

Kundawada Kere Brain Storming Group

(Kundawada Restoration Initiative Association)

Proceedings of Meeting held on 07-05-2012.

Introduction

This meeting was chaired by Sri Sanjay Sahay, IGP, Eastern Range, Davanagere. This pertains to the integrated development of Kunduwada Lake, the largest water body in this area, a great natural setting, walkers paradise and a landmark which city can be proud of. The meeting was held in IGP's Chamber, at 4pm on 07/05/2012 . The meeting was held in the background of the necessity of having of all technical information about the Kere and the need for technical expertise to guide this civil movement. This movement would work on the principle civil activism, technical expertise and financial/administrative/project management support from the govt. This group would be the brain behind the movement as the name suggests and its services would be available to all stakeholders as and when required.

The following members were present and attended the meeting.

- 1.Prof.Dr.S.Manjappa, HoD of Chemistry, BIET. Davanagere.
- 2.Prof.Dr.Aravind, HOD of Civil engineering Dept. BIET. Davanagere.
- 3.Prof.Rangaswamy, Biotechnology Department. BIET. Davanagere.
- 4.Shubha.K.R, K.S.P.H.C.,Davanagere
- 5.PrasannaKumar A.H., Davanagere.
- 6.Bellodi Shivakumar, Lions Club, Davanagere.
- 7.Devikere Prabhakar, Merchant, Davanagere.

Background

With deep-seated concern for the restoration of the Lake and lot may valuable suggestions, three members of the Civil Society, Mangala, Shubha and Prashanth went to meet Mr.Sanjay Shahay, IGP in his office at 12 noon on 26th April 2012. Impressed by their enthusiasm, he called all the top officials in SP chamber at 4 p.m on the same day. The panel consisted of all the higher officials- IGP, Mayor, DC, SP, CEO, Corporation Commissioner and members of the civil society who were interested in this project of Lake Restoration. The Civil Activists acted as a pressure group. The officials were impressed by the Group's deep concern over the matter. After a powerpoint presentation by Mangla and free and frank discussion by most of the members and the officials moderated by Sri Sanjay Sahay, the group was given full assurance that the Lake would be restored in a manner that would make citizens of Davangere proud. It would be the right blend of nature and technology to satisfy the needs of clean water supply, a treat to the eye, a walkers paradise, a bird sanctuary, a lighted Queens Necklace by night and the Ultimate Natural Landmark of Davangere. The path forward was to explore all the possibilities to restore and renovate the Kere.

Subsequently a meeting was held at the sides of the Lake on 29th April, which was presided by the DC and other district level officers were present, where public directly interacted and gave their suggestions for the improvement of Lake. DC constituted one representative Apex Body to guide the restoration of Lake. On 2nd May, DC held a meeting with the members of Apex body at his office. The steps for Lake Restoration was decided and it was agreed that it would be done as per the priority decided at a later stage.

Discussions

Dr.Aravind explained the basic details about Kundawada lake and its recent history. Kunduwada lake has an expanse of 265 acres. It was a minor irrigation tank irrigating about 75 hectares of land. About 30% of Davangere city sewage

ended up in this lake. The lake was completely putrefied. Sri. S.S. Mallikarjuna, Ex Minister took keen interest in the restoration and renovation of this Lake.

Entire water was drained out in 2002, desilting done and bund was constructed all around the tank. After completion of the desilting work, Bhadra canal water 0.2 TMC was channelized to flow purely on gravity and treatment plant was constructed downstream. This was designed with an inflow of 20 million liters per day and total holding capacity of 3000 mlt, which could cover the need of city of city's water supply for at least for 4 months. The total length of the bund is about 4.9 kms. The project was executed at an approximate cost of 6 crores.

