

**MINUTES OF THE 115TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD AT NEW DELHI
ON 22ND MARCH 2011**

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinnay Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Hem Pande, I.A.S.	}	
Joint Secretary (AW) MOEF	}	
4. Shri Guljarilal Soni	}	EC Members
5. Dr. J.C. Kochar	}	
6. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
7. Ms. Jasjit Purewal	}	
8. Dr. Asgar Samoon, IAS	}	Member AWBI & Invitee in EC
9. Dr. Parveen Goel, Director, NIAW	}	Invitee
10. Shri S. Vinod Kumar	}	Assistant Secretary, AWBI

Hon. Chairman welcomed all the Executive Committee Members of the Board and special invitees for the 115th Executive Committee Meeting.

Chairman informed the EC that a three Member team(s) from the Ministry of Finance had visited the AWBI headquarters from 7th March to 16th March 2011 to conduct the staff work measurement study of the Board. He informed the Board that the Finance Ministry team interacted with all the staff members to assess the quantum of work being carried out in the Board office. The office has provided all the required information to the Ministry team about the factual heavy workload and responsibilities being carried out by the Board and expressed his hope that the Finance Ministry would give a positive report.

Chairman also informed the EC about the increase in the incidences of man-dog conflict and stated that the population of stray dogs are increasing at the rate almost touching 1:20 dogs to people ratio since the civic bodies are insensitive to the concept of animal birth control programme and there is lack in the implementation of solid waste management policy by civic bodies which is compounding the problem. The Animal Husbandry Department says that they have no role in addressing the growing stray dog population and rabies as dogs do not come under livestock category. The Board is trying to facilitate the promotion of animal birth control programme by joining hands with several Municipal Corporations in major cities making them joint stake holders in a participatory model. He also expressed the need to have seminars on the concept of dog population control involving the Municipal Corporations, Urban Development Ministry, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Animal Husbandry Department to sensitize them about the necessity and urgency to start and implement ABC programme on a war footing by setting up a task force for this purpose to achieve success in the ABC/AR

programme. He stressed that unless the Animal Husbandry Department and the civic bodies join hands in implementing the programme the success will not be achieved as the primary responsibility to address the stray dog population is that of civic bodies and Panchayats. AWBI will be too happy to facilitate the initiation of the programme and arrange training programme.

Chairman also informed the EC members that he along with Dr. Goel and Dr. Varma attended a Seminar on Rabies and stray dog problem at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi. NCDC is also carrying out anti-rabies programme in five cities to control rabies. NCDC authorities have also requested for participation of civic bodies, Department of Animal Husbandry and AWBI in their Rabies Control programme to have intersectoral coordination.

Chairman also briefed the EC members about the training programme conducted in Gurgaon under the aegis of the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon for Master Humane Animal Handlers, wherein more than 50 Master Animal Handlers were imparted training by Dr. Mark Johnson from USA. Each Master Trainer will train 20 Dog Catchers in their respective NGOs. He also informed about the training programme carried out for Vets/Para Vets and dog catchers by the World Wide Veterinary Service and IPAN in Ooty and informed that he intends to make these training programmes to come to NIAW since NIAW has more infrastructural facilities than any of the private organizations can provide.

Vice Chairman informed the EC about the FAO meeting he had attended in Italy last week and stressed that we need to sterilize and vaccinate at least 70% of the Dog population to make an impact for controlling the population and Rabies in street dogs.

Item No.1: Latest financial position/budget allocation for the year 2010-11 and Grant-in-aid released to AWOs.

The EC noted the financial statement provided and expressed satisfaction that the Board has utilized almost 90 – 95% of the grants received in all the schemes except in Natural Calamity. The Joint Secretary informed the EC that the Board has submitted a proposal for re-appropriation of Rs.25.00 lakhs from the Natural Calamity Relief scheme to the Shelter House scheme and assured that if Rules permits then re-appropriation would be considered by the Ministry.

Item No.2: Consideration of the matter relating to ratification of grant-in-aid sanctioned/released under Regular Grant and CSS Schemes to AWOs after the 43rd AGM held on 27th and 28th January 2011 and sanction/release of Rescue Cattle grant for the year 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The EC ratified the release of grant to the AWOs given in the list and the six organizations recognized as per Board decision. List enclosed as Annexure - I

Item No.3: Consideration of matter regarding killing of stray dogs in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir and Perumabakkam Panchayat near Chennai.

