

**Action for Cleaner Water Meeting held at the Offices of Jersey Water, St Helier
on Wednesday 10th July 2024**

Present: Natural Environment, I&E, GoJ
Dairy sector
Jersey Water
Agri-Environment/Catchment Officer, Natural Env, GoJ
Regulation, I&E, GoJ
Jersey Royal Company
Jersey Farmers Union
Albert Bartlett

In attendance: Secretary, JFU – minute taker
Officers from Solid Waste, I&E – for 1st agenda item
Hypha Consulting – invited for 1st agenda item
Deputy States Vet – for 1st agenda item
Natural Environment, GoJ – for items 3 and 4

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.	<p>Compost and Sewage Sludge operations</p> <p>The Chairman explained that he had invited guests to the meeting as there had been questions posed at the last Rural Forum meeting about the availability of compost for smallholders. A representative for smallholders had also been invited for this discussion.</p> <p>Compost – The Solid Waste officer explained that green waste is delivered to La Collette Green Waste site and that different types of compost is produced – the most popular is Soil Improver which is available to anyone to purchase. It is available in 40 litre bags or in bags of a cubic metre. Gardeners/Landscapers can also buy it loose. An agricultural compost with recycled gypsum from plasterboard is also produced during summer months. There is a waiting list of farmers wanting this as the quality is high and it contains sulphates and calcium. Farmers take this agricultural compost for free and it is delivered and spread by a contractor at a cost agreed between the farmer and contractor. Smallholders are free to add their names to the waiting list for this product. The smallholder would need to contact the contractor to discuss whether their site would be suitable and to agree the cost. It may be possible for a smallholder to collect the produce direct from La Collette but they would need to contact an officer at that site to discuss this. The meeting was advised that smallholders would require 40 – 50 tonnes of compost a year. The smallholder rep was advised that there are regulations on the tonnage of compost that can be spread per vergee and that a soil nutrient management plan would be required if the product was to be used on a smallholding. There is currently no money in the Government budget to make alterations to the regulations or to change procedures at La Collette. It was suggested that a separate meeting be set up with interested parties to continue this discussion.</p> <p>Sewage sludge – Sludge is pasteurised and treated and biosolids are spread on the land, which is preferable to the alternative of burning. There is more produced than can be spread on the land so the excess is</p>	
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	<p>burned at La Collette. There are restrictions about where sewage sludge can be spread, in order to avoid boreholes and streams. The landbank for spreading biosolids has contracted due to Global Gap farm assurance requirements. It was suggested that with more crop rotation taking place, there may be more land available where biosolids can be spread. There is testing done on both the material spread as well as the soil. This includes testing for PFAS.</p> <p>At the end of the discussion, the guests who had attended for this part of the meeting departed.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes of the March 2024 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Strategy –The Environment Minister has moved this to the top of his priority list and will be coming up with a new strategy before the next election so that long-term decisions can be made about water storage. • LEAF have confirmed that a visual check on slurry storage is OK and that no surveyors report is required. • Location map of chemical stores on farms - This information is to be added to Government records and it was suggested that the Fire Service is made aware of locations of stores on farms. • List of contact roles in Government – Still to be done/updated and then circulated. • Drones – The agriculture industry has been in contact with the UK company. Legislation changes will be required to give approval for spraying from the air. Offer of support from the Environment Department. • Planning applications re Slurry stores – one farmer is building a new slurry store. Hence, this now has permission. • Classifications on the farm risk map – Agri/catchment officer to send details of changes to agriculture industry reps. Any updates to be sent to industry going forward. • 2023 Pesticide list – it was confirmed that hardly any insecticides are used by potato growers. • Safe disposal of chemicals – An amnesty should be promoted and publicised. It was suggested that there should be an information page on the GoJ website. Natural Environment to investigate putting out some information. Natural Environment to liaise with the JFU about sending out an email to JFU members. • 2 companies are currently in the running to build the 1st Anaerobic Digestion plant on the largest cattle farm in the Island. A visit to the UK manufacturer is to be arranged. Discussion is ongoing with the 	<p style="text-align: right;">Action: Regulation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Ag rep /Agri/Catchment officer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Agri/Catchment officer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Natural Env Action: Nat Env & JFU</p>

	JEC about standby charges and buy back rates for putting electricity back into the grid	
3.	<p>Metobromuron</p> <p>Metobromuron is a herbicide that controls broadleaf weeds and grasses and is applied to fields before potatoes emerge. It can be removed from water by Jersey Water using powdered activated carbon so there is no issue with the final treated water. There have been some detections this year to heavy rain, particularly in Val de la Mare reservoir. It was decided to continue to allow the use of Metobromuron, keeping the RAG status at green and to keep monitoring, including checks to be made for the chemical especially in groundwater during the winter.</p>	<p>Action: Jersey Water, Agri/Catchment officer</p>
4.	<p>Blight control</p> <p>It was suggested by the Jersey Royal Company that a discussion on blight control should take place at the September meeting as blight is becoming more problematic. A different range of chemicals is being used to try to keep on top of the blight problem.</p>	<p>Action: Chairman re Sept agenda</p>
5.	<p>Albert Bartlett Jersey and Jersey Royal Company merger</p> <p>The two representatives of ABJ and JRC agreed that the merger had been beneficial despite the delay in getting the go ahead from the JCRA. Everyone is now working together to maximise potential and this will strengthen the Jersey Royal brand. There should be opportunity for more rotation of crops going forward. The plan is to slightly decrease area planted and increase yield. Potato seed crops will need to be planted and lifted later due to mild winters to mitigate the risk of increasing day degrees in the seed. The area of cover crops is increasing which will benefit the soil. Albert Bartlett Jersey have instigated a cover crop competition this year.</p> <p>The Minister asked about vegetable production on the Island and was advised that there is now very little other veg grown due to low financial returns and a high cost of production.</p>	
8.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>Current dates of future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 4th September (Albert Bartlett) • Wednesday 18th December (Natural Environment, HDF) 	<p>Action: Chairman</p>
	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dairy Sector rep advised that as he has taken on the Presidency of the RJA&HS, he will be delegating his membership on the AFCW group to another dairy farmer, who also sits on the JMMB and on the Agriculture Committee of the RJA&HS which is helpful for liaising between the different organisations. • Likewise, the President of the JFU advised that he has asked a JFU Council member to replace him as the JFU representative at AFCW meetings. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the AFCW group thanked the Dairy Sector rep and the President of the JFU for their valued input and tireless work pushing forward and delivering the objectives of the Group.• It was suggested that more information is made available to inform the public about the good work done by members of the AFCW group.	
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