

PUNJAB IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
Farmers Organization (Elections) Regulations 2011

No.MD/PIDA/2011/GT-57/1850. In the exercise of the powers vested in it under Sections 14 and 17 of The Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority Act, 1997, and PIDA FOs Rules 2010, The Authority has resolved to make and promulgate the following Regulations:

1. TITLE, EXTENT & COMMENCEMENT

- (1) These Regulations shall be called the Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority Farmers Organizations (Elections), Regulations, 2011.
- (2) The "Farmers Organization" includes "Nehri Panchayats" for the purpose of elections under these Rules.
- (3) These shall come into force at once.
- (4) These shall extend to all areas of the Province.

2. Election Officers and Election Schedule

- (1) Election shall be conducted under these Regulations by the Senior Election Officers and Election Officers, appointed by the Chief Executive Area Water Board / Superintending Engineer of the Circle. Simultaneously he shall notify the Election Officers for this purpose.
- (2) Chief Executive of Area Water Board/Superintending Engineer may, with the approval of the Managing Director, notify that elections for the formation of the Farmers Organizations at one or more distributaries within his canal command will be held within next two months of the said notification. He shall conspicuously display a notice to that effect in his office and other public offices and places.

3 Elections of Khal Panchayat

- (1) The Senior Election Officer shall within one month of the notification of 2(2) above publish a Preliminary List of Voters comprising the Farmers eligible to participate in the election as voters of each water-course and display it at his office, at public

places of concerned village / villages and other irrigation offices in the area. He shall also send a copy of the said list to all the Lambardars of the area who shall inform the Farmers of each watercourse of his area through announcements in mosques of concerned area and any other means.

- (2) A Farmer of the concerned watercourse may make an objection against the Preliminary Voters List to the Senior Election Officer within 10 days of the publication of the said List.
- (3) The Senior Election Officer shall decide all such cases within 7 days thereafter and publish a Final List of Voters for each water-course and display it accordingly. He shall also send a copy of the final list of voters to all the Lambardars of the area who shall display it at public places and mosques etc.
- (4) The election for the Khal Panchayat shall be held in a meeting of the Farmers of the said water-course whose names appear in the Final Voters List.
- (5) The Election Officer shall fix the date, time and a public place for the Election Meeting within, or in the vicinity of, the command area of the water-course and take reasonable steps to inform the electorate. The Election Meeting shall not be held before expiry of 7 days from the publication of the Final Voters List.
- (6) The Election Meeting, shall, as far as possible, be held at the said date, time and place. However, the Senior Election Officer may, for valid reasons, make any change in them or election officer may postpone election meeting or cancel the election proceedings when the turn out of the voters is less than 50% of final published voter list. In that case, he shall proceed for the next election meetings as per provisions in clause (5).

Provided further that in case 3 attempts of conduct of election fails, then Chief Executive of the Area Water Board or Superintending Engineer of the Circle, as the case may be, may allow Election Officer to conduct election, out of the voters present at the said date, time and place.

- (7) The election meeting shall be presided over by the Election Officer who shall be assisted by the staff assigned to him for this purpose. The meeting shall not be attended by any person other than a voter or a person on election duty or an officer of the Authority authorised in that behalf.
- (8) The Election Officer shall take the attendance of each voter present in the meeting after satisfying himself as to his identity. He shall entertain and dispose of any objection raised against the identity of

any voter. He shall also explain to the voters the procedure for the conduct of the election and satisfy himself that they have understood the procedure.

- (9) The Election Officer shall then proceed to conduct the election of the Khal Panchayat. He shall ask for the nominations of the candidates. A Farmer whose name is listed in the voters' lists may nominate any such eligible Farmer as a candidate. If the proposal is seconded by another Farmer and accepted by the candidate, the Election Officer shall declare him/her to be a candidate for the election. The Election Officer shall entertain and decide upon the objections made against such nominations.
- (10) If there is only one valid nomination for the Chairman, the Election Officer shall declare the said person to be elected as Chairman, Khal Panchayat of the said watercourse. In case there are more than one candidates contesting for the position of Chairman, the Election Officer shall proceed to elect the said Chairman by 'show of hand' in the same meeting. He shall count the votes casted in favour of each candidate and shall declare the person securing the highest number of votes as Chairman, Khal Panchayat of the said watercourse. In case two or more candidates secure equal number of votes, the Election Officer shall decide the matter by drawing of lots in the same meeting.
- (11) If there are four or less than four candidates for the members of Khal Panchayat, the Election Officer shall declare them to have been elected as Members of the Khal Panchayat of the said watercourse. If there are more than four candidates for the Members of Khal Panchayat, he shall proceed to hold the election by show of hand. He shall announce the name of each candidate, one after the other, in alphabetical order, and record the votes cast in his favour. The four candidates obtaining the highest number of votes shall be declared elected as members of the Khal Panchayat. If two or more candidates obtain equal number of votes, the Election Officer shall decide the matter by drawing of lots in the same meeting.
- (12) The Election Officer shall notify the result of election and communicate it to the persons elected and the Senior Election Officer.
- (13) Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations, where any Organizations has been established by a Government agency at watercourse level, the Authority may consider that organizations as "Khal Panchayat " under these regulations for a specific purpose.

