

Minutes of 66th meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority to be held on 14.06.2023 at 9.00 A.M. in the Committee room under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson.

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

In attendance: Mr. J.K. Jain, Additional Secretary.

Item No. 66.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 65th meeting of PWRDA.

The Minutes of 65th meeting held on 16.05.2023 was circulated to all concerned. No comments received. The Minutes may be confirmed.

Decision: Confirmed.

Item No. 66.02: Action Taken Report:

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 64th meeting of the Authority is as under:

Item No. 64.03: "Project Proposal for Payment Module & Its Mobile Apps for Payment of Ground water Charges and Water tanker operations for PWRDA"

As per decision of the Authority, Rs. 19,74,353/- have been released to NIC.

Item No. 64.04: Issuance of Permissions under Groundwater Directions 2023.

As per decision of the Authority, office order has been issued on 28-04-2023

Item No. 64.05: Regarding Draft Tariff Regulations, 2023.

This item was deferred.

Item No. 64.06: Amendments to the CGWA guidelines to regulate and control groundwater extraction in India.

Placed on record.

Item No. 64.07: Audited Balance Sheets of PWRDA Fund for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Placed on record.

Item No. 64.08: Audited balance sheet and filing of Income Tax Return for FY2022-23.

Fresh quotations have been called.

Item No. 64.09: Renewal of contract for the post of Manager Accounts, PWRDA.

Performance Review Report has been received and is under process.

Item No.64.10: Regarding Staff Cars.

Pending.

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 65th meeting will be placed before the Authority in the next meeting.

Decision: *Noted.*

Item No.66.03: Reimbursement of time barred Mobile and Broadband Bills of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson and Sh. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member, PWRDA.

Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson and Sh. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member, PWRDA submitted Bills for reimbursement of Mobile and Broadband installed at their residences for the period August 2020 to December 2022.

2. Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson:

Bills amounting Rs.77030/- for the period of August 2020 to December 2021 are more than one year old and are thus time barred. The details of bills are annexed as **Annexure A66.03.01**

3. Sh. Surinder Singh Kukal, Member:

Bills amounting Rs.16506/- for the period of August 2020 to December 2021 are more than one year old thus time barred. The details of bills are annexed as **Annexure A66.03.01**

4. Punjab government notified terms and conditions of appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Authority on 14 July, 2020. As per this notification, *“the Chairperson shall be entitled to the same status pay, allowances and other conditions of services regarding rent free accommodation, conveyance facilities, LTC, Medical facilities and other perquisites as are admissible to the Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana”*. Para 11 of this notification, provides that *“In respect of any matter which is not specified in these rules, the condition of service of the Chairperson and Members shall respectively, be Governed by the rules and orders for the time being applicable to the Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and Financial Commissioners of the State of Punjab”*.

5. Entitlement:

As conveyed by Registrar General Punjab and Haryana High Court vide letter dated 12.07.2022, (**Annexure-A 66.03.02**) the Judges of High Court are entitled to keep the number of landlines, internet connection of any network/plan as per their requirement within the limit of Rs. 12000/- per month. Any amount over and above the fixed limit, is borne by the Hon’ble Judge.

As per notification dated 24.11.2015 (**Annexure-A 66.03.03**) issued by Punjab Government, the total limit per month of landline, Mobile and internet connection for the Financial Commissioners is Rs. 3500/- per month.

Thus, phone bill claims submitted by Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson and Dr. Surinder Singh Kukal are within the prescribed limit.

6. Section 36 (2) of Punjab Water Resources (management and Regulation) Act, 2020 mandates 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."

Authority by Resolution 61.05 dated 16.02.2023, adopted Punjab Financial Rules as amended from time to time till the government notifies the relevant rules under the Act.

7. Claims are time barred in terms of rule 2.25 of PFR Volume-1 (being more than one year old). Rule 2.25 is as under:

" 2.25(a) The claim against the Government not preferred within a period of one year from the date of it becoming due shall be presented only with an authority of the Head of Department when the claim is a charge upon the establishment of a subordinate office under him and that of the Department of the Government when it is a charge upon the establishment of a Head of Department under that Department."

In the case of claims which are more than one month old, the preferring officer shall state in the bill the reasons for the delay".

8. Reasons for delay submitted by the claimants are at **Annexure A 66.03.04**.

9. Since, the claims pertain to the Chairperson and Member of the Authority, hence Authority may accord sanction for the payments.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision: *Approved as proposed.*

Item No. 66.04: Extension of timelines for the industries to apply for permission.

