

**Minutes of 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 16.02.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Committee Room under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson, PWRDA.**

**Present: Mr. Sushil Gupta Member & Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal Member PWRDA.**

**In attendance: Mr. J.K. Jain Additional Secretary PWRDA.**

**Item No.61.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 57<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup>, 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority.**

The Minutes of 57<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup>, 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority was emailed to all concerned. No comments received. May be confirmed.

**Decision: Confirmed.**

**Item No. 61.02: Action Taken Report:**

ATR on the decisions taken in 57<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup>, 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority is as under:

*Item No.57.03: Performance Review Report of Authority Staff.*

The decision of the Authority and approved PRR format with spelling correction of biennial to biannual (half yearly) has been issued.

*Item No.57.04: Payment of TA/DA to Contractual Staff and staff on deputation with PWRDA.*

The decision of the Authority has been circulated on 10.02.2023.

*Item No. 57.05: Payment for travel by staff of Service Providers.*

The decision of the Authority has been circulated on 13.02.2023.

*Item No.57.06: Annual Increase in monthly remuneration of Contractual Employees.*

This item was dropped.

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

Please see item No. 61.03.

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

The decision has been circulated on 10.02.2023.

*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.*

Decision of the Authority has been placed on file.

*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।*

Decision of the Authority has been placed on file.

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

Please see Item No. 61.04.

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

No further action is required.

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

Please see Item No. 61.05.

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

Please see Item No. 61.06.

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

No further action is required.

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

Office Order issued on 09.02.2023.

*Item No. 58.11: Recruitment for the one post of Technical Manager (Agriculture).*

Offer Letter issued on 08.02.2023.

*Item No. 59.01: Regarding Publication of Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation*

- a. Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 as approved by the Authority have been notified in the official gazette of the State of Punjab on 27.01.2023.
- b. After notification in the Gazette, the Directions have been uploaded on the website of PWRDA.
- c. In accordance with Section 15(5) of the Act, a Notice for information of the general public was published in six daily newspapers having wide circulation in the State of Punjab, two each of Punjabi, Hindi and English language on 28.01.2023.
- d. A copy of the Directions was emailed to CGWA on 02.02.2023.

*Item No. 60.03: Deployment of Support Services through Out Sourcing.*

The process has been initiated.

*Item No. 60.04: Recruitment to the one post of Manager (IT).*

Please see Agenda Item No.61.08.

*Item No. 60.05: Recruitment for the one post of Private Secretary.*

Decision of the Authority has been placed on file.

*Item No. 60.06: Annual Increase in Monthly Remuneration of Contractual Employees.*

This item was deferred without any further orders.

*Item No. 60.07: Reply of the Authority in O.A. 500 of 2022 in Bhagwant Rai vs State of Punjab & Ors.*

Reply has been submitted on 09.02.2023.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 61.03: Regarding Implementing Agency (IA).**

This subject matter was placed before the Authority in 58<sup>th</sup> meeting as Agenda Item No. 58.03 and Authority decided as under:

*“Discussed and deferred. Put up a fresh agenda item with comprehensive proposal”.*

2. Accordingly, it is proposed as follows:

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.

3. Separately, the 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-61.03.01**) assigning it the work of implementing and monitoring the Directions issued by the Authority.

4. 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.

5. Since, 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. therefore, the Groundwater Directorate in the Department of Water Resources may be assigned the comprehensive functions of IA.

6. On 07.07.2022, Principal Secretary Water Resources, was suggested (**Annexure A-61.03.02**) that the Ground Water Directorate of Water Resources Department may 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 ਪ੍ਰਯਾਨਗੀ 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”।*

7. It is proposed that Authority may request the State Government to take necessary action on the following points in a time bound manner:

- a. To designate the Groundwater Directorate in the Department of Water Resources as the IA.

- b. The Groundwater Directorate be fully equipped and staffed to perform these functions.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *The Government be requested to designate Directorate of Groundwater in Department of Water Resources to function as Implementing Agency (IA) for the Authority. This is necessary for providing expertise and for supervision, Administration, Management and Control of DICWRD at the State Level. Further, the IA has to perform several functions that lie beyond the scope of DICWRD.*

**Item No. 61.04: Manner of applying PWRDA Fund under section 9(3) of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020.**

This subject matter was placed before the Authority in 58<sup>th</sup>. Meeting held on 23.01.2023 as agenda item 58.07 where in Authority decided as under:

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

2. Accordingly, it is being placed before the Authority as under:

Government of Punjab, Department of Water Resources issued a **Notification No. E426016PJ-3/553** dated **20.12.2022 (Annexure A61.04.01)** under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020, wherein it has notified the following works/ projects for which the PWRDA Fund may be utilized by the Authority:

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

3. 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.*

4. 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:

- (1) *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).*

It may be noted that the word ‘prescribed’ used in the sub-section above is defined in the Act in section 2(k) as under:

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

Accordingly, Government is required to make the rules on this subject i.e., “the manner of applying the Fund...”

