

Minutes of the 5th 'Governing Council' meeting of the H.P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society, Bilaspur(HP)

The 5th 'Governing Council' meeting of the HP Aquaculture , Fishing and Marketing Society was held on 27th October 2003 in the chamber of Dr. A.R. Basu Secretary (Fisheries)-cum-Chairman AFMS at Shimla. The following attended the meeting :

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| 1 | Dr. A.R. Basu
Secretary(fisheries)
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla | Chairman |
| 2 | Sh. B.R. Koundal
Member
Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries
Himachal Pradesh | |
| 3 | Sh. B.D. Sharma
Member
Deputy Director of Fisheries
Patlikuhl, Distt. Kullu | |
| 4 | Sh. N.S. Chaudhary
Deputy Director(HQ)
Directorate of Fisheries
Himachal Pradesh | Invitee |
| 5 | Sh. J.R. Dogra
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mandi | Member |
| 6. | Sh. Gurcharan Singh
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Pong Dam | Member |
| 7. | Sh. D.K. Sharma
Member
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Chamba | |
| 8. | Sh. R.P. Dogra,
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Bilaspur | Member |
| 9. | Sh. Tapes Chohan
Fisheries Officer, Shimla | Member |
| 10. | Dr. Kuldip Kumar
Member | |

Advisor-cum-CEO
Secretary
HP Aquaculture, Fishing & Marketing Society
Bilaspur

Initiating the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the participating members and after brief introduction with each of them. Highlighted the need for holding frequent meeting of the Society. He said that this is necessary for speeding up the Society's programme, reviewable of activities and settlement of proposals. On being informed that currently the GC meeting are being held-half yearly, the Chairman instructed that this periodically may be made quarterly. Later the Chairman asked the member Secretary to initiate the proceeding.

Taking up the first item of the agenda viz. action taken on the decision taken in the last Governing Council meeting the Member Secretary stated that action on all the major decisions has been taken. These relate to purchase & collection of brood stock for the farms, construction of pathological laboratory. The NHPC funded project on Development of fisheries in Ravi river and GOI funded Mahseer projects have been transferred to the department ,BBMB funded project of Suketi Khad has been got sanctioned. Meeting of SJVN project has been held, one computer has been purchased from NORAD funds from the State electronic Corporation.

In case of consultancy offer to Sh. S.N. Ogla Env. Officer Lonavla farm, Member Secretary informed that Ogla has sent an agreement seeking consultancy fee of Rs. 25.00 lakhs the fee seem to be high but the problem is that he is the only scientist who is having requisite expertise on Mahseer breeding. Elaborating further Advisor(Fisheries) said that there are certain fishes like Mahseer and Hilsa, which are highly refractory to breeding and require proper expertise. Winding the issue the Chairman said that he would like to undertake a visit of Lonavla fish farm and meet the said expert prior to taking any final decision on the issue. He instructed the Advisor(Fisheries) to arrange the visit of Lonavla farm during coming December.

The house later confirmed the proceeding of the last GC meeting.

Item 2. Progress during the inter-meeting period:

The Member Secretary informed the house that during the reported period, all efforts were made to revive the seed rearing activities in all the farms after the setback of viral disease. A total of 2.0 lakhs & 0.45 lakhs were hatched at Patlikuhl and Nagni farms and raised to 1.87

troutlings. A portion of these juveniles was stocked in Trout Rivers while remaining were distributed to private trout growers. A stock of 40,000 fingerling has been kept at the farm for raising pan size fish for subsequent sale. It was also stated that Sangla & Dhamwari farms are under construction/renovation and minimum stock has been maintained in these farms. A stock of 1000 & 5000 fingerlings is being reared at Holi & Barot farms respectively.

Further a proposal for import of 2.00 lakhs eyed ova of rainbow trout to be distributed in five farms (Patlikuhl 1.00 lakh, Sangla 0.2 lakh, Nagni 0.3 lakh, Dhamwari 0.1 lakh, Holi 0.1 lakh) awaits approval of Govt. Reacting on it, the Chairman advised Member Secretary to collect more addresses by net surfing who can supply the eggs so that a comparative list of rates could be drawn prior to final sanction. The case be sent to Govt. with the list of suppliers and their rates.

2 (i) Upgradation of Trout feed:

The Chairman highlighted the need for qualitative upgradation of formulated feed. He opined that there is every chance of contamination of feed as the same is being dried in the open. Intervening on the issue, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Patlikuhl said that in the absence of suitable extruder cum drier, he has to report drying in the sunlight. According to Advisor (Fisheries) efforts to procure the drier are being made for a long period but no Indian firm has so far able to provide a drier which could befit our specification. The Norwegian consultants too have given rough design but that too has certain shortcoming.

