

**Minutes of for 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority to be held on 16.05.2023 at 10.00 A.M. in the Committee Room under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson.**

**Present: Sh. Sushil Gupta, Member and Sh. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member  
In attendance: J.K. Jain, Additional Secretary**

**Item No. 65.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of PWRDA.**

The Minutes of 64<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 19.04.2023 was circulated to all concerned on 24.04.2023. No comments received. The Minutes may be confirmed.

**Decision:** *Confirmed.*

**Item No. 65.02: Action Taken Report:**

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 64<sup>th</sup> meeting will be placed before the Authority in the next meeting.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 65.03: Renewal of contract for the post of Technical Manager (Groundwater).**

Dr. Ujjal Mal was appointed as Technical Manager (Groundwater) on contract basis initially for a period of one year at the monthly remuneration of Rs. 70,000/- and he joined the Authority on 10.05.2022. His contract is expiring on 09.05.2023.

2. Dr. Ujjal Mal has requested for renewal of contract by his application dated 19.04.2023 by stating that:

*“With reference to the subject it is submitted that via Authority Letter No. PWRDA-PWRD0GENL/20/2022-O/o SECRETRARY-BRANCH I/32548/2022 dated 18.04.2022; Undersigned was offered a contractual employment of Technical Manager (Groundwater) for a period one year with monthly emolument of Rs. 70000/- (consolidated). I joined the Authority office on 10.05.2022 (forenoon). My contract period will complete on 09.05.2023. During the period of my employment, I have performed all the duties assigned to me in a time bound manner and to the satisfaction of the Authority. I have submitted the Performance Review Report.*

*Therefore, it is requested that my contract period may kindly be renewed for further one year with suitable increase in salary.”*

3. As per PWRDA Employees Service Regulations 2020, the indicative monthly remuneration for the post of Technical Expert is Rs.70,000 to 1,20,000/-.

4. Dr. Ujjal Mal, Technical Manager (Groundwater) has not attained the age of 70 years.

5. The Employees Service Regulations, 2020, para 7 (2) & 7 (3) provide as under:

*7 (2) "An employee appointed directly will be entitled to draw remuneration as per his conditions of contract. Annexure 'A' contains indicative remuneration for the current year which may vary from case to case and may be revised from time to time.*

7 (3) *"The terms of contract of an employee may provide for an annual increase in emoluments based on performance."*

6. The PRR of the Officer for the period ending 10.04.2023 was received on 13.04.2023 has been accepted by the accepting authority. In the PRR, extension of one year has been recommended. The work and conduct of Mr. Ujjal Mal are satisfactory as there is nothing adverse on record.

7. As per the terms of his contractual employment, the contract may be renewed at the sole discretion of PWRDA.

8. Since, the time was short, hence in the interest of the work, Chairperson, PWRDA extended the contract of Dr. Ujjal Mal, Technical Manager (Groundwater) for one-year w.e.f. 10.05.2023 to 09.05.2024 on the same terms and conditions as contained in the current contract subject to ratification by the Authority.

9. Placed before the Authority for ratification. The Authority may also decide the monthly remuneration.

**Decision:**     ***1. Ratified the renewal of contract as proposed.***  
                      ***2. As regards revision in wages, a decision will be taken later on.***

#### **Item No. 65.04: Outstanding Ground Water Extraction Charges as on 31.01.2023.**

The monthly progress report of issue of permission and receipt of groundwater charges pertaining to March 2023 is as under:

No. of permissions granted: NIL

Ground Water Charges received: Rs. 452.07 Lakh.

Groundwater extraction charges pertaining to ad-interim permissions amounting to Rs. **22,72,76,623/-** were outstanding on 31.01.2023. The details are at **Annexure A65.04.01, Annexure A65.04.02 and Annexure A65.04.03.**

Notices have been issued to all defaulters at the level of Manager Accounts and Senior Manager (A&C).