However, in the present case Government has not framed Rules but has issued a Notification. Further, this Notification does not concern ‘the manner of applying the Fund rather it mentions certain purposes for which Fund may be applied.

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:** *Authority perused the Notification and observed that Section 9(3) of the Act states that Government shall prescribe the manner of applying the fund by making Rules under the Act.*

**Item No. 61.05: To adopt Punjab Financial Rules.**

This subject matter was placed before the Authority in 58<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23.01.2023 as Agenda item No. 58.09 wherein Authority decided as under:

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

2. Accordingly, it is being placed before the Authority as under:

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.

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

4. Further, section 36 (2) provides that:

*“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.”*

5. Chairperson by an order dated 27.01.2021 (**Annexure A-61.05.01**) 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.”*

6. A draft of PWRDA Rules was sent to the Government on 20.05.2021 (**Annexure 61.05.02**). The Government conveyed some observations on 15.09.2021 (**Annexure 61.05.03**). A reply was sent to Government on 28.09.2021 (**Annexure 61.05.04**). However, no Rules have been notified till date.

7. 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 (**AnnexureA61.05.05**), it is proposed that till the notification of relevant Rules by the Government, the Authority may 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 appropriate words as proposed below:

| Sr. No. | Level mentioned in PFR      | Appropriate Level in PWRDA  |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.      | Government/ Deptt. Of Govt. | 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: Approved. The appropriate levels in PWRDA shall be as under:**

| <i>Sr. No.</i> | <i>Level mentioned in PFR</i>          | <i>Appropriate Level in PWRDA</i>                         |
|----------------|--|---|
| <i>1.</i>      | <i>Government/ Department of Govt.</i> | <i>Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority.</i> |
| <i>2.</i>      | <i>Head of Department</i>              | <i>Secretary, PWRDA</i>                                   |
| <i>3.</i>      | <i>Controlling Officer</i>             | <i>Senior Manager (Administration &amp; Coordination)</i> |
| <i>4.</i>      | <i>Disbursing Officer</i>              | <i>Manager Accounts</i>                                   |

**Item No. 61.06: Re-constitution of Committees for Recruitment of Staff on Contract Basis.**

This subject matter was paced before the Authority in 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 23.01.2023 as Agenda Item No. 58.10 which was deferred with the following decision:

*“Deferred as the Agenda Item is in complete. Re-draft and put up as fresh agenda item in the next meeting.”*

2. Accordingly, it is being placed before the Authority as under:

For processing of applications, Authority by Resolution No. 31.05 (**Annexure A 61.06.01**) has laid down the general procedure for shortlisting/ selection of the candidates and constituted two committees.

2. The said committees had Mr. Jobanpreet Singh XEN as member by name. Since, he has been transferred and Technical Adviser has joined, hence the Chairperson on 03.01.2023 (**Annexure A 61.06.02**) re-constituted these committees as given below: -

**(i) For Managerial & Professional 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 can be added in the Committee as a special invitee.

3. Chairperson, PWRDA on 10.01.2023 (**Annexure A 61.06.03**) constituted a committee for recommending suitable candidates for the post of Technical Manager (Agriculture) as below:

**For the post of Technical Manager (Agriculture):**

Chairman: Dr. S.S. Kukal, Member, PWRDA

Member: Technical Advisor

Member: XEN

Placed before the Authority for consideration and ratification.

