

2014-15

The 4th Governing Body meeting of CRA was held at Wayanad on Feb 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was chaired by Father Thomas Joseph Therakam, President South Zone, and Vice President ,CRA

It was attended by

Dr R Sreedher

Ms Archana Kapoor

Ms Pinky Chandran

Ms Gandhimati

Mr James Rajsekharan

And Mr Jitender Sharma ( on skype)

The meeting started with the chair discussing the agenda and welcoming all those present physically and on skype.

The agenda circulated on Feb 8 is as under:

The agenda:

- 1- Revisiting the MOA in the context of the issues raised regarding role and responsibilities
2. Discussion on structure and organizational chart
- 3 Settling of accounts of events
4. Name Change of Governing Body to Executive Council
5. Settling of payments to CA
6. Discuss concerns regarding transparency in hosting events/ inviting experts
- 7.Membership expansion and role of GB members
8. Status of committees
9. Strategy for strengthening CRA
10. Any other issue

After the agenda was read out by Father Therakam:

1. Dr Sreedher raised a few points.

a. Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held in Lucknow

b. Why the agenda for the meeting was not circulated atleast 7 days in advance.

c. Why The Secretary General was sending notices about Membership fees

Secretary General responded:

i. The meetings are always circulated but seldom does the response from members come. Should we take the silence as acceptance?

ii. The SG was busy and did not get the time. as per MOA agenda is to be set by President and also meeting should be called by President.

iii. The Wayanad meeting was like an emergency meeting on account of the immature and accusatory mails exchanged between members of the Board and issues raised about the objectives. However the agenda did not reflect the urgency.

iv. It was also accepted that there had been some lapses, and all the Board members needed to revisit the MOA

2. The Chair asked one of the members present to read out the Roles and Responsibilities section and objectives of the Association.

a. It was felt that all the members needed to revisit the MOA before raising questions.

b. The Chair felt that the entire debate about who will attend meetings or be the face was irrelevant and unnecessary in the light of the MOA.

c. The duties of the Vice Presidents and Joint Secretaries needed to be elaborated.

d. Some Members were not executing their roles, and only asking questions from those trying to do something. There was a need to modify some parts of the MOA and elaborate on some points. Thus a Statute could be brought out on the day to day working and rules and regulations etc.

e. It was felt that all the members should send in their comments and the same could be discussed in the Governing body and General Body meeting in March.

f. The objectives were read out and it was reiterated that so far there had been no deviation from the objectives.

g. The Chair reiterated that the MOA constituted long term objectives. CRA would just be entering its 4th year of operation and had done well so far other objectives could be met over the years.

3. It was decided that one of the members could volunteer to prepare an excel sheet on issues raised in GB meetings and action taken.

4. Issues pertaining to delays in settling of accounts and increase in travel expenses for workshops was discussed. The Chair asked the Treasurer to resolve the issues of priority and also work out a plan of action in consultation with the SG.

5. It was also emphasised that the Treasurer should take entire responsibility of managing the resources, settling bills and getting the accounts audited.

6. It was reiterated that it was the responsibility to the Treasurer to work towards increasing membership, sending receipts, get grants or donations etc and the SG was taking on many responsibilities - not out of choice but necessity

In the same context it was suggested that CRA needed to employ a full time accountant who can work closely with the Treasurer.

7. It was agreed that to end the confusion on General Body and Governing Body the Governing Body could be changed to Executive Council, once again after being concurred by all members.

8. The point on hiring a secretariat and having a full time Executive Director was also deliberated upon. As of now CRA has a secretariat only till the workshops are on. Thus after reviewing the financial position, a decision could be taken.

9. The Chair also expressed the need to have a more mature system of dispute resolution rather than exchange of mails that expressed mistrust and promoted unrest. If it was agreed that anybody was harming the Association the Board could have a trust vote and terminate membership.

11. A number of resignations were being suggested on mails - the same could be discussed in the GB in March?

12. The costs towards hosting the GB meeting both governing body and general body will be borne by CRA.

13. The annual report and the financials will be shared with all during the GB meeting.

14. The agenda and the invitation to attend the GB will be sent by mail and speed post.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks delivered by the Treasurer and a special thanks was given to Jitender for attending the meeting through skype.



(Dr Kandarp Das)

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

**General Body Meeting (GBM) of Community Radio Association (CRA) Members**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Venue: YMCA, Jaisingh Road, New Delhi**

**Time: 10:30 AM to 01:30 PM**

**Participants:** A total of 63 members of the CRA were present along with most of office bearers.

### **Agenda Items:**

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2. Brief of Activities undertaken in the year 2014-15
3. Sharing of the IT returns on 2013-14 and provisional balance sheet of current year
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9. Membership concerns and receipts
10. Way forward for CRA

**Additions:** Setting up of an Office and a Secretariat for CRA

### **1. Proceedings:**

The GBM started at 10:30 AM. The quorum was met. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Fr. Thomas Therakam as the President, Dr Kandarpa Das had expressed his inability to attend.

