

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Sustainable Development Empowered Technical Advisory Committee
chaired by Mr.Yelappa Reddy, IAS (Retd) dated 10.09.08 at Metro Meeting Hall

Members present at the meeting:

1	Shri. AN Yellappa reddy, IAS (Retd)	Chairman	9880198549
2	Shri Jayaram,IAS,CF,BMRCL	Member	-
3	Shri S.A.Hubert, SFS,DCF,BBMP	Member	9980822315
4	Shri. M R Suresh, ACF	Convenor	9845174447
5	Shri HK Jagadish	ACF Sub Division II	9448113664
6	Dr. H Parmesh	Member	9845022689/225566738
7	Dr. DC Sharma	Member	9845691706/23322009
8.	Dr. Subarayan Prasanna	Member	28602228
9.	K.R.Mahadevaswamy, Deputy Chief Engineer,BMRCL	Applicant Officer	9448291153
10	Shri Subramanya Gudge Deputy Chief Engineer,BMRCL	“	9448291151
11	Shri Puttaswamy, RFO,BBMP	“	9900247712
12	Shri M.S.Ravikumar, RFO, BBMP	“	9480017818

Absent Members

1	Prof M Shekar Madhu	Member	22932245
2	Dr. Carol Upadhya	Member	9341311453/22185141
3.	Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur	Member	9448079790/22453655/26710740

The CF &Environmental Officer, BMRCL welcomed all the members present and the officers present and started the meeting. The Hon’ble Chairman asked the ACF , subdivision-2 to present the details of the sites he had visited and submit his report. Following this, the Chairman asked the Convenor to find out details of flood gates from BWSSB engineers, BDA, Forest Dept , BMRCL and discuss with Shri Venkatraman about this and present the details to the Committee.

Note: not official translation

The Hon'ble Chairman, furthering the discussion, said that Mr. D.C.sharma should inspect the NICE road (from Electronic City to Mysore Road) and present a report of the same. D.C.Sharma responded that the Committee should limit itself to ongoing developmental works, in which tree felling was required.

The Honble Chairman said that the scope of the Committee extended to drainage works, road quality and the sustainability of developmental works and not merely tree felling.

The ACF, subdivision-2 , presented his report abt tree felling required on Magadi and Mysore road because of widening works, and made a power point presentation. CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL presented a PPT on the technical design aspects of the metro stations, before the Committee. On this road (name not mentioned) he said that on the left side, 16 trees had to be felled and 4 had to be pruned. On the right side, 31 trees had to be felled.

The Honble Chairman, responding to this, said that the ACF, Subdivision-1 should make a site inspection on this spot where BMRCL works will be carried out, and give appropriate suggestions for planting of saplings. Following this, in boulevard areas, selected saplings should be planted, he opined.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that in boulevard areas, maurya and madhumati saplings should be planted at 50 metre intervals, ideally. Responding to this, the chairman said that 'decorative' saplings should be selected and planted.

The Chairman and members inspected the road widening maps and granted permission for widening. The Chirman said that in Chord road, where works would lead to tree felling, saplings had to be planted as per the wishes of the community .

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna, responding to this, said that in available sites, especially where there is pedestrian movement, planting of saplings should be undertaken. In response to this, CF & Environmental Officer said that this would obstruct pedestrian movement and public utilities.

In response, Dr. Prasanna said that tree planting should be undertaken after shifting of public utilities. In Outer and Inner ring roads, tree planting should be undertaken after shifting of utilities.

CF & Environmnetal Officer, BMRCL said that these could be undertaken on roads, with fast lanes. In response, the Chairman said that Dr. Prasanna, ACF and Krishna Reddy should make a site inspection and suggest measures for constructing a buffer boulevard.

ACF, Subdivision-1, said that compensatory Afforestation measures will be undertaken as fundas have been deposited by BMRCL for this.

Dr. D.C.Sharma said that in B.Cc.Layout, there is ample space for tree planting measures.