**Decision:** *1. Ratified.*

*2. For the future, the Committees shall be as under:*

(i) *For Managerial & Professional posts:*

*Chairman: Member, PWRDA as nominated by the Chairperson.*

*Member: Secretary, PWRDA*

*Member: Technical Advisor*

*Member: XEN*

(ii) *For all other Posts:*

*Chairman: Secretary, PWRDA*

*Member: Senior Manager (A&C)*

*Member: XEN*

*Member: ADO (In-charge Establishment Division)*

**Note:** *a) For any specialized /professional post, a domain specialist may be added to the Committee.*

*b) Chairperson is authorised to nominate such domain specialist.*

**Item No. 61.07: Recruitment to the one post of Senior Manager (Legal).**

Authority in its Meeting held on 23.09.2021, decided to fill one post of SM (Legal) on contract amongst the candidates from Public Sector with the qualification “a law officer who is working as or has retired from the post of Deputy District Attorney or equivalent”. Monthly remuneration was @Rs. 1,00,000/-. Applications were invited through advertisement in two newspapers and on the website of the Authority. However, the incumbent tendered his resignation on 02.02.2022. The Authority after deliberating the issue in the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 09.02.2022 decided that “*Since at present no cases are being contested by Authority in any court of Law. Hence, there is no immediate requirement of the services of Senior Manager (Legal). Moreover, Authority has a Legal Executive to deal with day-to-day routine Legal Matters or Legal Matters which may arise in near future.*” The incumbent was relieved on 14.02.2022.

2. Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 have come into force w.e.f. 01.02.2023. Now, the services of a senior law officer are required. In light of this, Authority may consider to fill one vacant post of SM (Legal).

3. The qualifications (education and experience) and monthly remuneration as per Employees Services Regulations for the post SM (Legal) is as under:

**Qualifications:**

A. Public Sector:

A Law Officer who is working as or has retired from the post of Deputy District Attorney or equivalent;

OR

B. Private Sector:

LLB with ten years' experience of legal work out of which at least five years should be as a practicing Advocate in a High Court or as an associate with a reputed Law Firm.

**Monthly remuneration:** Rs. 1,20,000/- (Indicative for the year 2020-2021)

4. As per Regulation 4 (3) of the Employees Service Regulations, the Authority is competent to choose to make appointments either from the Public Sector or from the Private Sector candidates. This Regulation is reproduced below:

*“In case of posts where recruitment can be made from more than one pool of eligible candidates specified in Annexure-B, the Authority may choose to make appointments from any pool.”*

In terms of Regulation 5 of the Service Regulations, the Authority is competent to

*“1. specify desirable qualification in addition to the qualifications mentioned in the Service Regulations.*

*2. to modify or change the nomenclature or qualifications of any post depending upon the requirement of human resources.”*

The Authority may decide to fill one vacant post of SM (Legal) and also the mode of recruitment, qualifications, experience, monthly remuneration and period of contract.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision: Deferred. Put up in the next meeting as a fresh item.**



### **Item No. 61.08: Recruitment to one post of Manager (IT).**

The Authority in its 55th Meeting held on 22.11.2022 decided to fill one post of Manager (IT) on contract basis initially for one year with monthly remuneration of Rs. 75,000/-. The post was advertised in two daily newspapers on 16.12.2022. Last date for receipt of application was 02.01.2023. Till last date total 18 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 03.01.2023. 13 candidates were found eligible for this post.

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

- (i) B.Tech./B.E. or MCA from a recognized University/Institute with 5 years' minimum experience in the implementation, operation, maintenance, integration and up-gradation of such relevant software projects

Desirable: 5years' experience in the analysis, design and development of relevant software projects."

3. Committee consisting of Mr. J.K. Jain Additional Secretary & SM (A&C), Mr. Maninder Singh, XEN and Special Invitee Mr. SK Banga, Sr. Director IT, NIC, PB, Chandigarh interacted with the 11 candidates on 25.01.2023 who appeared before the it and shortlisted the following candidates in the order of merit.

- (i) Manpreet Singh Saini S/o Didar Singh
- (ii) Kamalpreet Singh S/o Harpal Singh
- (iii) Mandeep Kaur D/o Manohar Singh

5. This report was placed before the Authority in 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 06.02.2023. Authority resolved as under:

*“Authority perused and observed that the report should be more detailed so that the basis on which the shortlisting and order of merit of the candidate is decided become clear”.*

6. Committee has submitted a detailed report which is placed at **Annexure A 61.08.01**.

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

**Decision: Chairperson and Members will interact with the shortlisted candidates.**

### **Item No. 61.09: Canal Water Recharge Schemes**

The groundwater level in Punjab is declining rapidly. To minimize the rate of declination Canal Water Recharge Schemes are proposed by Department of Water Resources (WRD), Punjab.