The members were welcomed by the Secretary General, CRA Ms. Archana Kapoor and she invited the Chair and the Vice President's of CRA and the Treasurer to come to the dias.

The meeting went as per the agenda which was previously e-mailed and also distributed amongst the members of CRA.

Dr. Fr. Thomas addressed the members and talked about the need for the Association and its members to be united to make the CR sector strong.

The chair set the protocols for the smooth conclusion of the General Body and assured the members that each one of them would be given a chance to speak.

### **2. Brief of Activities undertaken in the year 2014-15**

The Chair asked the the Secretary General (SG) Ms. Archana Kapoor s to share the activities of the year 2014-15. The wrap up paper had been circulated among the audience. Ms Kapoor informed the members about CRA's contribution to the sector and how it had been well acknowledged by both National and International bodies.

#### **Highlights of her brief:**

- Bringing the license fees back to the previous figure i.e. from almost Rs. 91,000/- per year to Rs. 19,700/- charged previously although efforts were made to get it waived off completely.
- Representation in the TRAI recommendations.
- Part of consultative group for Community Radio Support Scheme (CRSS) structure by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
- Visited few CR stations as part of the review visits regarding deciding the DAVP rates Representation in the BECIL monitoring and evaluation committee. BECIL has now come out with RFP.
- Lobbied for the consumer affairs, Swachh Bharat and Panchayati Raj campaigns and programmes.
- Facilitated two phases of Peer Review Workshop done by MIB and may take it again for 3<sup>rd</sup> phase and a regional sammelan at Lucknow, besides 4 Community Awareness Workshops.
- Lobbied for a workshop with UNICEF and Department of Health, UP for Uttar Pradesh based CR stations on the theme of health and succeeded.
- And Finally got the Pahal Campaign wherein each station could get advts worth over Rs 50,000/-

The Secretary General assured the members of CRAs commitment to resolve issues related to DAVP, WPC, CRSS, Lol, Renewal of licenses, GOPA etc.

#### **3. Sharing of the IT returns on 2013-14 and provisional balance sheet of current year.**

Ms. Archana Kapoor shared the income tax returns for the year 2013-14, as she was the treasurer in that year.

She also shared the financials with the audience and informed those present about the total turnover of CRA in the year 2014-15 which would be around Rs 98 lakhs. However this was just the grant, and the payment would be as per actual.

She also informed that the Peer Review workshops were undertaken without Institutional charges last year, but this year CRA would demand the same. She defended the workshops being conducted by CRA on behalf of MIB as they gave both visibility and credibility to CRA.

She informed that CRA has got the 12A, 80G & Service Tax number .

It was resolved that there would be more transparency in the working and though many members expressed their satisfaction with the working of CRA, it was decided that the net of experts would be spread further and that more members would be involved.

#### **4. Resolution on website and transparency in accounts**

It was resolved that the website would be set up soon. And that all audited reports would be put up on the website as soon as the work was done. There was a suggestion that cash book details should be uploaded every month, but reservations were expressed on that suggestion.

#### **5. Review of MOA**

Dr. Sreedher suggested that some clauses of amendments need to be worked out and suggested. A Working Committee was formed to revamp the MoA. Members of the Working Committee are Dr. R. Sreedhar (Chair), Dr. Amol Goje, Prof. Jayant Pethkar, Dr. Kailash Kamode, Shri James Rajasekaran, Ms. Seema Bharati, Ms. Rupali Deshmukh. It was resolved that the same committee will co-opt for one or two advocates for drafting of the statutes.

It was also resolved that the committee would submit its draft within 2 months and the same would be shared for comments. After 30 days the comments would be incorporated and the MOA would be finalized.

#### **6. Change in the name of the Governing body**

It was resolved that there was confusion in the General Body and Governing Body, therefore the Governing Body would be renamed as Executive Council.

#### **7. Resolution to set up an office and a Secretariat**

It was resolved that there would be a clear distinction between Administrative work and Project work. Thus a n office would be taken up and a Secretariat would be put in place. Also CRA could think of engaging an Executive Director for all the projects.

Thus it was resolved that the office would be set up in Delhi/NCR, with a provision for a guest house too, for members in transit. The facility could be availed at minimum costs. A committee was formed with two members Dr. R Sreedher and Shri Braham Prakash to identify a suitable place in Delhi/NCR and also advertise for staff.