After detailed discussion on the issue it was decided that the department may float a tender indicating specific requirement and later the parties may be called at Patlikuhl farm or a team of officers including a Norwegian trained officer and Deputy Director of Fisheries, patlikuhl visit their factories to judge the capacity of the supplier to provide requisite extruder cum drier vis-à-vis the rate offered. The help of Agro Industries officials may also be taken who have requisite experience in the formulation of animal feed. The matter be given due priority and resorted in a time bound manner As far installation of new feed at the farm as suggested by Norwegian consultants, it was deferred in view of heavy cost involved in the purchase of imported feed mill.

Further, as far use of old bags it was decided that taking in view the recommendation of Norwegian consultant, the old bags may not be used for packaging of formulated feed. The Patlikuhl farm may purchase new bags for storage and packaging of procured feed.

3. Progress of on-going projects:

a) NORAD project 'Fish health studies under rainbow trout farming in Himachal Pradesh'.

The Member Secretary informed the members that second visit of three Indian officials to NVI Oslo has been completed and they have since returned and joined duties. The Chairman emphasized the need for full involvement of these officials and their training should be put to use for fostering trout farming programme in the state. The Chairman also expressed satisfaction on initiation of construction work of Pathological Laboratory stressing that it should be completed as per indicated schedule.

On the issue of purchase of Olympus microscope it was decided that since the cost involved is quite significant, as such tenders may be invited indicating full specification and all procedural formalities be observed in the purchase through the committee set by the government for undertaking purchases in the Society. The house also decided that NORAD fund released by the Government to the department may be got transferred to the society for effecting the purchase of the microscope.

b) Holding of National workshop on Fish pathology:

The Chairman appreciated the decision of holding a national level workshop on Fish pathology during April at Kullu through Norwegian funds. Reacting on the proposal that central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai ---- an ICAR institute who has done pioneering work on fish diseases may be collaborated in holding this workshop was also approved by the house. The Chairman desired that follow up action may be taken up by the Advisor (Fisheries). Further it was decided that Deputy Director of Fisheries (H/Q) would act as nodal officer in holding the said workshops.

c) Disposal of Old Formulated trout feed and Fishmeal:

The Member Secretary informed that prior to outset of trout disease outbreak, a stock of 323 kg. of formulated feed and 2888 kg, is lying unused at Patlikuhl farm. The Norwegian scientists in their report had advised for discarding the feed/fishmeal in view of possible contamination. After taking all the pros and cons of using this suspect feed it was decided by the house that feed/fishmeal may be transferred to the departmental carp farms and be used as one of the feed component after getting it tested through a reputed laboratory. Intervening on the issue, the Advisor (Fisheries) suggested that in view

of herbivore feeding behaviors of carps, the proportion of fishmeal should not be more 8-10% in the formulation.

d) Payment of cost of trout feed by the department to the Society:

Regarding payment of trout feed being supplied to departmental farm from Patlikuhl farm, it was decided that no money should be charged. However, the supply may be made as per the realistic requirement and responsibilities may be fixed in case of spoilage or wastage of the feed at the farms.

e) Payment against purchase of eyed ova and fish seed:

The Member Secretary raised the issue of payment of price of imported-eyed ova & starter feed. Adding on the issue he said that genetic quality of imported eggs is suspect to doubt in view of heavy mortality encountered at Barot farm. This was conveyed to Norwegian scientists who arranged the supply during their visit to India. In case of starter feed too, the Norwegian scientists made the supply order and its delivery was delayed in view of release of permission by GOI. After detailed discussion it was decided by the house that the payment of seed and feed by Norwegian firms may be presently kept in abeyance.

f) Issuance of NOC to M/S Continental Tech Inc, Hyderabad:

The Member Secretary informed the house that M/S continental Intra Tech, Hyderabad has applied to the department for issuance of a 'No Objection Certificate' for establishing hydel project on Haripur Pankhnoj Nala, which is currently feeding the Patlikuhl farm. DDF Patlikuhl stated that with the abstraction of water of Haripur Nala, the functioning of the Indo-Norwegian farm could be seriously jeopardized and may pose a problem for survival of this major trout farm. Supplementing on the issue Advisor(fisheries) stated that the establishment of this hydel project is very well against the interest of the department and does not merit sanction. Summarizing on it the Chairman instructed that a letter incorporated these facts may be sent by the Advisor to HP State Electricity Board. The Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries may pursue the matter for cancellation of the sanction of the proposed.

4.) BBMB Project: Promotion of fisheries in the riparian area of Suketi Khad and adjacent streams.

The Member secretary informed that after long persuasions, the BBMB has sanctioned a project 'promotion of fisheries in the riparian area of

Suketi khad and adjacent streams' to the department envisaging financial grant of Rs. 72.00 lakhs. In order to implement the project there is a need to appoint a Nodal Officer and holding a meeting for delineating the programme under the project.

The Chairman approved the name of ADF Mandi as nodal officer for project implementation and asked the Advisor to send a letter for holding the project meeting under his Chairmanship.

5) NHPC funded project entitled 'development of fisheries in Ravi river':

The Member Secretary informed that as per decision of Govt. the said project has been transferred to the department. The outstanding funds of Rs. 3.83 lakhs have also been returned to the department.

