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Sixth Annual Public Meeting of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council [held virtually via GoToWebinar platform]

> Thursday, June 17, 2021 6:03 p.m. to 7:17 p.m. Central

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	
3	MR. FRANKLIN: Good evening, everyone. My
4	name is Perry Franklin, and I will serve as your
5	facilitator for the Deepwater Horizon Natural
6	Damage Resource Assessment Trustee Council's
7	sixth annual meeting. This meeting also serves
8	as the annual meeting of the Regionwide Trustee
9	Implementation Group, or TIG. You may hear that
10	acronym tonight. Trustee Implementation Group
11	is what that stands for.
12	For those of you who just attended that
13	open house, hats off, and I hope that you
14	received good information and got your questions
15	answered.
16	The Trustees and their representatives will
17	present a lot of useful information tonight, and
18	then you will have an opportunity to give the
19	Trustees some direct feedback.
20	This meeting is the Trustee Council's
21	second virtual meeting. Whether you are
22	listening in via telephone or your computer's

1	audio, please know that we have all incoming
2	audio muted at this time. If you are
3	experiencing technical difficulties and would
4	like to request assistance, please use the
5	questions box, which is located on the
6	right-hand side of the webinar's interface, and
7	we will try to reach out and give you direct
8	help.
9	We have a court reporter who will
10	transcribe tonight's meeting, including your
11	comments. The PowerPoint presentation and the
12	transcript will be posted on the Trustee
13	Council's website in the near future. In
14	addition, as you can see, we are providing an
15	American Sign Language interpreter via live
16	video.
17	The Trustees also want me to point out that
18	there are fact sheets on the Trustee Council's
19	website, which can be found at
20	gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. Again,
21	gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.
22	When you registered for tonight's webinar,

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1	you received an email from webinars@dwhtig.org	
2	confirming your registration. That email	
3	contains helpful instructions on how to manage	
4	your audio during tonight's webinar.	
5	Additionally, you were asked if you would	
6	like to make verbal comment at tonight's	
7	meeting. We have received a number of requests	
8	and have responded to each person via email with	
9	instructions on how to make verbal comment.	
10	Immediately following tonight's presentation is	
11	when we will take those public comments.	
12	If you do not make a request to make	
13	comment tonight, by no means is it too late to	
14	do so. Following tonight's presentation, I will	
15	give you instructions on how to get your name	
16	onto that list, and we will call you	
17	accordingly.	
18	So, at this time, we will get started with	
19	the first presentation. First up is Robin	
20	Riechers, Director of Coastal Fisheries of Texas	
21	Parks and Wildlife Department, and Chair of the	
22	Trustee Council.	

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1	Robin, the floor is yours.
2	MR. RIECHERS: Thank you, Perry. Thank you
3	for that introduction, and good evening to
4	everyone. Welcome to this annual meeting of the
5	Trustee Council and the Region-wide Trustee
6	Implementation Group, and thank you for being
7	here and, of course, for your interest.
8	We do know that we have some elected
9	officials who are in attendance, and so we want
10	to also give special thanks for their attendance
11	tonight as well.
12	Since the settlement with BP in 2016, the
13	Trustees have held a meeting every year to bring
14	you up to speed on our efforts to restore the
15	natural resources injured by the Deepwater
16	Horizon oil spill, and as Perry mentioned, this
17	is our sixth annual public meeting.
18	In tonight's presentation, I'm going to go
19	over some slides to give you an update of what
20	we've been doing since our last meeting. Then
21	you will hear an update from each of the
22	restoration area Trustee Implementation Groups,

		Page 9
1	and then after that, we want to hear from you.	
2	As Perry just described, he'll help facilitate	
3	the public comment portion of the agenda.	
4	Now let me tell you who the Trustee Council	
5	representatives are. We have members	
6	representing each of the five Gulf States and a	
7	member who represents each of the four Federal	
8	agencies.	
9	Gareth Leonard is our Trustee Council	
10	representative for Florida. Chris Blankenship	
11	represents Alabama. Chris Wells represents	
12	Mississippi. Bren Haase is representing the	
13	State of Louisiana, and I'm the Trustee	
14	representative for Texas, as was mentioned	
15	earlier. Mary Josie Blanchard represents	
16	Department of Interior. Mary Kay Lynch	
17	represents the Environmental Protection Agency.	
18	Chris Doley represents the National Oceanic and	
19	Atmospheric Administration, and Homer Wilkes	
20	represents the United States Department of	
21	Agriculture.	
22	Just as a quick review of our overall	