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:**     ***1. Noted.***  
                      ***2. Office to device a system of issuing monthly notices for all types of arrears and follow up the recovery thereof.***

#### **Item 65.05: Corrigendum in ‘Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2023’**

**A     The words ‘Bill’ and ‘billing’ be omitted and replaced with ‘payment’**

The Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 have come into force w.e.f. February 1, 2023. In Chapter 2, 4, 6 and 7 of the Directions, the terms ‘bill’

and ‘billing’ have been used while referring to the payment of Groundwater charges and the schedule thereof.

2. A **bill** is a written statement of money that you owe for goods or services. (Collins dictionary). Bill is a document that shows how much you owe somebody for goods or services. (Oxford dictionary). Thus, the term ‘bill’ is generally employed while referring to a charge on a service rendered whereas groundwater charges levied by the Authority are a sort of a levy/cess/tax. The tax/levy/ cess is never billed rather ‘paid’ by the payer.

3. Therefore, to avoid any future complications the terms ‘bill’ and ‘billing’ wherever occurring in the Groundwater Directions 2023 may be replaced with the term ‘payment’.

## **B. Delay Charges.**

As per Para 1.2 (h) of the Groundwater Directions 2023, the definition of Groundwater Charges includes Groundwater Extraction Charges, Application Fee and Non-Compliance Charges. According to Para 6.1 of the Directions, failure by a User to comply with provisions of the Directions shall make it liable to pay Non-Compliance Charges.

2. As per Para 6.5, Table 6.2, Sr. No. 11 of the Directions 2023, for delay in payment of ‘Groundwater Charges’, the User is liable to pay 1.5% of overdue amount for every month or part thereof; to be compounded annually. The Groundwater Charges as defined in Para 1.2 (h), include Application fee and Non-Compliance Charges in addition to the Groundwater Extraction charges. Thus, it makes the User liable to pay the delay charges on Application fee and Non-Compliance Charges also. This amounts to subjecting the User to double penalty. Moreover, this renders the computations of Charges very cumbersome.

3. Therefore, it is proposed that the Authority may consider to substitute the phrase ‘any Groundwater Charges’ with the phrase ‘Groundwater Extraction Charges’ in Table 6.2 at Sr. No. 11. This has already been depicted in the example incorporated in Chapter 6 of the Directions for calculation of Groundwater Compensation Charges (GCC) and delay payment charges. The said example is reproduced below:

### ***Example: Calculation of Groundwater Compensation Charges (GCC) and delay payment charges***

*Calculation of Groundwater Compensation charges to be paid by an existing Unit in Orange Zone, extracts 35,000 m<sup>3</sup> of Ground Water in a month and does not undertake any water conservation activity and applies to the Authority after 4 months 21 days from the date of commencement of Directions.*

<b>S No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Transition period (given to apply to Authority)	3 months (refer table 3.1)
2	Assessment area	Orange

3	Groundwater Compensation Charges to be paid for the period	51 days
4	Ground Water Charges Payable without any water conservation per month	i. Up to 300 m <sup>3</sup> = 0 ii. >300-1500 m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs. 8 x 1200 = 9600 iii. >1500-15000m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs.12 x 13500 = 1,62,000 iv. >15000-35000 m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs.18 x 20000 = 3,60,000 <b>Total Rs. 5,31,600</b>
5	Per day consumption of Unit	= 35,000/30 = 1,167 m <sup>3</sup>
6	GCC charges calculation per day	i.Up to 10 m <sup>3</sup> @ 6 x 10 = 60 ii.>10-50 m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs. 16 x 40 = 640 iii.>50-500m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs.24 x 450 = 10,800 iv.>500-1167 m <sup>3</sup> @ Rs.36 x 667 = 24,012 <b>Total Rs. 35,512/-</b>
7	Total GCC for 51 days	= 35,512 x 51 <b>Rs. 18,11,112/-</b>
8	Delay of Payment of three months Groundwater Charges (as per S.No. 11 of Table 6.2 above)	= 5,31,600 x 3 x (1.5 % x 2) <b>Rs. 47,844/-</b>
<b>If the change as proposed in Point no.6 above (replacing the words 'any Groundwater Charges' with 'Groundwater Extraction Charges') is not made, then the additional charges payable by the User would be as below:</b>		
9	Delay of Payment of Application fee @ 1.5% per month or part thereof	=10,000 x (1.5 % x 2) = <b>Rs. 300/-</b>
10	Delay of Payment of Registration of Extraction structure (Assuming 4. No Extraction structures) @ 1.5% per month or part thereof	= 5,000x 4 x (1.5 % x 2) = <b>Rs. 600/-</b>
11	Delay of Payment of GCC (as per S.No. 11 of Table 6.2)	As the GCC are payable on a daily basis, the delay payment in this case shall be applicable on first 21 days of GCC. = 35,512 x 21 x (1.5 % x 1) = <b>Rs. 11,187/-</b>

