JERSEY RAMSAR ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club
9th January 2024

Present:	Guest speakers: Ports of Jersey Hartigan Chairman AM Natural Environment (Marine Resources) MR Natural Environment (Land Resource Management) LRM Écréhous Residents Association ERA Ports of Jersey POJ Save our Shoreline SOS Minquiers Residents MIRA National Trust NT Jersey Marine Conservation JMC Jersey Seafaris JS Earth Project Jersey EPJ
Apologies:	Jersey Walk Adventures JWA Jersey Kayak Adventures JKA Jersey Tour Guides JTG National Park NP Blue Marine Foundation BMF Island Rib Voyages IRV
Absences:	

		Action
	Matters Arising: 1. Opening Remarks - Chair elect 2. Presentation by Ports of Jersey – new harbour development from a Ramsar perspective (30 minutes including Q&A) 3. Approval of Minutes from 24th October 2023 4. New Terms of Reference 5. Transition from RMA structure – to proposed JRAG structure a. Brief discussion/audit of existing membership b. explanation of agreed new criteria for membership. c. discussion on creation of sub-groups d. JRMA internal to Government of Jersey e. JRAG forum - to engage a broader audience of non-members and attract support f. JRAG technical group – scientific/advisory - to focus on data and Management Plans	ALL

	g. Executive/Core group - to help drive progress day to day. 6. JRMA and JRAG communication opportunities a. press release/email introducing AM as a new chairperson of JRAG b. JRMA/JRAG members World Wetland's Day talk - 29th January c. Use of existing communication channels d. Creating of new social media channels e. South East coast signage 7. Monitoring and baseline data – next step for the risk matrix, mitigation and opportunities for data gathering. 8. AOB	
2.	**Presentation – New Harbour Development (Guest speakers, Ports of Jersey and Hartigan)** A detailed presentation was given on the existence, and mitigation, of contaminated substances in the area to be dredged in the new harbour development. Clarity was requested on: - Dealing with heavy metals: mercury, chromium and nickel, and PAH. - The quantity of material to be dredged and its processing. - The progression of any plumes through the South East coast Ramsar site. - The monitoring processes, threshold limits and warning systems. The RMA thanked Ports of Jersey and Hartigan for the presentation. MR explained that the planning department commissioned DHI to review the environmental aspects to dredge the port of St Helier and to determine if the appropriate management has been put in place by the applicant. JS explained their role in taking the new harbour development team to conduct the preliminary studies.	
4.	**New Terms of Reference** The Chairman provided a summary of the historical situation whereby the contracting party, the Government of Jersey (GoJ), had handed over the responsibility of delivery of many of its Ramsar obligations to an independent, voluntary organisation, the Ramsar Management Authority (RMA). This body had been under resourced and there was insufficient funding provided for it to undertake the necessary work. The new Terms of Reference (ToR) would shift the focus of responsibility for delivery back to the Government of Jersey and have members of the existing 'Ramsar Management Authority' rebranded as the 'Jersey Ramsar Advisory Group' (JRAG). The purpose of this group is to support the Government in its Ramsar related work, to hold it to account and to act as a critical friend. The responsibility for meeting GoJ Ramsar obligations would fall to a newly constituted RMA, within the Environment Department, funded by GoJ. EPJ raised concerns as to whether the new structure would ensure the independence of the group from GoJ. SOSJ sought assurance that a submission directly to Ramsar could be made under the new proposed terms.	

	SOSJ raised an example of an issue that should have been escalated but was not. MR explained the status of Jersey within the wider Ramsar network. We are not a signatory to Ramsar but annexed to it through our relationship to the UK via DEFRA. JRAG can independently report concerns directly to the Ramsar authority without going through the GoJ, but official responses must go through GoJ via the UK. The Minister for the Environment represents the Ramsar Management Authority in Jersey and is responsible for Jersey meeting its obligations under the Convention. It was concluded that following approval by the Minister for the Environment, the Terms of Reference will be adopted, and roles, responsibilities and procedures will be defined.	
5.	**Transition from RMA structure to proposed JRAG structure** An audit of the members in the room was undertaken and their associated entity confirmed. Agreement that a structure for the new 'JRAG' should be formed, initially consisting of: - a core membership limited to 30 members who have a direct interest in Ramsar meeting twice a year. - an 'Executive committee'; a subgroup of the JRAG who will meet on a more frequent basis to assist the Chair in managing JRAG work. - a 'Ramsar Forum' for the direct distribution of information (those who wish not to attend regular meeting but would like to stay informed). It was agreed that the Chairman could create other project specific groups if deemed necessary. Within the GoJ, an internal Natural Environment group will convene to establish effective use of officer time and appropriate resourcing for Ramsar. MR to update the Ramsar Management Framework document to include a diagram of escalation procedure. Also need to define roles and responsibilities for the JRAG and GoJ representatives in a newly constituted RMA within GoJ. Once approval has been sought from the Minister for the Environment, the JRAG Chairman will write an email to all members listed in the Appendix of the Terms of Reference (ToR). This email will explain the new ToR and the roles and responsibilities therein. The Chairman will also invite stakeholders to confirm whether they want to transfer to being a member of JRAG, or to join an informal group (The Ramsar Forum). It was suggested that any named stakeholder joining JRAG as a Member, should nominate their 'Principal Representative' and also an 'alternate' to represent them,	MR/LRM MR MR

	should the principal be unavailable. Connetables should be re-invited to engage with JRAG and also Commercial entities listed in the original RMA Membership. It was agreed that the Chairman will set JRAG's work plan for 2024 using the risk assessment matrix, which has been signed off via RMA stakeholder consultation earlier.	
6.	**RMA- JRAG communication opportunities** On approval of the ToR by the Minister for the Environment, a press release/email will be developed introducing AM as the new Chairman of the Jersey Ramsar Advisory Group. Three members of the RMA will be doing a talk on Ramsar to mark the World Wetlands Day event – Jersey Museum, 29th January, 17:30. There will be a Panel at the end for Q&A and all members of the RMA are invited to join in. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. A Ramsar coordination group should be convened for future Ramsar World Wetland events to further engage the public next year. It was suggested that the annual Inter Island Environmental meeting (IIEM) should also include a section on Ramsar. Improved collaboration with our Channel Island colleagues is to be encouraged: MR has monthly meetings with Alderney Wildlife Group.	AM/MR JMC NT MR ALL MR ALL
7.	**Monitoring and baseline data** A spreadsheet has been created as the next step, following the creation of the risk matrix in October. On the spreadsheet risks to the four Ramsar sites identified as red and amber have been pulled out and a plan for managing these risks needs to be made. Existing projects and data will need identifying, plus and new activities will require resourcing and funding. Each monitoring activity will need a designated member of the RMA following and reporting on the work. The Écréhous data has been completed and it is expected that the Minquiers will broadly replicate this. The Paternosters and South East coast will need consideration. A JRAG Sub-Group meeting is to be convened in the last week of January or the last week of February to do this. **ACTION** An invitation will be sent out in February for a working group to complete the 'Monitoring and Baseline data' spreadsheet for the remaining three sites.	 MR MR
	AOB	

3.	**It was raised that the minutes of the last meeting have not yet been approved. Minutes from 24th October 2023 were approved unanimously.**	ALL
	Next Meeting TBC 2024, St Helier Yacht Club	