

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTING/MONITORING COMMITTEE

Constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Original
Application no.138 and 139 of 2016, OA No.916/2018 (earlier OA No.101
of 2014) OA No.606 of 2018

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To

The Member Secreatry,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Patiala.

No. CEC/EC/2020/1058
dated: 17.9.2020

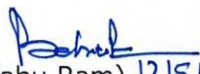
Subject: Minutes of the meeting of the Executing Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 138/139 of 2016 in the matter of Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto Case) and Yogender Kumar with the State level officers of the State of Punjab regarding Environmental Flow and Watershed Management in the catchment area of river Ghaggar held under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court and now as Chairman of the Executing Committee on 16.9.2020 at 11.00 AM through video conferencing.

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Please find enclosed herewith Minutes of the meeting of the Executing Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 138/139 of 2016 in the matter of Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto Case) and Yogender Kumar with the State level officers of the State of Punjab regarding Environmental Flow and Watershed Management in the catchment area of river Ghaggar held under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court and now as Chairman of the Executing Committee on 16.9.2020 at 11.00 AM through video conferencing.

It is requested that the minutes of the meeting may kindly be conveyed to all the concerned departments with the request to comply with directions of the Executing Committee and submit the action taken report to the Executing Committee within 21 days.

DA/as above


(Dr. Babu Ram) 17/9/2020
Technical Expert,
Monitoring/Executive Committee
(Constituted by Hon'ble NGT)

Minutes of the meeting of the Executing Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 138/139 of 2016 in the matter of Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto Case) and Yogender Kumar with the State level officers of the State of Punjab regarding Environmental Flow and Watershed Management in the catchment area of river Ghaggar held under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court and now as Chairman of the Executing Committee on 16.9.2020 at 11.00 AM through video conferencing.

The following were present during meeting.

a) Members of the Executing Committee.

Sr. No.	Name and Designation in the Deptt.	Name & Designation in the Committee
1.	Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court	Chairman
2.	Ms. Urvashi Gulati, IAS, former Chief Secretary, Haryana	Member
3.	Dr. Babu Ram, former Member Secretary, PPCB	Technical Expert

The list of the officers, present in the meetings, is as per Annexure-1

The Chairman of the Executing Committee apprised that Hon'ble National Green Tribunal while giving directions on similar matters regarding cleaning of rivers of the States has also considered the matter of Environmental flow and Watershed Management to be maintained in river course so as to sustain and protect ecosystem and manage water resources for its quality and quantity within watershed area.

It was further informed that the Executing Committee has held its 18th meeting on 19.8.2020 with the State Level officers of State of Punjab, wherein, the various issues regarding control of pollution in river Ghaggar were discussed. While discussing on the issues of Environmental Flow and Watershed management, it was directed as under:

- A) The Executing Committee shall hold separate meetings with Department of Water Resource, Soil and Water Conservation, PPCB and other concerned departments within 3 weeks for which meeting date shall be conveyed shortly.**
- B) Issue regarding water shed management shall be discussed in the meeting to be held within next 3 weeks on issue of Environmental flow, wherein, where in the Departments namely Water Resources, Soil and water Conservation, PWSSB and PPCB shall be present."**

Therefore, the meeting of the Executing Committee has been held on 16.9.2020 to have discussion on the said issues and to come up with some outcome.

The point wise issues were taken up for discussion as under.

1. Environmental Flow

The Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources submitted as under.

- River Ghaggar is non perennial and Kaushalya dam has been constructed in its water course to store water in the reservoir and water supply scheme of towns of State of Haryana is based on dam water. Therefore, probably, in the present circumstances, it is difficult to maintain Environmental flow in the river.
- Banur Canal system, constructed in catchment area of river Ghaggar, is almost dry because of construction of Kaushalya dam. Moreover, there is dispute between the two States on water sharing issue of river Ghaggar in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Therefore, it is difficult to construct storage basins/ water retaining structures/embankments along river Ghaggar.
- Flood protection embankments have been constructed along river Ghaggar between Banur to Khanauri section. The Officers of PPCB may visit these sites and if possible, some proposal can be formulated to utilize these embankments for storage/ retaining of excess rain water.

It was suggested that some of the abundant drains/ ponds/creeks, if any, in the catchment area of river Ghaggar, may be utilized to retain excess runoff during monsoon period and discharge the same in river Ghaggar in the regulated way during lean period.

After detailed discussion on the issue, the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee constituted a Committee of the following departments and directed as under.

- ✓ **Department of Water Resources**
- ✓ **Punjab Pollution Control Board**
- ✓ **Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board**
- ✓ **Department of Soil and Water Conservation**
- ✓ **Any other department as per requirement.**

The Committee shall conduct detailed survey along river Ghaggar, prepare proposal/plan for construction of storage ponds/basin/reservoir/water retaining structures along river Ghaggar or any other mechanism which can be adopted to increase flow of clean water in the river to maintain Environmental Flow in the river to maintain ecosystem. The Committee shall submit its report within 2 months and the same shall be discussed in the next meeting of the Executing Committee which shall be held on 26.11.2020.

D. Singh

2. Watershed Management

The officer of Department of Soil and Water Conservation apprised as under.

- Presently, the Department is implementing watershed management schemes in Kandi area under the integrated watershed management program, wherein, erosion control structures are being constructed to protect soil and land.
- There is no scheme with the Department to provide water shed management structures under river Ghaggar project.

It was suggested in the meeting that watershed management structures may also be constructed by the Department of Rural Development Panchayat under MNREGA Scheme. Moreover, Forest Department may have such funds for management of water shed in the Forest Area.

After detailed discussion in the matter, the Chairman of the Executing Committee directed as under:

After detailed discussion on the issue, the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee constituted a Committee of the following departments and directed as under.

- ✓ **Department of Soil and Water Conservation**
- ✓ **Department of Water Resources**
- ✓ **Punjab Pollution Control Board**
- ✓ **Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board**
- ✓ **Any other department as per requirement.**

The Committee shall conduct detailed survey along river Ghaggar and suggest activities to be carried out to provide watershed management Structures. Based on the suggestions/ recommendations of the Committee, the Department of Soil and Water Conservation shall prepare feasibility report/project for construction of watershed management structures and the said report/project shall be discussed in the next meeting of the Executing Committee to held in its next meeting on 26.11.2020.

Sd/
Dr. Babu Ram

Sd/
Ms. Urvashi Gulati

sd/
Justice Pritam Pal, former Judge
Punjab & Haryana High Court
now as Chairman of Executing Committee

Note: The Chairman and members of the Monitoring Committee have given their concurrence on the minutes of the meeting.


17/11/2020