

**DWH Trustee Council  
10/1/18 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Johanna Gregory	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Chris Doley
Robin Riechers	Nicole Hampton	Kevin Reynolds	Aileen Smith
		Mary Josie Blanchard	Mike Peccini
		Ashley Mills	Laurie Rounds
<b>LA</b>	<b>FL</b>	Nanciann Regalado	
Alyson Graugnard	Leslie Ames		<b>USDA</b>
Billy Plauché	Gil McRae	<b>EPA</b>	Homer Wilkes
	Gareth Leonard	Gale Bonanno	
<b>MS</b>	Amy Raker	Mary Kay Lynch	
Chris Wells			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The TX TIG is busy working on project implementation. Out of the early restoration projects there are several projects currently in monitoring and the rest are in implementation. Seven of the 13 approved projects from the 2017 RPEA have final implementation plans and resolutions. Among those are several land acquisition projects which are already in progress. The TX TIG annual public meeting is being held on October 15 in Galveston.
  
- b. The OO TIG is busy with two restoration plans and implementing early restoration projects. The Bon Secour trail project and Gulf Island National Seashore Ferry projects are both complete. The beach enhancement project in Florida will be in implementation for another year, and the Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancement Project is expected to start construction in 2019. The oceanic fish restoration project early restoration is still in the implementation phase. As far as restoration planning the OO TIG is working on two draft restoration plans. OO TIG draft RPEA#1 scheduled to be released to the public on October 9. There will be two webinars on October 16 and 17. The plan includes two preferred bird alternatives and one preferred sturgeon alternative. Drafting of OO TIG RPEA#2 is in progress. The plan will cover fish and water column invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities. There are currently 19 preferred projects for ~\$234 million. The projects range from short term feasibility projects to long-term data management. The aim is to release the plan in early January 2019 with a 45-day comment period and two webinars and two in person meetings. The agenda has a link to a presentation with more details that has been given to all the other TIGs. If folks want to check out the presentation or hear more information please let a member of

the OO TIG know.

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

### **Discussion Item 2: 2019 Trustee Council Meeting**

- a. Discussion: The LAT has been thinking about the format for upcoming Trustee Council meetings and would like to propose a change in the structure of the meeting. One option is for the chair and the vice chair to give the presentation and to reduce the slides so that there is less repetition. Another option for the TC to consider is to have a shorter presentation followed by breakout sessions that cover TIG specific activities. This would be more of a Q/A or discussion style. The two options will be circulated by TIG support with greater detail. The group could discuss it further on the November call. The 2019 meeting will be in the May/June timeframe.
- b. Action Item: TIG support will circulate the proposed meeting options from the LAT. Please review and be ready to discuss on the November call.

### **Other Business**

- a. The vice chair rotation is effective today. Mary Kay Lynch (EPA) is the new vice chair.
- b. There is an updated portal ID form for Trustees to use going forward. The new form has additional basic information that will be uploaded into DIVER and become publically available within a month or so. This will enable at least the basic project information to be publically available in a more timely manner. Also, TIGs are requested to complete the new portal ID form within 30 days of a final plan for all approved projects. TIG support will circulate the new form to all the TIGs this week.
- c. The most recent SOP was released in November 2016. Some sections still have placeholder information and other sections may need revisions now that the Trustees have some experience. The LAT will draft an action plan and will circulate it by the November TC call.
- d. The next TC call is Monday, November 5.

**DWH Trustee Council  
11/5/18 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Debora McClain	Chris Doley
	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Aileen Smith
<b>LA</b>	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	Craig O'Connor
Alyson Graugnard			Melissa Carle
Billy Plauché	<b>FL</b>		Rachel Sweeney
Michael Ellison	Phil Coram		
	Gareth Leonard	<b>EPA</b>	
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin	Mary Kay Lynch	<b>USDA</b>
Chris Wells		LaKeisha Robertson	Homer Wilkes
Teri Wyly		Gale Bonanno	

