

Minutes of the meeting convened by Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister on 26.03.2024 to review Kerala State Solid Waste Management Project.

The meeting chaired by Dr. K M Abraham, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, started at 3.00 PM.(List of participants is annexed).

1. Chief Principal Secretary to CM welcomed the participants to the meeting and enquired about the status of the KSWMP project funded by World Bank. He enquired about the major impediments in implementation of the project and the measures be taken to hasten the implementation of the project.
2. Project Director, KSWMP gave a brief presentation on the major components of the project and the major milestones that have been achieved till now. The project is for a period of six years from 2021 to 2027 with a total project value of 300 million USD.
3. She then explained the organizational structure of the project with Steering Committee at the apex, followed by the empowered committee. Project Director reports to the Empowered Committee. There are additional State Project Management Unit and District Management Units which are responsible for implementation of the project. In addition to this there is a Technical Support centre also. They all report to the Project Director.
4. ACS, LSGD (WM) Department while talking about the hurdles faced in implementation of the project commented that there was an issue in meeting the stringent checks and standards that have been put in place by the World Bank. This has created a delay in getting the projects approved. It has now been decided that one sample project will be created for each of the categories, which will be placed before the World Bank team for approval and based on this document further projects shall be taken up.
5. She also commented that there is a major hurdle with delegation of powers, with almost all the projects requiring approval from the World Bank.
6. CPS to CM suggested that a discussion may be held with the World Bank team to facilitate the delegation of powers.
7. ACS, LSGD (WM) department stressed the need for finalizing the Solid Waste Management plans at the earliest to take the project forward. It has now been decided that the SWM plan for Pathanamthitta shall be finalised and get approved from the World Bank and based on that a workshop shall be held for further finalization of the other Urban Local Bodies.
8. Project Director, KSWMP informed that the draft SWM plans for 38 ULBs, incorporating the WB comments shall be ready by end of April 2024.

9. ACS, LSGD (WM) commented that one of the other major issues is about finalization of the sanitary landfill sites. It seems that none of the landfill sites shall be completed by 2027. There have been issues due to public protests in finalizing the sites. It seems that now Brahmapuram site in Ernakulam is a potential sanitary landfill once the bio-mining is completed.
10. They are looking at addressing the issues of inert waste using the proposed Waste to Energy Plants.
11. Project Director, KSWMP informed that they are looking at significant progress in at least one sanitary landfill. They have identified lands across Kerala to be developed for Sanitary Landfill sites which are at different stages of getting approval.
12. Special Secretary, LSGD informed that there is also effort to acquire land using direct purchase of land and that they have already moved a note for the same to get approval from the Government.
13. Special Secretary, LSGD also informed the meeting that under the terms of the Loan Agreement between the World Bank and GoI and the Project Agreement between the Bank and the State of Kerala, the State is bound to follow the World Bank Procurement Regulations 2020. A few of the conditions of the Bank Procurement Regulations conflict with the prevailing Regulations of the State. As per the agreement, when there is a conflict, the Bank Regulations would prevail. Now, under KSWMP funding, the ULBs are ready to proceed with tendering of various Works. This includes exemption from fully adopting PRICE-3.
14. Secondly, inclusion of arbitration clause as a standard clause for redressal of disputes between the Tendering Authority and the Contractor during execution of work, which the State Government had removed in its tendering documents. ACS, LSGD (WM) department also suggested that arbitration may not cover delays due to protests, agitation and other force majeure events.
15. CPS to CM suggested that he will convene a meeting with the concerned Secretaries to address the concerns and sort the same.
16. On the way forward, Project Director, KSWMP detailed the different activities that have been proposed for the next six months. The work would hasten once the issue with respect to PRICE-3 is sorted out.
17. Special Secretary, LSGD also informed the meeting that there might be issues during implementation. There might be adjustments on the budget heads towards ensuring ease of implementation as has been utilized in other projects such as KSTP.
18. CPS to CM suggested that Special Secretary, LSGD may prepare a schema for the same.

After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken.

1. CPS to CM shall call a meeting at 03.00 pm on 02nd April 2024 with the Finance Secretary and other concerned, to address the concerns of PRICE-3 adoption and sorting the arbitration clause. **(Action: CPS to CM)**
2. Follow up on getting the Government approval towards direct purchase of land for setting up the sanitary landfill sites. **(Action: Special Secretary, LSGD)**
3. Project Director, KSWMP shall prepare a note on the major issues and concerns in implementation of the project and submit it to the office of CPS to CM. This shall address concerns regarding land identification for Sanitary Landfill and procurement issues. **(Action: Project Director, KSWMP)**
4. KSWMP shall conduct workshops with the Urban Local Bodies to finalize the SWM plans once the SWM plan for Pathanmthitta is finalized by World Bank. **(Action: Project Director, KSWMP)**
5. Discussion with World Bank officials regarding the delegation of powers **(Action: ACS, LSGD(WM))**
6. The scheme maybe prepared for adjustments on the budget heads towards ensuring ease of implementation as has been utilized in other projects such as KSTP. **(Action: Special Secretary, LSGD)**

The meeting concluded at 4:00 PM.

Sd./-
Dr.KM Abraham
CPS to Chief Minister.

SI No.	Name	Designation
1	Smt.Sarada Muraleedharan	Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD (WM)
2	Shri. K Mohammed Y Safirulla	Special Secretary, LSGD
3	Smt. Divya S. Iyer	Project Director, KSWMP
4	Shri. Subodh S.	Deputy Project Director, KSWMP
5	Shri. Renju R. Pillai	AD, SWM. KSWMP

6	Shri. Jayakumar J.S.	USTE, KSWMP
7.	Shri. Pravinjith K.P.	Head, RF, KSWMP
8	Shri. Jayachandran R.	FME, KSWMP
9.	Shri. Anoop P	PH (Infra), KSWMP
10	Shri. Hiran Krishna	M & E Expert, KSWMP