

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Sub : Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Water Quality Review Committee for Assessment and Review of Water Quality Monitoring Network.

Date: 5th January, 2010

Venu: Mantralaya

The 7th Meeting of Maharashtra State level Water Quality Review Committee Meeting was held on 05.01.2010 at Mantralaya, Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources, Govt. of Maharashtra, The list of the members and officials present during the meeting is enclosed. Following points were discussed in the meeting:

1. The minutes of the 6th meeting held on 30th May, 2007 were confirmed.
2. The review of follow up actions taken on the decisions taken in the 6th Water Quality Review Committee Meeting was taken.

A sub-group under the Chairmanship of Dr.P.K.Naik, Central Ground Water Board was formed for optimization of water quality monitoring network in compliance with the uniform protocol. The sub-group has submitted its report on optimization and the same has already been circulated to all the members. This report was accepted in principle and it was further decided that such optimization studies should be a regular feature. This is necessary as the water quality trends in its stretches in the rivers can change due to pollution pressure and also additional demand on the resources. It was therefore decided that such optimization study should be carried out once in a 3 years.

3. A review of follow up actions on the Cabinet decision dtd.27.05.2009 was taken. The Cabinet decision has 3 major components and the status of follow up action is as below:
 - a. "MPCB shall publish water quality status report every year":
MPCB has prepared a water quality status report for the data of 2005-2007 and the report has already been circulated to all the stake holders. The committee deliberated in detail and proposed that MPCB may prepare the yearly water quality status report using the water quality data from the agencies like GSDA, HP, Central Ground Water Board. It was noted that this exercise is very extensive and elaborate. MPCB proposed to conduct the study through outsourcing to eminent research institutes in order to use

latest analytical tools for appropriate interpretation of the data. Member Secretary, MPCB suggested that the cost of such outsourcing activity should be borne by all agencies on pro-rata basis, depending upon number of stations. Committee accepted the suggestion. It was also decided that MPCB will prepare present status report of water quality for the year 2007, 2008,2009 by procuring data from concerned agencies. The representative of CGWB agreed to provide relevant data by March'2010.

- b. Director, Environment agreed to submit details of the actions taken as follow up of decision 3 & 4 related to formation of a high level committee under Chief Secretary and submission of water quality improvement action plans prepared by this committee and also river action plans to the Cabinet.
6. The methodology of preparation of status report was also discussed. MPCB informed that CPCB has already documented a methodology for interpretation of water quality monitoring data using 4 parameters namely PH, BOD, DO and fecal coli with relative weightages. MPCB informed that while preparing the report referred above, they have tried different techniques like 1 parameter index, 2 parameter index and 4 parameter index which was found more representative. MPCB has already informed CPCB about the same. After detailed deliberations, the Committee agreed that proposed water quality status report shall be prepared using 4 parameter water quality index for interpretation of the data.
 7. MPCB suggested that all the agencies should give the details of their stations in the suggested format (copy enclosed) so that proposed optimization study can be conducted in a scientific manner using available analytical tools. All the agencies agree to send this data in next 15 days. The committee has already decided to form a sub-group of following to initiate the optimization process and also to take initiative on training and awareness activities and also sharing of data.

1.	Zonal Officer,	MPC Board	Chairman & Convenor
2.	Chief Engineer,	HP- Nashik	Member
3.	Additional Director	GSDA, Pune	Member
4.	Senior Engineer, HQ	MJP, Mumbai	Member
5.	Regional Director	CGWB,Nagpur	Member
 8. The committee noted that the water quality monitoring done by GSDA and Central Ground Water Board is presently not as per the provisions to uniform water quality monitoring protocol. The committee recommended that these institutes should follow the provisions of the uniform protocol on top priority.

9. MPCB informed that as per the water quality monitoring protocol, all agencies are required to submit their data to the environmental data bank software of CPCB. This will facilitate the sharing of data and also ensure that the data is deposited in the Central Repository. MPCB further informed that, MPCB is already publishing their water quality data for 5 parameters on MPCB website, as most of the times Government, NGO's and Institutes require this data and such information dissemination is beneficial for research activities. MPCB suggested that all agencies can also host a data on MPCB Website and if agreed, MPCB will make necessary provisions in the software which needs about one month. Chief Engineer, HP mentioned that as per the protocol, the data need to be submitted to EDB at CPCB and this should be followed up.
10. It was felt by representative of irrigation that, Training programmes are necessary about optimization of monitoring locations & preparation of Status report. It was decided that MPCB will take initiatives in this regard after start of work.
11. MPCB further informed that their 196 stations are covered under National Water Quality Monitoring Program and they are getting some financial assistance for this monitoring activity. Member Secretary, MPCB suggested that all agencies should submit a proposal to CPCB to include their monitoring stations in National Water Quality Monitoring Program. This will facilitate the data sharing and institutes may get financial assistance for the water monitoring activities. Chairman agreed to this suggestion and requested to all the agencies to submit their proposals to CPCB on top priority within next one month with a copy to MPCB for further follow up with CPCB.
11. Chairman mentioned that this meeting has been conducted after a long gap and proposed that the next meeting should be held in April, 2010, as committee meeting need to be held once in a 3 months as per G.R.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Minutes are approved by Secretary, WRD, GoM & Chairman, WQRC

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