### C. Typographical errors.

In spite of best efforts, some typographical errors have inadvertently crept in at some places in the Groundwater Directions, 2023 and require correction. The proposed corrections are listed below:

Chapter Number	Clause	Spacing/Grammatical Error/ Missing word	Remarks/Correction Required
CH - 2	Clause 2.3 C	he	the User
CH - 3	Clause 3.1 vii	than300	than 300
CH - 3	Clause 3.7 Heading	FORA	FOR A
CH - 4	Clause 4.1 E	(Block)with	(Block) with
CH - 4	Clause 4.2 Explanation 2	3in	3 in
CH - 4	Clause 4.6 Example	15000m <sup>3</sup>	15000 m <sup>3</sup>
CH - 4	Clause 4.8 C	10 <sup>th</sup> day	10 <sup>th</sup> day
CH - 4	Clause 4.8 C	the20 <sup>th</sup>	the 20 <sup>th</sup>
CH - 4	Clause 4.9 B	maybe	may be
CH - 6	Clause 6.5 A	6.2below	6.2 below
CH - 6	Clause 6.5 Example	21	51
CH - 7	Clause 7.2 (1)	metres month	metres per month
CH - 8	Clause 8.1	obtained granted	obtained
CH - 8	Clause 9.3	doubts are regards	doubts as regards
ANNEXURE 1	Table A 1	70and	70 and

#### **D. Payment Schedule.**

As per Para 4.8(C) of the Directions, a User shall convey the water meter readings of the last working day of the month to the Authority by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the ensuing month and shall make payment of the Charges by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

2. For the convenience of the Users, the Authority may consider to align the date of submission of water meter reading with that of payment of the Charges i.e., 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:**

1. *Proposal part A, B, C and D of agenda item approved as proposed.*
2. *Further, to clarify and avoid any confusion, approved to replace the phrase 'Non-submission of Groundwater Extraction data in time' with the phrase 'non-submission of documents and reports as required by the Authority' in paragraph 6.5, Table 6.2 at serial no. 5 of the Groundwater Directions, 2023.*
3. *Office to put up a draft corrigendum with appropriate changes in the next Authority meeting.*

**Item No. 65.06: Quarterly Statement of Authority Fund placed in Fixed Deposit.**

Statement of Authority Fund placed in FDs during the 4th quarter ending 31.03.2023				
Month	Amount (Rs.)	Period	ROI	Remarks
January	2,10,00,000	1 year 3 months	7.35%	Non- Callable (Other Receipts)
	2,15,81,000	12 months	7.60%	Non-Callable (Other Receipts)
	11,63,160	3 years	7.30%	Callable (Advance Security)
February	3,34,000	3 years	7.30%	Callable (Advance Security)
	2,25,00,000	1 year	7.76%	Callable (Other Receipts)
March	0	0	0	No FD made as funds were required for payment on account of Water Conservation Schemes, Rent and Development of Website
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,65,78,160</b>			

Total Fixed Deposits during 2022-23

S No.	Particulars	Amount in Rs.
1.	FD at the end of 2021-22	35,48,77,000
2.	FD made during the financial year 2022-23	<b>44,65,85,209</b>
3.	Total	80,14,62,209
4.	Less FD matured and encashed during FY 2022-23	18,06,40,000
5.	Total Fund in Fixed Deposit on 31.03.2023	62,08,22,209

Placed before the Authority for information.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 65.07: Annual Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year 2022-23.**

Annual statement of Receipts & Payments for the year 2022-23 has been placed at **Annexure A65.07.01** for information of the Authority.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**



