

**Minutes of 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 23.01.2023 at 11.00 AM in Room No. 1 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh Chairperson PWRDA.**

**Present: Mr. Sushil Gupta, Member and Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member.**

**Item No. 58.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Authority.**

The Minutes of 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Authority held on 20.01.2023 are yet to be circulated.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 58.02: Action Taken Report (ATR):**

The Action Taken Report on the decision taken in 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Authority will be put up in the next Meeting.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 58.03: Regarding Implementing Agency (IA).**

1. The Punjab Government has on 28.04.2021 designated Punjab pollution Control Board, Patiala as Implementing Agency for Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority, under Section 29 of the Punjab Water Resources (Regulation and management) Act, 2020 However, PPCB on 21.10.2021 conveyed its inability to act as the Implementing Agency for the Authority and the matter was still under consideration with the Government.
2. In the absence of IA, Authority in its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting decided to request the Government to constitute a District Implementing Committee under Section 29 of the Punjab Water Resources (Regulation and management) Act, 2020 for implementing the Directions of the Authority. Subsequently, the Government constituted the DICWRD on 05.05.2022 (**Annexure A-58.03.01**) assigning it the work to implement and monitor the Directions issued by the Authority.
3. **Functions of Implementing agency** are:
  - a) ensuring compliance of the directions of the Authority.
  - b) formulation, appraisal and monitoring of water conservation schemes by water Users/ Government Agencies.
  - c) providing scientific inputs for decision of the Authority; and
  - d) managing stakeholder's engagement and communication.
  - e) assisting the Authority to determine water tariffs.
  - f) providing scientific inputs for decision making for management and development of water resources of the State.

DICWRD will be able to ensure compliance of Directions so far as site inspections, redressal of complaints, dispute resolution, creating public awareness and enforcement of the orders of the Authority at the ground level is concerned. DICWRD may not be able to perform other functions as described at (b) to (f) above.

4. Thus, the functions that can be performed by DICWRD are limited and the comprehensive functions of IA need to be assigned to an organization at the Government level. Moreover, no superior officer/organization has been assigned by the Government to supervise and administratively control the work of DICWRD.
5. Therefore, the already existing Groundwater Directorate in the Department of Water Resources may be assigned the comprehensive functions of IA as described in para 3 b to f.

On 07.07.2022, Principal Secretary Water Resources, was suggested (**Annexure A-58.03.02**) that the Ground Water Directorate of Water Resources Department may be restructured and strengthened and be given the task of implementation of Directions issued by the Authority. A reminder was sent to the Government regarding this issue on dated 04.11.2022. In response to this the Government on 17.11.2022 replied as under:

*“ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਅਧੀਨ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਜਲ ਨਿਯੰਤਰਣ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਵਲੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਗੂ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰਜ਼ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨਗੀ ਹੇਠ Punjab Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2020 ਦੇ Section 29 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ District Implementing Committee for Punjab Water Regulation and Development ਦਾ ਗਠਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ (ਕਾਪੀ ਨੱਥੀ)। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਬਤੌਰ Implementing agencies for Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority ਮੰਨਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ।”*

Since, the DICWRD may not be able to undertake all the functions of IA as given in Para 3 above, hence, it is proposed that Authority may consider to request the State Government to assign comprehensive functions of IA to Groundwater Directorate in the Department of Water Resources besides assigning it supervisory and administrative control of DICWRD. The organisational structure of the Groundwater Directorate as obtained unofficially from WRD is placed at **Annexure A58.03.03**.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Discussed and deferred. Put up as a fresh agenda item with comprehensive proposal in the next meeting.*

#### **Item No. 58.04: Empanelment of Water Auditors.**

It is submitted that under the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2022, which were approved in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority, Chapter 7, Para. 7.2, it is specified that:

*“A Unit that has been granted permission to extract more than 3,000 cubic meters per month of Groundwater shall be required to undertake a Water Audit as per the following time schedule:*

- (1) A Unit permitted to extract between 3,000 cubic meters per month and 15,000 cubic meters per month will submit a Water Audit report once every five years from the date of grant of permission.*
- (2) A Unit permitted to extract Groundwater above 15,000 cubic meters per month will submit a Water Audit report once every three years from the date of grant of permission.*

*The Unit shall engage for this purpose any one of the Water Auditors empanelled by the Authority.”*

