

MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE WEST BENGAL STATE COASTAL  
ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The 6th meeting of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority was held on 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2004 at Paribesh Bhavan. The following members were present:

1. Shri Asim Barman, Principal Secretary PHE and Environment Department
2. Prof. Anandadev Mukhopadhyay, Chairman DSDA (as a special invitee)
3. Dr. S. Sarkar, Member Secretary, WBPCB
4. Prof. Sugato Hazra, Director School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University
5. Shri D.P. Jana, Director Sunderban Development Board
6. Shri Uday Nandi, Addl. Director of Fisheries.
7. Shri S. Barari, Chief Environment Officer
8. Shri C. Chakraborty, Senior Environment Officer

The agenda wise discussions and the decisions arrived at are given below:

**Agenda 1: Suggestions on the amendment of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification**

At the onset the Chief Environment Officer informed the members that the MoEF has already held a National level workshop at Chennai on 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2004 to invite suggestions from the various coastal states and the NGOs. A copy of the suggestions advanced from West Bengal, as well as the draft Recommendations that emerged out of the deliberations of the workshop were circulated among the members. The following decision was taken:

1. **The members would send their suggestions on the issue, to the Environment Department, within a week and**
2. **The suggestions may then be compiled from the department and send to the MoEF**

**Agenda 2: Problems of administering the provisions of the CRZ notification in Digha**

The Chief Environment Officer informed the members about the findings of the survey on the tourist carrying capacity in old & new Digha and about the decisions that were taken by the department in consultation with the DSDA in stemming the problem of unrestricted tourist flow due to unplanned growth of hotels / commercial guest houses / holiday homes etc. The tourist carrying capacity of Old Digha has surpassed by far the standard tourist carrying capacity, where as in New Digha it is still within the limits. The Chairman DSDA informed the members that there has not been any planned tourism in Digha in the past. He also mentioned about the problem of the sewerage treatment system, which the PHE department has not been able to commission fully till date. As such, the DSDA in consultation with PHE has initiated action to go in for low cost methods of sewage treatment.

The following decisions were taken:

1. An Integrated Coastal Zone Plan may be formulated for Digha and Shankarpur area with the main thrust for conservation keeping in view the tourism potential of that area.
2. The work may be executed by the School of Oceanographic Studies, JU, in collaboration with the DSDA within six months. SOS, JU may take necessary help from the IW MED as they are the designated <sup>institute</sup> authority for the coastal zone of West Bengal.
3. The funding for the project of Integrated Planning of DSDA may be pooled from the contributions of the departments of Environment, Urban Development, Tourism, Irrigation, Fisheries and the PHE departments. The department of Environment may act as the nodal department and would take necessary action on this immediately.
4. No Environment Clearance (NOC)/Consent to establish would be issued by the Environment Dept./ WBPCB to any applicant either for new construction or for extension, for Old Digha.
5. For repair works in Old Digha the permission may be accorded to authorized construction only subject to recommendation by the DSDA after verification. The applicants are to apply to the DSDA and DSDA will seek clearance from various authorities like DoE / WBPCB before giving final clearance.
6. No further construction in New Digha would be allowed pending the acceptance of the Integrated Coastal Zone Planning of DSDA.
7. As for the list of 94 nos. of Hotels/Holiday Homes/Tourist Lodge etc. placed by the WBPCB (as on today), who have not come, till date under their consent administration, DSDA would scrutinize the each case and offer their comments against each. The WBPCB should send the list to the DSDA immediately.
8. For any future construction in the DSD Area the project proponent has to apply to the DSDA, who would forward the application to the Environment dept. for their comments as regards the issues for the CRZ related provisions / restrictions, apart from sending it to other relevant agencies. On approval from the Department of Environment, the Project Proponent should apply for NOC to WBPCB in prescribed form. Based on the comments/clearance received from all the agencies, including WBPCB the final clearance should be given by the DSDA.

9. The Chairman DSDA would intervene in the long pending issue of reclassification of sector B-5 from CRZ-III to CRZ-II. The DSDA was earlier requested to clarify certain points raised by the MoEF in this regards and to submit a fresh proposal for the reclassification. The Environment Dept. would send relevant correspondences to the Chairman DSDA immediately.

**Agenda 3: Miscellaneous :**

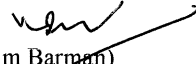
It was felt by the members that there is a general ignorance on the various provisions of the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification. The general public, authorities in the administration and the enforcing agencies like the police need to be made aware of the important provisions of the CRZ Notification.

The Chairman DSDA informed all the members that action is being taken by the DSDA against all the violators of CRZ norms.

**It was decided that:**

1. The Dept. of Environment along with the WBPCB should advertise the provisions the CRZ Rules and the process of getting a clearance under the Rules.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chair.

  
(Asim Barman)  
Principal Secretary  
PHE and Environment Dept.

14/1/17