

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04.09.2021**  
**BY THE CHAIRMAN, SLMC VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The meeting commenced with the Chairman, SLMC presiding. The list of officers who attended the meeting is appended.

The Chairman, KSPCB welcomed the Chairman, SLMC and thanked him for having consented to conduct the meeting. The Board Chairman explained the difficulties currently being faced by the Board due to shortage of staff. He also explained the concept of the new Central Inspection System (CIS) launched by the State Government for complaint enquiry.

The Member Secretary, KSPCB informed that in addition to the shortage of staff, the lack of co-operation from other Departments also makes the work of the Board difficult.

The Chairman SLMC observed that it is true that the Board is facing difficulties and opined that Board should strive to make the best of the circumstances.

The Chairman, KSPCB then invited the Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Ernakulam to present the agenda items.

The following agenda items were discussed, suggestions given and decisions taken:

**1. Periyar River Pollution**

The following points were raised during the discussion:

**CEE, RO, EKM**

- Short term and long term action plan for Periyar is ready
- Surveillance camera on the banks of Periyar should be made operational with night vision
- Outlets of some industries discharging effluents upstream of Pathalam bund should be made to shift to downstream
- Compliance monitoring of industries pending due to want of field staff; Technical Assistants may be posted under Project to help the officers in compliance monitoring
- Committee to be constituted including local people
- CCTVs are installed in most of the industries situated along the banks of the river; they may be asked to provide a link of the CCTVs to the Board offices for surveillance



- CCTVs are to be provided at strategic points

#### **Chairman, SLMC**

- Colour change in Periyar is to be addressed
- Bushes on the banks of the river make it difficult to conduct inspection; steps are to be taken to clear the bushes
- Bund road is to be constructed along the river to facilitate inspection
- Timely action should be taken against non complying industries
- The discharge of waste into Muttar river by Kalamassery Municipality is to be stopped. Though instructions were given to Kalamassery Municipality, their response is poor.

#### **Member Secretary, KSPCB**

- The matter of clearing bushes along the river banks was intimated to the District Collector but no action taken so far; this is being brought up regularly in the DLMC meetings
- It is felt that submission is to be made to the Chief Secretary to include the District Collectors also in the review being conducted by him

#### **Chairman, KSPCB**

- The matter of posting Technical Assistants has already been raised with the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment
- The difficulties faced by the Board in implementing CIS can be brought to the attention of the Government after commencement of the same
- If the pandemic situation eases, next month a physical meeting as well as a joint inspection can be thought of
- In the meeting convened by the Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD which is to be attended by the Member Secretary on the same day afternoon, the opinion expressed by the SLMC Chairman should be conveyed to the ACS

#### **Decisions**

- Surveillance cameras to be made operational expeditiously
- Matter of posting Technical Assistants to be followed up in Government
- Submission to be made to the Chief Secretary to increase the involvement of District Administration



## **2. Brahmapuram Waste Dumping**

The following points were raised during the discussion

### **CEE, RO, EKM**

- Brahmapuram waste issue covers the waste management of entire Ernakulam district
- Biomining not done
- Septage management not done
- No time bound proposal for the solid waste management
- No proper reply from the Kochi Corporation to notices issued

### **Member Secretary, KSPCB**

- FSTP of the Corporation is not working
- Fresh waste is being dumped on the legacy waste and hence each time survey to find the quantity of legacy waste shows different values

### **Chairman, SLMC**

- Brahmapuram is not an isolated issue; it is connected with the 5 Municipalities and 3 Panchayaths bringing their waste to Brahmapuram
- Biomining to be done on warfooting
- All LSGIs using Brahmapuram plant should be involved in this; financial liability to be fixed on all these LSGIs
- Board should intervene in this matter seriously
- Kalamassery Municipality is not complying with the conditions of the authorisation issued to them
- Attitude of the LSGIs in the matter of solid waste management should improve. Mixed waste from Aluva Municipality was seen dumped at Brahmapuram windrow plant. It is to be ensured that only segregated waste shall only be taken to the plant.
- WtE plant is to be commenced at the earliest.
- Source level treatment is to be practised in hotels, markets.
- Septage treatment plants at Brahmapuram and Willington island are not working and urgent action is required for making its proper functioning.



