Ramsar Management Authority

4 March 2010 at 1930 hrs
Ouseless Room, Jersey Museum, St Helier

MINUTES.

Present

Deputy Rob Duhamel, Assistant Minister, Department of Planning and Environment
Nick Meldrum, Member of the General Public
Keith Pyman, Jersey Canoe Club
Don Thompson, Jersey Fishermen’s Association
Derek Hairon, Jersey Kayak Adventures
Andrew Syvret
Tony Legg, Jersey Aquaculture Association
Martyn Proper, Save Our Shoreline
Dave Cabeldu, Save Our Shoreline
Keith Shaw
John Duquemin, JEC
Robert Le Brocq, Save Our Shoreline
Mick Sampson, Parish of St Ouen
Chris Le Boutillier, Greve de Lecq Boat Owners Association
Josephine Moss, Department of Education, Sport and Culture
John Clarke, Société Jersiaise
Ian Syvret, Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association
Eric Gavey, Les Ecrehous Residents Association
Jonathan Rault
Jonathan Perrée
Claudia Radomski, Environmental Lawyer
Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
Chris Whitworth
Mike Taylor, Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel
Bertram Bree, RSPB
Nick Jouault, Société Jersiaise
Constable Dan Murphy, Grouville

In Attendance

Andrew Scate, CEO, Department of Planning and Environment
Simon Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Greg Morel, Marine and Coastal Officer
Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
1. Welcome and Introduction

Deputy Rob Duhamel and Simon Bossy welcomed all and explained some of the background to the meeting, the aims and objectives of the Ramsar Management Authority and of the evening’s meeting. Deputy Duhamel stated that he was happy to chair the Authority.

2. Ramsar Presentation.

A presentation was given by Greg Morel, Marine and Coastal Officer concerning the Ramsar convention and the role of the Ramsar Management Authority. The presentation explained the rationale behind the Convention and the objectives. The current status of Ramsar sites in Jersey and in the Bay of Granville was highlighted. Details of the format of Ramsar Management Plan and the Ramsar Management Authority were also presented. Copies of the presentation were available if required.

3. Terms of Reference

1.0. Background

Constable Murphy raised the issue of whether different stakeholders would be required for the different Ramsar sites. It was agreed that although there would only be one Ramsar Management Authority, different sub groups would be established if required.

The designation date of 2000 for the south-east coast Ramsar Site was questioned and the Secretariat agreed to verify the date.

2.0. Description of the Management Authority

The issue of Chair of the Authority was raised by several members. It was felt that members should have an opportunity to elect a Chair and not have one imposed. Don Thompson felt that for the Authority to be stakeholder led, the members should elect the Chair. This view was endorsed by Andrew Syvret. Deputy Duhamel felt that at this stage, given the work of the Authority, a political Chair was vital. He would be in a position to bring forward propositions to States if required and is in a position to support the provision of resources. As the Assistant Minister of Planning and Environment, he also represents the
competent authority under the Convention. This view was endorsed by Constable Murphy who felt a political Chair was necessary. The Authority agreed that Deputy Duhamel would Chair the Authority under the caveat that a time limit was implemented. It was agreed that the position of the Chair would be reviewed by the Authority in 12 months.

Tony Legg asked what the relationship would be with the Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel and whether there would be any crossover of responsibilities. Deputy Duhamel felt that there was no crossover or conflict between the two bodies at this moment in time.

3.0. Vision and Objectives

The Authority felt the vision was not sufficient and needed the inclusion of implementation of the Plans. The terms of reference (TOR) were amended to read “to produce and implement the management plans for Jersey’s Ramsar sites”

4.0. Administration of the Management Authority

Greg Morel stated that the meeting frequency in the TOR was a best guess given that the work load of the Authority in the future is difficult to ascertain at this time.

5.0. Other Circumstances

It was agreed that 5.1. should refer to external bodies and not just the media and that consultation with Authority Members should occur. Deputy Duhamel stated that this did not prevent other organisations speaking to external bodies, but would ensure a cohesive response. The issue of agreement between members was discussed. Andrew Scate stated that where possible consensus for any issue would be best. If consensus was not possible disagreement would be noted and reported. The issue of the Ramsar Management Authority being in direct contact with the Ramsar Secretariat was also raised. Andrew Scate stated that the Ramsar Management Authority would report to the competent authority, which in the case of Jersey was the Minister for Planning and Environment.

It was agreed that 6.0. Review of the Management Authority arrangements would be re-numbered 5.2.

It was agreed that the TOR should be amended to reflect these points

4. Membership.

The Authority considered the Member of the Authority as in Appendix 1 of the TOR. Deputy Duhamel asked for members to be mindful of the logistics of the Authority being too large. It was suggested the following organisations were added to the membership:
1. Department of Transport and Technical Services
2. Les Minquiers residents (Constable Murphy agreed to investigate)
3. Energy sector representative
4. Members of the Public (some concern was raised regarding representation by the general public. 4.3. of the TOR states that the meetings are open to the public. If an opportunity was afforded to any members of the public attending the meeting their opinion would be heard. It was not felt that an additional Authority Member would be needed).
5. DEFRA (an open invitation would be extended to a representative from DEFRA to attend the Authority meetings).

It was agreed that Appendix 1 of the TOR should be amended to reflect these points

5. Authority Timetable

A timetable for the meeting dates for the Authority was proposed for the coming year with meetings held approximately every two months but taking into account the consultation period required. It was pointed out that there was a meeting scheduled for August which may be difficult for some members. It was requested meeting dates be provided as soon as possible to enable member to plan. The secretariat agreed to provide details once the consultation dates were established.

6. Consultation

A three stage consultation process was proposed to ensure full consultation with stakeholders and the general public. This process would involve the Ramsar Management Authority, those organisations and individuals on the marine and coastal database and the wider general public. The wider public would be informed of the consultation process through the media and the consultation would be in the form of a questionnaire based on the issues raised in the Authority. This approach was endorsed by the Authority.

7. Workshop

The Authority employed a workshop format to raise issues that should be considered as part of the consultation process. This was done by using various broad headings under which ideas could be added. The broad headings were development, inputs, land/sea use, extractive use and other not covered by the previous four.
The information was collected by the Secretariat to analyse and to form the basis of the pubic consultation questionnaire.

8. CDs with information relating to Ramsar Management Plans, Ramsar handbooks and Ramsar Information Sheets were distributed to Authority members.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 2130hrs.