

H.P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society
(Government of Himachal Pradesh Undertaking)
(Regd. Office: Directorate of Fisheries, H.P. "Matsya Bhawan", Bilaspur-174 001)

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No. AFMS/3-1/2005-M-IV- 250 - 257

Dated: 07-03-2023

To

1. The Joint Secretary (Fisheries), to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur (H.P.)
3. Deputy Director of Fisheries, Trout Farm, Patlikuhl, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
4. Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mandi, Shimla, Chamba, Bilaspur & Pong Dam.

Subject: **Minutes of 28th Governing Council Meeting of HP Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society, Bilaspur held on 27th February, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, in his office chamber of Armsdale Building, Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Shimla.**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the Minutes of 28th Governing Council Meeting of HP Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society, Bilaspur held on 27th February, 2023 under the Chairmanship of **Sh. Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries)** to the Government of Himachal Pradesh-cum-Chairman, HPAFMS, in his office chamber, Armsdale Building Shimla, for favour of information and necessary action, please.

Encls: .a/a.

Yours faithfully,


(Satpal Mehta),
Chief Executive Officer
HP Aquaculture, Fishing & Marketing Society,
Email- ceofisheries-bil-qp@nic.in
Dated: 07-03-2023

Endst. No.: AFMS/3-1/2005-M-IV- 258 - 260

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Secretary (Finance), to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla for favour of information, please.
2. Private Secretary to Secretary (Fisheries), to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla for favour of information, please.
3. Webcell Incharge, Directorate of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, He is requested to upload the minutes of 28th Governing Council Meeting on the Society Website.


(Satpal Mehta),
Chief Executive Officer
HP Aquaculture, Fishing & Marketing Society,
Email- ceofisheries-bil-qp@nic.in

PROCEEDINGS OF 28th GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF H.P. AQUACULTURE, FISHING AND MARKETING SOCIETY, BILASPUR HELD ON 27th FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 3.00 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANHIP OF SH. RAKESH KANWAR, IAS, SECRETARY (FISHERIES) TO GOVT. OF H.P. AT HIS OFFICE CHAMBER IN H.P. SECRETARIAT AT SHIMLA.

Following officers participated in the meeting

#	Name & Designation	Position in the Society
1	Ms. Urmil Gupta Joint Secretary (Fisheries) to the Govt. of H.P.	Member
2	Ms. Reena Representative of Finance Deptt.	Member
3	Sh. Khem Singh Thakur, Deputy Director Fisheries, Trout Farm Patlikuhl, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)	Member
4	Sh. Jai Singh, Assistant Director Fisheries, PongDam Distt. Kangra (H.P.) through V.C.	Member
5	Sh. Pankaj Thakur, Assistant Director Fisheries, Mandi Distt. Mandi (H.P.)	Member
6	Sh. Sandeep Kumar, Assistant Director Fisheries, Bilaspur Distt. Bilaspur	Member
7	Sh. Bhupinder Kumar, Assistant Director Fisheries, Chamba Distt. Chamba (H.P.)	Member
8	Sh. Somnath, Assistant Director Fisheries, Shimla Distt. Shimla (H.P.)	Member
9	Sh. Satpal Mehta, Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries- cum- Chief Executive Officer, HP, Aquaculture, Fishing & Marketing Society, Bilaspur (H.P)	Member Secretary

At the outset, Chairman welcomed all the participating members of Governing Council in the meeting and asked member secretary to take up agenda items for discussion. Thereupon, the following items were discussed and decision taken are shown as below:

Item # 1:

CONFIRMATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 27th GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING.

Member Secretary informed that minutes of 27th Governing Council Meeting of H.P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society, Bilaspur held on 14th June 2021 were circulated to all the members and no comments has been received from any of the member, as such the item was put up for confirmation by the Governing Council.

Since no comments were received from any member hence proceedings of 27th Governing Council meeting were confirmed.