6) SJVN project entitled 'Development in Fisheries in the Nathpa Jhakri reservoir and tail end of river Satluj:

The Member secretary informed the house that a meeting for revival of the progress of the project has been held during September 2003 with Director(Personnel) Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam at Shimla. During the meeting it was decided that a joint team of SJVN & department official would visit Sangla farm to assess the on spot progress of the project. Regarding request sent by the Principal Secretary (Fisheries) to SJVN for release of balance funds of Rs. 110.00 lakhs under the project, it was informed that 30% of the funds would be released after visit of inspection team. In an other decision taken during the meeting it was emphasized that department should take immediate action for stocking of fish seed in Nathpa Jhakri reservoir. Reacting on it the Chairman said the case for sanctioning of advance for transportation of fish seed to Nathpa Jhakri site has been approved by him. The Chairman also desired that Advisor(fisheries) should visit Sangla farm and expedite the progress of the project so that remittance under the project could be speeded up.

7) Cold water Aquaculture Pilot Project:

The Member Secretary informed the house that the proposal sent to Govt. regarding financial grant of Rs. 106.00 lakhs for implementing Cold water Aquaculture Project and Rs. 3.00 lakhs for holding workshop are likely to be cleared soon as informed by Assistant Commissioner Fisheries, Govt. of India.

8) Extension of Advisor-cum CEO for one more year:

The Member Secretary informed that vide Govt. notification No. Fish Aquaculture Society(A)1/2002 dated 7th August, Dr. Kuldip Kumar has been granted extension of one year to serve as

Advisor(fisheries) I the HP Aquaculture, Fishing & Marketing Society. The decision requires to vetted by the Society's Governing Council.

Reacting on it, the Chairman said that since the decision has been taken at the Govt. level as such the same may be vetted by the house.

9) **Mics. Issues:**

- The Member Secretary informed the house that a case for sanction of Rs. 1,22,156 lakhs for renovation/furnishing of Deoli rest house has been received from ADF Bilaspur. Expressing his reservation, the Chairman said that prudence must be shown in spending the funds on furnishing of rest house. Concomitant factor viz., their need, occupancy and level of expenditure must be considered especially I the light of repeated circulars issued by the Govt. the case would be properly scrutinized and later, sanction of finance department would be obtained.
 - The Member Secretary referred an other case of providing funds for purchase of vehicle for Pong reservoir. The case has been received from ADF Pong Dam and same has been sent for sanction. Justifying the need for replacement of vehicle ADF Pong Dam said that the present vehicle had already run over 3.00 lakh kms and is presently grounded. In view of large sprawling area of over 250000 ha interspersed by arms & bays it is very difficult to control fish poachers in the absence of any fast moving vehicle. Agreeing on the justification for replacement of Pong Office Vehicle, the Chairman said the finance department sanction is required for sanctioning vehicle and the case is being processed on these lines.
 - The Member Secretary stated that under SJVN project there is a financial provision of Rs 15.00 lakhs under the mics head. Distt. Kinnaur also falls under the control of ADF Shimla. There are two farms viz. Dhamwari and Sangla which require supervision & request visits of ADF & the same in not possible in the absence of vehicle. It is proposed to purchase a new vehicle for Shimla office from SJVN funds. It was decided that case with full justification be sent by the Advisor for processing and sanction.
- Concluding the meeting the Chairman emphasized the importance of research activities in the department. He said that better co-ordination should be made with HP agriculture University especially in the field of seed production & training.

Intervening on it the Advisor fisheries said that through the department is always keen for such co-operation but it has failed to receive technological support from the University despite release of liberal grants. Recently, during the outbreak of trout disease in trout, a recommendation was received from the University to treat the diseased affected fishes with formalin. The suggestion was

highly atrocious as formation is highly lethal and is used as perspective for dead specimens.

Reacting on it, the Director Fisheries stated that the department has already received a regret letter from Agriculture University on the issue. Showing strong resentment, the Chairman said that regret has no meaning on such issues and University scientists need to act responsibly. They ought to have provided scientific help during the disease epidemic. Supplementing on it, DDF Patlikuhl said that no support has ever been received by the University in the control of disease though NORAD funds under the Indo Norwegian project were trained a university official. The Chairman assured to look in to the matter.

10) Financial Statement of the Society:

The details of the financial statement of the Society were presented to all the members. The Chairman sought certain clarification especially the measures being, taken in order to import sustainability to the Society & which were replied. However

Details of Receipts and Expenditure of the Society for the period 2002-03 & 2003-04(till August, 03)

Source	Receipts(in rupees)		Total(Rs)	Expenditure(in Rs)		Total(Rs)	Balance
	2002-03	2003-04		2002-03	2003-04		
NHPC	20,00,000	NIL	20,00,000	16,16,850	3,83,150	20,00,000	NIL
NJPC	50,00,000	NIL	50,00,000	38,20,350	NIL	38,20,350	11,79,650
NORAD							