

MINUTES OF 59TH FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (UNDER THE J&K FOREST CONSERVATION ACT) HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI MADHAV LAL, IAS, CHIEF SECRETARY, JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT, AT CIVIL SECRETARIAT,

SRINAGAR, ON 08-08-2011.

The 59th meeting of Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under the J&K Forest (Conservation) Act, 1997, was held under the chairmanship of Shri Madhav Lal, IAS, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Government, at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, on 8th August, 2011.

The following members of the FAC / Special Invitees participated in the deliberations:-

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| 1. Shri Shantmanu IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to Govt.
Forest Department | MEMBER |
| 2. Shri R.D.Tiwari IFS
Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K | MEMBER |
| 3. Shri A.K.Singh IFS
Addl. PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K | MEMBER |
| 4. Shri Ravi Kumar Kesar IFS
Director, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K | MEMBER |
| 5. Shri Mukherjit Sharma, IFS
Director, Soil Conservation, J&K. | MEMBER |
| 6. Shri G.R.Bhagat,
Planning & Development Deptt. | Representative of Secretary,
Principal Secretary
Planning & Development |
| 7. Shri Ravi Mangotra,
Director General, Budget | Rep. of Commissioner/
Secretary, Finance |
| 8. Shri J.S. Manhas
Dy. Commissioner, Central | Representative of
Financial Commissioner
(Revenue) |

9. Prof. S.P.Singh Dutta (Environmentalist)

MEMBER (Non- Official)

10. Shri Shaleen Kabra, IAS

Spl. Invitee

Managing Director, J&K, SPDC

11. Brig. T.P.S. Rawat,

Spl. Invitee

Chief Engineer, Project Beacon

12. Shri D.L.Sharma,

Spl. Invitee

Chief Engineer, PMGSY, Jammu

13. Shri Altaf Hussain,

Representative of Commissioner/

Special Secretary, J&K Tourism Deptt.

Secretary, Tourism Deptt.

Spl. Invitee

14. Shri H.S. Salathia, IFS

MEMBER SECRETARY, FAC

Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA)

& Nodal Officer

The item-wise agenda of the meeting presented by Shri H.S.Salathia,IFS member Secretary, Forest Advisory Committee was discussed and deliberated upon by the participating members and the following decisions were taken:-

Agenda Item No.	Proposal	Decision of the Forest Advisory Committee
59.01	<i>Revised proposal to allow use of 13.10 hectare of forest land for construction of road from Parla Chakal to Balota Chigla under PMGSY in Ramnagar Forest Division.</i>	The proposal was rejected as it involved large number of trees, poles and saplings of the economically important species. The Indenting Agency was asked to give priority to those projects which benefits larger population with lesser ecological damage.
59.02	<i>Proposal to allow use of 0.0075 hectare of forest land for construction of 45 meter span bridge at Km. 1.57 on Chowkibal – Tangdar – Chamkot road (near TCP – 2 at Chowkibal Camp) by GREF in Kehmil Forest Division.</i>	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.03	<i>Proposal to allow use of 0.005 hectare of forest land for construction of 30 meter span bridge at Km. 0.28 on Chowkibal –Tangdar – Chamkot road (near TCP – 1 at Chowkibal Camp) by GREF in Kehmil Forest Division.</i>	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.04	<i>Proposal to allow use of 0.505 hectare of additional forest land for construction of Abutment A-1 and Pier of Mandial Bridge of the External Access Road to</i>	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal. (The proposal was cleared subject to the condition that the forest land involved for the construction of Abutment A-2 of Mandial Bridge falling