- (i) **UTILIZATION OF FUNDS (918.00 LAC) SANCTIONED UNDER NMPS- A COMPONENT OF RKVY, FOR INITIATING CAGE CULTURE SCHEME, IN STATE RESERVOIRS AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT, DURING 2012-13.**

This scheme has two components as detailed below:-

- a) **FUNDS AMOUNTING TO Rs. 668.00 LAC RECEIVED UNDER NMPS – A COMPONENT OF RKVY FOR INITIATING CAGE CULTURE SCHEME, IN STATE RESERVOIRS DURING 2012-13.**

Member Secretary informed that funds to the tune of Rs. 668.00 lac received under NMPS- a component of RKVY during 2012-13 for 'Cage Culture' by the Department of Fisheries which were to be utilized in Society mode for the upgradation/expansion of fish seed farm Deoli (Gagret) Distt. Una and the works are being executed through HPSIDC and engineering wing of HPAFMS, which are completed. Detail of works sanctioned, funds utilized, funds in balance is given at **Annexure-A**.

Member Secretary has submitted that necessary sanction for utilization of balance amount of Rs. 1,04,277/- on workshops, mela & seminar etc, has already obtained from competent authority but due to spread of pandemic the workshop, mela & seminar could not be convened and now this amount has been already allotted to Assistant Director Fisheries Bilaspur for organizing forth coming Nalwari fair.

After detailed discussion on this issue worthy Chairman has approved utilization of Rs. 1,04,277+Rs. 7,486 amounting to Rs. 1,11,763/- for fisheries exhibition of fisheries department to be displayed in Nalwari festival to be held during March, 2023 at Bilaspur and closed this account.

Action: DWF/CEO

(b) Aquaculture Development through Integrated Approach:

Member Secretary informed that as per approval of SLSC, a sum of Rs. 250.00 lac sanctioned under this scheme during 2012-13 have been utilized in districts Una, Solan and Kangra which has been clubbed with the same quantum of funds received under this scheme during 2013-14. Detail of the funds amounting to Rs. 500.00 lac (2012-13 & 2013-14) is given at **Annexure-B**.

House felt satisfaction over the progress of this project and worthy Chairman has desired immediate utilization of balance amount earmarked for training purpose.

Member Secretary has informed the house that necessary training to all concerned Fisheries Societies and Departmental officials has been provided at their respective units from 11-11-2019 to 23-11-2019. He further submitted that remaining amount which is near about 0.7486 lac will be spent in near future on training to Departmental officers/officials and cooperative society members.

After detailed discussion on this issue worthy Chairman has approved utilization of these funds for fisheries exhibition of fisheries department to be displayed in Nalwari festival to be held during March, 2023 at Bilaspur and closed this account.

Action: DWF/CEO

(ii) Purchase of Fish Federation Building property in Bilaspur Town for Fisheries Department by H. P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society.

Member Secretary informed that consequent upon the decision taken by worthy Chairman HPAFMS-cum-Principal Secretary (Fisheries) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh in connection with a court case of Fish Federation Bilaspur for the clearance of dues of its employees, a building of Fish Federation situated in Bilaspur town was purchased after

depositing Rs. 12.00 lac as advance money and for rest of payment value was to be assessed by HPPWD, for which Society had already deposited sum of Rs. 26,39,000/- with the Liquidator-cum District Inspector Cooperative Societies Bilaspur but Liquidator had returned the cheque of Rs. 14,39,000/- back to the Society. He neither handed over the possession of said building to the Department nor refunded the advance of Rs, 12.00 lac with interest as well as evaluation charges of Rs 23,900/- paid to HPPWD despite of issuance of several notices. Now it has also come into the notice of Department that the ownership of land and building in question is with HP Govt. and not with federation and Liquidator of the Gobind Sagar Fisheries Cooperative Marketing & Supply Federation Limited Bilaspur has sought NOC of the same in his favour from the Govt. Member Secretary has informed the house that conditional NOC has been given by DWF on 31-12-2019 to the federation.

After detailed discussion on this point the Worthy Chairman has endorsed the action and directed that when this property will be finally disposed off by the federation money given by the society will be taken back and also directed to submit status note of this.