The EC took note of the matter as such Dr. Asgar Samoon, IAS, Member AWBI and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir was invited for the meeting as a special invitee, he clarified that because of the non implementation of ABC programme in the J&K State, the dog population has risen to great proportions and that there were several incidents of people being bitten by rabid dogs and succumbing to the disease and in such a situation he had given instructions that rabid dogs need to be removed. He informed the EC that he had not given any instructions to shoot at sight any street dog and that his instructions were quoted out of context in the media. The EC noted the information given and decided that the AWBI Member, who is also a Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, should now facilitate to ensure that the concerned Departments implement solid waste management more efficiently in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. It was also decided that a special Stray Dog Sterilization programme would be organized by AWBI in Srinagar under the patronage of the Divisional Commissioner from 15th April 2011 wherein an awareness campaign and ABC programme would be implemented in right earnest. The Board also decided that the Municipal Corporation of Srinagar should enter into a MOU with the Board to ensure that the programme is made sustainable. ABC programme has to be conducted by the Municipal Corporation of Srinagar after the AWBI initial thrust. The SPCA Kashmir should also be involved in a big way in the awareness campaign etc. The EC also resolved that the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir would in future issue media report as Member AWBI to inform the general public about the programmes to be undertaken to ensure that man-dog conflict is addressed in a humane manner.

The EC also noted the incidents of dog killing reported in the suburbs of Chennai and other places and resolved that the Board can only advise the District Law enforcement authorities to take action against the offenders and it shall be the duty of the law enforcement agencies to take appropriate action against the culprits after due process. The SPCAs / NGOs operating in the area are to be advised to initiate immediate action in such incidents.

Item No.4: Consideration of matter regarding problem related to ABC programme in Chandigarh and Panchkula, Haryana.

The EC considered and adopted the report submitted by the AWBI team of Ms. Jasjit Purewal and Brig. Sukhdial and resolved that the ABC programme shall be carried out in Chandigarh and Panchkula as per the norms laid out in AWBI's SOP for ABC and that the Chairman should write to Shri Pradeep Mehra, IAS, Advisor to Administrator U.T. of Chandigarh to ensure that the deficiencies in carrying out ABC programme are removed and all concerned adopt good practices in ABC.

Item No.5: Consideration of matter relating to the nomination of members for the Regional Sub-Committees of the Board.

The EC resolved that the EC / AWBI Members identified in the meeting for five Regional Sub-Committees viz. Southern, Eastern, Northern, Central and North-Eastern Region would forward the names of the committed animal welfare people of proven repute to the Chairman to be included in the respective sub-committees and that the sub-committees would start carrying out interaction processes with the various State Governments for forming SAWBs, District SPCAs and also Dept. of Animal Husbandry for carrying out inspections etc. This action should be completed by 30th April, 2011.

The Southern Region would have the Members consisting of the Vice Chairman Dr. S. Chinny Krishna and Smt. Amala Akkineni and other names are to be forwarded by the Members.

It was decided that since the Eastern Region consisting of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand does not have a Member of the Board from that area, Dr. Amaresh Chatterjee, Ex-Member, AWBI be requested to head the Regional Sub-Committee and sponsor names of suitable persons for inclusion in the Sub-Committee.

The Northern Region would have the Members namely Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS, Shri A.K. Srivastava, IGF, Wildlife, Ms. Jasjit Purewal, Ms. Anjali Sharma and Dr. J.C. Kochar, Dr.Arun Varma and other names as may be forwarded by the Members.

The Central Region would have the Members namely Shri Guljarilal Soni, Ms. Normal Alvares and it was also decided that Shri Abodh Aras and Shri G.N. Kapoor of Nagpur, Shri Anil Sancheti from Mandsaur, M.P. and Shri Kamlesh Bhai Shah should also be invited to join the Regional Sub-Committee. Also any other names as may be forwarded by the Members.