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The MS TIG is working on several items. First, a year ago they announced the projects under Restoration Plan 1. One of those projects, Grand Bay is now in the midst of the first acquisition under that project. The MS TIG recently announced an effort to supplement the Grand Bay project in RP1 to consider increasing the budget in order to expand habitat management, enhance monitoring and adaptive management, and potentially acquire additional parcels/habitat in the project area. A supplement to RP1 is now in progress. The TIG is also working on RP2. On June 11, 2018, the TIG released a notice to solicit project ideas with an August 10, 2018, deadline. Since then, the MS TIG has been screening project ideas and published a notice of initiation of restoration planning. The aim is to publish a draft RP2 by end then end of Q2 2019. A week from tomorrow the MS TIG will host its annual meeting as part of the Mississippi Restoration Summit in Biloxi. The summit will be an all-day event and details are available online.
  
- b. The Cross TIG MAM is working on a number of activities. First, they held a successful in-person meeting in September. The group developed a number of recommendations and had productive discussions about adaptive management, data management, and other topics. The group is also continuing to work on establishing external coordination with RESTORE, GEBF, and other restoration programs. The group is working on how to coordinate specifically with the RESTORE MAM workgroup since there is a sizable overlap of membership and directives. The two groups will continue to discuss coordination opportunities. The MAM members are continuing to assist the TIGs with MAM plan creation and review. The group is continuing development of MAM Manual V 2.0. They completed developing

monitoring guidance for several resource types which will be covered later in this call. The group is also starting work on a number of new guidance documents for example for water quality, recreational use, birds, marine mammal, and sea turtle restoration projects. They have also been working with the LAT and public affairs staff to work on a proposed process to complete the first 5-year programmatic review of the restoration program. This is expected to be released in spring of 2021.

The LA and RW TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

### **Discussion Item 2: Cross TIG MAM Topics**

- a. Discussion: The Cross TIG MAM drafted programmatic review recommendations documents for TC review and approval. The request is for the TC to approve the general structure for developing the programmatic review. The premise is to stand-up working groups that develop different components of the document. If/when the TC approves the approach then the membership would need to be determined, the working groups stood up, timelines developed, and other tasks. The group discussed the proposal and next steps. The Cross TIG MAM already has funding for the next few months to continue developing the recommendations. If any Trustee proposes an alternate structure then TIG support will circulate that approach to the TC.
- b. Action Item: The Cross TIG MAM will develop a budget to accompany the programmatic review recommendations document as well as outline the time expected to be spent by staff and the number of staff members estimated to be associated with the proposal. Eventually the recommendation will be updated to include the purpose and audience of the final product. Trustees will review and consider the proposal and the topic will be revisited on the next call. Any comments should be sent to TIG support by COB on 11/13 if possible and TIG support will forward all comments to Melissa Carle and the TC.
- a. Discussion: The Cross TIG MAM developed new Guidance for Oysters, SAV, and Land Protection projects. If approved, these would be released as MAM Manual 1.1. They would be added as attachments to the existing documents. The documents flesh out details for project monitoring. The guidance has gone through Trustee and Fatal Flaw Review by the Cross TIG MAM members. The request is for the TC to approve and adopt this new monitoring guidance. LA requests that a header is added to clarify that these are guidance documents only. The document is available to the public.
- c. Action Item: LA will work with the Cross TIG MAM workgroup to add a header to clarify that these are guidance documents only. Approvals are requested to TIG support by COB on 11/13.

### **Discussion Item 3: 2019 Trustee Council Meeting**

- a. Discussion: The LAT provided a proposal last month for the TC to consider. The document outlines a proposal for the next TC annual public meeting. There are two options for the TC to consider. The time involved in planning the annual meeting at the same time as other activities means that the planning needs to start soon. The trustees discussed both options and how the TIG messages relate to the overall restoration message. A decision is requested by early December if possible. The TC previously decided to move the annual meeting to the May timeframe to better align with the reporting period.
- b. Action Item: The LAT will take the comments heard on the call into account and will take another look at the proposal. Any additional comments should be sent to TIG support and Debora by November 13 if possible. An email will be circulated with next steps.

