

**MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE WATER QUALITY REVIEW
COMMITTEE OF MAHARASHTRA STATE HELD ON 30TH MAY, 2007 AT
MANTRALAYA, MUMBAI**

GENERAL

The 6th meeting of the Water Quality Review Committee of Maharashtra State (WQRC-MS) was held at Mantralaya, Mumbai on 30th May, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Shri V.V.Gaikwad, Secretary (Water Resources), Government of Maharashtra and Chairman, WQRC-MS. The following members participated in the meeting:

Sl No.	Name	Designation
1	Shri V.V. Gaikwad	Secretary (Water Resources), Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai (in Chair)
2	Shri R.P. Saxena	Chief Engineer, Monitoring Central Organization, CWC, Nagpur & Member Secretary (WQRC-MS)
3	Shri H.T.Mendhegiri	Chief Engineer, Hydrology Project, (HP) Nashik
4	Shri B.N. Kandarphale	Chief Engineer (Water Resources) & Jt. Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai
5	Shri S.V. Dahasahasra	Member Secretary, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran, (MJP) Mumbai
6	Shri S.K. Shrivastav	Sr. Jt. Commissioner, Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi.
7	Shri P.K. Jain	OIC, CGWB, Pune representing Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, (CGWB) Central Region, Nagpur
8	Shri K.M. Shah	Director, Directorate of Irrigation Research & Development, (DIRD) Pune
9	Mrs. Ranjana Badve	Senior Chemist, Ground Water Survey & Development Agency, (GSDA) Government of Maharashtra, Pune
10	Shri M.K.Pokale	Superintending Engineer, Data Collection Circle, Hydrology Project, Nashik
11	Shri R.K. Niturkar	Superintending Engineer, Data Analysis Circle, Hydrology Project, Nashik
12	Shri H.C. Karalkar	Representing Director of Agriculture, Pune
13	Shri A.K. Surushe	Deputy Secretary (water Resources), Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai
14	Shri A.A. Sabnis	Under Secretary (water Resources), Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai
15	Shri U. Tikekar	Superintending Engineer, CWC, Nagpur

Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 6th meeting of the Committee and asked the Member Secretary to take up agenda items.

There was no representation from Marathwada Agriculture University, Forest Survey of India, Water Supply & Sanitation Deptt., and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board. It was further observed that the Member from Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is not attending the meetings regularly. As the MPCB is to play important role in implementation of recommendations of this Committee, the Chairman directed to bring up the matter in the notice of the higher authorities of the MPCB / concerned Ministry and request them to ensure that the meetings of the Committee are attended regularly by Member from MPCB.

1.0 REVIEW OF FOLLOW UP ACTION ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN IN 5th MEETING OF WQRC - MS

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that there were two issues on which action was required to be taken. The first issue was regarding holding the Regional Water Quality Workshop for Western Region. The said Workshop was organised at Pune on 24-25th January, 2006. The second issue was regarding including a representative of CPCB as Member of the Committee. The Member Secretary informed that the CPCB authorities were requested to nominate an officer from CPCB to be a Member of the Committee. Accordingly, Scientist 'D' from the Zonal Office of CPCB, Vadodara has been nominated by the CPCB authorities. The Committee ratified the nomination and it was decided to issue addendum to GoM's Notification dated 01.01.2003 by Govt. of Maharashtra for inclusion of above officer of CPCB as the Member of the Committee and invite him from the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to the follow up action taken.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the 5th Meeting of WQRC-MS were circulated to all the Members vide letter No. CE(MCO)/NAG/Tech-29/2005/Part-II/3318-32 dated 15.12.2005. No remarks / comments / suggestions were received from any Member. The Committee therefore confirmed the Minutes of the 5th Meeting.

3.0 REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATER QUALITY FOR WESTERN REGION HELD AT PUNE ON 24-25th JANUARY, 2006

The Regional Workshop on Water Quality for Western Region was held at Pune on 24-25th January, 2006. The recommendations of the Workshop, as accepted by the Water Quality Monitoring Committee (WQMC) were circulated to the Members of the WQRC to take follow up actions. The Member Secretary informed that the status of compliance of the recommendations have been informed by CGWB only and from others no response has

been received. He further informed that in the mean time, the Ministry of Water Resources have identified five major recommendations relating to Monitoring Station Network, Uniform Monitoring Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring, Laboratories, Water Quality Management Plan and Training & Awareness Raising Programme vide their letter no. 12/2B/2005-B&B/3417-19 dated 13.10.2006 for follow-up action in a time bound manner. These were circulated to all the Members with the Agenda as well as included as an Agenda for discussion during the meeting. CE (Hydrology Project), Nashik circulated compliance by them during the meeting. The Member-Secretary informed that the recommendations identified by the MoWR (included as Annex – I of the agenda) are mostly covered in the agenda as separate items and therefore these points may be discussed separately under the relevant agenda items. This was agreed by the committee and discussions were held in detail during the meeting and are covered in the following paras.