#### **8. Resolution on Dual Membership**

It was resolved that a dual membership would be permitted but an EC member of CRA could not be a board member of an organization with a similar mandate and vice versa.

### **9. Explanation on internal conflict**

The issue of the conflict within the GB members was also brought to the fore, the minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on March 18, 2015 was read out to assure the members that there was no such issue.

### **10. Resolution on unpaid membership fees**

It was resolved that a mail would go to all members for payment of their dues. For those who had not paid their one time membership fee a period of three months would be given. After which their membership would not be valid and the money that they had paid would be forfeited.

### **11. Resolution on increasing participation of members**

It was resolved that more stations could be included during the workshops and all letters from Ministry could also be shared.

### **12 Way forward**

It was resolved that all the members would work together and in harmony to give the strength to the CR sector to help achieve the ultimate goal of the movement. The new organization was also endorsed and welcomed.

At the end, the decisions made in the meeting were read out to all the members and a vote of thanks was proposed by the Secretary General.

#### ***Minutes prepared by:***

*Sanjay J. Chandekar ( RadioFTII, Pune )*

*Arti Manchanda Grover (Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8)*

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10. Way forward for CRA

**Additions:** Setting up of an Office and a Secretariat for CRA

**Proceedings:** The GBM started at 10:30 AM. The quorum was met. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Fr. Thomas Therakam as the President, Dr Kandarpa Das had expressed his inability to attend.

The members were welcomed by the Secretary General, CRA Ms. Archana Kapoor and she invited the Chair and the Vice President's of CRA and the Treasurer to come to the dias.

The meeting went as per the agenda which was previously e-mailed and also distributed amongst the members of CRA. Dr. Fr. Thomas addressed the members and said that today CR Sector has gone much ahead in comparison with the previous years. However, there was a need to prepare ourselves to take up new challenges, to improve and enhance our understanding as community radio (CR) practitioners and to develop certain structures and institutional mechanisms to support the CR Sector for its development into a robust sector that could take care of the aspirations of the poor.

He also appealed to the CR's to come together in a more meaningful way and quoted an example in Kerala for making a common proposal to NABARD. He also appealed and requested to maintain the decorum and assured that everybody will be represented and iterated that



everyone was there with one goal which was to strengthen the CR Sector despite of the differences. The chair also welcomed Dr. R. Sreedher, who is a founder member and patron of CRA.

## **2. Brief of Activities undertaken in the year 2014-15**

The Secretary General (SG) Ms. Archana Kapoor shared the major milestones from the year gone by along with a written document on the highlights of CRA, which was circulated among all members. She informed how CRA, in a short while had made immense contribution in the growth of the sector and how it had been well acknowledged by both National and International bodies.

### **Highlights of her brief:**

- Bringing the license fees back to the previous figure i.e. from almost Rs. 91,000/- per year to Rs. 19,700/- charged previously although efforts were made to get it waived off completely.
- Representation in the TRAI recommendations.
- Part of consultative group for Community Radio Support Scheme (CRSS) structure by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
- Visited few CR stations as part of the review visits regarding deciding the DAVP rates Representation in the BECIL monitoring and evaluation committee. BECIL has now come out with RFP.
- Lobbied for the consumer affairs, Swachch Bharat and Panchayati Raj campaigns and programmes.
- Facilitated two phases of Peer Review Workshop done by MIB and may take it again for 3<sup>rd</sup> phase and a regional sammelan at Lucknow, besides 4 Community Awareness Workshops.
- Lobbied for a workshop with UNICEF and Department of Health, UP for Uttar Pradesh based CR stations on the theme of health and succeeded.
- And Finally got the Pahal Campaign wherein each station could get advts worth over Rs 50,000/-

The Secretary General appealed to all the CRs to give the monthly expenses of their respective station to CRA to lobby for revised DAVP rates. She also informed to complete the documentation of the Pahal Campaign in the prescribed .

She shared her efforts with DAVP and WPC, and assured the members that CRA was committed to assist the CR stations in their efforts towards sustainability.

A few members asked more about the CRSS also, it was mentioned that CRA will also push for transparency in MOB. It will also take up issues pertaining to clash of frequency and renewal of license with the relevant ministries and departments.

**Dr. R. Sreedher** mentioning that CRA has reached its peak in public relations with the ministries, made some valid suggestions and remarks, such as –

1. CRA should send other representatives from the GB on the screening committee of MIB
2. CRA should have more intervention in the TRAI policy guidelines.
3. Quoting TRAI recommendations that after 15 years the license will go to another body, he said we should not be under the impression that the license is with us forever.
4. While describing the role of policy makers and academia, he stressed on the need to have more practitioners in formulating policies and guidelines.
5. Reservations about the BECIL monitoring of the CRs. He insisted that instead of such monitoring, CR's should practice self regulation.
6. He criticized the current system of National Awards and requested the members to come up with ideas and ways of awarding the CRs in different ways.

