

**Meeting Minutes**

**Multi-Stakeholder Committee Meeting on Wastewater Reuse in Karnataka**

29 April 2016

Vikasa Soudha

1. Mr. Manivannan Ponniah (MD KUWSDB and Member Secretary to Multi-Stakeholder Committee) welcomed the multi-stakeholder Committee Members and invited guests. He described the role of the multi-stakeholder committee and the importance of the work in-hand, also describing the scarcity of water and the role of wastewater reuse in alleviating that scarcity.
2. Mr. TK Anil Kumar, Secretary to Government, Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka, and Chair of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee, presented the objectives of the meeting.
3. He explained that this was the start of a process where the multi-stakeholder committee will need to meet a number of times to discuss and finalize a policy that will establish an enabling environment for wastewater reuse in Karnataka.
4. He further stated that the current meeting of the multi-stakeholder committee is to discuss the broad parameters for the policy so that the consultants can then devise targeted and clear policy recommendations that are applicable to the Karnataka context, stressing that generic or general policy recommendations are not appropriate.
5. The need to have the policy recommendations supported by data and evidence including economic analysis with reference to the status-quo indicating how the new policy would be an improvement was also reiterated.
6. Karnataka can emerge as a national and international leader on this issue
7. The 2030 WRG consultants made a presentation that described the current Wastewater reuse policy environment in Karnataka and presented a number of recommendations with examples of international best-practices.
8. The following points were made in the open discussion that followed-
9. A number of industries in Karnataka use treated wastewater for their day-to-day production requirements.
10. Most large manufacturing companies recycle water within their production plants.
11. Some industrial zones also recycle water, for example- the Vasanth Nagar industrial zone uses their own recycled water for landscaping and also releases some water to the environment.
12. Wastewater recycling in Bangalore advanced with BWSSB with 73MLDcapacity installed but the sales is about 13 MLD. The inability to sell more is attributed to a number of reasons including-
13. Unit cost as well as conveyance cost: since buyers can recycle their own water at a reduced cost, they are not ready to buy recycled water from BWSSB.
14. Distance: water demand especially for uses such as construction can be far from the sources of recycled water. The transportation cost can be prohibitive.
15. Industry is able to increase their use of wastewater as a percentage of total water used, however it is very important that-
16. The treated wastewater should be of consistent quality and
17. There is consistent supply.
18. Water quality parameters including dissolved solids have to be at a standard adequate for reuse in industrial production.
19. Any policy on wastewater reuse should consider the use of untreated wastewater by farmers. Likewise, the health impacts of using untreated wastewater on farmers as well as consumers should also be considered.
20. It was pointed out that the reuse of wastewater by industry does not preclude the use of the same water by agriculture or environment. The wastewater will simply be used once more by the industry before being released to the environment and be available for agriculture.
21. ULBs (Urban Local Body) need to acknowledge the value of water and come up with concomitant pricing structures without commoditizing water. This incentivizes solutions to use water more efficiently.
22. Differentiated markets should be created for treated wastewater where water treated to different levels could be purchased for different uses.
23. The Solutions center should:
24. focus on awareness creation and advocacy for wastewater reuse as priority in addition to the proposed project facility role and,
25. be a resources center to assist ULBs with integrated urban water resources management.
26. In conclusion, both the Multi-Stakeholder Committee Chairman and the Member Secretary made the following recommendations:
27. Incorporate the outcomes of this multi-stakeholder committee meeting discussions and draft a set of policy recommendations.
28. Graph past, current, and future industrial water demand.
29. Analyze, discuss and propose institutional alignments including the role of the ULB in wastewater reuse.
30. Conduct a demand/supply/cost analysis for treated wastewater. What is the demand function and what are the inflection points for alternative water and wastewater?
31. Support all policy proposals with data and evidence.
32. KUWSDB would set up the wastewater reuse project facility and solutions center.
33. It was determined that the multi-stakeholder committee would meet every third Saturday. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the 28th May.