The Honble Chairman, talking abt this, said that the railway bridge near B.CC should be inspected by D.C.Sharma and he should submit a report to the Committee.

ACF, Subdivision-2, made aPPT presentation said that for works between Vijayanagar and Hosehalli stop, 60 trees should be removed on the right side of the road, and he submitted details of the same. Out of this, 16 trees could be pruned and 44 needed to be felled completely. The remaining 152 trees could be preserved in their current state. In Nagarbhavi road in the vicinity, he said that 460 saplings have been planted.

On this matter, CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that funds for compensatory Afforestation measures had been transferred to BBMP, and these measures were being undertaken by BBMP. Responding to this, D.C.Sharma said that details of compensatory Afforestation within Bangalore city should be made available.

The Hon'ble Chairman, speaking on this matter, said that from 1978 within Bangalore city limits, steps had been taken in stages to green the city and plant saplings, on a large scale. He said that as the ACF, Subdivision-2 had detailed in his presentation abt Afforestation measures, D.C.Sharma could make a site inspection abt this.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that in 1994-97, saplings had been planted on a large scale. The present programme of planting saplings will be undertaken on the outer zone of the city, and he said that Vijayanagar boulevard was an appropriate spot.

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna responded that saplings should be planted, keeping in mind the requirements of pedestrian safety also.

Dr. D.C.Sharma said that this should be first tried out in one area, and then carried forward.

RFO (West Zone) said that 3000 saplings have already been planted in Nandini Layout and 1500-2000 saplings more could be planted here.

The Honble Chairman responding to this said that as funds from BMRCL had been released, 1500 saplings should be planted in areas surrounding the areas where trees will be felled. Where 10 trees are felled, 5000 saplings should be planted. In this regard, senior citizens should be made environmentally sensitive and all these works should be undertaken in a transparent manner. The details abt this should be put up online on BBMP and BMRCL websites.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that in the matter of planting saplings, bamboo saplings, jaricanda should be excluded as they turn out to be dangerous. The Hon'ble Chairman appreciated the suggestion.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chairman said that these works should be undertaken appropriately.

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ACF, Subdivision-2, said that even though there was a park in Mahalakshmi Layout, there was no scope of planting saplings there. In this matter, Dr. D.C.Sharma responded that it was appropriate to plant saplings in the lawns in the middle of parks.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL made a PpT presentation on the tree felling and pruning measures to be undertaken, and said that a detailed list of this had been prepared.

The Hon'ble Chairman said that measures to plant saplings in Gayatri Devi park were being undertaken.

The Convenor said that converting this park into a wood lot was appropriate.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL, responding to this said that the park should be converted into a tree park, and this would be an appropriate environmental measure. The Hon'ble Chairman responded that planting fruit trees in this park was an appropriate measure.

Responding to this, Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna said that rain water harvesting measures ought to be undertaken.

The Hon'ble Chairman, opining on the tree species, panchavalca las saplings should be planted in the interest of the public.

The Convenor, talking about this, said that to preserve the water table of the park and the surrounding area, basuri saplings should be planted. In response to this, Dr. D.C.Sharma said that tree planting measures, such as the ones undertaken by garment factories recently, should be encouraged, especially when they are engaged in planting fast growing, large tree species.

The Hon'ble Chairman said that all these aspects should be listed out and published on the website. At the end of the list, the details of whether funds have been contributed by BBMP/ BMRCL should be shown.

DCF, Subdivision-2, made a power point presentation about the stretch from Shivshankar Circle to Siddaiah Circle, where 29 trees will be retained in the present state. Out of the remaining trees, he said that 34 were fully grown.

The chairman said that only trees adjoining the ramp should be felled, and saplings should be planted instead.

The Convenor responded that 52 trees can be left intact and 76 trees have been notified, because they are in a state of decay and pose a danger to life and property, and hence they have to be felled. 230 more trees have to be felled for developmental works.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL responded that in this region, to ensure that the road was not obstructed, trees will be felled and compensatory Afforestation measures will be undertaken.