2. A D.O letter (**Annexure 61.09.01**) was received from Sh. Krishan Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources and Mines & Geology regarding the Installation of Flow Meters on Artificial Recharge Schemes with request to provide funds for the installation of 448 flow meters. In this regard, meetings were held on 31.10.2022, 11.11.2022 and 30.11.2022. Minutes of the meetings are attached as **Annexure 61.09.02**. It was decided that **“314 mechanical flow meters be installed on the proposed canal-based schemes with injection wells and 30 ultrasonic flow meters on the existing schemes. PWRDA agreed in principle to provide the funds for these water flow meters (314 mechanical flow meters and 30 ultrasonic flow meters)”**.

3. Further, letter no. 709 dated 14.02.2023 has been received (**Annexure 61.09.03**) with a request to provide **Rs. 36 Lacs to install 30 no. ultrasonic flow meters** on existing recharge structures in the state to check their efficiency, which will be helpful in planning more recharge schemes in future. Detailed estimate is attached as **Annexure 61.09.04**. Justification of the work and technical specifications of flow meters is attached as **Annexure 61.09.05**.

4. Letter no. Project Branch/14 dated 16.01.2023 (**Annexure 61.09.06**) and letter no. 105/CE/Canals dated 03.02.2023 (**Annexure 61.09.07**) was received with request to provide 2.05 crore for Boring Component in Groundwater recharge schemes. With reference to note # 152 of e-file (Computer No: 43019), the Chairperson suggested that all such projects in over-exploited blocks, i.e. yellow and orange zones as per groundwater guidelines may be considered for funding. Subsequently, with reference to the discussions held with WRD the following inputs were received through letter no 542-43 dated 10.02.2023 (**Annexure 61.09.08**):

- i. The recharge schemes from green blocks have been excluded.
- ii. The block wise segregation and zone wise categorization (orange, yellow) of the schemes has been made based on the stage of development (**Annexure 61.09.09**).
- iii. A single standardized design has been taken for all the schemes, however actual design may vary as per site condition and depth of groundwater table (Standard design and Estimate enclosed as **Annexure 61.09.10**).
- iv. In all the blocks, P-tubes with digital water level recorders have been already installed under HP-II and NHP projects.
- v. The work out of expected volume of recharge for the schemes is as follows:
  - Total no of Blocks: 52
  - No of Schemes: 129
  - No of Injection wells: 258 (Each scheme consists of 2 injections well).
  - Infiltration rate of 1 well 5 Lps=18m<sup>3</sup>/hr.
  - Infiltration rate of 1 scheme: 36 m<sup>3</sup>/hr.
  - Minimum running days: 50 days
  - Volume of recharge in a year by 1 scheme: 43200 m<sup>3</sup>
  - Volume of recharge in a year by 129 schemes: 5572800 m<sup>3</sup> = say 5.6 MCM

Total cost of the proposal for **129 schemes** (258 injection wells) is **5.38 Crore**. The components covered under MGNREGA amounting to **Rs. 1.92 Crore (37%)** are to be sourced from the MGNREGA scheme and the components not covered under MGNREGA amounting to **Rs. 3.46 Crore (63%)** are to be sourced from PWRDA.

5. The following proposal of WRD for funding by PWRDA is placed before the Authority for consideration

- a) **For release of an amount of Rs. 36.00 Lakhs for installation of 30 no. ultrasonic flow meters on the existing recharge schemes of WRD (as per Para 2 and 3).**
- b) **For release of an amount of Rs. 3.46 Crore for Components of 129 canal water recharge schemes (as per Para 4) which are not covered under MGNREGA.**

**Decision:** *The proposal is approved with the following observations:*

- a) *The O&M period for the water flow meters should be at least three years, extendable by further three years.*
- b) *No Piezometer fitted with DWLR with telemetry has been proposed. This is required for obtaining relevant data. So, the Department may construct 26 piezometers fitted with DWLR with telemetry at 26 of the proposed scheme locations (in 26 of the 52 blocks). The data transfer by each DWLR may be at an interval of one hour.*
- c) *Secretary, PWRDA is authorised to release the funds as per requirement of the Department, within the overall approved amount.*
- d) *The Department shall submit technically sanctioned estimates (at the appropriate level) at the time of seeking funds.*
- e) *The Department will convey the timelines for completing the projects.*
- f) *Utilization Certificate shall be submitted within 90 days from the date of completion of the project along with scheme wise drawings as per actual measurements on site.*

**Item No. 61.10: Regarding State Water Information Centre (SWIC)**

State Water Information Centre (SWIC) for Punjab State is being established to act as a nodal agency and repository for state-wide water resources data. SWIC shall coordinate with National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), Central Water Commission (CWC) and other central and state agencies.