Authority notified Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2023 on 27.01.2023. The Groundwater charges contained in these Directions were approved by the Government under section 17(5) of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020. Section 17(5) provides that *"The Authority may with approval of Government, fix charges for extraction of Groundwater by any person but no charges shall be levied on extraction of water by households drawing water for their own drinking and domestic purpose through non energised means or through a pump up to 2 horse power from a single tube-well in the house hold where common piped water supply is not available."*

A letter No. E498175-PJ3/239 dated 06.06.2023, received from Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Water Resources regarding extension of timelines for the industries to apply for permission is reproduced below: -

"1.0 Please refer to the directions issued by the Authority dated 27.01.2023 vide which it was inter-alia directed that industries extracting 15,000 m³/month are required to apply for Ground water extraction permission within 3 months i.e., till 30.04.2023"

2.0 On the demand of the industries, the matter has been examined and it has been decided that the last date which was 30th April 2023 may be extended by another two months i.e., 30th June 2023.

2.0 This issue with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab."

2. The relevant provision as contained in **Para 3.3** of the Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023 is as under:

“3.3 TIME PERIOD FOR EXISTING UNITS TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION

A User with an existing Unit shall apply to the Authority for Permission within the time period mentioned below from the date of commencement of the Directions.

Table 3.1: Time Period for existing Units to apply for Permission from date of commencement of Directions

	Volume of groundwater for which Permission is sought	Time Period
1	>15,000 cubic metres per month	Three Months
2	>1,500 to 15,000 cubic metres per month	Six Months
3	>300 to 1,500 cubic metres per month	Nine Months

Since, the Directions 2023 commenced on 1st February 2023, hence the last date for application by existing Units extracting Groundwater more than 15000 cubic meter per month is 30th April 2023.

3. Section 28 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 is reproduced below:

“Directions and recommendation by Government

(1) The Authority shall adhere to the State policies, as framed and amended from time to time by the State Government, including the Integrated State Water Plan.

(2) The Government may from time to time make recommendations to the Authority to achieve the objectives of this Act, which shall be duly considered by the Authority.”

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision: After considering the issues pertaining to Government letter dated 06-06-2023, the following decisions were taken to facilitate applicants seeking permission for groundwater extraction:

A. The following procedural amendments to the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023 were approved:

(i) The sentence contained in Paragraph 3.3 titled "TIME PERIOD FOR EXISTING UNITS TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION" be substituted with the following sentence:

"A User with an existing Unit shall apply to the Authority for Permission within such time period as stipulated by the Authority".

(ii) Table 3.1 contained in Paragraph 3.3 be deleted entirely, including its heading and contents.

(iii) In Paragraph 6.5 the Example titled "Calculation of Groundwater Compensation Charges (GCC) and delay payment charges" at the end of the paragraph, following the explanation, be deleted.

Secretary may notify the above amendments in the official Gazette of the State of Punjab.

B. Consequent to the Amendments above, the following timelines are stipulated for existing units to apply for permission for extracting groundwater:

(i) Units seeking permission to extract a volume of Groundwater more than 15,000 cubic metres per month shall apply for permission by 30 June 2023.

(ii) Units seeking permission to extract a volume of Groundwater more than 1,500 and up to 15,000 cubic metres per month shall apply for permission by 30 September 2023.

(iii) Units seeking permission to extract a volume of Groundwater more than 300 and up to 1,500 cubic metres per month shall apply for permission by 31 December 2023.

These timelines shall be published in three newspapers with wide circulation in the State for information of the public, and uploaded on the website of PWRDA.

Item No.66.05: Hosting of PWRDA Permissions portal.

The development of Permission module is completed and after the completion of security audit, the web portal needs to be hosted on live production server to grant permissions online. In this regard, various hosting options have been explored, but the hosting charges on PSDC, DGR is discovered to be the minimum.