### **Discussion Item 4: Outreach Workshop**

- a. Discussion: July outreach workshop results and potential next steps
- b. Action Item: This topic will be discussed on the next call. Please review the circulated document in advance.

### **Discussion Item 5: SOP Updates**

- a. Discussion: Action plan for updating the SOP
- b. Action Item: This topic will be discussed on the next call. Please review the circulated document in advance.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next TC call is Monday, December 3.

**DWH Trustee Council  
12/3/18 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Debora McClain	Craig O'Connor
Robin R.	Patti McCurdy	Mary Josie Blanchard	Melissa Carle
	Amy Hunter	Nanciann Regalado	Rachel Sweeney
<b>LA</b>	Kelly Swindle	Anne Hijuelos	Jamie Schubert
Alyson Graugnard	Jane Calamusa		Stephen Heverly
Billy Plauché			
		<b>EPA</b>	
<b>MS</b>	<b>FL</b>	Mary Kay Lynch	<b>USDA</b>
Chris Wells	Phil Coram	LaKeisha Robertson	Ron Howard
Gary Rikard	Nadia Martin	Gale Bonanno	
Teri Wyly	Amy Raker	Tim Landers	

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The LA TIG provided a slide deck to accompany their update. The TIG initially had four early restoration projects, however, the Trustees' recreational use was unable to move through to implementation due to feasibility issues and those funds have since been re-allocated in a Restoration Plan #2. The other three early restoration projects are in the monitoring phase except for the Breton Island part (which is one of the four increments of the Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project). Breton Island is in engineering and design (E&D) and construction of this project is slated to begin in mid-2019.

The LA TIG released its first post-settlement restoration plan in early 2017 (Restoration Plan #1). This plan approved E&D for six projects, which include three marsh creation projects, two bird island projects, and one shoreline protection project. As a second phase of this restoration plan, the LA TIG plans to release the draft restoration plan for Queen Bess Island (Restoration Plan #1.1) for public comment later this week. The remaining habitat and bird project restoration plans are expected to be released in 2019 and 2020.

The LA TIG Restoration Plan #2 is a recreational use plan and reallocates the funds received during early restoration. There are three projects currently in the implementing phase and the Lake Charles Science Center and Educational Complex is being considered for a location change, which will require a supplemental restoration plan. The Trustees are currently working on this supplemental restoration plan.

The Strategic Restoration Plan #3 for the Barataria Basin was finalized earlier this year. This plan evaluated Wetland, Coastal, Nearshore Habitat restoration types that would achieve ecosystem-level restoration in the Barataria Basin. The plan selected two projects for further evaluation and planning: the Mid-Barataria Basin Sediment Diversion (MBSD) and the Large-Scale Marsh Creation Project – Component E. The plan also approved funding for the E&D of the Large-Scale Marsh Creation Project. The Trustees are currently developing a restoration plan for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (Restoration Plan #3.2). The Large-Scale Marsh Creation project is currently in E&D and the Trustees anticipate beginning restoration planning to potentially fund the construction of this project in the latter part of 2019. The Trustees are also undertaking a phase two restoration plan to implement a marsh creation project in the Barataria Basin (Restoration Plan #3.1) and are considering utilizing Louisiana’s Outcome Based Performance Contracting abilities for this project.

Restoration Plan #4 was finalized earlier in 2018 and includes four nutrient reduction projects and 19 recreational use projects. The projects are in various phases of initial implementation, which includes developing project implementation plans and beginning E&D.

The LA TIG solicited project ideas for Oysters, Marine Mammals, Turtles, SAV, and Birds and is still considering their next steps with these. The LA TIG may potentially have a restoration plan for at least oysters in 2019.

- b. The RW TIG has been formalizing the process for how they will conduct restoration for RP/EA #1. They will have contractor support (via the LAT) and will stand up a technical team for each of the four restoration types applicable to the RW TIG. The teams will be charged with items related to priorities recommendations, assistance and screening, and project concept development among others. The RW TIG also intends to stand up a writing team. The RW TIG developed charge documents for each of the small teams which identify leads and co-leads, timing for deliverables, and governance. The Trustees on the RW TIG also developed estimated budgets and plan on funding Trustees through selection of the reasonable range of alternatives in order to minimize needing to return unused funds. The TIG expects the small teams to get underway in early spring 2019.

