

**Minutes of 75<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 29.11.2023 at 03.00 PM in the office of Chairperson under the chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson, PWRDA.**

**Present: Mr. Sushil Gupta, Member.**

**In attendance: Mr. Rajpal Singh, PCS Secretary.**

**Item No. 75.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PWRDA.**

The Minutes of 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 07.11.2023 were emailed to all concerned. No comments received. Minutes may be confirmed.

**Decision:** *Confirmed.*

**Item No. 75.02: Action Taken Report.**

The action taken report on the decisions taken in the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PWRDA is as under:

*Item No. 73.03: Complaints regarding non-compliance of Groundwater Directions 2023.*

- i. Notice as approved by Authority in 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting, has been issued to M/S Vishal Coaters Pvt. Ltd. and M/S Vishal Papers Pvt. Ltd on 17.11.2023.
- ii. The complainant has been informed on 14.11.2023 that his complaint is under consideration for appropriate action as per law.
- iii. The status report regarding complaint against Wave Beverages and Varun Beverages has been sent to CMO on 21.11.2023 with a copy to Government, Head Permission and Monitoring Division and complainant.
- iv. Notice to a User who fails to apply for permission to extract groundwater in time and SOP are **pending**.

*Item No. 73.04: Quarterly Statement of PWRDA fund placed in fixed deposit for the quarter ending 30.09.2023.*

No further action is required.

*Item No. 74.03: ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਆਈ.ਮੈਨੂਅਲ ਅਤੇ ਸਿਟੀਜਨਚਾਰਟਰ ਨੂੰ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ ਤੇ ਅਪਲੋਡ ਕਰਨ ਬਾਰੇ।*

**Pending.**

*Item No.: 74.04: Issuance of Permissions to Water Tankers and Power Operated Drilling Rigs.*

Office order has been issued and uploaded on PWRDA website.

*Item No. 74.05: Actions against Units for extraction of Groundwater without Permission.*

Approved Visit Note (Annexure M 74.05.01) and Notice (Annexure M74.05.02) have been circulated. Notice (Annexure M 74.05.03) to M/S Vishal Coaters Pvt. Ltd. and M/S Vishal Papers Pvt. Ltd. has been issued on 17.11.2023.

*Item No. 74.06: Placing PWRDA Fund in Term Deposit/Fixed Deposits.*

Please see Item No. 75.05.

*Item No. 74.07: Quarterly Statement of receipt and payment for the quarter ending 30.09.2023.*

No further action is required.

*Item No. 74.08: Pending dues/excess payments of GWE Charges by 509 ad-interim permission holders.*

**Pending.**

*Item No. 74-T-01: Typical cases of applications for permission for extraction of groundwater.*

- i) Office order has been issued and uploaded on the Authority website.
- ii) For other similar cases discussed, no further action is required at the moment.

**Decision:** *ATR regarding Item No. 73.03 (i), (ii); 73.04, 74.04, 74.06, 74.07, 74-T-01 noted.*

*ATR regarding 73.03 (iii), (iv); 74.03, 74.05, 74.08 be put up in the next meeting.*

**Item No.75.03: Procedure Regarding Placement of PWRDA Fund in Term /Fixed Deposit.**

The Government of Punjab by letter No. III/I/2023/IF/I/279-496 dated 10.04.2023. (Annexure A 75.03.01) revised the list of empanelled banks to 20 by adding two small financebanks and *inter alia* directed that:

3. "Regarding the Small Finance Banks (SFBs) which have been empanelled it has been decided that the deposits in Small Finance Banks (SFBs) will be capped at maximum of 10% of the total deposit amount in each bid. This means, if any of the Small Finance Bank quotes highest rate of interest among all the empanelled banks then only 10% of the total deposit (bidding amount) can be placed with the empanelled SFB and balance 90% of the total deposit amount will be placed with the bidder bank which has quoted 2nd highest rate of interest other than Small Finance Bank. It is further clarified that in case the highest rate of interest has been quoted

*by the bank other than SFB, than the whole deposit (bidding amount) will be placed with that bank and no part of deposit will be placed with the empanelled SFB."*

The subject matter was placed before the Authority in 74<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 07.11.2023 (ItemNo. 74.06). Authority directed to *Put up a proposal to amend existing Policy as per the provisions contained in Paragraph 3 of letter No. III/I/2023/IF/I/279-496 dated 10.04.2023.*

Accordingly, it is proposed that the provisions in paragraph 3 of Punjab government letter *III/I/2023/IF/I/279-496 dated 10.04.2023* may be adopted and incorporated in the existing Policy/Procedure for placing PWRDA Fund in Term/Fixed Deposit (**Annexure A 75.03.02**).

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

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

*In future, request for offer (RFO) be uploaded on PWRDA website in addition to email to empaneled banks.*

**Item No. 75.04: Regarding amendment in the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020.**

A letter no. E605049PJ-3/428 dated 20.11.2023 has been received from Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources Punjab stating that *"The State Government is contemplating to make certain amendments in the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 based on certain suggestions received from various quarters. It is believed that the Authority also might have identified certain provisions of the Act which need amendment to make further improvement in the Act so as to meet the objectives.*

*You are requested to kindly give the suggestions, if any, to the State Government preferably within a week."*

2. Section 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 of the Act deal with the enforcement of the Act. However, the Act is silent on recovery of dues. Therefore, Government may be requested to make provisions in the Act for recovery of dues.

