Ramsar Management Authority

Tuesday 18 January 2011 at 1930 hrs
Arthur Mourant Room, Societe Jersiaise, St Helier

MINUTES

Present

Deputy Rob Duhamel, Assistant Minister, Department of Planning and Environment
Bertram Bree, RSPB
John Le Gresley, Les Minquiers Hut Owners
Lara Luke, Save Our Shoreline
John Clarke, Société Jersiaise
Chris Le Masurier, Jersey Aquaculture Association
Mike Taylor, Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel
Don Thompson, Jersey Fishermen Association

In Attendance

Greg Morel, Marine and Coastal Officer

Apologies

Constable Crowcroft
Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
Peter Gosselin, Jersey Recreational Fishermens Association
Jo Moss, Education, Sport and Culture
Tim du Feu, Head of Water Resources
Simon Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources

1. Welcome

Deputy Duhamel welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their input so far. He explained that the sole purpose of the meeting was to agree the management plan for the south east coast site.

2. Management Plan

G Morel explained the process so far and discussed the format of the plan. The Ramsar Authority agreed at the first meeting that any management needed to be focused on education and encouraging the appropriate behaviour rather than complex legislation i.e. a “bottom up and not top down”
approach. The plan was written to reflect this. He explained that the plan needs to follow a proposed structure as set out in the Ramsar handbook on managing wetlands. He stated that he had received additional comments from P Gosselin, which had been incorporated into the draft. He also stated that he had written to the secretariat asking for their comments on the draft. G Morel reported that the secretariat made some useful suggestions concerning the structure of the report, reference to the EFW, a time frame for action and the inclusion of the monitoring strategy once agreed. Members were happy to accept these recommendations for inclusion.

In general members were happy with the plan and felt that achieved the aims of the convention. B Bree expressed the opinion that the plan favoured those with an interest in commercial exploitation of the site. Other members disagreed with this and felt that the plan balanced all stakeholder interest. L Luke stated it would useful if the relationship and communication process with Jersey, the UK and the secretariat was included in the plan. G Morel explained that, whilst informal communication with the secretariat occurred directly, formal communication channels exist for correspondence of an official nature under the terms set out in the convention. It was agreed a paragraph should be included for clarity.

M Taylor stated that the information relating to multinational environmental agreements and local legislation would be better suited as an appendix and not in the body of the plan. Members agreed to move this information. M Taylor also stated that the issue of biocides should be included in the action plan. Members agreed and requested officers update the action plan to reflect this.

C le Masurier felt that the section on threats needed amplification with respect to discharges to site. Members agreed and requested officers expand this part of the plan.

Deputy Duhamel thanked members and officers for their input into the process of writing the plan and asked members to agree the plan once the above changes were made. Members agreed. There was some discussion in relation to consultation. Some members felt that the plan should be subject to further public consultation. Other members felt strongly that the Authority was a stakeholder group, already representing the public. It was felt that members of the public have been informed and have had an opportunity to input at any stage. Deputy Duhamel pointed out this was start of the process in many ways and there was continued opportunity to input into the plan. Members agreed to publish the plan, acknowledging that work still needs to be done and that members of the public would be welcome to participate should they wish at any point. Officers agreed to make the changes requested and proposed to publish the plan on the 2 Feb which is World Wetlands Day. This approach was agreed.

3. Future Work.

Deputy Duhamel reminded members that there was still the majority of work to do. The following action plan was proposed for future work in the short term.
1. Amend and publish SE coast plan.
2. Officers work on Paternosters plan, liaise directly with Authority members who have specific responsibility for that site and then report back to the full Authority.
3. Meet to discuss implementation of the SE coast plan, with particular reference to monitoring strategy for the site.

Members agreed this approach.

4. With no further business to discuss, Deputy Duhamel thanked all for coming and closed the meeting at 2115hrs.