

Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Authority held on 16.03.2022 at 03:00 PM through VC under the Chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson PWRDA.

Present: Sh. Sushil Gupta Member and Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal Member.
However, Sh. Sushil Kumar Gupta Member had recused himself from Agenda item 41.03

In attendance: Mr. J K Jain Additional Secretary, and Jobanpreet Singh XEN.

Item No.41.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 41stmeeting of PWRDA.

The minutes of 40th meeting were emailed to all concerned on 13.03.2022. May be confirmed with the correction that in Item 40.03, under Decision (a), line 4 the figures after Directions be read as “2022” in place of “2002”.

Decision: Confirmed as proposed.

Item No.41.02: Action Taken Report:

ATR on the decisions taken in 40th Meeting of the Authority is as under:

Item No. 40.03: Decision regarding Impact Assessment Report to be submitted by the Users under Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2022.

Please see item number: 41.06.

Item No. 40.04: Empowering the Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates in the state of Punjab for implementing Directions of the Authority.

Request for Constitution of DICWRD sent to Government on 15.03.2022.

Item No. 40.05: Approval of Bid for the tender for Selection of Service Provider for providing various Support Services to PWRDA.

Offer Letter issued to the lowest bidder on 15.03.2022.

Item No 40.06: Regarding Providing Motor Vehicles to Members of PWRDA.

Order for purchase of vehicle has been placed on GeM portal on 15.03.2022.

Item No: 40.07: Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2022.

Changes as approved have been made in the Directions, 2022 and the Directions so amended have been circulated to all concerned on 14.03.2022.

Decision: Noted

Item No 41.03: Regarding appointment of Technical Advisor:

1. In its 33rd meeting, the Authority decided to re-designate one post of Technical Expert out of the four sanctioned posts of Technical Expert as Technical Advisor, with a monthly remuneration of Rs 1 Lakh to 1.10 Lakh.
2. An advertisement dated 16.12.2021 was issued for this purpose.

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3. Against the advertisement, until the last date of applying a single application was received.
4. Authority vide Item No 34.01 decided that:

“1. Since there is only one candidate hence the post should be re-advertised giving 15 day notice. The candidates who have applied earlier need not to apply again.

2. Besides giving advertisement in the Punjabi Tribune, Hindustan Times, Dainik Bhaskar (Chandigarh and Punjab), the post should also be advertised in the Employment News. Emails may also be sent about the invitation of applications to PAU, HAU HPAU, IARI, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture, CGWA and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee and such other institutions.

3. Essential Qualification: In the essential qualification the following should be added Bachelor degree in Agriculture/Environmental Sciences/Environmental Engineering.

4. Desirable Qualification: In the desirable qualification in point number 2 modification may be made to provide the requirement for knowledge of surface and groundwater resources instead of surface and groundwater resources in the state of Punjab & point number 3 may be deleted regarding Knowledge of Punjab agriculture especially in relation to water availability”

5. Accordingly revised advertisement for the post was issued on 07.01.2022. The final date of submission of applications was 24.01.2022.
6. As per the Advertisement dated 07.01.2022 the qualification/experience required by the Candidate was: -

“1) Bachelor’s degree in Geology/Hydrology/Agricultural Engineering/Agriculture/Environmental Sciences/Environmental Engineering from a recognized University/Institute, and

2) Master’s degree in any branch related to the above-said subjects from a recognized University/Institute, and

3) At least 20 years’ experience in the field of water management preferably Groundwater, and

4) At least 5 years of administrative experience in Government Department related to water management and conservation.”

The indicative Roles and Functions required was:

“Desirable Experience/Domain of Knowledge

1. Experience in groundwater dynamics vis-à-vis agricultural water management.
2. Knowledge of surface and groundwater resources.