4.0 OPTIMISATION OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK IN TERMS OF UNIFORM PROTOCOL

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee Members that in accordance with the decision taken in the 3rd meeting of the WQRC a Sub-group was constituted in Nov., 2005 for optimization of Monitoring Network and also for implementation of Uniform Monitoring Protocol. It was informed that so far three meetings of the Sub-group have been held and before finalizing its recommendations the Sub-group desired to go through the report titled “Status Report on Water bodies and Ground Water in Maharashtra State” being prepared by the Chief Engineer (HP), Nashik. As the draft report has been circulated to all the Members recently and a copy sent to Convener of the Sub-group, the Chairman WQRC desired that the Sub-group may finalise its recommendations relating to optimum water quality network indicating location of the new sites to be opened alongwith the Agencies who will maintain and observe water quality at these new stations. He also desired that the Sub-group should also give its recommendations regarding implementation of Uniform Monitoring Protocol within two months time.

As regards recommendations of the Regional Workshop relating to Water Quality laboratory, the Member Secretary stated that the MoWR has suggested that there is a need to have referral laboratory at Central/State level for quality assurance as well as guidance and training to other laboratories of the States. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP) informed that MJP is planning to set up three laboratories at Nagpur, Nashik and Thane for Water Quality Monitoring in near future. Chief Engineer (HP), Water Resources Deptt. informed that they are having well-established laboratory at Nashik and are intending to upgrade Level II laboratory at Nagpur to Level II⁺ and also establish a laboratory at Thane in near future. He suggested to declare one of the laboratories as

referral laboratory. The Senior Joint Commissioner, MoWR drew attention of the Members to obtain accreditation to the laboratory before declaring the one as referral laboratory. The general opinion of the members for establishing / upgrading of Laboratories was the inadequacy of funds / budget provisions. The Chairman, WQRC instructed Director, DIRD, Pune to collect information from all concerned regarding location of water quality labs in the State with details regarding facilities / equipment available, parameters that are being analysed etc. and submit before the next meeting to decide regarding obtaining accreditation to some of the laboratories and declare them as referral labs. It was also suggested to identify other departments such as Rural Deptt., Health Deptt. etc. where sufficient funds may be available and funding of the laboratories through such Deptts. can be explored. After exploring, if need be the matter may also be referred to WQMC.

5.0 REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY DATA ANALYSIS

In the 3rd meeting, it was decided that water quality data from all the participating agencies in WQRC may be analyzed for the designated best use of water prescribed in relevant BIS Code by the Chief Engineer (HP) and Status Report (titled Status Report on Water Quality of Water Bodies in Maharashtra State) on analysis may be prepared for the year 2004-05 to start with and subsequently, the historical data on water quality can also be analyzed to observe trend of changes in water quality that has occurred from time to time. Accordingly, the Chief Engineer (HP) prepared draft report titled “Status Report on Water Quality of Water Bodies and Ground water in Maharashtra State” based on the water quality data for the year 2004-05 and circulated to all the Members of the Committee. A power point presentation based on the report was also made during the meeting. The presentation covered the Agencies operating in the State and number of water quality monitoring sites maintained by them, hot spots / water quality problem locations with results of the analysis during summer, monsoon and winter season vis-à-vis tolerance limits and recommendations for improving the water quality. The Committee appreciated the efforts made by the Chief Engineer (HP), Water Resources Deptt. and his team in bringing out the report. The Chairman suggested that after finalization of the report, the power point presentation may be made before the State Cabinet also to highlight such an important matter. The Member Secretary requested all the Members to go through the draft report and convey their comments / suggestions, if any, in two weeks time. If no comments are received the report would be considered as final.

The Chief Engineer (HP) suggested that there is need for identifying and involving experts for water quality data analysis and its interpretation work for such type of studies.

6.0 TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAMME

The Member Secretary pointed out that during the fifth meeting some of the Members have informed about the training and awareness programmes conducted and would send details of future training and awareness programmes to Member-Secretary but subsequently no information was received. Member from GWSDA and other Agencies brought to the notice of the Committee the programme conducted by them. Chairman, WQRC appreciated the efforts made by them and requested the Members to inform the details of training / awareness programme like location, subject, number of participants etc. to Member - Secretary as and when these are conducted.

7.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the fifth meeting it was decided that MJP will submit the details of the polluted stretches of rivers in Maharashtra where work for managing the water quality is in progress and other stretches where work is proposed to be taken up in future. The Member from MJP informed that they are monitoring the water quality at intake points before approving / taking up any new water supply scheme only and not in the river stretches on regular basis. The Committee was of the view that this activity needs to be handled by Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board. The Chairman, WQRC directed MJP to identify concerned Agencies so that the activities relating to Water Quality Monitoring could be assigned to them.

8.0 STANDARD TO PREVENT DISCHARGE OF UN-TREATED SEWAGE WATER FOR IRRIGATION

The standards to prevent discharge of un-treated sewage water for irrigation received from Ministry of Water Resources were circulated to all the members to enforce these standards. The Chairman directed Member from Water Resources Deptt. to circulate these standards to all concerned in the field for implementation and also identify the nodal agency for enforcing the standards. The opinion of the members was that implementation in this regard is concerned with MPCB.

Senior Joint Commissioner, MoWR expressed the need for holding the meeting of WQRC frequently and at regular interval.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair by the Member Secretary.

