

MINUTES OF THE 37TH GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD ON 10TH & 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT CHENNAI

PRESENT

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM | - | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna | - | Vice Chairman |
| 3. Dr. Amarjeet Singh Nanda
Animal Husbandry Commissioner | }
} | |
| 4. Shri Hem Pande, IAS
Joint Secretary (AW), MoEF | }
} | |
| 5. Shri Guljarilal Soni | } | |
| 6. Dr. J.C. Kochar | } | |
| 7. Shri Doulat Jain | } | Members |
| 8. Dr. Arun Varma | } | |
| 9. Brig S.S. Chohan, Rep. Of MCG | } | |
| 10. Dr. Goutam Mukherjee, Rep. of KMC | } | |
| 11. Dr. Sunil Kumar
Dy. Director In-charge,
Central Research Institute, Noida | }
}
} | |
| 12. Smt. Amala Akkineni | } | |
| 13. Ms. Norma Alvares | } | |
| 14. Shri Anjani Kumar
Director, (AW), MoEF | }
} | Special Invitee |
| 15. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar | } | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The following Members of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS, Ms. Jasjit Purewal, Ms. Anjali Sharma requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/c), Environment & Forests addressed the Board meeting on 10.9.2012. The Board Members introduced themselves to the Hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Chairman made a power point presentation about the activities and achievements of the Board. Hon'ble Minister in her address to the Board members praised the activities and achievements of the Board and assured all possible help from the Ministry for the noble cause of Animal Welfare and the Golden Jubilee celebrations. After the departure of Hon'ble Minister the Agenda points in the 37th GM were taken up for discussion.

ITEM NO.1: Approval of Annual Report 2011-12 of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2011-12.

The Board considered the Annual Report for the year 2011-12 and approved the same. It was resolved that as and when the separate Audit Report and Audited Accounts are received from the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Departments) then it will be circulated the Members for adoption and further necessary action.

[Accts]

ITEM NO.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 29th and 30th November, 2011.

The Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 29th and 30th November, 2011 were confirmed.

ITEM NO.3: Report on action taken on the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 29th and 30th November, 2011.

The Board noted the action taken on the decision of the 44th AGM and directed that a final time bound notice is to be sent to all defaulting AWOs who have not submitted utilization certificates of the grants released to them (21 days notice). Thereafter those organizations who have not furnished the UCs are to be served with legal notice for recovery proceedings and consider for blacklisting/de-recognition of the organization. The Joint Secretary (AW) informed that for the transferred schemes other than AWBI Plan scheme, the utilization certificates pending before 2004-05, should be handled in the Animal Welfare Division with the concerned Ministries like Social Justice, Statistics & Programme Implementation and Culture.

[UI,UII,HEO]

ITEM NO.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the 117th and 118th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 13.1.2012 and 18.5.2012 and Action taken Report of the 118th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 18.5.2012.

The Board ratified the Minutes of the 117th and 118th Executive Meeting of the Board and noted the action taken on the decisions of the Meeting.

ITEM NO.5: Approval of Revised Estimates 2012-13 and Budget Estimates 2013-14 for submission to Ministry.

The Board approved the Revised Estimates for 2012-13 (Rs.33.10 crores) and Budget Estimates for 2013-14 (Rs.37.60 crores) in respect of all the schemes for further necessary action.

[Accts]

ITEM NO.6: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of Utilization Certificate under Regular Grant and CSS.

The Board noted that the UC pendency is on the higher side on account of UCs pending for the year 2011-12 and resolved that action should be taken to bring down the UC pendency.

It was also decided that a final time bound notice is to be sent to all defaulting AWOs who have not submitted utilization certificates of the grants released to them (21 days notice). Thereafter those organizations who have not furnished the UCs are to be served with legal notice for recovery proceedings and consider them for blacklisting / de-recognition.

[UI,UII,HEO]

ITEM NO.7: Consideration of matter regarding disbursement of arrears of VI Pay Commission to AWBI staff and filling up of the additional posts consequent to the report of SIU, Ministry of Finance.

The Board noted that the matter is under consideration of the Ministry.

ITEM NO.8: Filling up of permanent sanctioned post by adjustment from the existing staff in Animal Welfare Board of India

The Board deferred the matter awaiting directions of the Ministry.

ITEM NO.9: Discuss issue of proposed AWBI Golden Jubilee celebration, connected matters and fund raising.