Indicative Nature of duties to be performed:

“The Technical Advisor shall assist and advise the Authority in management of water resources in the state of Punjab including agricultural water management, with focus on the following specific points: issues pertaining to State Integrated Water Management Plan

- *issues pertaining to State Integrated Water Management Plan*
- *formulation of water conservation schemes especially in the agriculture sector*
- *implementation of water conservation schemes especially in agriculture*
- *issues related to groundwater and surface water management in the state of Punjab*
- *issues of various Departments and Stakeholders related to water resources management*
- *formulation of strategies to create awareness among various stakeholders for conservation of water*
- *And to perform such other duties as may be assigned.”*

7. Against the re-advertised post, 3 more applications were received until the last date.
8. Committee of Secretary, SM (A&C) and Executive Engineer constituted by the Authority in its meeting held on 10.11.2021, has shortlisted the eligible candidates for the single post of Technical Advisor. The Report is placed as Annexure A1 for reference.
9. Authority may consider one of the following three candidates for appointment against a single post of Technical Advisor: -
 - Shri. Gouranga Charan Pati
 - Shri. Rajesh Vashisht
 - Shri. Somnath Bhattacharya

Decision: (Shri SK Gupta, Member, did not attend the discussion of this Item)

The Authority perused the bio data of all the eligible candidates for the post of Technical Advisor and recommendations of the committee of Additional Secretary and Executive Engineer constituted for shortlisting the eligible candidates.

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The Authority accepted the recommendations and further examined the suitability of Shri. Gouranga Charan Pati, Shri. Rajesh Vashisht and Shri. Somnath Bhattacharya. After considering the matter in depth, Authority observed that Shri. Rajesh Vashisht is the most suitable candidate for this post and decided to appoint him as Technical Advisor on contract, initially for a period of one year, at a fixed monthly remuneration of Rs. one lakh only. The other terms and conditions of the contract shall be the same as approved by the Authority in the case of Senior Manager Administration & Coordination.

Item No. 41.04: Regarding Selection of Technical Manager (Groundwater).

1. Applications were invited for filling up one post of Technical Manager (Groundwater) and various other posts vide advertisement dated 13.10.2021 with Gross Monthly Emoluments of Rs. 70,000/-. The final date of submission of applications was 29.10.2021. As reported by the office, 14 applications were received for this post till end of last date. All the applications were received via email in the Office.
2. As per the Advertisement the qualification/experience required by the Candidate are:
 - “1) Post-graduate Degree in Geology/ Applied Geology/ Hydrogeology/ Groundwater/ Earth Science/ Geo-Science from a recognized University/ Institute, and*
 - 2) Minimum five years’ working experience in the field of Groundwater/Hydrogeology as on the closing date for application. (Work done as JRF/SRF after obtaining essential qualification shall count towards experience).”*
3. The indicative Roles and Functions required are:
 - a. Collection of data in field including field surveys.*
 - b. Collection and Collation of existing data of groundwater and related domains from various sources, its digitisation.*
 - c. Entering data in relevant software such as ArcGIS, GEMS etc*
 - d. Capturing data through GPS tools in field. Preparation of GIS datasets of the collected data Desk-based data capture (digitising) to convert paper maps to GIS datasets*
 - e. Providing assistance in integration, analysis and interpretation of data*
 - f. Preparation of various thematic maps, litho logical sections, block diagrams etc*
 - g. Assessment of groundwater resources at various scales and boundaries.*
 - h. Communication with stakeholders.*

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i. Any other work which may be assigned.”

4. The committee constituted by the Authority to shortlist eligible candidates submitted its report to the Authority for consideration and the same was considered by the Authority vide Item no 34.02 and decided that:

“a. The Committee was directed to review the marks awarded to experience and educational qualifications in accordance with the conditions contained in the advertisement for the post in consultation with both the Members & recast its recommendations.”

5. In compliance with above order, soft copy of all the applications received for the post were shared (vide email on 05.01.2022) and discussed with the Members.
6. After the discussions with the Members, following criteria for awarding marks was finalised:
- a. 20 % Weightage for Marks Obtained in Post-Graduation. *(Maximum Marks 20 marks)*
 - b. ***One Mark allotted per year of relevant experience as required for the post including experience attained during PhD. (Maximum 10 Marks)***
 - c. ***5 Marks for Experience of Working on Geographic Information System (GIS) and/or Modelling (Maximum 5 Marks)***

Hence the marks are to be awarded out of Maximum Marks of 35.