2. For production server space at PSDC O/o DGR Punjab for hosting of PWRDA permission portal, DGR has tentatively demanded hosting charges of Rs. 10,12,550/- for 11 months (i.e., from May, 2023 to March, 2024) The item-wise detail of charges is as follows:

Punjab State Data Center Invoice	
Dept -Punjab Water Regulation & Development Authority Invoice -PSeGS/Pwrda/23-24/01	
Website-pwrda.punjab.gov.in (Production Server)	Date -10.05.2023

S. No.	Item	Quantity	Unit Rate (in Rs.)	Total (in Rs.)	Remarks
1	Application Server RHEL 8 core CPU 32 GB RAM	2	14,000.00	28,000.00	
2	DB Server Postgress 16 core CPU 64 GB RAM	1	22,500.00	22,500.00	
3	Application Streaming Server Postgress 8 Core 32 GB RAM	1	14,000.00	14,000.00	
4	File Server RHEL 8 Core 32 GB RAM	1	14,000.00	14,000.00	
5	Storage 1300 GB	1300	5.00	6,500.00	
6	Backup Services (@ Rs. 5 per GB (subject to minimum of Rs. 1,000))	1000	5.00	5,000.00	
7	Public IP and Un-metered Internet Bandwidth	1	2,000.00	2,000.00	
8	DNS Server Record and Maintenance	1	50.00	50.00	
Total Monthly Cost (in Rs.) =				92,050.00	
Total Cost per Annum (in Rs.) =				11,04,600.00	
Total cost for FY 2023-24 i.e., for 11 months (in Rs.) =				10,12,550.00	

3 In view of the urgency, for getting the production server at Punjab State Data Center (PSDC) for hosting of "*Web Application for Granting online Permission (NOC) for Ground Water Extraction*" against the reserved domain name www.pwrda.punjab.gov.in payment of Rs. 9,20,500/- for ten months period has been made to DGR subject to ratification by the Authority.

Authority may ratify.

4. **Renewal of Pre-Production Server:** The pre-production server from PSDC has already been obtained against payment of Rs. 1,80,600/- on 09.06.2022 for a period of 10 Months and 15 days, which was valid upto 31.03.2023. The existing pre-production server is still active, same is confirmed by both DGR & NIC officials and it will remain active until the Authority requests DGR to discontinue it. At present, NIC is using this server for testing and security audit. NIC has requested for its further renewal so that the same may be used for above said purposes in case of upcoming Payment Module development. NIC has proposed 6 months duration (start date: 01.06.2023) for completion of Payment Module (tentative end date: 30.11.2023).

5. Authority may approve further renewal of pre-production server until 31.12.2023. Authority may also allow the payment of hosting charges. After the completion of development/hosting of Payment Module, the above pre-production server may be released with the consent of NIC.

Placed before authority for consideration.

Decision: **Approved as proposed.**

Item No. 66.06: Payment of Rs. 11.19 lakh only (Rs. Eleven lakh and nineteen thousand only) for execution of IEC activities proposed by Water Resources Department (WRD) in co-ordination with SCERT

A demand of Rs. 11.19 lakh was received from Water Resources Department (WRD), Punjab for IEC activities in coordination with State Council of Education and Training (SCERT), Punjab (**Annexure A66.06.01**).

2. As per the action plan (**Page: 9-10, Annexure A66.06.01**) prepared by SCERT, Punjab, the activities were to be taken up from 24-05-2023, where 90-100 resource persons were to be trained. Subsequently, 3,650 teachers were to be trained from 26-05-23 to 27-05-23 at the Tehsil level.

3. The trained teachers are proposed to create awareness amongst the students during morning assemblies regarding judicious use of surface and ground water from 29/30-05-2023. The details of tentative expenditure to be incurred on the above said activities during the month of May 2023 are as under:

Sl. No.	Description	Amount
1.	TA of 100 resource persons	Rs. 1.0 lakh
2.	Refreshments during training at Tehsil Level	Rs. 2.19 lakh
3.	Pamphlets to be distributed to students	Rs. 8.0 lakh
Total Expenditure (approx.)		Rs. 11.19 lakh

4. The expenditure is to be charges to the budget allocation for the year 2023-24 under the Account Head "2.5 Information Education and Communication".

5. The representatives of WRD and SCERT made a presentation regarding the IEC activities and the material to be circulated amongst the students to the Chairperson and Members on 22.05.2023. The Members, PWRDA suggested some modifications in the PPT and pamphlets to be distributed to the students. The representatives of WRD & SCERT, Punjab agreed to the suggestions / modifications. The Chairperson and Members agreed in principle to the project proposal. Minutes of the meeting is attached as **Annexure A66.06.02**.

6. Subsequently, the Chairperson, allowed release of Rs. 11.19 lakh to SCERT for the proposed IEC activities subject to ratification by the Authority. (**Annexure A66.06.03**).

Placed before the Authority for ratification.

Decision: Ratified as proposed.

Item No.66.07: Renewal of contract for the post of Administrative Officer, PWRDA.