Also, In the Punjab Draft Guidelines for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2020, in Para 8.2, it is provided that:

*“All Units that have been granted permission to draw more than 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day of Groundwater shall be required to undertake Annual Water Audit through auditors to be empanelled by the Authority. The first Water Audit Report will be required to be submitted within six months of completion of one year from the date of grant of permission. Each subsequent Report shall be due similarly within a period of six months of the completion of the year to which it pertains.”*

2. As per the provision of the Draft Guidelines, these Units are supposed to submit Water Audit Reports within 6 months of Completion of One Year from grant of permission. Under the Draft Guidelines 2020, till 30.11.2022 a total of 147 Units were granted ad interim Permission for extraction of groundwater more than 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day have completed one year. To facilitate these units to carry out Water Audit, Water Auditors are required to be empanelled by the Authority.

3. CGWA on 19.08.2022 (**Annexure A58.04.01**) issued a list of accredited water auditors for carrying out water audit of the units extracting groundwater. The list is as given below:

- i. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)  
The Mantosh Sondhi Centre, 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road New Delhi.
- ii. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).  
FICCI Federation House Tansen Marg, New Delhi.
- iii. National Productivity Council (NPC)  
National Productivity Council Utpadakta Bhavan, 6, Lodhi Rd, Institutional Area, New Delhi, Delhi.
- iv. PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industries.  
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi.
- v. Laghu Udyog Bharati  
Shri Vishwakarma Bhawan 48, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.

In response to request (**Annexure A58.04.02**) seeking consent, these agencies replied affirmatively to work as Water Auditor for PWRDA (**Annexure A58.04.03**).

Therefore, the Authority may consider to empanel above five agencies as Water Auditors for the Authority to facilitate water audit.

Placed before the Authority for approval.

**Decision:** *Approved as proposed.*

**Item No. 58.05: Fifth Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources regarding Commercial use of ground water as raw material by Packaged Drinking Water (PDW)\ Packaged Natural Mineral Water (PNMW)\ Carbonated Beverages Units.**

A demi official letter dated 14.12.2022 (**Annexure A58.05.01**) has been received from Member Secretary, CGWA saying that Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in its 5<sup>th</sup> Report of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, has expressed its concerns as regard to commercial use of water, particularly the use of groundwater as raw material for Packaged Drinking Water (PDW)/ Packaged Natural Mineral Water (PNMW)/ Carbonated Beverages. It has requested to issue necessary directions to the concerned department(s) to ensure that all such units are operating with a valid No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water abstraction from the competent Authority. The concerned department(s) may also be directed to initiate action against the units operating without valid NOC. CGWA has requested to direct the concerned departments to

provide list of all PDW/PNMW/Carbonated Beverage units operating in Punjab State along with their present groundwater NOC status (whether obtained or not obtained) to CGWA at the earliest.

2. On 07.09.2022, the Authority in its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting has approved the Punjab Directions for Ground Water Extraction & Conservation 2022. The approved Directions are pending for publication in the Official Gazette of Punjab.

3. Seeking permission for Groundwater Extraction under Draft Guidelines is voluntary. No Directions under section 15 of the Act have been notified till date. Therefore, no action can be initiated against the units which have not obtained permission. As per record, 16 No. Bottling Plants/PDW/PNMW/Carbonated Beverages units have applied to the Authority for obtaining ad interim permission under the draft Guidelines till date.

4. The Government approved the Groundwater Charges on 13.09.2021. Thereafter, Government by letter no. 11/21/2020PJ-3/387 dated 28.09.2022 conveyed some observations and sought comments of the Authority on the Groundwater Charges. The comments of the Authority were conveyed by memo no. 75340/PWRDA-PWRD0GENL/47/2021-PWRDA BR/38709 dated 14.10.2022. No further response has been received from the Government till date. Since, no Directions under section 15 of the Act have been issued by the Authority, hence Users are not required to obtain permission for Groundwater extraction.