Action: DWF-cum-CEO

(iii) Audit Paras pertaining to the formation of H. P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society.

Member Secretary informed that Accountant General Himachal Pradesh had raised audit paras in the Department of Fisheries pertaining to the formation of H. P. Aquaculture, Fishing and Marketing Society and its functioning. These paras are mainly on the deposition of income of activity centres of the Society into Society account and deposit of fisheries development funds being received from HEP's into Society account. Consequent upon the service of a notice from Income Tax Department, Society has applied for exemption under section 10 (46) of Income Tax Act.

In order to take action on these issues, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Fisheries) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and based on the recommendations of this committee, a decision was taken at Govt. level that income of the activity centres of the Society i.e. trout farm Patlikuhl, Barot and fish farm Deoli (Bilaspur) be deposited into Govt. Treasury instead of HP AFMS accounts but fisheries development funds being received from HEP's for the mitigation of fisheries losses caused due to the construction of Hydel Projects which has stopped fish migration for their breeding and feeding both, shall be continued to be deposited in the Society account and this decision has been implemented from October 2015.

In the 22nd meeting, Chairperson felt that decision of depositing income of activity centres of the Society into Govt. Treasury needs re-consideration since Society is doing important work for the strengthening of the Department and its developmental schemes. Participating in the discussion Special Secretary (Finance) to the Govt. of HP was also of the same view and he proposed that in case complete income of these centres is not deposited in the Society then at least 50% part of the income of these activity centres can be deposited in the Society to keep its working smoothly as has happened in some other cases also. DWF HP and other members also pointed out that since these funds are being received from the HEP's for the mitigation of fisheries losses being caused by the construction of dams across state rivers, and these funds are meant for compensating fisheries losses hence funds should be deposited in Society account. Chairperson was also of the same view that fisheries development funds should not be deposited in the Treasury as these funds are required to be utilized for mitigating fisheries losses in the state.

It was decided that DWF-cum-CEO will get a note from Chartered Accountant of the Society indicating rational of Society being under the purview of Income Tax and status of the case filed for Income Tax

exemption under section 10 (46) of Income Tax Act. Further, a note shall be prepared and submitted by DWF regarding audit paras raised by AGHP pertaining to the formation of HP AFMS and deposit of income of activity centres into Govt. Treasury instead of Society account and paras raised regarding fisheries development funds of HEP's also for further discussion with concerned quarter. As per decision taken in the last meeting a brief note on account of exemption of Society under section 10(46) of Income Tax was obtained from the Chartered Account which was later on submitted to Chairperson, HPAFMS-cum-ACS (Fish.) to the Govt. of H.P. (copy enclosed). Further, a note prepared by DWF regarding audit paras raised by AGHP pertaining to the formation of HPAFMS has also been submitted to the Govt. It was decided that CEO will pursue the Income Tax case with concerned through Chartered Accountant. Since accounts of the Fisheries Development Funds received/being received from HEP's are maintained by HPAFMS, hence it was unanimously decided that 50% amount of the interest accrued on these funds be utilized by HPAFMS for its activities/programmes, henceforth.

After detailed discussion on this issue it has been decided that a gentle D.O. letter may be issued at Govt. level to Income Tax Department to consider the request of Society on priority basis and the decisions taken in earlier meeting were also endorsed. Worthy Chairman also wants detail of income tax notice with all relevant documents.

Action: CEO

(iii) Acquiring of a new vehicle out of Society funds for touring of Directorate officers.