3. In Section 14 (5) of the Act, it is provided that *"For the purpose of integrated state water plan, the Government may divide the State into different categories based on the stage of groundwater development, the table of groundwater level depletion, the level of*

*water table, quality of groundwater, availability of surface water or other relevant criteria as it may deem appropriate in view of local conditions:*

*Provided that the categorization shall not take effect unless a notice in this regard is published a not less than two newspapers, including at least one daily regional language newspaper having wide circulation in the State.*

*(6) Any person may file written objections against the categorization along with such fee, as may be specified, within one month from the date of publication.*

*(7) The Government shall within a period of two months consider and settle all objections received against the post categorization and notify the final categorization of the areas from such date, as it may deem fit”.*

4. Since, this categorization is based on objective criteria mentioned above, hence, Government may be requested to omit sub section (5), (6) and (7) of section 14 of the Act.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Approved as proposed in paragraph 2.*

**Item No.75.05: Expiry of contract of Mrs. Ravneet Lumba, Legal Executive, PWRDA.**

Mrs. Ravneet Lumba was appointed as Legal Executive on contract basis for a period of one year at the monthly remuneration of Rs. 45,000/- (fixed). The contract was extended on the same terms & conditions for one year and she joined the Authority on 05.12.2022 (F.N). The contract expires on 04.12.2023.

2. She made a written request on 17.11.2023 for renewal of her contract stating that:

*"With due respect I want to state that my contract for the post of Legal Executive will end on 04.12.2023. In this regard, I hereby request your good self that my contract may further be renewed keeping in view my performance in the past year. It is also submitted that I have been handling the Legal Division all alone after the resignation of Sr. Manager Legal. Further, the workload has increased manifold in the recent past in the Legal Division and I have handled all queries forwarded to the Legal Division. Hence, I humbly request your good self to grant me hike in the salary along with increment. Thanking you in anticipation of considering my renewal and accepting my request."*

3 There is nothing adverse on record against her and she has not attained the age of 70 years.

4. As per the terms of her contractual employment, the contract may be renewed at

the sole discretion of PWRDA.

5. The PWRDA 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. As per Annexure-A of the said Regulations, the indicative monthly remuneration for the post of Legal Executive for the year 2020-21 is Rs. 45,000/-.

7. The Authority may decide on the following:

- a. Hiring of the services of Mrs. Ravneet Lumba on contract for the post of Legal Executive.
- b. The period of hiring of services.
- c. The terms & conditions of the contract.
- d. Monthly remuneration.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Mrs. Ravneet Lumba be hired on contract for the post of Legal Executive for a period of one year starting from 05.12.2023 or from her actual date of joining which shall not be later than two weeks from 05.12.2023. The other terms and conditions of the contract/offer letter shall be the same as approved by the Authority in Annexure M69.03.01. The monthly remuneration shall be Rs. 47,700/- (Rs. Forty-Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred Only) fixed.*

**Item No. 75.06: Expiry of contract of Mr. J.K. Jain, Additional Secretary cum Senior Manager (A&C), PWRDA.**

Mr. J.K. Jain, PCS (Retd.) was appointed as Senior Manager (Administration and Coordination) on contract basis initially for a period of one year at the monthly remuneration of Rs. 1.00 Lakh (fixed). The contract was extended up to 30.11.2022 at the monthly remuneration Rs. 1.08 Lakh (fixed). It was further extended up to 30.11.2023 at the same terms, conditions and remuneration.

2. He made a written request for renewal of his contract on 20.11.2023 stating that:

“ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਨਿਮਨ-ਹਸਤਾਖਰ ਦੀ ਠੇਕੇ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਵਧੀਕ ਸਕੱਤਰ-ਕਮ ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ

ਅਤੇ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਦੀ ਆਸਾਮੀ ਤੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਮਿਤੀ 30.11.2023 ਤੱਕ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਾਧਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਵੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਰੈਗੂਲੇਸ਼ਨ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਤਨਖਾਹ 1,20,000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਹੀਨਾ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਵਾਧਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਖੋਚਲਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ।”

3. There is nothing adverse on record against him. As per documents available on file, he has not attained the age of 70 years.

4. Terms of his contractual employment say that the contract may be renewed at the sole discretion of PWRDA.

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

7 (2) "An employee appointed directly will be entitled to draw remuneration as per her 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. As per Annexure-A of the said Regulations, the indicative monthly remuneration for the post of SM (A&C) for the year 2020-21 is Rs. 1,20,000/-.

7. The Authority may decide on the following:

- a. Hiring of the services of Mr. J.K. Jain on contract for the post of Additional Secretary cum SM (A&C)
- b. The period of hiring of services.
- c. The terms & conditions of the contract.
- d. Monthly remuneration.

Placed before the Authority for consideration

**Decision:** *Mr. J.K. Jain be hired on contract for the post of Additional Secretary cum-Senior Manager (A&C) for a period of one year starting from 01.12.2023 or from his actual date of joining which shall not be later than two weeks from 01.12.2023. The other terms and conditions of the contract/offer letter shall be the same as approved by the Authority in Annexure M69.03.01. The monthly remuneration shall be Rs. 1,14,480/- (Rs. One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only) fixed.*

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