5. PPCB and Commissioner, Food Safety, Punjab have been requested to supply list of all PDW/PNMW/Carbonated Beverage units operating in Punjab State along with their present groundwater NOC status (whether obtained or not obtained). The information received from Commissioner Food Safety; Punjab is at **Annexure A58.05.02**.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 58.06:** ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਗਤੀ-ਵਿਧੀਆਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ 02 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2022 ਨੂੰ ਹੋਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਉੱਤਰ ਭੇਜਣ ਬਾਰੇ।

ਮੁੱਖ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ (ਨਹਿਰਾਂ) ਜਲ ਸਰੋਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਗਤੀਵਿਧੀਆਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਿਤੀ 02.11.2022 ਨੂੰ ਹੋਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੀ ਟੂਕ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ: WRCNL-PARTOMISC/..8/2022-O/o XEN REGULATION/1/477723/2022 (**Annexure 58.06.01**) ਭੇਜੀ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੇ ਨੁਕਤਾ ਨੰ: 8 ਤੇ ਇਸ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗੀ ਹੈ:

*“8. ਬੋਤਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਵੇਚਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਕੰਪਨੀਆਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ:*

*ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਜਵਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਕੰਪਨੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ Water demand in M3/day ਦੀ ਮੰਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਕਮੇਟੀ ਜਾਨਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ Water demand in M3/day ਦੀ ਚੈਕਿੰਗ ਦਾ ਕੀ ਪ੍ਰੋਸੀਜ਼ਰ ਹੈ? ਕੀ ਇਹ ਕੰਪਨੀਆਂ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਲੋਂ ਮੰਨਜ਼ੂਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੀ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਬੋਤਲਾਂ ਭਰ*

ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ? ਕਮੇਟੀ ਜਾਨਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਲਾਗੂਬੱਧ ਲਗਾਈ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਚੈਕਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਜ਼ ਫਿਕਸ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਹਨ? ਇਸ ਦੀ ਵਿਸਥਾਰ-ਪੂਰਵਕ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜੀ ਜਾਵੇ।“

2. ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵਲੋਂ ਮੰਗੀ ਗਈ ਉਕਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਚੇਅਰਪਰਸਨ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਤੀ 30.12.2022 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਭੇਜ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ ਜਿਸਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਅਨੁਲੱਗ A-58.06.02 ਤੇ ਹੈ:

“.....ਹਵਾਲਾ ਅਧੀਨ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਾਟਰ ਰਿਸੋਰਸਜ਼ (ਮੈਨੇਜਮੈਂਟ ਐਂਡ ਰੈਗੂਲੇਸ਼ਨ) ਐਕਟ, 2020 ਦੇ ਸੈਕਸ਼ਨ 15(2) ਅਧੀਨ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਭੂ-ਜਲ ਨਿਕਾਸੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੈਗੂਲੇਟ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ, ਪਰੰਤੂ ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ ਹਾਲ ਦੀ ਘੜੀ ਅਧਿਸੂਚਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ।

2. ਐਪਰ, ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਨੇ ਡਰਾਫਟ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਜ਼ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮੰਗੇ ਸਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਸਤਾਵਿਤ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਭੂ-ਜਲ ਨਿਕਾਸੀ ਦਾ ਹਿਸਾਬ-ਕਿਤਾਬ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਲਾਗੂਬੱਧ ਲਗਾਉਣ, ਮੰਨਜ਼ੂਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਪਾਣੀ ਕੱਢਣ ਦੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਚੈਕਿੰਗ ਆਦਿ ਦਾ ਉਪਬੰਧ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਪ੍ਰਸਤਾਵਿਤ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੇ ਉਪਬੰਧਾਂ ਦੀ ਟੂਕ ਨਾਲ ਨੱਥੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। .....

ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹਿੱਤ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੈ।

**Decision:**     *Noted.*

#### **Item No. 58.07: Manner of applying PWRDA Fund under section 9(3) of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020**

Government of Punjab, Department of Water Resources issued a **Notification No. E426016PJ-3/553** dated **20.12.2022 (Annexure A58.07.01)** wherein it has notified the following works/ projects for which the PWRDA Fund may be utilized by the Authority:

- 1) Projects relating to Lift Schemes utilizing only surface Water;
- 2) Projects on Restoration of Water Courses and converting unlined water courses to pipeline distribution;
- 3) Digitization of Work so as to improve water use management;
- 4) Information Education and Communication Activities to be carried out to save underground water.