He said that the BMRCL alignment had been undertaken taking into consideration protection of Bangalore Medical College, Venkataswamy temple and Tippu Sultan palace. Following this, he said that international geographical opinion on the present alignment has been taken, to ensure that these sites are not affected by the metro construction.

Dr. d.C.Sharma, in response to this, said that other alignments ought to be considered, and this would be an ideal measure.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that compensation would be granted for any damage caused by construction.

Dr.subbarayan Prasanna said that further progress on works should be dependent on technical examination , to see if the requirements of the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act are met with.

CF & Environmental Officer,BMRCL presented the complete EIA before the committee, and also presented details of the major road network. He said that all works undertaken has been on the basis of public consultations and obtaining the opinion of citizens.

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna responded that in addition to EIA, it is necessary to examine if the project has to be within the framework of the Karnataka Town & Country Planning Act.

Dr.D.C.Sharma said that EIA should also include the inconveniences and disturbances to the public caused by the project.

In response, the Chairman said that the requirements of Chapter 5, Town & Country Planning Act, has to be complied with.

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna, in response, said that the ACF and the CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL should look into the matter of compliance with the Town & Country Planning Act., and in consideration of suggestions from public.

The Hon'ble Chairman asked Dr. Prasanna to study the Town & Country Planning Act, and detail it out at the next meeting of the Committee.

CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that this project was based on the EMP and the suggestions of the public.

In response, Dr. Paramesh said that in the morning , at about 6:30, it is very difficult for people to travel on Bellary Road, and almost impossible for people to cross the road. He pointed out that there were no provisions for pedestrians on this road.

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The Chairman responded that the chief Engineer, Major Roads should make a site inspection and construct sky walks and take other appropriate measures, and taking into account the suggestions of Dr. D.C.sharma.

Dr. Prasanna suggested that the administration of Sophia School should be contacted, before taking appropriate measures.

In this matter, the Chairman said that he himself would initiate a discussion with Sophia school and Chief Engineer, Major Roads to ensure appropriate measures will be undertaken.

Following this, the President said that about 3000 groves (gundu thopus) and 10000 'ashwathkattes' have been destroyed. In Vijayanagar, 100 acres of grove have been destroyed. In Anekal rural, approximately 1.5 % of the area were groves, and 1-10 acres from areas where mining is carried out, should be reserved for groves. He said that villagers were very well informed about these aspects. BMRCL should be responsible for planting saplings in mining areas that had to be closed down.

Dr. Prasanna responded that B.P.A areas of Rajarajeshwari Nagar had been reserved for parks, but there were lot of encroachments, especially by Global Technology and other unauthorized buildings.

The Hon'ble Chairman made the following suggestions:

1. Details of land obtained by Global Technology to be obtained from District Collector, Bangalore Urban
2. Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna and Executive Engineer to make a site inspection, and identify encroached area.
3. CF & Environmental Officer, BMRCL to identify mining sites and to undertake rain harvesting measures there. In this regard, the Joint Commissioner, Rajarajeshwari Nagar should be contacted and details, especially those related to the Ramaswamy Committee report, should be obtained.

Following this, the Chairman said that the Commissioner, BBMP had to be invited for the next meeting.

Following this discussion, the members of the Committee along with the Chairman granted permission to fell the following trees:

Road Details	Place	Trees to be felled completely	Trees which need to be pruned
Yeshwantpur to Swastik	Road (Left)	102	21
	Road (Right)	90	21
	Total	192	42
Shivshankar Circle to Siddaiah Circle	Road (Left)	171	13
	Road (Right)	154	29
	Total	325	42
Mysore Road to Magadi Road	Road (Left)	69	04
	Road (Right)	110	22
	Total	179	26

HeThe meeting came to its end, after the Chairman thanked all present.

Chairman

Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development

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