

**DWH Trustee Council
4/2/18 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	NOAA
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Craig O'Connor
James Murphy		Debora McClain	Melissa Carle
		Ann Hijuelos	Chris Doley
			Mike Peccini
LA			
Alyson Graugnard		EPA	
Billy Plauché		Gale Bonanno	DOJ
	FL	Tim Landers	
MS	Gareth Leonard		
Gary Rikard	Amy Raker	USDA	
Teri Wyly		Ron Howard	
Chris Wells			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. The LA TIG is focused on a number of items. The Trustees released its first restoration plan in January 2017 and that plan approved funds for the Engineering & Design of three marsh creation projects, two bird projects, and one shoreline protection project. E&D is ongoing for all of these projects. The first recreational use plan was published in draft form December 2017, and the LA TIG will be publishing a supplemental plan to address comments on one project in the near future. The third restoration plan is a strategic restoration plan specific to Barataria Basin. This is intended to restore wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats in Barataria Basin and to help with restoration strategies and prioritization of projects in that area. This plan does not fund the construction of projects, but rather selects a suite of restoration approaches/techniques, including large-scale sediment diversions, marsh creation, and large-scale marsh creation, and selects to advance forward specific projects for additional evaluation and restoration planning. The next step is to develop project-specific plans for these projects and further evaluate the projects. The fourth restoration plan the LA TIG is drafting is for additional recreational use projects and nutrient reduction projects. The plan will likely be released in the next few weeks and will have a public meeting afterwards. The LA TIG is also hosting a public meeting on June 26 in New Orleans to update the public on the TIG's activities.

- b. The RW TIG created a small pre-planning team to help inform the TIG's next steps. That small team worked with the state TIGs to identify pressing data or restoration needs. The small team compiled a list of the current restoration and data needs and consulted the strategic frameworks. They then presented options to the RW TIG as

well as a recommendation. The options were: 1) No action by the RW TIG at the current time 2) Initiate MAM related activities to address information needs, and 3) Initiate MAM activities and restoration planning. The RW TIG decided to pursue option 3. The group has a number of further questions to explore (i.e., timeframe, funding level, process for MAM activities, deciding restoration types to pursue, etc.) that they will explore in the near future.

The AL and FL TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

Discussion Item 1: MAM Programmatic Report

- a. Discussion: The group had a follow-up discussion on the four MAM programmatic report questions raised on the previous TC call. The questions for discussion are:
 - 1) When should the report be produced
 - 2) Who is responsible for producing it
 - 3) What should the programmatic report contain, and
 - 4) What should the format be for the programmatic reports.Suggestion to do an evaluation of where we are, where we've been, and where we're trying to get to. The group discussed the possibility of an in-person executive session discussion when the group is together in July.
- b. Decision: The Trustees will review the settlement documents to see what these documents say about this topic. That research should be completed in advance of the July in-person meeting.
- c. Action Items:
 1. TIG support will look into the logistics of an in-person executive session of 1.5 hours on July 19.

Discussion Item 2: 2018 Trustee Council Public Meeting

- a. Discussion: Update on logistics for the July 19 meeting. The meeting and room block logistics are confirmed. The room block link was distributed several weeks ago and the venue at the university is all set. The materials for the meeting will be drafted after the annual reporting effort is complete. There will be more to report on upcoming calls. USDA proposed adding an additional outreach component of an NRDA 101 course or a smaller group session earlier in the day on July 19. The session would be similar to how MS has conducted breakout sessions during their summits. The Principals would not have to be in attendance.
- b. Decision: The topic of an additional outreach session will be discussed on the next TC call.
- c. Action Items:

1. TIG support will look into potential logistics (timing and location) for a small group session. The topic will be discussed further during the May call.

Other Business

- a. End of Year Reporting – The TIG review process is going on now through April 6. The process seems to be going well. The TC will get a draft web story by next Monday for a one week review. Approval will be conducted via email. A draft annual financial report will also be circulated once it is complete as an FYI.
- b. Update on questions from the General Accounting Office (GAO) –The GAO has submitted some additional questions that the federal trustees are working on answering. The GAO requested another meeting with DOI and NOAA specifically related to DIVER reports. That meeting will most likely happen in May.
Action Item: TIG support will circulate the most recent questions and responses between the GAO and the federal Trustees when they are available.
- c. Next call is Monday, May 7.