2. Clause (ii) and (iii) of sub section (2) of section 9 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 refers to the purpose for which Fund can be applied and is reproduced below:

- (2) *The Fund shall be applied for meeting:*
  - (ii) *the expenses of the Authority in the discharge of its functions under this Act; and*
  - (iii) *the expenses incurred to achieve the objects and purposes authorized by this Act.*

3. Sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 under which the aforesaid notification has been issued, deals with the notification of rules for manner of applying the Fund. It is reproduced below:

- (3) *The Government shall prescribe the manner of applying the Fund for meeting the expenses mentioned in clause (ii) and clause (iii) of sub-section (2).*

In this context, the word “prescribe” is defined in the Act in section 2(k) which is as under:

*“Prescribed” means prescribed by the Rules made under this Act.”*

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:** *Discussed and deferred. Put up as fresh agenda item with a comprehensive proposal in the next meeting.*

**Item No. 58.08: Quarterly Statement of Authority Fund placed in Fixed Deposit**

Statement of Authority Fund placed in FDs during the 3rd quarter ending on 31.12.2022				
Month	Amount in Rs.	Period	ROI	Remarks
October	2,20,20,000	1 year 6 months	6.75%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	9,80,000	3 years	6.10%	Callable (Advance Security)
	4,00,00,000	12 months	7.20%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	4,00,00,000	12 months	7.20%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
November	2,50,00,000	12 months 1 day	7.00%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	2,10,61,377	12 months 1 day	7.00%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	46,00,000	600 days	7.00%	Callable (Advance Security Rs. 6.30 Lakh) (Other Receipts Rs. 39.70 Lakh)
December	2,71,36,000	1year 1day	7.20%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	2,10,00,000	1year 1day	7.20%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	5,02,000	3 years	7.30%	Callable (Advance Security)
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,22,99,377</b>			

Total Fixed Deposits as on 31.12.2022

S No.	Particulars	Amount in Rs.
1.	FD at the end of second quarter	53,25,84,672
2.	FD made in the current quarter	20,22,99,377
3.	Total	73,48,84,049
3.	Less FD matured and encashed during the quarter	12,28,40,000
4.	Total Fund in Fixed Deposit	61,20,44,049

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 58.09: To adopt Punjab Financial Rules.**

Punjab Water Regulation & Development Authority (PWRDA) was constituted by Notification No. 114/42/2018-PJ-3/598 dated 18.03.2020 for the purpose of management & regulation of water resources of the state for ensuring judicious, equitable & sustainable utilization and management thereof and matter connected there with.

2. Section 9 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 deals with Fund of the Authority.

3. Further, the following provision is there in section 36 (2) *ibid*:

*“Pending the making of regulations by the Authority, the rules and procedures applicable to the Government departments of the state shall be followed by the Authority for carrying out its functions.”*

4. Chairperson by an executive order dated 27.01.2021 (**Annexure A-58.09.01**) has directed that *“Till the Government frames Rules under sub section (3) of Section 9 of the Water Resources Act, 2020, all expenditure from the Fund of the Authority shall broadly be in conformity with the Financial Rules of the Punjab Government.”*

5. However, no Rules have been notified till date.

6. Therefore, to administer the PWRDA Fund, in accordance with the delegation of financial powers made by the Authority in Resolution No. 55.11 dated 22.11.2022 (**Annexure A-58.09.02**), it is proposed that till the notification of relevant rules by the State Government, the Authority may consider to adopt Punjab Financial Rules as amended from time to time. Further, Authority may substitute the words viz; ‘Department of Government’, ‘Head of Department’, ‘Controlling Officer’, and ‘Disbursing Officer’ wherever occurring in the Punjab Financial Rules with the appropriate words. Accordingly, the proposal is as under:

Sr. No.	Level mentioned in PFR	Appropriate Level in PWRDA
1.	Government	Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority.
2.	Head of Department	Secretary, PWRDA
3.	Controlling Officer	Additional Secretary-Cum-Senior Manager (Administration & Coordination)
4.	Disbursing Officer	Manager Accounts

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Deferred with the direction to re-draft and put up as fresh agenda item in the next meeting.*

**Item No. 58.10: Re-constitution of Committees for Recruitment of Staff on Contract Basis.**

The Authority in its 55<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22.11.2022 decided to fill one post each of Private Secretary, Technical Manager (Agriculture) & Manager (IT) on contract basis. Accordingly, these posts were advertised in Newspapers on 06.12.2022 & 16.12.2022 with last date to apply for 22.12.2022 and 02.01.2023 respectively. The applications received for these posts are to be processed in accordance with the decision of the Authority taken in Resolution No. 31.05

(Annexure A 58.10.01) wherein Authority has laid down the general procedure for shortlisting/ selection of the candidates and constituted two committees.

