

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 22.11.2023 at AWBI HQs. at Sikri, Ballabgarh, Haryana

The following members attended the meeting on 22.11.2023 at AWBI HQs. at Sikri, Ballabgarh, Haryana: -

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| 1. Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS
Joint Secretary, (AWD) MoFAH&D | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member |
| 3. Shri Girish J. Shah | - | Member |
| 4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | - | Member |
| 5. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi | - | Member |
| 6. Ms. Anjali Gopalan | - | Member |
| 7. Prof. R.S. Chauhan | - | Member |
| 8. Dr. Hitesh Jani | - | Member |
| 9. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar | - | Member |
| 10. Dr. P. K. Atul, Rep. of ICMR | - | Member |
| 11. Dr. Manilal Valliyate | - | Member |
| 12. Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)-
MoFAH&D | Secretary In-charge, AWBI | |
| 13. Mrs. Prachi Jain | - | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The Chairman welcomed all the Members in the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Board present in the meeting. Thereafter, the Chairman AWBI welcomed Dr. Manilal Valliyate included as Member of the Board after reconstitution of the Board and requested all the Board members to give their self-introduction so that they are aware of them. Chairman AWBI informed that the Board is having representation of very selective talent from the various walks of life. All the Board Members present in the meeting gave their self-introduction.

The Chairman then requested the Secretary to present the agenda items.

Item No.1: Ratifications of the minutes of the Board Meetings and Committee meetings

- (i). **Ratification of the Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 13.09.2022.**

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 13.09.2022

- (ii). **Ratification of the Minutes of the 51st General Meeting of the Board held on 04.07.2023.**

The Board ratified and confirmed 51st General Meeting of the Board held on 04.07.2023

(iii). Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meetings of the Board held on 17.01.2023 and 19.07.2023.

The Board ratified and confirmed and minutes of both the Grant Committees Meetings of the Board held on 17.01.2023 and 19.07.2023.

(iv) Ratification of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2023.

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 126th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2023.

(v) Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Project Recognition Committee Meetings of the Board held on 20.07.2023 and 12.09.2023

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the two meetings of the ABC Project Recognition Committee of the Board held on 20.07.2023 and 12.09.2023.

(vi) Ratification of the Minutes of the Honorary Animal Welfare Representative Committee Meetings of the Board held on 19.07.2023

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of Honorary Animal Welfare Representative Committee of the Board held on 19.07.2023.

(vii) Ratification of the Minutes of the Performing Animals Committee held from 09.06.2023 to till 14.11.2023

The Board noted the details of the minutes of the Performing Animals Committee meetings held regularly from 09.06.2023 to 14.11.2023 wherein 288 Pre-shoot permissions and 470 No Objection Certificates were issued.

Item No.2: Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate allocated by the Ministry to the Animal Welfare Board of India for the current financial year 2023-24

The matter pertaining to the budget allocation of the Board and the budget reduced by the Ministry in the RE from the originally allocated BE of Rs.1200.00 lakhs for the financial year 2023-24 to Rs.1169.00 lakhs in RE. The Board has done its internal allocation as per the requirement of the scheme during its General Meeting held on 04.07.2023. The details of budget allocation under BE and RE for the financial year 2023-24 and its internal allotment for schemes etc. is tabulated below which was agreed by the Board: -

Budget Allocation for the year 2023-24

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	Schemes	BE Allocation 2023-24	Allocation of BE	RE Allocation 2023-24	Remarks / Reason
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			allotted by Ministry 2023-24		
1	Grant in Aid Salary	330.00	300.00	300.00	Pay & allowances of AWBI staff and Salary of outsourced staff
2	Grant in Aid General (Admin & Office Expenses)	250.00	250.00	200.00	Website Cloud Storage charges, Lease line rental, e-office charges and other admin. expenses, including procurement of Assets, Meeting expenses etc.
3	Regular Grant	400.00	310.00	425.00	Regular Grants to AWOs
4	Provision of Shelter House	150.00	150.00	68.00	Shelter Grant to AWOs
5	Provision of Ambulance Services	50.00	50.00	36.00	Priority will be given on urgent need basis in each district
6	Animal Birth Control (ABC) Scheme	15.00	45.00	45.00	No FA proposals in ABC, will be utilized for training of vet and Para vets of NGO conducting ABC.
7	Natural Calamity Relief to Animals	5.00	5.00	5.00	-
8	Minor Works (Repair and Maintenance)	-	90.00	90.00	For renovation of Buildings
	Total Budget	1200.00	1200.00	1169.00	

The budget was agreed and approved by the Board.

Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI suggested that the grant-in-aid amount received by the Board from the Ministry may be distributed amongst all registered AWOs based on their number of animals sheltered.

The Chairman stated that the matter may be discussed in the Grants Committee and the recommendations of the GC may be placed before the Board for approval.