Member Secretary has informed that there is only one pool vehicle available with Directorate for touring of its officers. These officers have to visit out of headquarter regularly in connection with activities being performed by the Department all over the state. Some touring of these

officers are scheduled on same date/day at different venues and due to non availability vehicle scheduled visit have to be deferred or cancelled which cause a great convenience in smooth functioning of Department activities. To evade from such like impediments procurement of a new vehicle for Directorate is very essential. Due to paucity of budget/funds department is not in position to acquire a new vehicle of its meager budgetary provision. He further stated that no spare driver is with the department and there is complete ban on new recruitments. As such services of a driver will have to be outsourced from H.P. Govt. paneled service providing agency in the state to handle this vehicle. So procurement of a new vehicle and outsource services of a driver in the interest of public development activities being performed by the Department in the state may kindly be approved out of Society funds available with it for the present. The tentative cost of vehicle proposed to be acquired is Rs. 9,35,453/-(Rupees nine lac thirty five thousand four hundred fifty three) only on GeM portal. Proforma Invoice from agency concerned is also placed.

Action taken: As per decision of Hon'ble council in last meeting vehicle has been acquisition through GeM portal.

Since acquisition of vehicle has been made as per approval of Hon'ble council hence item is dropped.

New item:

- (i) **Expenditure statement of the Society for the financial year 2020-21 & 2021-22.**

Member Secretary informed that the accounts of Society for financial year 2020-21 & 2021-22 which has been audited by the Chartered Accountant of the Society and balance sheet of the same for 2020-21 & 2021-22 is placed before the honorable Governing council for consideration and approval (enclosed as **Annexure-D & E**).

Action taken: After detailed deliverance the house felt satisfaction on expenditure of the Society for the financial year 2020-21 & 2021-22 and approved the same in single voice.

(ii) Regarding enhancement of remuneration of honorarium paid employees of the Society.

Member Secretary has informed the house that incumbents engaged on honorarium basis in the Society are being paid honorarium as decided 8 years ago i.e. in 2014. Every incumbents engaged through the Society is getting financial benefit time to time in consonance of Govt. order/ policy but honorarium paid have not get any enhancement in their honorarium. The Member Secretary has requested the house to give due consideration in this regard and honorarium of these employees may be enhanced to possible extent. Keeping in view the resources of income of the Society.

After detailed discussion on this point the house desired to know the norms decided for such engagements in the society and remuneration being paid to them presently. This matter is desired to be put up for further consideration in ensuing Governing council meeting.

Action: CEO

(iii) Regarding Medical Leave to honorarium paid employees of the Society.

Member Secretary has informed the house that the contractual, outsourced employees of the Society are getting 10/6 days medical leave in a year. While they all are in there young age. In other hand the honorarium paid employees of the Society are retired employees and are in there old age but no medical leave facility is provided to them by the Society. Therefore Member Secretary requests the house to give due consideration in the matter and atleast 10 days medical leave may also be allowed in favour of these employees.

After detailed discussion in this regard worthy Chairman has desired to establish some norms/rules for providing medical leave facility to honorarium paid employees of the Society. This matter is desired to be put up for further consideration in ensuing Governing council meeting.

Action: CEO

(iv) Regarding engagement in the office of Assistant Director of Fisheries, Palampur.

Member Secretary has informed the house that Assistant Director of Fisheries, Palampur has intimated that due to shortages of class-IV (Peon) in his office a great inconvenience is being experienced in smooth working of office and requested for outsourcing services of a helper in his office. Matter was placed before worthy Chairman of HPAFMS and after getting his kind approval services of a Helper is outsourced in ADF Office Palampur Division w.e.f. 10-01-2022.

Keeping in view the urgency and approval obtained on file in this regard the engagement of a Helper in Palampur Division so made is approved and item dropped.

(v) Regarding outsources of technical Assistant / Data Entry Operators.

Member Secretary has informed the house that against centrally sponsored blue revolution project named which is over w.e.f. 31-07-2021 and services of a Technical Assistant and two Data Entry Operators were outsourced in Directorate office. After completion of this project their services are again taken on outsource basis w.e.f. 06-08-2021 in Directorate office due to considerable shortfall in regular sanctioned post of ministerial cadre and will continue for further period.

Keeping in view the urgency and approval obtained on file in this regard the engagement of Technical assistant/ Data Entry Operator in Directorate office so made is approved and item dropped.

(vi) Regarding outsourcing of manpower.