The said committees had Mr. Jobanpreet Singh XEN as member by name. He has since been transferred. The Chairperson on 03.01.2023 (Annexure A 58.10.02) re-constituted these committees as given below: -

**(i) For Managerial & Professional category of posts**

Chairman: Secretary-currently Additional Secretary or SM (Admn. & Coord)

Member: Technical Advisor

Member: XEN

**(ii) For all other Posts:**

Chairman: Senior Manager (A&C)

Member: XEN

Member: ADO

**Note: For the post of Manager (IT) a domain specialist from NIC be added in the Committee as a special invitee.**

Placed before the Authority for ratification.

**Decision: Deferred as the agenda item is incomplete. Re-draft and put up as fresh agenda item in the next meeting.**

**Item No. 58.11: Quarterly Account Statement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter ending 31.12.2022.**

Quarterly Statement of Receipts & Payments for the 3rd Quarter ending 31-12-2022											
Receipts (Rs. Lakhs)						Payments (Rs. Lakhs)					
Heads	Estimated Budget (FY22-23)	Receipts (1st Quarter)	Receipts (2nd Quarter)	Receipts (3rd Quarter)	Progressive Receipts (FY22-23)	Heads	Estimated Budget (FY 22-23)	Payments (1st Quarter)	Payments (2nd Quarter)	Payments (3rd Quarter)	Progressive Expenditure (FY22-23)
Incomes						2.1 Salary & Allowances					
1.1 Application Fees	125.00	11.13	8.44	2.61	22.18	2.1.1 Salary					
							216.20	44.46	48.23	50.21	142.90
1.2 Registration Fees	150.00	9.38	11.60	2.23	23.21	2.1.2 Travelling Allowances	20.00	0.22	0.60	0.23	1.05
1.3 Drilling Machine Charges	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.1.3 LTC					
					0.00		10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.4 Water Tanker Registration	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.1.4 Medical					
					0.00		20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.5 Ground Water Extraction Charges	4500.00	719.12	772.62	763.75	2255.49	2.1.5 Setting fees &TA/DA of Non official Members	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
							15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.6 Interest on investment	56.00	2.96	3.31	66.25	72.52	2.2 Rent Rates & Taxes	177.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
							177.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.7 Tariff Applications of urban Local Bodies	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.3 Office Expenses					
					0.00						
1.8 GIA Punjab Govt. (Salary)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.3.1 Contingency					
							40.00	0.72	1.18	0.69	2.59



1.9 GIA Punjab Govt. (Non -Salary)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.3.2 Electricity Charges	8.00	0.21	0.44	0.63	1.28
Deposits						2.3.3 Telephone and Internet Expense	7.20	0.40	1.66	0.90	2.96
Advance Security	0.00	256.99	197.56	34.25	488.80	2.3.4 Hospitality & Entertainment Charges	6.00	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.14
Suspense Account	0.00	8.48	21.85	14.90	45.23	2.3.5 Advertisement / Publicity	50.00	0.14	0.07	0.03	0.24
						2.3.6 Lift/ Elevator user charges and AMC	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.3.7 Water Charges	1.80	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.04
						2.3.8 Legal Charges	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.3.9 Unforeseen Expenditure	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.4 To support & Promote Research and Dev.	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.5 Information Education & Communication	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.6 Consultancy & Professional Charges	75.00	0.10	0.13	0.09	0.32
						2.7 Computerization/Software and Website dev. & Maintenance	203.00	15.80	4.82	25.53	46.15
						2.8 POL	40.00	0.67	0.60	0.48	1.75
						2.9 Purchase of Staff Cars/ Vehicles	60.00	18.87	17.77	0.00	36.64
						2.10 Water Conservation Scheme	2601.20	6.70	53.58	0.00	60.28
						2.11 Implementation of Directions	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.12 Rebate on a/c of water conservation Scheme	675.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
						2.13 Payment to Service Providers	240.00	14.29	16.10	16.89	47.28
						Grant In Aid (Non-Salary)		0.00	18.28	0.00	18.28
						Advance Security (Refund)		0.00	34.07	0.00	34.07
						Others (Refund)		0.00	0.38	0.32	0.70