4. Election of the Management Committee of Farmers Organizations.
- (1) The General Body of the Farmers Organization shall elect the Management Committee comprising the following Office Bearers.
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice-President
 - (c) Secretary
 - (d) Treasurer
 - (e) Two Executive Members from the tail and two from the middle reaches of the distributary.
 - (f) One Executive Member, from the head reaches of the distributary.

Provided that if the members of the General Body of a Farmers Organization is less than 15, the Chief Executive of Area Water Board, or as the case may be, Superintending Engineer of the Circle, with the approval of the Managing Director of the Authority, may reduce the number of the Office Bearers of the Management Committee of that Farmers Organization.

Provided further that the Chief Executive Area Water Board or as the case may be, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle may proceed with the election of the Management Committee, where election of at least three fourth of the members of General Body have been finalized.

- (2) The Senior Election Officer shall, under the control and guidance of the Authority, conduct the election of the Management Committee of the Farmers Organization. He shall notify the detailed Election Schedule for the election of the Management Committee of the said Farmers Organizations in accordance with provision of these Regulations. He shall also notify the place of election.
- (3) Alongwith the notification of the Election Schedule, the Senior Election Officer shall publish the Preliminary Voters List comprising the members of the General Body.
- (4) A person aggrieved by the order of the Senior Election Officer, under clause (3) above may make an objection in writing, within a period of 10 days of the publication of the Preliminary Voters List, in the office of the Senior Election Officer. The said Officer shall within 7 day thereafter, pass such orders as he deems appropriate and shall, publish the Final Voters List.
- (5) The nominations for the Office Bearers shall be filed within next two days of display of Voters List. Any voter may propose in writing another voter who is eligible to be an Office Bearer or an Executive

Member of the Management Committee as a candidate for any position in the Management Committee. The proposal shall be seconded by another voter and accepted by the candidate.

- (6) The Senior Election Officer shall, on the day next after the date fixed for filing the nomination papers under clause (5) above, scrutinize the nomination papers and publish a Preliminary List of Candidates and display it at his office.
- (7) A candidate may file an objection against the order of the Senior Election Officer under clause (6) above within **3** days of the publication of the Preliminary List of Candidates. The objection shall be filed in the office of the Senior Election Officer who, after such inquiry as he may deem fit, pass necessary orders on that objection on the next day.
- (8) The Senior Election Officer shall publish the Revised List of Candidates on the next day and display it at his office and shall provide a copy to any voter on demand.
- (9) Any candidate may withdraw his candidature within two days of the publication of the Revised List of Candidates. The withdrawal shall be in writing and signed by the candidate.
- (10) The Senior Election Officer shall, on the next day, publish the Final List of Candidates and display it at his office and provide a copy on demand to any candidate.
- (11) If there is only one eligible candidate for any Office in the Management Committee, except those mentioned in clause (1) (e) of this Regulation, such candidate shall be declared elected. If there are not more than two eligible candidates for the position of the Executive Members given in clause (1) (e) of this Regulation, such candidate or candidates shall be declared elected.
- (12) The Senior Election Officer shall, if necessary, make all necessary arrangements for the conduct of elections which shall be held within 7 days through secret ballot. The said Officer shall provide ballot papers, ballot box, stationery and other material necessary for the conduct of election. A candidate or his duly authorised agent shall be allowed to be present at the place of holding the election.
- (13) The Senior Election Officer may allot election symbols to the candidates if in his opinion it is necessary to do so.
- (14) The Senior Election Officer shall issue a ballot paper to a voter whose name appears on the voters list, after satisfying himself about the identity of the said voter. The voters shall secretly mark

the ballot papers and drop them into the ballot box provided for that purpose.