7. Committee of Secretary, SM (A&C) and Executive Engineer constituted by the Authority in its meeting held on 10.11.2021, has shortlisted the eligible candidates for the single post of Technical Manager (Groundwater). The Report is placed as Annexure A2 for reference.
8. Committee has shortlisted the following three candidates for consideration of the Authority for appointment against One post of Technical Manager (Groundwater):

- Dr Ujjal Mal.
- Dr Salman Ahmad.
- Dr Pintu Prusty

Decision: Authority perused the bio data of all candidates and formed a two-member committee, comprising Sh. Sushil Gupta, Member and Technical Advisor PWRDA (who is expected to join shortly) to interact with four candidates shortlisted in order of merit, including the three candidates recommended by the Committee, namely:

1. Dr Ujjal Mal.
2. Dr Salman Ahmad.
3. Dr Pintu Prusty.

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4. Dr Ramanpreet Kaur.

Maximum marks for interaction/interview will be 15.

Item No. 41.05: Regarding Selection of Senior Manager IT.

1. Applications were initially invited for filling up one post of Senior Manager IT and various other posts vide advertisement dated 13.10.2021. The final date of submission of applications was 29.10.2021. Two applicants applied for the post but none was found eligible and applications were again invited for filling up the post of Senior Manager IT vide advertisement dated 16.12.2021. The final date of submission of applications was 28.12.2021. As reported by the office, 2 applications were received via email for this post till the last date.
2. As per the Advertisement dated 16.12.2021 the qualification/experience required by the Candidate are:

“B.Tech. /B.E with 6-year experience in the analysis, design, development, implementation, operation, maintenance, integration and upgradation of relevant software projects and software systems.”

3. The indicative Roles and Functions required are: -

“Desirable Skills:

- a. *English language proficiency.*
- b. *3+years of professional experience as Team Leader /Manager in Software Development.*
- c. *Good Experience in deployment/handling application lifecycle of projects on servers of at least two end-to-end project implementations of Web enabled cloud based software.*
- d. *Should be well versed with IT Technologies such as Cloud technology, APIs/Web Services etc.*
- e. *Proficient understanding of code versioning tools, software testing, library, modern system of software project management.*
- f. *Good understanding of one or more popular front-end languages (e.g. HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Reactjs etc.*
- g. *Proficient in communication especially monitoring and reporting, including preparing software system design documents, project management and progress reports, etc.*

Job Description:

The Authority requires the development of Web-enabled software systems for complete endto-end digitization of its work including the following priorities:

- i. *NOC/Permission to the applicant for extraction of Ground Water and related permissions.*
- ii. *Billing, accounting and metering.*
- iii. *Hearings and proceedings, complete digital office*
- iv. *Monitoring of Water conservation schemes and grant of rebate etc.*
- v. *GIS and Database management*
- vi. *Web Portal, mobile application for all functions and clients*
- vii. *Water Tariff fixation, monitoring.*

Senior Manager (I.T.) will be primarily responsible for supervising the analysis, design, development and operation of the software systems, web applications. S/He should be able to work with other developers and designers for development, operation and maintenance of full-stack web applications required by the Authority. Due to the collaborative nature of the work, s/he should possess strong communication and technical skills in order to efficiently and effectively articulate issues and deliver solutions for all the applications.

She /He shall, inter alia, be responsible for performing the following duties:

- a. *Collaborate with a team of developers and designers.*
- b. *Communicate with the Stakeholders to meet their requirements.*
- c. *Coordinate internal resources and third parties/vendors for the efficient execution of multiple projects.*
- d. *Ensure that all projects are delivered on-time, within scope and within budget.*
- e. *Convey effectively with all task progress, evaluations, suggestions, schedules along with technical and process issues Develop a detailed project plan to monitor and track progress.*
- f. *Solving complex digital performance problems and architectural challenges.*
- g. *Ensure Integration of user-facing elements developed by front-end developers*
- h. *Assigning tasks to the team members and take out put from them as per requirement.*
- i. *Ensure project compliance and/or alignment with relevant standards, guidelines and recommended practices.”*

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4. Against this advertisement, only 2 applications have been received.
5. Since the Secretary is on long leave hence, committee of Additional Secretary and Executive Engineer has submitted its report for the single post of Senior Manager IT. The Report is placed as Annexure A3 for consideration of the Authority.