Item No.3: Consideration of the matter pertaining to implantation of microchipping in the Circus animals

The matter pertaining to the implantation of microchipping in the circus animals as directed by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying stating that the Board to develop an “Advance online system for registration of circus (AOSRC) on a war footing basis for keeping records and tracking of all performing animals being used in circuses through micro-chipping. The registration under AOSRC should be made mandatory to keep track of the animals of the circuses through microchipping. The information regarding the movement of performing animals of the circuses should be regularly updated on E-platform.

The Board during the meeting was apprised that the AWBI office has conducted a meeting with the Proprietors of the circuses on 12.06.2023 and detailed process of online registration of performing animals used in circuses was discussed. Since, these performing animals used in the circuses are not having micro chipping of all the animals and the circuses are also facing difficulty to obtain the micro chipping to be done by the concerned state government, the Board may purchase and install the microchips in the performing animals registered with AWBI in co-ordination with respective State Governments / UTs as they are having the scanners for the microchips. The Board after detailed deliberation approved the proposal.

Item No. 4: Consideration of matter regarding removal of Monkeys from the Wildlife and increasing problems of stray monkey at various places

The matter pertaining to the amendment and notification of the new Wildlife Protection Act, 2022 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change wherein the Monkey (Rhesus Macaque) had been removed from the Schedule was placed before the Board for deliberation. Rhesus macaque, based on the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, used to be under Schedule II of the Act. The animal will now be treated similarly to urban animals like stray/community dogs or cattle, which are the responsibility of the local bodies. The population of the monkeys observed at major cities are creating hurdles to the public and also loss to their property.

The matter was earlier placed before the Board in its 51st General Meeting held on 04.07.2023 wherein Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member AWBI suggested that a meeting with the Wildlife department to be organized to decide the roadmap on the matter pertaining to these animals such as monkey, white pigeon etc.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter decided that the office should write to the Wildlife Department of MoEF&CC for reconsideration of the matter for inclusion of the monkeys under the Wildlife Protection Act, 2022. Further, the Board may arrange a meeting with the higher officials of the Wildlife Department for discussion on the matter for inclusion of the monkeys back in the amended Wildlife Protection Act, 2022.

Item No.5: Consideration of matter regarding AWBI Awards,2023 (Prani Mitra and Jeevdaya Awards)

The matter pertaining to the holding of Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards and Celebration of World Animal Day on the same day on 4th October every year to save the time and money for organizing two functions was placed before the Board. The

Chairman and all the Board members unanimously agreed to celebrate the Awards Function of the Board on the occasion of World Animal Day i.e. on 4th October every year.

Item No.6: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2022-23.

The draft Annual Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the Year 2022-23 containing the Audited Annual Accounts of the Board and the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India was placed before the Board for perusal by the Hon'ble Members of the Board seeking their approval and adoption of the Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Board for the year 2022-23. The Board after due deliberation on the matter and going through the draft Annual Report for the year 2022-23 adopted the Audited Accounts of the Board along with the Separate Audit Report of the Board received from Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2022-23 and approved the draft Annual Report of the Board for the year 2022-23.

Item No.7: Consideration of matter regarding Closing of Account operated in ICICI Bank at Ballabhgarh, Haryana

The matter pertaining to the account in ICICI Bank (A/c No.140105000932) at Ballabhgarh for depositing the RRAEC Funds which was being used by the Board for depositing the RRAEC Funds in this account as a separate account at Ballabhgarh post shifting the AWBI HQs from Chennai to Sikri, Ballabhgarh.

The matter pertaining to closing of the account in ICICI Bank was discussed the Board and agreed to close the account in ICICI Bank Ballabhgarh as it is not being used for depositing of RRAEC Fund after transfer of Board's SBI accounts from Chennai to SBI, Sikri, Ballabhgarh.

Item No.8: Consideration of matter regarding the responsibility and duties of the AWBI Members

The matter related to preparing the duties and powers of the Members of the AWBI were discussed during the Board meeting. The Chairman informed that the Secretary and Members are having specific duties for running a body as per the mandate of such organizations.

However, it was agreed by the Chairman and the Board that Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI shall prepare and submit the draft of the duties and powers of the Board members for further consideration in the next Board meeting.

Item No.9: Consideration of matter regarding revision of Pay scale of the Veterinary Surgeon in the AWBI from Level 6 to Level 9

The matter pertaining to the revision of the Pay Level of the Veterinary Surgeon in AWBI who is having its Level 6 (Rs.35,400 – Rs.11,12,400/-) having its Grade Pay Rs.4200/- in pay matrix of 7th CPC whereas the Veterinarians in India are placed in

the Level 9 (Rs.53,100 – Rs.1,67,800/-) having its Grade Pay with Rs.5400/- was placed before the Board for consideration.