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

### **Discussion Item 1: SOP Updates**

- a. Discussion: The LAT proposed and circulated a draft plan to update the TC SOPs. The current SOPs are two years old and some sections could benefit from updates now that the TIGs have had several years of work, particularly in the financial section. The LAT proposes that they revise the financial section, circulate it for

Trustee review and comments, discuss comments and potential revisions based on the Trustees comments, and then start review of any other sections that may need revisions. The review will include outreach to Trustees to determine additional sections that need updates. The final revised version will be released via a web story and posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website.

- b. Decision: AL, MS, LA, TX, FL, EPA, USDA, NOAA, and DOI approve the plan to update the financial section of the SOP.
- c. Action Item: The LAT will develop a timeline for the updates. The LAT will start updating the funding chapter and will circulate it for review to all Trustees.

### **Discussion Item 2: 2019 Trustee Council Meeting**

- a. Discussion: The LAT revised the public meeting proposal for the TC's consideration and circulated it in advance of the call. The new proposed option (Option 3) includes an open house with additional space, a streamlined presentation, and a second formal open house after the presentation ends. There is no major change from what the TC has done in the past. The timeframe is still May 2019 in Florida. Research on locations or dates has not yet begun. The TC discussed the revised proposal. The TC will still review the presentation and any handouts closer to the meeting date. The presentation may be more centered on TC activities, however a more detailed proposal on the actual meeting presentation content will be circulated in the future.
- b. Decision: AL, MS, LA, TX, FL, EPA, USDA, NOAA, and DOI approve moving forward with Option 3.
- c. Action Item: For the next call the LAT will aim to have several dates that correspond to venue availability for the TC to consider.

### **Discussion Item 3: Outreach Workshop**

- a. Discussion: The TC discussed the July outreach workshop results and potential next steps. A summary document was circulated in advance of the call. About 60 members of the public attended the July workshop. Since the workshop, a small outreach group has been discussing potential activities for the TC to address the feedback heard at the meeting related to public participation, feedback, and transparency. The small group is requesting that the TC 1) provide input included in the attachment 2) approve development of a level of effort and cost for several outreach activities identified in the attachment 3) suggest additional participants on the small outreach group. The group discussed some of the common questions received during the meeting and potential new activities for further development. The funding for continued outreach activities would be identified after the level of effort is established.



- b. Action Item: The individual Trustees will discuss the proposal internally and send comments to Ron Howard and TIG support by Monday, December 17. All comments will be circulated and the topic will be discussed again on the January call. Please provide comments on the proposed future activities on page 2, indicate if you have a staff member to join the planning team, and review Attachment II and note any missing activities.

#### **Discussion Item 4: OO MAM Strategy Workshop**

- a. Discussion: The OO TIG is holding a MAM Strategy workshop at the GoMOSES conference on the afternoon of February 4 in New Orleans. The workshop will focus on identifying priorities for monitoring and adaptive management.

#### **Discussion Item 5: Cross TIG MAM Topics**

- a. Discussion: MAM update on programmatic review. The group reviewed slides 1-4. The programmatic review discussions began earlier this year. A proposed approach was discussed in November and comments were submitted to the Cross TIG MAM and circulated to the full TC. The Cross TIG MAM requests further direction from the TC. The Cross TIG MAM currently has enough funding to get through the Phase I Scoping tasks. The TC briefly discussed staffing and funding for the programmatic review.
- b. Action Item: The topic will be discussed in January and the TC will consider having a dedicated call on this topic.
- a. Discussion: The Cross TIG MAM developed new Guidance for Oysters, SAV, and Land Protection projects.
- c. Action Item: The topic will be discussed in January.

#### **Other Business**

- a. The next TC call is Monday, January 7.