Mr. Balwinder Singh was appointed as Administrative Officer on contract basis initially for a period of one year at the monthly remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- (fixed) and he joined the Authority on 18.06.2021 (F.N). The contract was valid up to 17.06.2022. It was further extended from 20.06.2022 to 19.06.2023 (18.06.2022 & 19.06.2022 being closed holidays).

2. Mr. Balwinder Singh in his application dated 19.05.2023 has requested for renewal of contract by stating that:

“ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਬਤੌਰ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਅਫਸਰ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ. 47422: PWRDA-PWRD0GENL/17/2020-PWRDA BRANCH/258 ਮਿਤੀ 17.06.2022 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇੱਕ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਲਈ ਠੇਕੇ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰਿਤ 50,000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਹੀਨਾ, Emoluments ਤੇ ਮੁੜ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਹੁਕਮਾਂ ਤਹਿਤ ਮੈਂ ਮਿਤੀ 20.06.2022(FN) ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਦਾ ਕੰਟਰੈਕਟ ਮਿਤੀ 19.06.2023 ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਹੋ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਅਸਾਮੀ ਦਾ ਕੰਟਰੈਕਟ ਅਗਲੇ ਇੱਕ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਲਈ ਵਧਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਜੀ।”

3. The date of birth of Mr. Balwinder Singh is 06.02.1962 and he has not attained the age of 70 years.

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

5. As per PWRDA Employees Service Regulations 2020, the indicative monthly remuneration for the post of Administrative Officer is Rs.50,000/-.

6. 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."

7. The Performance Review Report (PRR) of Mr. Balwinder Singh, for the period 20.06.2022 to 19.05.2023 has been accepted by the competent authority. The overall performance of Mr. Balwinder Singh is good.

8. The Authority may consider renewal of the contract of Mr. Balwinder Singh, Administrative Officer for one year i.e., w.e.f. 20.06.2023 to 19.06.2024 on the same terms and conditions as contained in the current contract with addition of following clause:

“In case the day of commencement renewal of contractual employment period happens to be a closed day or holiday then the contract will deem to commence only from the working day subsequent to such closed day/holiday. Similarly, if the last day of an employment contract happens to be a closed holiday, then the contract will be deemed to have expired on the preceding working day.

Authority may consider inclusion of above clause in all futuristic Offer letters. Monthly remuneration payable to Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind may also be decided.

Decision: A. Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind is hired on contract basis for the post of ADO for one year i.e. from 20.06.2023 to 19.06.2024 on the same terms and conditions as contained in the current contract.

B. The proposal in Para 8 is approved, the word 'renewal' be deleted.

Supplementary agenda

Item No.66. S.1:- Directions U/S 33 A of the Water (Prevention& Control of Pollution) Act 1974 in the matter of M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., Village Mansoorwal, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur.

Letter from Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) regarding complaint against Malbros International Pvt. Ltd. received on 7th June, 2023 is at **Annexure A66-S-1**

2. On the basis of complaint received from Lok Sabha Secretariat, a team of CPCB visited the M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd. (Malbros Distillery), Village Mansoorwal, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur during 22.02.2023 to 24.02.2023 to investigate the matter in consultation with the expert deputed by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). The unit is presently closed.

The relevant paragraph of the observations of the CGWA inspection team are reproduced as under:

2. *It was alleged that “The distillery has drilled 25 deep tube-wells in their compound and dumping toxic water in them leading to high pollution in groundwater in radius of 15 Kms, polluting drinking & irrigation water of over dozen villages”. CPCB Team physically verified 10 Bore-wells and 06 piezometers installed in premises of the Unit. The representatives of the Unit informed that they have obtained permission only for 04 bore-wells and 02 piezometers from CGWA/PWRDA, however no details of the permission were provided by the Unit to the inspection team. The inspection team also asked to provide by the Unit to the inspection team. The inspection team also asked to provide the date of installation and assembly drawing of the bore-wells and piezometers installed in the premises, but the details are not provided by the Unit.*
3. *The existence of such a large number of bore-wells without obtaining permission of CGWB and/or PWRDA in the premises of an industry, claiming to Zero liquid Discharge is an area of further investigation.*

5 In view of the fact that most of ground water structures identified by CPCB team have been installed by the Industry without obtaining permission from CGWB/PWRDA, the possibility of having more such structures installed illegally without obtaining permission as apprehended in the letter of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Sh. Jasbir Singh Gill) cannot be ruled out and thus needs further investigation.....