Member Secretary has informed the house that Department has created infrastructure such as Angler lodges, fish farm & fish raceways etc. at various places in the state but due to non-availability of manpower the Department is not in position to put them in optimum operational functioning. He further shown necessity of outsourcing following manpower from H.P. Govt. paneled service providing agency for functioning of the same upto required extent:-

Sr. No.	Place where deployment will be made	Detail of manpower required		
		Cook-cum-chowkidar	Part time sweeper	Helper
1.	Fish Farm Nalagarh	01	--	03
2.	Trout farm Hamni Distt. Kullu (H.P.)	01	01	---
3.	Mahseer Farm Machhial Distt. Mandi (H.P.)	01	---	--
4.	Trout Farm Holi Distt. Chamba (H.P.)	01	---	--
5.	Angling hut Lathiyani Distt. Una (H.P.)	01	01	--
6.	Fish farm Badripur Distt. Sirmour (H.P.)	01	01	03
7.	Fish Farm Deoli (Gagret) Distt. Una (H.P.)	01	--	03
8.	Trout farm Janjehli Distt. Mandi (H.P.)	--	--	03
9.	Angling hut Bharmour Distt. Chamba (H.P.)	01	---	---
	Total:-	08	03	12

After detailed discussion on this issue worthy Chairman has desired the detailed of the agenda and also wants to provide better facility to tourist/angler in angling hut with complete package of two/three days with good amount and also seek detail of demanded employee with justification and put the matter in next Governing Council meeting.

Action: DWF-cum-CEO

(vii) Regarding increase of Accounting Fee of Chartered Accountant.

Member Secretary has informed the house that the accounts of society are being finalized by Chartered Accountant Mr. Alok Krishan, Chandigarh from 2010-2011 and accounting fee amounting to Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) per balance sheet/annum. Now he has requested to revise it as Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand) + GST per year. Keeping in view the inflation of rates of every objects in the present the demand of CA seems to be quite genuine. Therefore house is requested to approve this proposal of CA.

The matter has been consider meticulously by the council and enhancement of accounting fee of CA from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per annum+ GST in view of prevailing circumstances.

Action: CEO

(viii) Regarding increase of salary of Technical Assistant on outsource basis.

Member Secretary has informed the house that services of a Technical Assistant Mrs. Sonika Devi is outsourced in Directorate office from M/S Veagle Security Services, Neavdeep Building, Shimla (H.P.). She has requested to enhance her remuneration as per Finance Department Notification No. Fin(C)-B(7)-2/2021 dated 12-01-2022 which is pertaining only to contractual appointee in state Departments. Matter was referred to worthy Secretary (Fisheries) to the Govt. of H.P. who have directed to put the same in ensuing Governing Council meeting scheduled for 27-02-

2023. As such matter is being placed before Hon'ble council for due consideration and decision.

After detailed deliverance on this issue worthy Chairman pointed out that notification under which enhancement of remuneration sought by said incumbent is exclusively meant for regular/contractual appointee of state Govt. and it would be not wise to correlate this notification with a outsources manpower. However keeping in view the work load of her explained stated by member secretary she may be paid @ Rs. 20,000/- per month lumpsum after avoiding any financial as well as other lapses on this account. This post will not be equated with Govt. employees.

Action: CEO

Any other item with the permission of Chair.

(1) Regarding outsourcing of service a Driver for newly acquired vehicle.

Deputy Director Fisheries, Patlikuhal Distt. Kullu (H.P.) has informed the house that a new Bolero Camper for carriage of fishes and other material such as fish feed etc. has been purchased through GeM portal in his Division. This vehicle supply the fish feed prepared in feed mill at Patlikuhal throughout the state Govt. farms as well as to trout farmers. There is only a regular Driver with his Division who is handling the vehicle attached with him for running of said new vehicle a services of a Driver is required to be outsourced as there is no spare driver with the Department. Member Secretary has also recommended this version of Deputy Director Fisheries.

After detailed discussion worthy Chairman has approved outsourcing of a Driver in Patlikuhal Division for operation of Bolero camper purchased there recently.

Action: CEO

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chair.