The chair Dr. Fr. Thomas thanked Dr. Sreedher for his views and took the discussion forward.

### **3. Sharing of the IT returns on 2013-14 and provisional balance sheet of current year.**

Initially Dr. Amol Goje presented some part of this with the help of the current treasurer Ms. Salila Bhansali but finally it was presented by the last year treasurer Ms. Archana Kapoor. She informed that this year CRA has done work amounting to Rs. 98 lakhs.

She shared that CRA's role in conducting more number of workshops with MIB brings visibility to its work. It was mentioned that in some workshops CRA got the institutional charges with an exception of Peer Reviews Workshops where CRA was only a facilitator and did not get the institutional charges.

She informed that CRA has got the 12A, 80G & Service Tax number also and all donations to CRA from now on eligible for tax saving.

The future structure of financial transparency was also discussed amongst some of the GB members and it was assured that in future implementation of the same would be done.

Decision: As soon as the audit report is ready, the same will be uploaded on the website. Along with this, the unaudited reports would also be uploaded. Upon some suggestions by a few members including one from the GB, in addition to the above if somebody needs an e-mail to be sent, the same may be done.

#### 4. Review of MOA

#### 5. Review of Statute suggested by the Board

Dr. Sreedher suggested that some clauses of amendments need to be worked out and suggested that there should be a CRA project office or secretariat and a provision of No Confidence Motion. Many members supported this. Also, the members pointed towards the confusion in abbreviations for Governing Body and General Body. Different names for the Governing Body were suggested as Executive Council. Decision in this regards will be made. It was also suggested that CRA should differentiate between projects and administrative work. Office bearers should concentrate on policy issues. Dr. Fr. Thomas insisted for a national secretariat to be enforced but considering the funds! Future structure of the project office having a project director, project coordinator and staff was discussed.

**Decision:** A National Secretariat should be there in the Delhi/NCR Region and the final decision about the project office and other things will be for the GB to consider.

**Working committee for national secretariat:** Dr. Sreedher and Shri Bramha Prakash to identify a suitable place in Delhi/NCR and the GB will decide the staff to be appointed.

**Working committee for drafting amendments to MOA:** The committee members are Dr. R. Sreedhar (Chair), Dr. Amol Goje, Prof. Jayant Pethkar, Dr. Kailash Kamode, Shri James Rajasekaran, Ms. Seema Bharati, Ms. Rupali Deshmukh. It was decided that the same committee will co-opt for one or two advocates for drafting statutes. A period of 2 months was decided for the committee to come up with a draft, following which they will be circulated to members to respond within 15 days. Once this gets done, the MOA revisions will be finalized and circulated to everyone.

Other suggestions that came in were as follows:

- Decentralization of four regional bodies and they report to CRA central body
- Distribution of people and experts for capacity building workshops

**The Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting also were read in this meeting.**

#### 6. Grievances of Members

#### 7. Expectations of Members

#### 8. Suggestions on activities to be undertaken by CRA

Some members raised their grievances about the status and the treatment given to them and some others in the past. They expressed that such things should not happen. It was expressed

that CRA office bearers should resolve their personal differences and they should not affect the organization and we should work together to take the CR Sector ahead.

It was also expressed that CRA should be strong and united that it should act as a pressure group on the government to take the CR sector ahead and at times also be a voice for dissent against the government.

Members should be rotated in the various committees.

Opportunity to be given to other CR stations in the workshops and the same set of people should not repeat. .

CRA also should do something to do the renewal of the license.

### **9. Membership Concerns and Receipts**

An appeal was made to pay the dues. A time bound structure was suggested for this. A notice period of 3 months would be given to members with arrears (Rs 5,000 one time membership fees) and even if somebody does not pay the dues within the stipulated time, their membership will stand cancelled and Rs. 1000/- would be forfeited.

**Discussion on Dual Membership:** There were several views on this. All the pros & cons were discussed and it was decided that CRA is not against dual membership but are against holding the office of the two associations simultaneously. It was expected that the two associations would work in harmony with each other and they are not against each other.

### **10. Way forward for CRA**

It was decided that all the members would work together and in harmony to give the strength to the CR sector to help achieve the ultimate goal of the movement. . The new organization was also endorsed and welcomed.

At the end, the decisions made in the meeting were read out to all the members and a vote of thanks was proposed by the Secretary General.

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