Further the matter pertaining to creation of few new posts in the office of AWBI for its smooth functioning was considered in the Board. After due deliberation, the Board has recommended to create following posts for smooth functioning of the Board:-

Sl. No.	Designation of the Post	Proposed pay level
1	Deputy Secretary	11
2	Section Officer (Legal)	9
3	Section Officer (Admin)	9
4	Section Officer (Accounts)	9
5	Assistant (I.T.)	7

After due deliberation on the matters, the Board decided to refer both the issues to the Ministry for upgradation as well as for creation of the posts. Further the Secretary, AWBI and few Board Members suggested that the Board may have to surrender some posts of equal value for upgradation and creation of new posts.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member AWBI suggested that the Board should look into the matter pertaining to the upgradation and proper remuneration to all the employees of the Board as they are having lots of workload and working devotedly for the official work.

Prof. R. S. Chauhan, Member AWBI suggested that the Board should send the proposal asking for more posts and the Ministry may at least give few increased posts.

Item No.10: Consideration of matter regarding inclusion of the newly nominated Board Member Dr. Manilal Valliyate in various committees of the Board

The matter pertaining to the inclusion of Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI in the various committees of the Board reconstituted during its 51st General Meeting held on 04.07.2023 prior to nomination of Dr. Manilal Valliyatte was placed before the Board.

The Board unanimously agreed to include Dr. Manilal Valliyate in various committees wherever he found himself suitable. Chairman stated that Dr. Manilal Valliyate needs to be included in maximum committees keeping in view his vast knowledge and experience.

After due deliberation, it was decided to include Dr. Manilal Valliyate in the Executive Committee, ABC Project Recognition Committee, Animal Act, Rules Reviewing & Legal Committee and Inspection of Slaughter House Committee.

Dr. P.K. Atul also desired that he may also be included in few committees like Animal Act, Rules Reviewing & Legal Committee and any other committees.

In addition, the two representations received from Shri S. R. Sundaram and Shri S.N. Kapoor alongwith their Biodata to include them in various Committees of the Board were also placed before the Board and the Board agreed to include both of them in the Animal Act and Rules Reviewing and Legal Committee.

Item No.11: Consideration of matter pertaining to revision of distribution of States amongst the Board Members post inclusion of Dr. Manilal Valliyate as Board Member

The matter pertaining to the distribution of all the States and UTs amongst the Board members and giving responsibility of few States / UTs to the Dr. Manilal Valliyate was kept before the Board. After due deliberation, the Board decided to include Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI to give responsibility of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry for looking after the work pertaining to the Animal Welfare.

AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY SHRI GIRISH J. SHAH, MEMBER AWBI

Item No.12: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on Management of Stray Cattles across India, Status & Remedy.

Item No.13: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion to address Dog bite issues and Cruelty on dogs.

Item No.14: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on Training program to be held with field visit, state wise for development of AWOs, Gaushalas and Panjrapoles.

Item No.15: Consideration of matter pertaining to implementing easy process for HAWR to appoint more and more representative in field.

Item No.16: Consideration of matter pertaining to NIAW functioning to be ensured, need to redevelop Infrastructure so that all the resources can be used to its fullest and spoiling of building could be avoided.

Item No.17: Consideration of matter pertaining to activating functioning of SAWB and District SPCAs for better cooperation and coordination.

Item No.18: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on immediate release of special funds for management of stray animals' care and management.

Item No.19: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion about issuing of Advisory CSR motivation to all PSU's to donate for Animal Welfare activities.

Item No.20: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on issuing of advisory to all states give minimum subsidy of Rs 100/- per stray Cattle per day to all AWOs, Panjrapoles, Gaushalas Registered under Charitable trust and AWBI & NITI Aayog.

Item No.21: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on issuing of advisory for grazing of domestic animals in normal forest areas.

Item No.22: Consideration of matter pertaining to discussion on advisory to develop and protect grasslands to all States / UTs as per latest Supreme Court judgment.

The points raised in the Agenda from point No.12 to 22 by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI were elaborated by him before the Board and the Board deliberated upon these points.

The Chairman stated that the necessary advisories as suggested by Shri Girish J. Shah and necessary for the welfare of the Animals need to be issued by the Board after proper vetting of such advisories by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI and Dr. S. K. Dutta, Secretary, AWBI in a fool proof manner so that these advisories do not invite any embracing situation to the Board.

Additional Item No.1: Consideration of the matter pertaining to misuse of AWBI HAWR card / designation.

The details of the concern received by office of the Animal Welfare Board of India explaining how the HAWR cards are being misused by the HAWR (earlier HAWO) Card holders and the powers in the name of Animal Welfare Board of India, Dept. of DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India were placed before the Board.

The Board after deliberation on the matter decided that the number of HAWR nominations and issuing of Cards to be done after proper verification and taking utmost care in the matter.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan told that the HAWR should be made on proper checks only.

Shri Girish J. Shah told that the Board instead of making HAWR should make Society Animal Care Taker Cards.

Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi told that the Board should take proper action against the erring HAWRs and should upload such blacklisted HAWR on the website of the Board which will teach a lesson to the HAWR card holders.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