The Chairman appraised the Board about the proposed National Seminar to be held on 6th December 2012 and requested all the Members to participate actively for the occasion. The Board was also briefed by Mr. Himanshu Malhotra, Animal Welfare activist, well known film maker & Co-opted member, AWBI and his team about the 10 minutes film to be made for the AWBI Golden Jubilee celebrations and approved the offer of Rs.1.50 lakhs (+) taxes (+) travel expenses for making of the film. The script for the film will be prepared and sent by the film maker to the Board for their time bound comments in five days time.

Presentation by BCH: Shri Sriram Vepuri of Blue Cross of Hyderabad gave a presentation of the Humane Education Project and Awareness Training programme which will focus on the following targets:

Children – Students of schools

Youth- Students of Veterinary Colleges, Arts & Law Colleges and Engineering Colleges

Adults- Corporates, Media, Govt. Offices (Police Dept, AH Dept and Local Bodies), Sensitive communities

Trainers – Teachers, AWO Volunteers

The HE Project is to be carried out in Chennai, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

The Board approved the same.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.10: Consideration of the matter relating to Humane Education Grant to C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai/Karuna International/STRAW/Indian Vegetarian Congress.

The Board requested Smt. Norma Alvares & Vice-Chairman to revise the guidelines for Humane Education grants. The revised guidelines were put up before the Board for its consideration and Board approved the same as given in Annexure –I.

The Board approved the proposals of CPREEC Chennai and Karuna International Chennai ,in principle, for an amount of Rs.2.5 lakhs each subject to fulfillment of the criteria of revised guidelines.

The Board noted that the organization STRAW has not submitted the utilization certificate of the initial grant of Rs.10,000/- given in 2003-04 and did not approve the proposal. The organization should be addressed to obtain the UC and audited accounts.

The Board also considered the proposal of Indian Vegetarian Congress and directed to get more details from the organization regarding Point No.1- Printing of pamphlets etc and Point No.6 - Providing water tube, grains which are related to animal welfare.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.11: Consideration of the matter relating to the documents given by Dr. Arun Varma, Member, AWBI on functioning of State Animal Welfare Boards of North East Region.

The Board thanked Dr. Arun Varma, Member for the efforts and decided one regional seminar will be conducted at Guwahati to sensitize about the animal welfare concerns in North-Eastern States.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.12: Consideration of the matter relating to consideration of grant to Brahmarishi Devra Baba Jeev Jantu Kalyan Ashram Sansthan, Devariya, UP under the Animal Welfare Fortnight Celebration 2012.

The Board did not agree to the proposal of grant sought by the organization Brahmarishi Devra Baba Jeev Jantu Kalyan Ashram Sansthan, Devariya, UP.

The Board also recommended that the Humane Education Grant should also be considered by the Grants Sub-Committee of the Board since this is also one of the grants given to AWOs.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.13: Consideration of the matter regarding ratification of decision for Renewal of Recognition of all AWOs once in every three years.

The Board ratified the decision of renewal of recognition of all AWOs once in every three years and decided that those organizations who are regularly in correspondence with the Board and submit documents like UC, Audited Accounts, activity reports etc shall be renewed without an inspection. Those organizations which do not correspond with the Board, do not furnish the UCs, Audited Accounts, and are having adverse remarks should be inspected by the Government agencies for consideration of taking decision of renewal of recognition.

[HEO,SA]

The Board also resolved that the organizations who have spent over 75% of the total expenditure on animal welfare activities and having animal welfare as one of the primary aims and objectives should be considered as "Animal Welfare Organizations having animal welfare as its primary objective" and shall be considered for recognition after one year of its registration under the relevant Act. Those organizations which applies for recognition and do not fall under the above category need not be considered for recognition and renewal of recognition.

ITEM NO.14: Consideration of the matter regarding ratification of decision for not considering grant to AWOs who have got Shelter House/Ambulance grant within 10 years/5 years respectively.

The Board ratified the decision to not give shelter house and ambulance grant to AWOs who have taken the grants within the previous 10 years and 5 years respectively.

[UI]

ITEM NO.15: Matter relating to latest Status reports on State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCAs established in various States.

The Board directed to send letters to the SAWBs and request them to send the reconstitution documents since some of SAWBs constituted were as late as in 1991 and the reconstitution ought to have been done.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.16: Matter relating to preparation and printing of posters, pamphlets and education materials for distribution to various AWOs/SPCAs to create awareness and to sensitize the public on the issues related to animal welfare.