2. The Department of Water Resources (WRD), Punjab through office order Letter no E447300PJ-3/4-11, dated 25.01.2023 (**Annexure 61.10.01**) has intimated regarding constitution of State Technical Committee (STC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer, Ground Water cum Project Coordinator NHP, WRD, Punjab with members drawn from various departments dealing with hydro-meteorological data (**Annexure 61.10.02**). All the members of SWIC shall be responsible for flow of data from their respective departments and all aligned departments/agencies will be required to share data in a digital format seamlessly.

3. As per the Order, the Executive Engineer, Hydro-chemical section Ground Water Management Circle, WRD, Punjab has been renamed as Executive Engineer/SWIC and the organizational setup is given in **annexure-1** of the order (**Annexure 61.10.01**).

4. As per **annexure-2** of the order (**Annexure 61.10.01**), the Technical Advisor, PWRDA has been listed as one of the members of SWIC. In addition, the Superintending Engineer, Ground Water Management Circle, Water Resources Bhawan, Sector-68, WRD, S.A.S. Nagar through email dated on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 (**Annexure 61.10.03**) has requested PWRDA to nominate a Nodal Officer for SWIC not below the level of Executive Engineer/Deputy Director. The nominated Nodal Officer will be responsible for sharing, validation and dissemination of data from PWRDA.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Noted. No further action is required.*

**Item No. 61.11: Hiring two number personnel at Deputy Commissioner wages rate for field data collection under Water Conservation Pilot Project in Agriculture Sector in Blocks of Dhuri and Sunam, District Sangrur**

A Water Conservation Pilot Project in Agriculture Sector is being implemented in the district of Sangrur and data of 200 farmers of blocks Dhuri and Sunam is being collected for Kharif and Rabi season.

2. An amount of Rs. 6.70 lakh was released to Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) to procure 134 quintal PR 126 variety of paddy (**Annexure 61.11.01**). Further, an amount of Rs. 53, 57,600/- was released to DoA&FW for procurement & deployment of IoT and AI based Smart Irrigation Automation Controller (200 nos.) with MIS, POL, Hardware and Internet Connectivity and other charges for the project (**Annexure 61.11.02**).

3. In a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.S. Kukal, Member PWRDA on 18-10-2022 (**Annexure 61.11.03**), it was decided that Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW), Punjab may shortlist two suitable persons for collection and verification of the field data. The shortlisted persons are to be paid as per the approved Deputy Commissioner wages rates (DC rates) of the Punjab Government. They would work in coordination with DoA&FW, Punjab for the data collection in Blocks of Dhuri and Sunam, District Sangrur. The progress in this regard was reviewed in the subsequent meetings held under the Chairmanship of Dr. SS Kukal, Member, PWRDA on dated 21.12.2022 and 09.01.2023.

4. In this regard, the DoA&FW, Punjab vide email dated 10.02.2023 (**Annexure 61.11.04**) has informed that two suitable candidates have been shortlisted as per the DC rates. It has been requested that approval for hiring the shortlisted candidates along with release of required funds may be expedited for smooth implementation of the project.

5. The details of the additional funds demanded for hiring of two persons at DC rates are as under:

- (i) Category C Person: **Rs.11907.68/- per month (annually 1,42,892/-)**
- (ii) Category B person: **Rs. 13407.68 per month (annually 1,60,892/-)**

Total funds required for hiring of two persons at DC rates: **Rs.3, 03,784/- annually**

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *The item is deferred. A detailed proposal be put up in the next meeting.*

**Item No. 61.12: Corrigendum in Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023.**

The Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 (**Annexure A 61.12.01**) have come into force w.e.f. 01.02.2023. In chapter 2,4,6 & 7 of the Directions 2023, the term 'bill' and 'billing' has been used while referring to the payment of Groundwater charges and the schedule thereof.

The term 'bill' is generally employed while referring to a charge on a service rendered whereas Groundwater Charges levied by the Authority are in the nature of a statutory levy/cess/tax.

Therefore, the term 'billing' and 'bill' wherever appearing in the Directions, 2023 may be replaced with the term 'payment'.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:**     *Deferred.*

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