		Page 10
1	responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible	
2	for restoring the environmental and compensating	
3	the public for natural resource injuries	
4	resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.	
5	We used a natural resource damage	
6	assessment, released in 2016, to determine the	
7	extent of injuries to natural resources and to	
8	seek restoration of injuries from the	
9	responsible parties.	
10	The goal is to restore injured natural	
11	resource, such as wetlands, fish, and birds, to	
12	the condition they would have been in had the	
13	spill not occurred. We are also responsible for	
14	addressing recreational uses, like boating,	
15	fishing, and swimming, that were lost or	
16	affected as a result of the spill.	
17	Let me give you a little background before	
18	I talk about our recent activities. This	
19	timeline shows the oil spill began in April of	
20	2010, and of course, we all know and remember	
21	that. We began the Natural Resources Injury	
22	Assessment right away.	

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		Page 11
1	In April 2011, BP agreed to make up to \$1	
2	billion available for early restoration, even	
3	before the injury assessment was complete. So	
4	we were able to get a jump start on restoration.	
5	From 2011 to 2016, we approved a total of	
6	five early Restoration Plans and 65 projects	
7	with a combined cost of \$866 million. Some of	
8	those projects have been completed, while others	
9	are still underway.	
10	In April 2016, the Federal Government and	
11	the five Gulf States reached a settlement with	
12	BP totaling approximately \$20.8 billion. Of the	
13	\$20.8 billion, the settlement provided \$8.8	
14	billion in Natural Resource Damage Assessment	
15	funds, which we're going to just term "NRDA"	
16	from this point on tonight, to support our work	
17	restoring the Gulf.	
18	That total includes the \$1 billion for	
19	early restoration. So that means another \$7.1	
20	billion was allocated to fund post-April 2016	
21	planning and restoration, and \$700 million for	
22	adaptive management of unknown conditions.	

1	On this timeline, you can see the
2	settlement date indicated here and today, which
3	indicates where we are along the 15-year
4	timeline for payments by BP of our restoration
5	funds to date.
6	In the 11 years since the spill, the
7	Implementation Groups have approved more than
8	210 projects for an estimated cost of
9	approximately \$1.6 billion.
10	Along with the settlement, the Trustee
11	Council finalized a programmatic Restoration
12	Plan. That plan when we say it is programmatic,
13	it means it includes overarching restoration
14	goals for the entire Gulf ecosystem and broad
15	restoration types that guides development and
16	selection of restoration projects. It was not
17	intentioned and does not include a list of
18	information restoration projects like you often
19	see in Implementation Group Restoration Plans.
20	This next slide, I obviously don't expect
21	you to be able to read that slide. Many of you
22	have seen this table before, but what it does do

		Page 13
1	is really help to understand the funding goals,	
2	and it shows us not only the total amount of	
3	money BP will pay in NRDA damages, but it also	
4	helps determine where those funds must be spent.	
5	The funds are assigned to geographic restoration	
6	areas, one for each State, as you can see there	
7	in the table, and also two restoration areas	
8	called "region-wide" and "open ocean." Then	
9	within each restoration area, funds are assigned	
10	to restoration types that were injured in those	
11	areas.	
12	To accomplish this huge restoration effort,	
13	the settlement established Trustee	
14	Implementation Groups, often referred to as	
15	"TIGs," focusing on the different restoration	
16	areas, which were described in that table.	
17	The Trustee Council provides coordination	
18	and ensures transparency, fiscal and scientific	
19	accountability, and consistency within the	
20	programmatic plan and across those	
21	Implementation Groups.	
22	As you all know, the Gulf ecosystem is very	