*On the basis of inspection conducted by CPCB under section 18 (1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 has directed PPCB vide letter circular no. PI-20/50/2022-IPC-III-HO-CPCB-HO/1246 dated 17.05.2023 to issue **direction to local Authorities & Groundwater Department** to seal the unauthorized bore-wells. So, in compliance of aforementioned directions and in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 33-A of the Water Act,1974 PPCB issued the following directions to the PWRDA for strict compliance.*

“To immediately seal the unauthorized bore-wells in the industrial premises of M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd. Village Mansoorwal, Tehsil zira, District Ferozpur.”

3. It is pertinent to mention over here that Malbros International has obtained Ad-interim permission for 4 tube wells i.e.,2 existing and 2 proposed tube wells. (**Annexure A66.S.02**) Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2023 have come into force w.e.f.01.02.2023. Therefore, Ad-interim permission of the said Unit has come to an end 30.04.2023.
4. Chapter 3, Para 3.1 of the Directions 2023 says ‘**No user shall extract groundwater or conduct any activity connected therewith without obtaining Permission of the Authority**’.
5. The bore wells in the Unit in question fall under the Jurisdiction of PWRDA, so enquiry may be conducted as provided under section 20 and 21 of The Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020(**Annexure 66.S.03**). The Government has appointed Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts to conduct enquiry themselves or appoint an enquiry officer as required under section 20 of the Act (**Annexure 66.S.04**).
6. As the current case is more concerned with the pollution caused by the unauthorized bore-wells and immediate measure is required to deal with the same, the PPCB may instruct the Local Authorities/Department as directed by CPCB. If any direction is required to be issued to PWRDA for sealing of bore-wells functional or abandoned, the same can be implemented by PWRDA only after conducting an enquiry.
7. Therefore, on the basis of above facts and provisions of the Act, Authority may consider to conduct an enquiry through the Enquiry Officer appointed under the Act to verify the facts and take further necessary action as per law.

Placed before Authority for consideration.

Decision: *The Authority considered the matter and observed that the jurisdiction of PWRDA is determined by the provisions of the Punjab Water Resources (Management & Regulation) Act, 2020 whereby this Authority has been constituted. Accordingly, the Authority decided to proceed immediately in this matter and conduct an Enquiry under Section 20 of the said Act and directed Deputy Commissioner, Ferozpur to conduct an Enquiry in terms of Punjab Government order no. E305371PJ-3/241 dated 17.05.2022. The Enquiry Officer may ascertain the unauthorised extraction of groundwater by the unit, namely M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., Village Mansoorwal, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozpur keeping in view the provisions of the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023, in particular Paragraph 3.1.*

The Enquiry Officer shall inspect the premises of the Unit and make a detailed report of all groundwater extraction structures, conservation structures etc. including tube wells, bore wells, peizometers, water meters etc. which may be functional, non-functional, abandoned, sealed etc. The enquiry report should contain photographs and geo-location of all relevant structures and equipment in the said premises. Based on the site inspection, examination of documents and of persons managing/operating the Unit, the report should arrive at its findings as regards the volume of unauthorised extraction of groundwater during the period that ad-interim permission of the Unit was in place namely from date to 30th April, 2023.

The Enquiry Officer shall submit a report to the Authority within two weeks.

B. The Authority further observed that other issues contained in the said orders of the PPCB dated 02.06.2023, which pertain to effluents, contamination or pollution of water etc. fall outside the purview of this Authority, in terms of Punjab Water Resources (Management & Regulation) Act, 2020. Accordingly, PPCB is requested to take action at its own level on all such issues under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Office may obtain copies of the following documents from PPCB:

- i. copy of CPCB order No. PI-20/50/2020-IPC-III-HO-CPCB-HO/1246 dated 17.05.2023.*
- ii. copy of Inspection Report of 24.2.2023 mentioned in the PPCB order.*

Table Agenda

Item No.66-T-1: Corrigendum in ‘Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2023’

The Authority while considering the matter in its 65th Meeting decided as under:

“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.”

2. The appropriate changes as approved by the Authority have been made and the amended Directions 2023 are at **Annexure A66-T-1**.

Placed before the Authority for approval.

Decision: a. *Discussed and approved with minor changes as per Annexure M66-T-2.*

b. Secretary is directed to notify these amendments in the official Gazette of the State of Punjab. After notification in the Gazette, the updated Directions 2023 be uploaded on the website of PWRDA.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.