- (15) At the end of the time specified for the polling, the Senior Election Officer shall count the ballot papers. He shall cancel any ballot paper which is -
 - (a) not properly marked; or
 - (b) marked for more than two candidates for Executive Members from the middle and tail reaches; or
 - (c) marked for more than one candidate for any other office; or
 - (d) substantially damaged/mutilated; or
 - (e) bearing any mark of identification.
- (16) The Senior Election Officer shall exclude the cancelled ballot papers and count the valid votes received by each candidate. A candidate or his authorized agent shall be allowed to be present at the time of counting the ballot papers.
- (17) A candidate who obtains the highest number of votes for a particular office shall be declared elected to that office, provided, that the two candidates getting highest number of votes for the positions of the Executive Members from the middle and tail reaches shall be declared elected as Executive Members. If there are more candidates than the number of position or positions to be filled who get the highest number of votes, the Senior Election Officer shall decide the matter by drawing of lots. He shall announce the result at the end of counting.
- (18) The Senior Election Officer shall, on the next day, notify the result of the election of the Management Committee and send a copy of the result to the Authority and Chief Executive Area Water Board or as the case may be the Superintending Engineer of the circle, and also provide a copy to any candidate on demand.
- (19) In case of unavoidable circumstances, Chief Executive, Area Water Board or as the case may be, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle can exempt personal presence of "Senior Election Officer" on polling day directing "Election Officer" to act on his behalf.
- (20). The Chief Executive, Area Water Board or, as the case may be, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle may, in appropriate cases, alter the election schedule and take all steps necessary for this purpose.
- (21) The Chief Executive, Area Water Board or as the case be, the Superintending Engineer of the circle may suspend the election process at any stage if it is in public interest to do so.

5. Election Disputes

- (1) A candidate or a voter aggrieved by the decision of the Senior Election Officer under clause (3) of Regulation 3 or under clause (18) of Regulation 4 above or that of the Election Officer under clause (12) of Regulation 3 above, may file an Election Petition before the Authority or authorized officer of the Authority or dispute resolution committee of the Authority within seven days of the notification of the result, in such form as may be prescribed from time to time.

Provided that the Authority may, for valid reasons and after hearing all the parties concerned, entertain a petition after the said period.

- (2) The Authority shall after such inquiry as it deems necessary, give its decision on the Election Petition and pass such consequential orders which it may deem appropriate in that particular case.
- (3) In case of any difficulty in the application of these Regulations, the Senior Election Officer may refer the matter to the Board of Management for its determination and disposal.

6. Repeal

1. Election Regulation-1999 are hereby repealed.
2. Notwithstanding the repeal of the Regulations under clause-1 of these regulations; elections held under the repealed regulations shall remain valid for all intend and purpose. Provided that there is no violation of the FOs Rules-2010 framed under Section-16 of the PIDA Act 1997.

Secretary, PIDA

Even No. & Date

A copy is forwarded to;

1. Chairman PIDA/ Minister for Irrigation & Power, Government of the Punjab, Lahore.
2. Chairman, Planning and Development Board, Punjab Lahore.
3. Secretary to Government of the Punjab, Finance Department, Lahore.
4. Secretary to Government of the Punjab Agriculture Department, Lahore.
5. Managing Director PIDA, Irrigation Secretariat premises, Old Anarkali, Lahore.
6. All Farmer Members PIDA.
7. General Manager (Transition Management) PIDA, Irrigation Secretariat premises, Old Anarkali, Lahore.

8. General Manager (Operation) PIDA, Irrigation Secretariat premises, Old Anarkali, Lahore.
9. General Manager (Finance) PIDA, Irrigation Secretariat premises, Old Anarkali, Lahore.
10. Chief Engineers, Irrigation:-

(i) Lahore	(ii) Faisalabad	(iii) Sargodha	(iv) Multan
(v) Bahawalpur	(vi) D.G.Khan	Drainage and Flood	
(vii) Development	(viii) Research	(ix) Planning & Review	
11. Chief Executive Area Water Board/ Superintending Engineer, Irrigation LCC (East) Circle, Faisalabad.
12. Chief Executive Area Water Board/ Superintending Engineer, Irrigation LCC (West) Circle, Faisalabad.
13. Chief Executive Area Water Board/ Superintending Engineer, Irrigation LBDC Circle, Sahiwal.
14. Chief Executive Area Water Board/ Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Bahawalnagar Canal Circle, Bahawalnagar.
15. Chief Executive Area Water Board/ Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Derajat Canal Circle, D.G.Khan.
16. Head, Project Management Office (PMO), PISIP, Irrigation Deptt. Lahore.
17. Project Director, Project Management Unit (PMU), LBDCIP, Irrigation Deptt. Canal Bank, Mustafabad, Lahore.
18. Superintending Engineer, Drainage Circle, Faisalabad.
19. Chairman Area Water Board, LCC (West) Circle, Faisalabad.

Secretary, PIDA

CC:

1. Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab, Lahore.
2. Additional Secretary / Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Govt. of the Punjab, Lahore.
3. P.S to Senior Minister / Minister for Irrigation & Power, Punjab Lahore.
4. PS to Secretary Irrigation & Power Deptt. Lahore.