Decision:

Authority authorised the Chairperson to form a committee headed by Chairperson to interact with both the candidates. This committee after interaction with the candidates will submit its recommendations to the Authority.

Item No. 41.06: Approval of SOP for Comprehensive Hydrogeological Report.

This issue was taken up by the Authority in its meeting held on 09.03.2022 vide Item No 40.03 and following decision was recorded:

“c) the SOP issued by CGWA for Comprehensive Hydrogeological Report can be modified in accordance with the provisions of the Directions 2022. Addl. Secretary was directed to do the needful and place it before the Authority.

In compliance with this decision, the SOP prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Directions, 2022 is placed as Annexure A4 for approval.

Submitted for consideration and approval of the Authority.

Decision:

- A. SOP approved with minor changes. Approved SOP is attached here with as Annexure M2.**
- B. Authority approved some changes in para 2.10, 2.11 and 5.10 of the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction, 2022 which are incorporated as under:**

Existing	Modified
2.10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES A. A. In order to ensure sustainable ground water management and for designing and carrying out of effective Water Conservation	2.10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES – CLUSTER OF BLOCKS A. In order to ensure sustainable ground water management and for designing and carrying out of effective Water Conservation Schemes, Impact

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<p>Schemes, Impact Assessment studies are required.</p> <p>B. As the impact of groundwater withdrawal depends on the cumulative abstraction by various users in surrounding areas, the Impact Assessment/Groundwater modelling Studies of individual industries/mines, may not reveal the impact of groundwater withdrawal on hydro geological conditions of the aquifers and may not yield actionable results for preparation of accurate and beneficial Water Management Plans.</p> <p>C. Therefore, Authority shall carry out (through expert agencies) block-wise/assessment area wise Cluster Impact Assessment studies. Priority will be given to study the over-exploited blocks to get a meaningful picture of impact on the hydrogeological regime of the area.</p> <p>D. In order to carry out such studies, all the Water Users shall ensure supply of correct available information to the Authority in the manner required by the Authority.</p>	<p>Assessment studies are required.</p> <p>B. As the impact of groundwater withdrawal depends on the cumulative abstraction by various users in surrounding areas, the Impact Assessment/Groundwater modelling Studies of individual industries/mines, may not reveal the impact of groundwater withdrawal on hydro geological conditions of the aquifers and may not yield actionable results for preparation of accurate and beneficial Water Management Plans.</p> <p>C. Therefore, Authority shall carry out (through expert agencies) block-wise/assessment area wise Cluster Impact Assessment studies. Priority will be given to study the over-exploited blocks to get a meaningful picture of impact on the hydrogeological regime of the area.</p> <p>D. In order to carry out such studies, all the Water Users shall ensure supply of correct available information to the Authority in the manner required by the Authority.</p>
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E. Units Extracting more than 6,00,000 cubic metres in any month will be required to submit an Project Impact Assessment Report to the Authority in the format as specified by the Authority within 6 months of applying for Permission for Extraction. This volume of 6,00,000 cubic metres shall include Dewatering by mining or infrastructure projects. The Project Impact Assessment report prepared by accredited consultant on ground water conditions, impact assessment of dewatering on ground water regime and its socio-economic impact, details of recycling, reuse and recharge and water management methods to minimize and mitigate the adverse impact on ground water, based on local conditions.