	4873.50	1008.06	1015.38	883.99	2907.43		4838.50	102.67	197.98	96.02	396.67
						To Surplus (Excess of Receipts over Payments)				787.97	
						Advance security				34.25	
						Others Receipts				753.72	
Total				883.98		Total				883.98	

Financial Report for the 3rd Quarter ending 31-12-2022

Surplus (Excess of Receipts over Payments)	Amount (Rs Lakhs)	Deposits		Amount (Rs Lakhs)
FY 2020-2022	3901.15	FDRs FY 2021-22	3548.77	6120.44
FY 22-23 (April 2022 to September 2022)	1722.79	FDRs FY 22-23(April 2022 to September 2022)	1777.08	
FY 22-23 (October to December 2022)	787.97	FDRs FY 22-23 (Oct to Dec,2022) (FDRs made = 2022.99 less FDRs in cashed 1228.40)	794.59	
Advance security	34.25	Balance as per pass book & Cash book		291.47
Other Receipts	753.72			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6411.91</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6411.91</b>

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

#### **Item No. 58.12: Resignation Notice by Sh. Gurleen Singh, Senior Manager (IT).**

Sh. Gurleen Singh, assumed the charge of the post of Senior Manager (IT) on 30.05.2022. He served a notice of two months on 09.11.2022 for resignation from this post. Para 8 of the offer letter says that:

*“You may resign from service by giving a notice of two months or depositing of requisite pay in lieu of the notice period”.*

Regulation 6 of Employees Service Regulations provides that:

*“The Authority may terminate the Service of any employee engaged on Contract basis with a notice of two months without assigning any reason, and the employee may also terminate the contract by giving a notice of two months, unless the terms of contract provide otherwise”*

His resignation was approved by the Chairperson on 15.11.2022 curtailing the notice period to 06.01.2023. Assuming the acceptance of resignation by Chairperson as a final approval, the same was conveyed to Sh. Gurleen Singh on 16.11.2022 (**Annexure A58.12.01**).

2. The subject matter was taken up in 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Authority held on 22.11.2022 as Agenda item No. 55.07. Authority decided as under:

*“Since, the notice period of two months matures on 8th January, 2023 which happens to be Sunday hence, the notice period is accordingly curtailed to 06.01.2023 and Mr. Gurleen Singh, SM(IT) be relieved on 06.01.2023 (Afternoon).”*

Accordingly, the office order dated 30.11.2022 was issued (**Annexure A58.12.02**).

3. In the meantime, Sh. Gurleen Singh stopped attending the Office from 16.11.2022 on pretext of 'urgent work' and remained absent from duty since then. In spite of the advisory mail dated 25.11.2022, he did not resume the duties in the Authority rather he sent an email dated 07.12.2022 addressed to Chairperson with copy endorsed to Members, PWRDA (**Annexure A58.12.03**) citing compelling official reasons for non-resumption of duties in the Authority and requested to waive off the resignation period and relieve him from the post of SM(IT).

4. On approval by Chairperson via email dated 09.12.2022, a letter was issued to Sh. Gurleen Singh same day conveying that:

*“Since, your resignation has been accepted by the Authority and in the absence of provisions of waiving off the Notice period in Service Regulations, you are advised either to continue performing the duties of SM(IT) in PWRDA till expiry of your Notice period or make convenient for depositing the money in lieu of the remaining notice period i.e. (16.11.2022 to 06.01.2023).”*

5. Shri Gurleen Singh was requested to return the gadgets issued to him via email dated 21.12.2022. He reverted back via email dated 21.12.2022 that ***“Since, as per Authority order dated 30.11.2022, I will be relieved from PWRDA on 06.01.2023, hence, all official gadgets will be returned on my relieving day and after receiving my due salary. In the meantime, it is requested to kindly release my salary of 16 days of November 2022.”***

6. Sh. Gurleen Singh has joined the Authority on 30.05.2022 and till tendering of his resignation on 09.11.2022 has already availed 7 days of casual leave to which he was entitled during first six months of service (30.05.2022 to 29.11.2022). Mr. Gurleen Singh is not entitled to any casual leave thereafter. As he absented himself from 16.11.2022 (email dated 15.11.2022 from Gurleen Singh refers) (**Annexure A58.12.04**) onwards without any formal request and non-return of official gadgets (Laptop etc.) the salary for the period 01.11.2022 to 15.11.2022 was put on hold. However, on 06.01.2023 Sh. Gurleen Singh returned all the official gadgets/documents which were in his possession and he was formally relieved on 06.01.2023.

