

Minutes of 45th Meeting of the Authority held on 11.05.2022 at 3.00 P.M. in Committee Room under the Chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson PWRDA.

Present: Sh. Sushil Gupta Member and Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal Member.

In attendance: Mr. JK Jain Additional Secretary, Mr. Rajesh Vashisht Technical Advisor, and Mr. Maninder Singh XEN

Item No.45.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 44th Meeting of PWRDA.

The Minutes of 44th meeting were emailed to all concerned on 09.05.2022. No comments received. May be confirmed.

Decision: *Confirmed.*

Item No. 45.02: Action Taken Report:

ATR on the decisions taken in 43rd Meeting of the Authority is as under:

Item No.43.03: To amend the composition of The District Implementing Committee for Water

Regulation and Development (DICWRD):

State Government has constituted the DICWRD vide order dated 05.05.2022.

(Annexure A1)

Item No. 43.04: To authorise Deputy Commissioner of the District u/s 20 of the Punjab

Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2020:

The decision was conveyed to the State Government **(Annexure A2)**; and subsequent reminder was given on 09.05.2022 **(Annexure A3)**

Item No. 43.05: Recruitment for the one post of Administrative Officer (ADO)

Please see Agenda Item No.45.04

Item No. 43.06: Recruitment for the post of Technical Manager (Ground Water)

Sh. Ujjal Mal has joined as Technical Manager (Groundwater) on 10.05.2022.

Item No. 43.07: Recruitment for the post of Technical Manager (Agriculture)

Please see Agenda Item No. 45.03

Item No. 43.08: Charge of the vacant post of Secretary PWRDA.

No further action is required.

Item No. 43.09: Regarding addendum to Annexure Y and Z of tender document for providing

Support Services to PWRDA.

Needful has been done vide letter (**Annexure A4**)

Item No. 43.10: Clarification regarding payment of groundwater extraction charges under Draft

Guidelines 2020 and Directions 2022.

This Item was deferred.

Item No. 43.11: To Approve the Expression of Interest document for Cluster Impact Assessment Studies.

This Item was deferred.

Item No. 43.12: Selection of Candidate for the single post of Manager Accounts.

Sh. Davinder Singh has joined as Manager Accounts on 18.04.2022.

Item No. 43.13: Selection of Candidates for the Post of Senior Manager (IT)

Please see Agenda Item No. 45.05.

Decision: *Noted.*

Item No. 45.03: Recruitment for the post of Technical Manager Agriculture:

The post of Technical Manager Agriculture was advertised on 12.10.2022, 17.12.2022 and 07.01.2022 and on 19 April 2022. The minimum experience was reduced by Authority in its 43rd Meeting to five years from 10 years. With the following essential and desired qualifications:

Essential:

1. Graduate Degree in Agriculture from a recognized University/Institute.

2. Minimum Twelve years' experience as Extension Specialist in agriculture or allied field as on the closing date for application.

Desirable:

3. A Post-graduate Degree in Agriculture, (Agronomy/Soil Sciences) from a recognized University/Institute. It is clarified that candidates with desirable education qualifications will also have to fulfill the experience criterion above."

The approved monthly remuneration for this post is Rs. 50000/-.

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The advertisement was published on 19.04.2022 in two newspapers namely Punjabi Tribune and Hindustan Times. The last date for filling the application form was 4.05.2022 till 5.00 PM.

Till last date no application was received.

There is an urgent need to fill this post as more than 90% of Ground Water is being used by Agricultural Sector and management of the same is immediately required. In view of this the post of Technical Manager Agriculture needs to be re-advertised.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision:

Since, the post of Technical Manager Agriculture was advertised four times and no application was received. Therefore, Authority decided to fill this post by taking a person on deputation serving the Punjab Govt. or a person retired from the Punjab Govt.

In case of Retired persons: By inviting applications from amongst the officers who

- a) retired from the Government in the rank of Agriculture Development Officer or above,*
- b) having B.Sc. degree in agriculture from a recognised University/ Institute,*
- c) having working knowledge of Punjabi; and*
- d) not above the age of 65 years as on the last date of submission of application.*

A Recruitment Notice of 15 days be given in two daily newspapers (one Punjabi and one English) having wide circulation in the region.

The monthly remuneration shall be the same as approved earlier i.e. @ Rs. 50,000/- (fixed).

In case of deputation: By sending a requisition to the concerned Department of Govt. of Punjab from amongst the officers having minimum three-year experience in the rank of

- a) Agriculture Development Officer or above, or*
- b) Horticulture Development Officer or above, or*
- c) Assistant Soil Conservation Officer or above.*

An officer taken on deputation will be entitled to draw admissible pay and allowances at such rates and subject to such conditions as applicable to him as per his terms of deputation finalised by the parent department.

Item No. 45.04: Recruitment for one post of Administrative Officer (ADO)

The Authority in its 43rd Meeting decided to fill the post of ADO @ monthly remuneration of Rs.50,000/-by calling applications from Public Sector through advertisement by giving 15 days notice in 2 newspapers.

The qualification for the post of ADO is as under:

Public Sector :

- (i) Serving/Retired Officer who has worked as Superintendent Grade-I for 2 years and;
(ii) Has working knowledge of Punjabi language.

In furtherance of this, an advertisement was published in the Punjabi Tribune and Hindustan Times on 19.04.2022. The last date for applying for above post was 04.05.2022 till 5.00 PM.