	Sawalakote Hydro-electric Project by the J&K, SPDC, in Batote Forest Division.	in Udampur Forest Division was the same or less than what was indented i.e. 0.161 hectare. The proposal for Abutment A-2 was received on 08.08.2011. Forest land involved is 0.161 Ha. and trees/poles 53)
59.05	Proposal to allow use of 0.642 hectare of forest land for construction of Mobile Middle School (with playground) at Danna by Education Department in Poonch Forest Division.	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.06	Proposal to allow felling of 1175 trees/ poles (Poplar and Willow) of Social Forestry Department involved in the construction of Adipora to Chinkipora Bypass road by PWD (R&B).	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.07	Proposal to allow felling/lopping of 82 trees/poles of Robinia and Poplar of Social Forestry Department for laying of 33 KV Transmission Line from village Nowshera to Lower Jehlum H.E. Project by PDD.	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.08	Proposal to allow use of 0.50 hectare of forest land for construction of Heliport at village Pichote (near Patnitop) by Patnitop Development Authority in Udampur Forest Division.	The proposal was deferred on the ground that there was legal binding of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (in I.A. No.401 filed in Writ Petition No.202 of 1995) that no construction or conversion could be permitted at Patnitop till ecological balance was restored. The Indenting Agency was asked to first get permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court after preparing a comprehensive Environment Management Plan in context of Patnitop area as a whole which should, inter alia, describe:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the extent of degradation caused in the past. (b) conservation measures adopted during all these years. (c) the resultant impact assessed in terms of ecological parameters, and (d) the future environmental safeguards to be adopted so as to keep the ecological balance always undisturbed.
59.09	Proposal to allow use of 9.57 hectare of forest land for dumping sites and diversion approaches for Mandial Bridge and Tunnel under Sawalakote Hydro-Electric Project by J&K SPDC in Batote Forest Division.	The proposal was deferred on the ground that the User Agency on one hand dumped the excavated material (generated due to construction of External Access Road) to their suitability on forest land without prior approval under FCA and on the other damaged the vegetative cover. Revised proposal was required to be submitted after taking into account the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Violation of the terms and conditions as laid down in the Government Order No:533-FST of 2003 Dated 08.12.2003 for construction of External Access Road to Sawalakot HEP. (b) Cognizance of the damage taken by the concerned territorial staff. (c) Identification of the suitable dumping sites for the excavated material to be generated due to construction of the remaining part of the External Access Road.
Agenda Item No.	Proposal	Decision of the Forest Advisory Committee
59.10	Proposal for felling permission of 5 number Poplar trees of Social Forestry Department coming in the approach road of the newly constructed bridge at Johama by PWD (R&B).	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.11	Proposal to allow felling of 13 number Poplar Poles of Social Forestry Department coming in the approach road of the Pantoon Bridge over river Jehlum at Nagbal – Ladoora by PWD (R&B) Department.	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.12	Proposal for felling of 103 number of Poplar trees/ poles of Social Forestry Department at Chhatergam – Bugam Canal coming under the 400 KV S/C Uri-II T/L of PGCI.	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.13	Proposal to allow use of 0.025 hectare of un-demarcated forest land at Gagore Plai Closure (Rakh Barotian) for construction of Primary School building by the Education Department in Kathua Forest Division.	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.14	Proposal to allow use of 0.91 hectare of forest land for construction of Passenger Aerial Ropeway from Patnitop near Vardhan Hotel to Sangote village by Patnitop Development Authority in Udampur Forest Division.	The proposal was deferred on the ground that there was legal binding of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (in I.A. No.401 filed in Writ Petition No.202 of 1995) that no construction or conversion could be permitted at Patnitop till ecological balance was restored. The Indenting Agency was asked to first get permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court after preparing a comprehensive Environment

		<p>Management Plan in context of Patnitop area as a whole which should, interalia, describe:-</p> <p>(a) the extent of degradation caused in the past.</p> <p>(b) conservation measures adopted during all these years.</p> <p>(c) the resultant impact assessed in terms of ecological parameters, and</p> <p>(d) the future environmental safeguards to be adopted so as to keep the ecological balance always undisturbed.</p>
59.15	<i>Proposal to allow use of 142.56 hectare of forest land for construction of 690 MW Rattle Hydro Electric Project at Drabshalla by the JK SPDC in Doda and Kishtwar Forest Divisions.</i>	<p>The proposal was deferred as some additional information was required to be furnished as under:-</p> <p>(a) Number of trees, poles and saplings involved to be given separately for each component i.e. main project, submergence, muck dumping and re-alignment of NH-1B.</p> <p>(b) The suitable dumping sites over the requisite forest land of 18.45 hectare to be identified, enlisted and shown on the map after joint survey of the area by the Forest Department and the Indenting Agency.</p> <p>With this additional information incorporated in the proposal, the Forest Advisory Committee required the Indenting Agency to give presentation about the Project in a meeting to be convened separately for the purpose so that all issues related to the proposal could be discussed and deliberated upon at length.</p>
59.16	<i>Revised proposal to allow use of 25.42 hectare of forest land for widening of Bandipora Gurez road, Phase-II, (Km. 42 to Km. 86) by GREF in Bandipora Forest Division.</i>	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.17	<i>Proposal to allow use of 0.125 hectare of forest land for construction of earthen Impounding Reservoir at Gaggar/ Shumnari (Yousmarg) by PHE in Pir Panjal Forest Division.</i>	The proposal was cleared on the terms and conditions as laid down in the proposal.
59.18	<i>Issue regarding requirement of boulders, stone, bajri etc. by the GREF for construction of roads.</i>	The Forest Advisory Committee was of the view that the proposal can be considered on case to case basis under the provisions of the guidelines/rules of the J&K Forest (Conservation) Act, 1997.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

H.S.Salathia, IFS

Chief Conservator of Forests, FCA

(Nodal officer)

Member Secretary, Forest Advisory Committee