7. It is proposed that the Authority may:

- a. ratify the letter dated 16.11.2022 issued to Shri. Gurleen Singh; and decide on the request of Mr. Gurleen Singh to:
- b. Waive off the resignation notice period from 16.11.2022 to 06.01.2023.
- c. Release his salary for the period from 01.11.2022 to 15.11.2022.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

#### **Decision:**

***Authority approved as under:***

- a. Ratified Letter dated 16.11.2022 issued to Shri. Gurleen Singh.***

- b. Resignation Notice period from 16.11.2022 to 06.01.2023 and depositing requisite pay in lieu of the resignation notice period is waived off. However, this will not be taken as a precedent.*
- c. Release his salary for the period from 01.11.2022 to 15.11.2022.*

**Item No:58.13: Recruitment for the one post of Technical Manager (Agriculture).**

The Authority in its 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 22.11.2022 decided to fill one post of Technical Manager (Agriculture) on contract basis initially for one year with monthly remuneration of Rs. 50,000/-. The post was advertised in two daily newspapers on 06.12.2022. Last date for receipt of application was 22.12.2022. Till last date total 17 applications were received via email. A committee constituted as per order dated 20.12.2022 scrutinized the documents for eligibility of candidates and submitted its report on 23.12.2022 (**Annexure A58.13.01**). It found 16 candidates eligible for this post.

2. As per the Advertisement the qualification /experience required for this post is as under:

- (i) Having B.Sc. degree in Agriculture from a recognized University/Institute.
- (ii) Having working knowledge of Punjabi.

**Note:**

(I) Preference will be given to the candidates having:

- (a) M.Sc. degree or higher in Agriculture.
- (b) Experience in the field of Agriculture.

(II) Candidate should be willing to travel extensively in the project area and may be posted anywhere in the State.

3. A three-member committee consisting of Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member, Rajesh Vashisht, Technical Advisor and Maninder Singh, XEN was constituted on 10.01.2023 to interact with the 16 eligible candidates and recommend the suitable candidates. The eligible candidates were informed via email & telephonically for interactive session. Only 9 candidates appeared before the committee. The committee has shortlisted the candidates in the order of merit and submitted its report on 12.01.2023 (**AnnexurA58.13.02**).

4. The shortlisted candidates in the order of merit are as under:

<b>Rating Criteria for the post of Technical Manager (Agriculture)</b>
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Sr. No	Name of candidate	Marks obtained in B.Sc.	15% weightage for marks obtained in Graduation (Maximum marks 15)	Marks obtained in M.Sc.	5% weightage for marks obtained in Post-Graduation (Maximum marks 05)	Exp. (Months)	2 marks for per year of relevant experience (Maximum marks 15)	15 marks for interaction/ interview (Maximum marks 15)	Total (Maximum marks 50)
1	Rishamdeep Singh	66.7	10.01	72.6	3.63	107	15.00	11	39.64
2	Anil Kumar	80	12.00	0	0.00	40	6.67	11	29.67
3	Amandeep Singh	63.5	9.53	67.4	3.37	18	3.00	11	26.90
4	Navjot Bhatia	77.97	11.70	78.88	3.94	21	3.50	7	26.14
5	Blestar Singh	74.42	11.16	69.4	3.47	25	4.17	7	25.80
6	Navkaranjot Singh	74.51	11.18	73.2	3.66	16	2.67	8	25.50
7	Rupinder Singh	72.42	10.86	88	4.40	9	1.50	7	23.76
8	Vimal Bhobhria	77	11.55	78.9	3.95	0	0.00	7	22.50
9	Agamdeep Singh	74.7	11.21	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	18.21

Placed before the Authority for selection of candidate for one post of Technical Manager (Agriculture).

**Decision:**

*a. The Authority perused the recommendations of the Committee of Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal, Mr. Rajesh Vashisht Technical Advisor and Maninder Singh XEN constituted for short listing the suitable candidates.*

*b. Authority observed that Mr. Rishamdeep Singh is the most suitable candidate for this post and decided to appoint him as Technical Manager (Agriculture) on contract, initially for a period of one year, at a fixed monthly remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- 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).*

**Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.**

**Chairperson**