## **Chairman, KSPCB**

- Issues pointed out by the Chairman, SLMC are to be raised by the MS in the in the afternoon meeting with ACS, LSGD
- Progress is very slow
- Fine imposed; but stay obtained by Corporation from Hon'ble High Court

## **Decision**

- Minutes of this meeting should be submitted to the Government

### **3. Kalamassery Medical College**

#### **CEE, RO, Ekm.**

- The attitude of the Medical College authorities is that the transporting of the effluent to the STP of GCDA is the responsibility of the Board.

#### **Member Secretary**

- The effluent is highly infectious and can be transported only after disinfection. EE, DO-I, Ekm was invited to inform the present status of the situation in the Medical College concerning waste management.

#### **EE, DO-I, Ekm**

- Although the authorities had assured that the STP commissioning would be over by August 31<sup>st</sup>, this has not materialised. For using the STP of GCDA for treating effluent from this hospital, trial run in 3 stages has to be done to ensure that treatment will be sufficient to achieve standards. Agreement has to be entered into by the hospital and GCDA. It is felt that by the time the above formalities are completed, the STP can be commissioned. Not much civil works are to be done as they are utilising the existing tanks; filters are to be changed; blowers installed. Filters in the GCDA plant are reported to have been not working.



Member Secretary, KSPCB suggested that Health Secretary should be addressed in this regard with copy to ACS, Env't.

**Chairman, SLMC.**

- Stressed the need for urgency in the matter as the Co-operative Medical College, Kalamassery is situated on a hilly terrain and chances are there for effluent reaching the houses situated on lower levels. Wastes were also seen burnt in pits in the hospital premises.

**Chairman, KSPCB**

- Directed that letter should be sent to Health Secretary immediately on the issue.

**4. Common bio medical waste facility**

The Chairman, KSPCB apprised the SLMC Chairman regarding the recent issue arising from issuance of order regarding treatment of bio medical waste by KIEL and the Writ Petition filed by IMAGE against the order of the Board. The Board is filing counter affidavit in the petition.

The Chairman, SLMC instructed that the minutes of this meeting should be submitted to the Government.

The Chairman, KSPCB then invited the officers to give comments/suggestions.

The CEE, RO, KKD suggested that Technical Assistants should be posted for compliance monitoring, data collection and consolidation, and for giving technical assistance to local bodies.

The CEE, RO, TVPM suggested that if it is not possible to post Technical Assistants, Graduate Engineering Apprentices may be thought of.

The CEE, HO suggested that CCTV should be placed at unloading area of trucks in the Brahmapuram plant for stopping mixed waste reaching the plant and the link shall be shared with Board offices.

The EE, DO-I reiterated the need for Technical Assistants, lack of co-operation from LSGIs and other Departments and the hesitation on the part of industrial units/establishments to make investment for online monitoring system, which are costly and for pollution control.



The Chairman, KSPCB informed the meeting that steps are being taken for getting apprentices from as soon as possible.

The meeting came to a close at 1.00 p.m.



**Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai**  
**Chairman, SLMC**

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Sri. A.B. Pradeep Kumar - Chairman, KSPCB
2. Smt. Sreekala M.S. - Member Secretary, KSPCB
3. Sri. Baiju M.A - Chief Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office, EKM
4. Sri. Baburajan P.K. - Chief Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office, TVM
5. Smt. Sindu Radhakrishnan - Chief Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office, KKD
6. Smt. Sheela A.M. - Chief Environmental Engineer,  
Head Office
7. Smt. Vinaya K.S. - Senior Environmental Engineer,  
ESC- Eloor, Ernakulam
8. Smt. Bindu V. Gopal - Environmental Engineer,  
Legal Section, Head Office
9. Sri. Dinesh - Environmental Engineer, District Office-1  
Ernakulam
10. Smt. Sreelekshmi - Environmental Engineer, District Office-2,  
Ernakulam
11. Smt. Shahana - Assistant Environmental Engineer  
Regional Office, Ernakulam

*h*