The Board approved for the printing of posters, pamphlets and education materials regarding Humane Education awareness matter. The Board directed the HEO and Editor to keep track of the HE materials available and bring it to the notice of the Editorial Committee for printing of the HE materials.

[HEO,Editor]

ITEM NO.17: Consideration of matter relating to conducting of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Training Programme at NIAW, Ballabgarh.

The Board noted the lack of faculties and personnel at the NIAW and decided to start HAWO training programmes at Chennai in collaboration with Blue Cross of India, Chennai and at Hyderabad in collaboration with Blue Cross of Hyderabad.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.18: Consideration of matter relating to important pending court cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The Board noted the briefing given by Smt. Norma Alvares, Member regarding court cases. It was decided that the Board should go ahead with the inspection by the team formed by AWBI for inspection of slaughter houses. The Pollution Control Board is to be one of the team Members in the inspection of slaughter houses to cover the mandate of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgement.

It was decided that the Board should write to District Collector, Kakinada to look into the matter and ensure that the animals are kept in good health condition. It was directed that the details about the condition of working and health condition of animals in SPCA Kakinada is to be obtained from Smt. Amala Akkineni with inputs from Shri S.B. Das, Co-opted Member.

The Board also decided that in the case of blacklisting/de-recognition of AWOs the Board shall give personal hearing to the concerned AWO(s) to ensure that natural justice is given to the AWO(s). This point is to be mentioned in the show cause notice sent to the AWOs.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.19: Some important Judgements for information of Board.

The Board noted the briefing given by Smt. Norma Alvares, Member regarding judgements given by the Courts.

ITEM NO.20: Brief on action taken on complaints/information received regarding cruelty to animals.

The Board noted the action taken on complaints/information received regarding cruelty to animals.

ITEM NO.21: Matter regarding conducting of various Vet Train Programme training programmes at Gangtok and Delhi.

The Board noted the matter and decided to send circulars to civic bodies requesting them to send the Vets/Para Vets/Dog catchers and ABC programme Managers for training by either VBB/HIS/WVS.

[HEO]

ITEM NO.22: Matter regarding consideration of Prani Mitra Awards and Jeev Daya Awards for performing outstanding working in the field of Animal Welfare.

It was decided that the details and citations of the individuals who are nominated for Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards should be forwarded to the Board to enable the Board to scrutinize the same for taking decision.

Bringing companion dogs by foreign tourists: The Board discussed about the problems of foreign breed of dogs being brought in to the country by the foreign tourists as companion dogs and then being left over in the country. It was decided that the Board should write to the appropriate Ministry to curb the practice of foreign tourists leaving their companion dogs in the country since most of the dogs are not equipped to survive on account of weather / climatic conditions.

Dr. Nanda, Animal Husbandry Commissioner addressed the Board on the following:

To make a list of items priority wise which should be addressed immediately. To send it to the States for implementation

Every year at least one week to devoted for AW (AW Fortnight in January is devoted every year for this programme).

One Conference (with States) every year. On the sideline workshops to be organized to teach people about AW.

ABC programme is doing well. In his opinion it would be better if the sterilization programme is for female dogs only.

[HEO]

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.1.: Consideration of matter relating to compliant filed by Shri Naresh Kadyan to directed AWBI for formulating rules for camels and elephants transportation.

It was decided to circulate this to the Sub-Committee for taking a decision regarding this matter.

[HEO]

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.2: Considering the observations made by the Local Audit Report for the year 2010-11 (Transaction Audit) of the Board.

The Board considered the observations of the audit that the Board should take constructive action. It was also noted that Chairman had sent a letter to the Chief Secretary and DGPs of the States on 31.8.2012. The office may send reminders for follow/action taken reports.

[HEO]

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.3: Considering the natural calamity grant to all the recognized gaushalas in the State of Rajasthan.

Since the Board is being given Budget of only Rs.10.00 lakhs in this year under the Natural Calamity Scheme the Board decided to inform the Rajasthan State Gaushala Federation to ask the organization to write to the National Disaster Management Authority for financial help.

[U I]

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.4: Considering the matter relating to distribution of materials regarding animal welfare activity guideline (Hindi language) for Gujarat.

The Board noted that the proposal received is not adequate since the Board does not have any activity guideline at present and did not consider the same.

[HEO]

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.5: Considering the matter relating to annual rabies mission received from Mr. Luke Gamble.

The Board approved the proposal of Mr. Luke Gamble for vaccination of 50000 dogs over a period of 30 days by travelling around India to ten key stations. [U]

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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