F. In case such User does not submit the Project Impact Assessment Report within the time period specified then this shall be an event of Non-Compliance and the User/Unit shall be liable to pay Non-Compliance Charges as described in Chapter 7 with effect from the due date

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<p>of the Report.</p> <p>G. Based on the Project Impact Assessment Report submitted by the User, Authority may modify the terms and conditions of Permission for Ground Water Extraction.</p>	
<p>2.11 WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES APPROVED BY CGWA PRIOR TO THESE DIRECTIONS</p>	<p>2.11 IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES-INDIVIDUAL PROJECT</p> <p>A. Units Extracting more than 6,00,000 cubic metres in any month will be required to submit an Project Impact Assessment Report to the Authority in the format (Web: https://pwrda.org) as specified by the Authority within 6 months of applying for Permission for Extraction. This volume of 6,00,000 cubic metres shall include Dewatering by mining or infrastructure projects. The Project Impact Assessment report prepared by accredited consultant on ground water conditions, impact assessment of dewatering on ground water regime and its socio-economic impact, details of recycling, reuse and recharge and water management methods to minimize and mitigate the adverse impact on ground water, based on local conditions.</p> <p>B. In case such User does not submit the Project Impact Assessment Report within the time period specified then this shall be an event of Non-Compliance and the</p>

	<p>User/Unit shall be liable to pay Non-Compliance Charges as described in Chapter 7 with effect from the due date of the Report.</p> <p>C. Based on the Project Impact Assessment Report submitted by the User, Authority may modify the terms and conditions of Permission for Ground Water Extraction.</p>
<p>New para added at 2.11, hence 2,11 has been renumbered as 2,12</p>	<p>2.12 WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES APPROVED BY CGWA PRIOR TO THESE DIRECTIONS</p> <p>If a User has already implemented a water conservation scheme prior to the publication of these Directions with the approval of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), and applies for approval of such water conservation scheme, the Authority may while approving such scheme provide water conservation credits as determined by the Authority to such User from the date these Directions take effect or from the date of the submission of the scheme to the Authority; provided that the NOC given by CGWA to such User was valid on the date of submission of the scheme to the Authority.</p>
<p>5.10 EXTRACTION OF SALINE GROUND WATER</p> <p>A. Extraction of brackish/saline ground water in a pocket where the aquifers at all levels up to 300 metres depth contain only brackish/saline ground water will be permitted on</p>	<p>5.10 EXTRACTION OF SALINE GROUND WATER</p> <p>A. Extraction of brackish/saline ground water in a pocket where the aquifers at all levels up to 300 metres depth contain only brackish/saline ground water will be permitted on payment of</p>


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<p>payment of only 25% of the applicable Groundwater Charges. No water conservation credits shall be available in such cases. To avail this discount a User seeking Permission for extracting more than 1,500 cubic metres of groundwater per month shall submit a hydro-geological report detailing the contours of the brackish/saline aquifer and its potential, and an assessment of the risk of mixing of good quality water due to extraction of brackish/saline water. Such hydro-geological report shall cover a radius of 2 kilometres around the Unit. Further, the quality parameters of groundwater extracted or to be extracted by the Unit shall be tested and these test reports will be considered before deciding whether to grant Permission to a Unit to extract groundwater in such an identified pocket.</p>	<p>only 25% of the applicable Groundwater Charges. No water conservation credits shall be available in such cases. A User seeking Permission for extracting more than 1,500 cubic metres of brackish/saline groundwater per month shall submit a hydro-geological report in the format (Web: https://pwrda.org) as specified by the Authority detailing the contours of the brackish/saline aquifer and its potential, and an assessment of the risk of mixing of good quality water due to extraction of brackish/saline water. Such hydro-geological report shall cover a radius of 2 kilometres around the Unit. Further, the quality parameters of groundwater extracted or to be extracted by the Unit shall be tested and these test reports will be considered before deciding whether to grant Permission to a Unit to extract groundwater in such an identified pocket.</p>
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Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Chairperson.

Office ਦੀ ਸਿਫਟ ਨੰ. 36543 ਦੇ
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 ਗੀਲਾ ਦੇ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਕੋਮਾਨ ਕਮਿਟੀ ਦੀ
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Superintendent
 Punjab Water Regulation and
 Development Authority