Details of Kundawada Lake:

Area of lake	254 Acres,
Catchment area	1720 Hectares
Live capacity	3605 mlt
Length of Bund	1128 mtrs
Max.Height of Bund	6 mtrs

Agenda Points

1. Strengthening of Bund

a)Deweeding

Based on the detailed technical discussion with the experts, it was agreed that there is no need for desilting, as was being thought earlier. In its place deweeding would serve the purpose. Deweeding is mainly required for south eastern part of about 10 acres, all along the bund up till 10 mtrs from the bund

end . Deweeding has to be done manually. Once the deweeding is completed, regular chlorination is required at least once a month along the embankment.

b) Resetting of the Bund

It will done using manual labour along the revetment area. The present condition of revetment area is in good.

2) Walking Path

Karb stones must be laid along the Path of not more than 6” inch up and 6” inch down along the Path. After making of Karb stone walking path will be beautified on both sides by landscaping and planting of ornamental trees along the sides of the path, all along, for the complete 4 kms.

3) Creation of an Island

The deweeding would produce reasonable amount of silt extracted in the process which can be used to create an island in the SE part of the Lake which can become a natural habitat for birds of different types which are already available in abundance.

4) Tree Cover

Along with fungus free trees, small fruit bearing trees and medicinal trees, shrubs and creepers should be planted on the embankment area. Landscaping includes sustainable green cover for full lake area.

New types of gates, benches, and litterbins would be placed all over the lake depending on the requirements and these items would be a part of the general green landscape and should not be an eyesore.

5) Lighting

The solar lights are in a sorry state of affairs and few very are functional. It has been procured out of public money and cannot be allowed to be squandered. The Agency concerned would contact the Vendor and get rectified at the cost of the Vendor if there is a maintenance contract or whatever is the nature of agreement between the user agency and the Vendor. It should be brought to full usage.

The Solar Lighting, the way it is being used cannot be a single mode of lighting. As an alternative regular lighting should be provided on the other side of the walking path. The light poles etc should be ornamental in nature. The final look when lighted should be that of a Queens Necklace. Besides this there should be a provision for a High Mast Beam Light at the center of the Pergola giving sufficient light to that area and be the center of attraction for the whole lake.

6) Photography

Raised platforms should be erected at two or three vantage points to be at provided the ideal locations/ setting for photographers and it should also be provided with all the amenities required for still and video shooting.

7) Entry Fee

As a source of revenue and to inculcate in the minds of the user, a sense of responsibility towards the lake. Biometric Access System would help in having documentation of the Users and Usage and can be used for large number of tasks and analysis.

The entrance gates should be done up and proper access control system has to be created. CCTV should be installed at the entry and exit and also in the whole park. There should be a control room for the purpose and it should be conveniently located and should be manned by professionals.

8) Signages

These boards announce the quality of the park much before you reach there and all throughout the park as well. Nice and beautiful hoardings of birds and the park's scenery would enliven everybody who visits the lake.

Flex board can be used for advertisements which would generate revenue for the Lake. A self sustainable model can be evolved over a period to time.

9) Maintenance

Most of our assets go into disuse because of lack of maintenance and lack of maintenance is due to lack of funds for this purpose. There is also the need for a core maintenance group which has to be located at the Lake itself. The annual maintenance expenditure on the Lake should be budgeted in the Municipal Corporation Budget and it should be discussed and scaled up depending upon the requirement, annually.

10) Website

A website of global standards matching with the best lakes in the world would be created.

11) Status Report

One half day preferably a holiday convenient to all members would be used to create a Status Report on the Kere, which will be the base document for all

works related to the Kere. It would be a purely technical document, the financials would be added later.

Conclusion

Kundawaada Kere today symbolizes the people's love for nature and desire to maintain a scenic water body with which the city can associate itself. This movement is an expression of long cherished urge of this city. Starting from finding the right references both documents and human resources to listing the tasks and setting the priorities, the movement is gaining strength to strength in the right direction. A status report at this juncture and moving ahead with neat working blueprint would take this project on the desired roadmap to its destination.

**Sanjay Sahay,
IGP, Davangere**