**DWH Trustee Council
5/7/18 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	NOAA
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Melissa Carle
	Patti Powell	Kevin Reynolds	Chris Doley
	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Mike Peccini
	Jane Calamusa	Ann Hijuelos	Aileen Smith
LA		Nanciann Regalado	Rachel Sweeny
Alyson Graugnard			Stephen Heverly
Billy Plauché		EPA	
	FL	Gale Bonanno	
MS	Gareth Leonard	Tim Landers	DOJ
Gary Rikard	Amy Raker	Mary Kay Lynch	
Teri Wyly	Leslie Ames		
Chris Wells		USDA	
		Ron Howard	
		Nancy McGee	

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. The AL TIG held a public meeting on April 18 to discuss its second restoration plan and hold its annual public meeting. The meeting was well attended and included opening remarks from Governor Kay Ivey. The restoration plan evaluates 26 alternatives and proposes 22 of those for funding at a cost of \$32 million dollars and touches all restoration types except recreational use, which was covered in the first plan about six months ago. The comment period closes today, May 7. The final plan is expected to be released to the public in early September.
- b. The FL TIG finalized the final plan V.2 and they are drafting their first post-settlement plan that will allocate \$55-\$60 million for habitat projects on federally managed lands, provide and enhance recreational opportunities, and water quality. In addition to drafting restoration plans, the FL TIG completed their Shell Point project from Early Restoration Phase III. The Island View Park project, which was part of the Phase V Coastal Access Project, is nearly complete and includes several recreational amenities. The ribbon cutting will likely take place in early July.

The TX and OO TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

Discussion Item 1: Review of Cross TIG MAM Priority List

- a. Discussion: MAM representatives led a walkthrough of the proposed MAM task list which was distributed to the TC for review. The group discussed whether some pieces

may be able to be pulled out and reviewed separately from the MAM manual 2.0. Some items may not be ready for Version 2.0 depending on how far they are lagging behind others. There was general support for the test case idea. The Cross TIG MAM is having an in-person meeting this week. The group discussed whether this proposed talk list constitutes an increase in activity level, status quo, or decrease in activity level. After the task list is approved then the Cross TIG-MAM will create a budget for the TC and RW TIG to review.

b. Action Items:

1. Review the proposed activities and email TIG support with approve or suggested changed by COB on Wednesday, May 9.

Discussion Item 2: 2018 Trustee Council Public Meeting

- a. Discussion: The room block is now closed and the meeting venue is set. The proposed production schedule for the various documents (save the date, factsheets, presentations, script, etc.) will be distributed in the next few weeks. The first product for review will be circulated at the end of May. There's been some discussion about tweaks that could be made for this meeting to differentiate it from the prior ones. One suggestion is to have a station at the open house that presents the website and how DIVER surfaces project information.

There is also a proposal for an additional outreach session that was circulated to the TC. Discussion of the likely audience for the session. Mississippi holds yearly summits and meetings with NGOs on a regular basis, and since this is in Mississippi some of the same participants may be targeted. Part of the proposal is to conduct targeted outreach to invite affected groups. The group discussed the benefits of holding both an outreach session and the regular open house and formal meeting. The proposal is that a representative from each Trustee agency would participate, but it is not required. The outreach session could also serve as a feedback loop to get information on the needs of the public for future outreach activities. The session would also include a brief discussion of the other funding streams.

The TC discussed the potential of holding an executive session of the TC before the public meeting, however there are a number of conflicting meetings to be aware of. They may want to stagger the times rather than hold meetings concurrently. The group discussed skipping the executive session and conducting that business by phone. The group agreed to compile a proposed TC agenda and then they will discuss on the next call whether a face-to-face or call is best.

- b. Decision: All TC members (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL, DOI, USDA, NOAA, and EPA) gave their verbal approval to proceed with planning and holding an additional outreach meeting in July. There was a slight preference for the outreach meeting to take place on the afternoon of July 19, but the Trustees will wait for the outcome of discussions with the affected groups before committing to a time and date.

- c. Action Items:
 - 1. Send any idea for changes to the meeting materials or presentation to Nanciann Regalado.
 - 2. Send agenda topics for the TC to discuss to TIG support.
 - 3. NOAA will look at the settlement documents to see what they say regarding the MAM programmatic report.