The EC noted that the only Member from the North East (Mrs. (Dr.) M. Lahkar) is a serving Professor in a Government Medical College, resolved to identify suitable members to be included in the NE Regional Sub Committee. Brig. (Retd.) S.S. Chohan, VSM who has served in all states in North East region has volunteered to join this committee. They will also be assisted by the Chairman.

Item No.6: Consideration of matter relating to the training programmes for Honorary Animal Welfare Officers for issuing I.D. Cards.

The Board resolved to co-ordinate with the NIAW to impart training to the HAWO applicants and also decided that in selected cases the HAWO cards may be issued to those who have not participated in the HAWO training programme like Ex-Members of the Board, Ex-Co-opted Members and for also names of those who are strongly recommended by the Board Members. The Director, NIAW assured that the training programme would be started from the month of April onwards and several training

programmes will be carried out in batches at the NIAW, Ballabghargh and that the NIAW will endeavour to impart training on various aspects of animal welfare regularly.

The EC also decided that the duties to be assigned to HAWO should be limited to specific issues of animal welfare which may be five or six disciplines instead of the broad guidelines given earlier.

Item No.7: Consideration of matter relating to Animal Handlers Training Programme held at Gurgaon and Vet Train Programme at Ooty, Tamil Nadu.

The EC approved for the recognition of the courses conducted by the WVS and IPAN at Ooty and by VBB at Gurgaon and approved to provide its accreditation on the certificates being given to the participants. It was also resolved that NIAW should revive the Vet training programme carried out earlier in the NIAW by VBB.

Additional Item No.1: Consideration for forwarding of applications for 2011-12 to AWOs under Regular Grant Scheme.

The EC decided that the applications to the animal welfare organizations for Regular Grant 2011-12 be printed and forwarded to the organizations and consolidated list of the AWOs to whom applications are sent be also forwarded to the State Animal Welfare Boards for their information.

It was also decided that the copy of the letters sent to inspection agencies for carrying out inspection of the AWOs be also forwarded to the AWOs to avoid delay in carrying of inspections.

No Member of the Board shall inspect any AWO but may randomly visit the AWOs and submit his report of the AWOs' functioning to the Chairman for further necessary action.

Additional Item No.2: Consideration of letter dt.12.3.2011 from Shri A.P. Singhal, Chairman, Sri Girdhar Go-seva Samiti, Kota, Rajasthan.

The EC noted the matter.

Additional Item No.3: Matter brought to the notice of Chair by Ms. Jasjit Purewal, Member, AWBI.

- i) **Sub Committee** – The EC requested Ms. Jasjit Purewal to submit a detailed proposal for consideration of EC.
- ii) **National Help line** – The EC decided that the National help line can be considered if the arrangements are made to have a recorded voice for

- providing advice to the caller to address / take suitable action on various animal welfare related issues / challenges. Board should start collecting Data from all states in this regard.
- iii) **AWBI Budgetary Allocations** – The matter was discussed and budget is utilized properly under various heads. The demand of additional budget be projected to MoEF.
 - iv) **A Model ABC Equation using Delhi as our First Site** – A detailed proposal be provided for implementing the model.
 - v) **AWOs (with AWBI cards) for Delhi and other Cities-** The matter was discussed in detail in the EC agenda points. FIAPo members are given due consideration for HAWO card issue and AWBI – FIAPo work hand in hand.
 - vi) **Tabling of the minutes of the Chandigarh meeting for approval and endorsement of the Chairman and Executive Committee** – Already discussed in EC points.
 - vii) **Gaushalas** – Gaushalas have been part and parcel of the AWBI's Animal Welfare programmes right from inception of the Board. The Board tries to offer its help to all AWOs who are providing care and help for any species of animals and is not favouring any particular species.
 - viii) **AWBI website and publications** - it is a good suggestion to have online and electronic publications should be implemented in a phased manner. Suitable directions to Editor of Publications be issued in this regard in writing by the Assistant Secretary.

Additional Item No.4: Matter regarding re-imbusement of expenses for feeding and AR programme of dogs sheltered at various AWOs in Delhi during CWG.

The EC considered the proposal of the MCD for the reimbursement of feeding charges of dogs @Rs.20/- per day and Rs.25/- per dog for AR and approved the same subject to the condition that the Board will bear only 50% of the expenditure involved and which will met from the donations account.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair.