafter, in the Authority meeting dated 01.06.2021, it was decided to extend the Covid Rebate upto 31.07.2021.</i></p> <p>The proceedings as approved in this meeting are reproduced below:</p> <p><i>“Keeping in view the resurgence in COVID-19 and its adverse impact on the economy, it was decided to continue the existing Covid-19 rebate @ 20% on all groundwater charges up to 31st July, 2021.”</i></p> <p>It has been observed that the impact of Covid-19 on the economy is still continuing. The Industrial as well as labour sectors are facing severe hardships. In view of this, the Union Cabinet has approved relief package of Rs. 6.29 lakh crore as reported in the Hindu newspaper of June, 30th 2021. The Government has also extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for free food grains from May to November 2021. The Indian Express newspaper has reported that a Parliamentary Panel studying the impact of Covid-19 on MSME, expressed concern over the grim situation of small enterprises and recommended the government to unveil a slew of measures including additional credit to help the economy. (The copy of Newspapers ‘The Hindu’ 30th June, 2021 is at Annexure – A and ‘The Indian Express’ 29th July, 2021 is at Annexure-B).</p> <p>Industrial activity plays a significant role in the economy of</p>	Discussed. It was decided not to give further extension in Covid Rebate beyond 31.07.2021.

	<p>Punjab. Major industries of Punjab including Automobile parts, Bicycles, textiles, hosiery goods, hand tools, machine tools, sports goods among others were hithardbyCovid-19.</p> <p>As reported in the Times of India dated 9th March, 2021(Annexure-C) “Punjab Economy is going through a rough phase in the pandemic-hit year.” Except for Agriculture Sector, other sectors took a heavy toll.</p> <p>Since, the effects of Covid-19 pandemic are still continuing, the Authority may consider whether the date for Covid Rebate is to be extended further.</p>							
<p>Item No. 26.03</p>	<p>Follow upon Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28th July, 2021.</p> <p>In the Advisory Committee Meeting various departments, inter alia, gave their comments and suggestions on the Directions for Groundwater Extraction, 2021.</p> <p>In this context Section12(2)of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 is reproduced below:</p> <p><i>“The Authority shall consult the Advisory Committee on major questions of policy and regarding regulatory directions proposed to be issued to the general public or to a class of water users; Provided that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall not be binding but in case of disagreement, the Authority shall record reasons for that in writing”.</i></p> <p>The Authority may consider/take action regarding these suggestions/comments as proposed here in under:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="267 1298 1144 2432"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="267 1298 699 1373">Suggestions/queries</th> <th data-bbox="699 1298 1144 1373">Proposed action by the Authority</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="267 1373 699 2179"> <p><u>Local Government Department:</u></p> <p>1. Applicability of Groundwater Extraction charges on the Private Developers/Colonizers may be clarified.</p> <p>2. Information on the Municipal Byelaws will be sent within a week along with suggestions.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="699 1373 1144 2179"> <p>1. Section 17(5) of the Act exempts only house holds drawing water for their own drinking and domestic purpose through non-energized means or through a pump up to 2 Horse Power from a single tube-well in the household where common piped water supply is not available. Hence, the Directions will be applicable to private developers and colonizers even if they are supplying water only for drinking and domestic use. This may be clarified in the Directions also.</p> <p>2. May be noted.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="267 2179 699 2432"> <p><u>Department of Water Supply and Sanitation:</u></p> <p>1. It should be clarified whether Housing Societies are covered in the Directions.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="699 2179 1144 2432"> <p>1.The Housing Societies are covered by the Directions for the same reasons as incase of Developers and Colonizers, as explained above.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Suggestions/queries	Proposed action by the Authority	<p><u>Local Government Department:</u></p> <p>1. Applicability of Groundwater Extraction charges on the Private Developers/Colonizers may be clarified.</p> <p>2. Information on the Municipal Byelaws will be sent within a week along with suggestions.</p>	<p>1. Section 17(5) of the Act exempts only house holds drawing water for their own drinking and domestic purpose through non-energized means or through a pump up to 2 Horse Power from a single tube-well in the household where common piped water supply is not available. Hence, the Directions will be applicable to private developers and colonizers even if they are supplying water only for drinking and domestic use. This may be clarified in the Directions also.</p> <p>2. May be noted.</p>	<p><u>Department of Water Supply and Sanitation:</u></p> <p>1. It should be clarified whether Housing Societies are covered in the Directions.</p>	<p>1.The Housing Societies are covered by the Directions for the same reasons as incase of Developers and Colonizers, as explained above.</p>	<p>Discussed.</p> <p>Changes as deliberated in the meeting be incorporated in this Agenda item including the points relating to Agriculture Department. Put up accordingly in the next meeting.</p>
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	<p>2. More time be given for sending suggestions.</p> <p><u>Industries Department:</u> The representations given by various Industries Associations regarding the Directions must be considered before finalizing the Directions.</p> <p><u>Department of Science, Technology and Environment:</u> Para 2.9 D regarding treatment of water to irrigation standards and allowing the same to be mixed with channels carrying Surface water may be reviewed.</p> <p><u>Department of Water Resources:</u> 1. The imposition of Conveyance charges on Water Tankers may be reviewed as it may be difficult to implement.</p> <p>2. All Water users may be directed to use telemetry for transferring data of volumetric measurement of Water Consumption.</p>	<p>2. The Department may be given 15 days time to send its suggestions.</p> <p>During the meeting of the Advisory Committee, it had been clarified that the Authority had framed the Directions after duly considering the objections and suggestions received from various Industries Association on the Draft Guidelines. Various Associations had also been given proper hearing also. Hence, no further action is required now.</p> <p>The Department may be asked to send their proposal regarding the required amendment within a week.</p> <p>1. The Conveyance charges may be restricted to conveyance of water for industrial, commercial and construction purposes. It is proposed that Lump-sum Charges may be taken from the tankers according to capacity. The Directions may be suitably amended accordingly.</p> <p>2. The Directions require Units drawing more than 1500 cum per month to install digital water meters with telemetry. The cost factor may be analyzed before bringing the small users within the scope of this requirement.</p>	
<p>Item No. 26.04</p>	<p>Approval of Water Tariff Regulations.</p> <p>The Water Tariff Regulations were discussed & approved with some changes in Authority meeting held on 9/9/2020. Later on, some shortcomings were noticed. The draft of Revised Water Tariff Regulations was prepared & is enclosed at Annexure-D for consideration & approval.</p>	<p>Discussed. Forms & Tables be revised as deliberated in the meeting. Put up revised Agenda accordingly.</p>	

Item No. 26.05	Quarterly Account Statement of PWRDA for the quarter ending 30th June 2021.				Noted.
	The details of expenditure & income pertaining to the first quarter of 2021-2022 ending 30 June 2021 is placed below for information of the Authority.				
	Quarterly Statement				
	Income and Expenditure Statement				
	For the period of April 2021 to June 2021				
	Expenditure (Rs. Lakhs)		Income (Rs. Lakhs)		
	To Opening Balance	103.83	By Opening Balance	764.01	
	To Expenditure	36.05	By Receipts (GIA 162.75+Authority Receipt 534.90)	697.65	
	Salary	32.77	Application fees	7.08	
	Telephone and Internet Expense	0.60	Registration Fees	29.13	
	Office Expenses	0.18	Advance Security	283.49	
	Electricity Expense	0.17	GWE Charges	201.96	
	Water Bill	0.03	Misc.	10.01	
	Lift/Elevator Charges	0.08	Grant In Aid (Salary)	112.75	
	Advertisement Expenses	0.06	Grant In Aid (Non salary)	50.00	
Computer	1.49	Interest	3.23		
POL	0.67				
To Surplus (Excess of income over expenditure)	1321.78				
Total	1461.66		1461.66		

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.

Chairperson