Other Business

- a. Update on questions from the General Accounting Office (GAO). The responses to the next set of questions will go to the GAO this week.

Action Item: TIG support will circulate the most recent questions and responses between the GAO and the federal Trustees when they are available.

- b. Next call is Monday, June 4.

**DWH Trustee Council
6/4/18 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	NOAA
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Laurie Rounds
	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	
		Ashley Mills	
LA			
Alyson Graugnard			
		EPA	
	FL	Mary Kay Lynch	
MS	Gareth Leonard	Tim Landers	DOJ
Chris Wells	Amy Raker	Caroline Klos	
Teri Wyly	Leslie Ames		
	Doug Beason	USDA	
		Ron Howard	
		Nancy McGee	

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. The TX TIG has been busy on a number of fronts. The sea turtle restoration projects are going well. So far, the nesting counts appear to be strong. Work on the 13 projects included in the TX TIG 2017 restoration plan is ramping up. Some projects are construction projects, while others are engineering and design only. The TX TIG has completed land acquisitions of 240 acres on Follets Island. In the fall the TIG will likely acquire another 100 acres for the coastal refuge system, 800 acres for the Mid-Coast Habitat Acquisition Project, and 700 acres for Laguna Atascosa. Work is also underway on the McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration Project. This is a large project with approximately \$50 million total funding in partnership with NFWF and RESTORE Bucket 1. The Trustees are currently doing an offshore sand search. They also have completed a number of resolutions and implementation plans for numerous projects. The TX TIG recently initiated their planning efforts for their upcoming TIG meeting which will likely be a web-only meeting in October.

- b. The OO TIG is busy with restoration planning. In February they announced they would release two restoration plans. Restoration Plan (RP) 1 (birds and gulf sturgeon) and RP 2 (fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic reefs and deep benthic habitats). Recent work included DOI and NOAA representatives calling into all the other TIG calls to get input on project types and looking at MAM priorities and comprehensive priorities for the OO TIG.

A draft of RP 1 will be ready for TIG review in the next week. The aim is for RP 1 to be released to the public by the end of July. They will likely hold two public webinars in August. The plan has four preferred alternatives (three birds, one sturgeon). The group discussed whether state TIG members will have a chance to review plan before it's released. It was decided that there will be a briefing for the other TIGs in advance of its release.

RP 2 is on a longer planning horizon than RP1. The team has been looking at project concepts, holding targeted stakeholder meetings, and discussing items with the other TIGs. The team will work on the preferred vs non-preferred projects over the next few months.

The MS TIG and Cross TIG MAM will give their report outs on the next TC call.

Discussion Item 1: 2018 Trustee Council Public Meeting

- a. Discussion: Logistics for the TC Meeting. The draft documents for the annual meeting will begin to be circulated on June 20.
- b. Discussion: Additional Outreach Session. The date and location for the meeting has been decided. The additional outreach session will be held during the evening of July 18 at the Courtyard Beachfront Marriott in Gulfport. The small group is working on the materials and will begin to circulate draft items on June 25. The agenda for the small group meeting was circulated from TIG support and presenters and panelists are in the document. There will be two sessions that evening. First "NRDA 101" to engage folks who aren't as familiar with the process and then "How to Submit Project Ideas." Discussion of how many folks are expected to attend. Discussion of state representation on the panel and during the meeting. Discussions will continue regarding various speaking roles.

Action Items:

1. If you'd like to have a representative join the small group or participate in the evening please let TIG support know.
- c. Discussion: Executive session on July 19 to discuss the MAM programmatic report and other topics. NOAA supports holding an in-person meeting in order to discuss the MAM five-year report, additional MAM topics, and other items as needed. The suggested time is from 2-3:30. There are other topics that will surely arise as the agenda gets developed. General agreement that meeting that afternoon makes sense. NOAA and DOI will prepare a strawman agenda for the TC to consider.

Decision: TC will meet from 2-3:30 on July 19 at the Courtyard Beachfront Marriott.

Action Items:

2. Send agenda items to TIG support.
3. TIG support will circulate a calendar apt for 2-3:30 on the 19th.
4. NOAA and DOI will prepare a strawman agenda for the TC to consider.

Other Business

- a. The third set of responses to the Government Accountability Office were sent out last week. Those will be circulated via TIG support soon.
- b. Next call is Monday, July 2.