As on last date, 5 applications were received. The bio-data chart of the candidates is as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Candidate	Qualification	University	Experience as Suprtd Grade-I (2 years)	Previous/current department	Working / Retired	Prime post during service	Age	Remarks
1	Harminder Singh	M.Phil Economics	Punjabi University	No	Department of Planning Government of Punjab	Retired	Deputy Director Administration and DDO (31yrs & 5 months)	59	Not worked as Spdt. Grade-I for 2 years
2	Balwinder Singh	M.Sc (Mathematics)	Punjab University	No	Deputy controller (Finance & Accounts)	Retired	Deputy controller (Finance & Accounts)	57	Not worked as Spdt. Grade-I for 2 years
3	Surinder Mohan	M.A. (Punjabi)	Punjabi University	No	Lieutenant (Indian Army)	Retired	Lieutenant (Indian Army)	55	Not worked as Spdt. Grade-I for 2 years
4	Tarun	MCA	Punjab University	No		Working		27	Not worked as Spdt. Grade-I for 2 years

5	Inderjit Singh	M Phil (History)		No		Working		30	Not worked as Spdt. Grade-I for 2 years
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As per report of Scrutinizing Committee, none of the candidate is found to be eligible as they do not fulfil the minimum requirement of working as Superintendent Grade-I for two years.

Findings of Committee:

As reported by the office, none of the applicant has worked as Superintendent Grade I for two years, which is a mandatory qualification for the post. As such, all the above candidate are found to be ineligible for the post of Administrative Officer.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision:

- a. *The Authority perused the bio-data of all the candidates for the post of Administrative Officer and recommendations of the Committee of Additional Secretary and Executive Engineer constituted for short listing the eligible candidates.*
- b. *After considering the matter in depth, this item was deferred.*
- c. *The Committee was directed to interact with the candidates at serial number 1&2 (Harjinder Singh and Balwinder Singh) to ascertain more details about their work and experience.*

Item No. 45.05: Regarding selection of Senior manager (IT)

Authority in its 43rd Meeting decided to readvertise the post of Senior Manager IT with revised qualifications and experience giving 15 days notice in two daily newspapers.

The qualification/Experience for the post of Senior Manager IT is given below:

“B.Tech./B.E with 5 years’ minimum experience in the implementation operation maintenance, integration and up gradation of such relevant software projects and software systems. Desirable: 5 Years’ experience in the analysis, design and development of relevant software projects and software systems.”

Accordingly, advertisement was floated in two newspapers namely Punjabi Tribune and Hindustan Times on 19.04.2022. The last date for receiving applications was 04.05.2022 till 5.00 PM. Two applications were received. The bio-data chart is as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Candidate	Qualification	University	Previous/current	Working/	Prime post	Age	Remarks
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				department	Retired	during service		
1	Er. Seema Bahga	B.E./Electrical	Punjabi	PSPCL	Workin g	DGM/I T	58	Eligible
		PG Diploma Computer	University Punjab					
		M. Tech. Computer	University					
		PG Cyber Security	Thapar University Patiala Indira Gandhi Open University, N. Delhi					
Gurleen Singh	B. Tech in ECE	Punjabi University	Manager (IT & Admin)	Workin g	Manage r (IT & Admin)	30	Eligible	
	MBA Global	Punjabi University						
	Business Diploma in IT	ISO Certified						

The recommendations of Committee are attached as **(Annexure A5)**

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision:

a. The Authority perused the bio-data of all the eligible candidates for the post of Senior Manager (IT) and recommendations of the Committee of Additional Secretary and Executive Engineer constituted for short listing the eligible candidates.

b. The Authority further examined the suitability of Er. Seema Bahga and Gurleen Singh.

c. After considering the matter in depth, Authority observed that Shri Gurleen Singh has done project planning management of E-Sewa Project and Mission Tandarust Punjab. Whereas, Er. Seema Bahga has not handled any software development/ management project. Therefore, Authority observed that Shri Gurleen Singh is the most suitable candidate for this post and decided to appoint him as Senior Manager (IT) on contract, initially for period of one year, at a fixed monthly remuneration of Rs. 75,000/- only. The other terms and conditions of the contract shall be same as approved by the Authority in the case of Senior Manager (A&C).

Item No. 45.06: Notice from PSHRC in complaint no. 666/3/2022-FC/PSHRC/Judl-/J-2/016128

dated 28.03.2022.

The Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) took a *Suo motu* cognizance of the news-item published in 'The Tribune' on 07.02.2022 under the caption ' **Ground water in 78% blocks overexploited**'. A copy of the order, along with a copy of news-item is attached as (**Annexure A6**). The commission called for a report from PWRDA. The next date of hearing is 18.05.2022

It is submitted that Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) has recently been established under the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020. PWRDA has drafted and issued Draft Guidelines for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2020 on 12th November, 2020.

News Article published in 'The Tribune' on 07.02.2022 under the caption "Ground water in 78% blocks over-exploited" is based on the facts published by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in its Report - National Compilation on 'Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2017' prepared jointly by the Government of India and Government of Punjab. These details may be ascertained from the concerned quarters by the PSHRC.

Decision:

1. Authority considered the notice from PSHRC in complaint No. 666/3/2022-FC/PSHRC/Judl-/J-2/016128 DATED 28.03.2022 in depth and observed as under:

- a. *That the News article referred to in the complaint was published in the Tribune on 07.02.2022 under the caption "GROUNDWATER IN 78% BLOCKS OVER EXPLOITED" is based on the reply of Union Minister of State, Jal Shakti Department to a Lok Sabha Question during the Parliament Session.*
- b. *that the facts in the news item refer to a statement given in the Parliament by Union Minister of State, Jal Shakti Department during a reply to the Lok Sabha Question. Hence, Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority is unable to comment on the facts referred therein.*
- c. *That the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority was established under section 3 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act 2020 vide notification No.11/42/2018-PJ-3/598, dated 18.03.2020 to ensure development, management and conservation of water resources of the State in accordance with the Integrated State Water Plan.*

2. Additional Secretary may file reply accordingly.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to Chair.

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