		Page 14
1	diverse and with a wide variety of natural	
2	resources and habitats that depend on each other	
3	as shown in this diagram. The spill injured a	
4	wide range of wildlife and habitats. It also	
5	negatively impacted recreational o principles	
6	like fishing and boating that we mentioned	
7	earlier, and the injuries were across the entire	
8	Gulf system.	
9	Because of those ecosystem-wide injuries,	
10	the Trustees, through the Implementation Groups,	
11	are taking a comprehensive and integrated	
12	ecosystem-level approach to restoring the Gulf,	
13	consistent with our programmatic Restoration	
14	Plan discussed a few moments ago.	
15	We're seeing some common themes across all	
16	the restoration activities. A lot of our	
17	projects are benefitting multiple restoration,	
18	as mentioned above. For example, projects	
19	focusing on improving water quality also benefit	
20	recreational opportunities, making areas more	
21	enjoyable for those visitors that go there.	
22	Restoration projects in wetland, coastal, and	

		Page 15
1	nearshore habitats can also benefit birds and	
2	oyster populations, as another example.	
3	When appropriate, the Trustees strive to	
4	develop projects for restoration types across	
5	broad geographies. For example, we have	
6	multiple bird projects that restore habitat in	
7	several States, and we also have a 10-year early	
8	restoration project restoring sea turtles across	
9	Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.	
10	The work group is also supporting the	
11	development of the upcoming 5-year programmatic	
12	review.	
13	Finally, the Monitoring and Adaptive	
14	Management Work Group is continuing to evaluate	
15	and make recommendations regarding our data	
16	management.	
17	The Trustee Council is committed to	
18	proactively communicate and report out our work.	
19	We're continuing to communicate progress through	
20	our annual reporting. This year, we produced	
21	more than 210 project reports and our usual	
22	annual financial summary, all of which can be	
I		

Page 16 found on the Gulf Spill website. We work to get 1 projects underway quickly after they are 2 3 approved. In 2020, we posted almost 60 different 4 articles and updates to the Gulf Spill 5 Restoration website, driving more than 130,000 6 visits to the site, an increase of 20 percent 7 8 from the previous year. 9 A large portion of people are watching the 10 website through our email distribution program--or reaching the website through our 11 12 email distribution program. We sent 77 emails notifying the public about plans, projects, and 13 outreach events in 2020 and almost doubled the 14 15 number of subscribers to more than 12,000. We also updated the site with new features 16 17 to make it easier to access information, including a feature that shows all the 18 19 Restoration Plans out for public comment at any given time and one-click access to provide 20 public comment on those plans. 21 22 Looking forward, we're working on a program

Page 17 review of all of our work. We anticipate 1 releasing that document to the public later this 2 3 year. Our review may include summaries of 4 administrative and financial information, public 5 6 engagement activities, monitoring data, and project accomplishments as well as other metrics 7 8 that support restoration program evaluation. We 9 look forward to sharing with you what we have 10 accomplished and what we have learned so far. 11 We're also coordinating across funding sources to maximize Gulf ecosystem restoration. 12 13 Along with NRDA funding, we're leveraging funds 14 managed through our other entities, including 15 Restore Council, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund managed by the National Fish and Wildlife 16 17 Foundation, and NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve. Examples of this include the 18 19 Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Habitat Acquisition, McFaddin Beach and Dune 20 Restoration, and Weeks Bay Land Acquisition, 21 22 which leverage these funds.

1	And the Trustee Implementation Groups are
2 als	o leveraging funding with local and State
3 age	encies. One example in Florida is Norriego
4 Poi	nt Restoration and Recreation Project, which
5 uti	lizes both NRDA and State funding.
6	All of this is to accomplish more than we
7 cou	ald do just within this program.
8	Finally, we're working with local experts
9 lik	e commercial and recreational fishermen to
10 off	er short- and long-term benefits for the
11 fis	heries while restoring targeted species of
12 fis	h. An example of this one is the Oceanic
13 Fis	h Restoration Project, which is restoring
14 tun	a and other species, in partnership with
15 pel	agic longline fishermen in Florida and
16 Lou	lisiana.
17	As we implement restoration projects, it is
18 imp	perative that we manage them well and monitor
19 the	eir success. This monitoring and adaptive
20 man	agement evaluates the success of current
20 man	agement evaluates the success of current

21 projects and adapts them as needed to ensure

22 that we maximize resource restoration. We can

		Page 19
1	also use our monitoring information for future	
2	projects to improve their results.	
3	Here is an update on the Monitoring and	
4	Adaptive Management Work Group, which is	
5	overseen by the Trustee Council and supports the	
6	TIGs in their monitoring and adaptive management	
7	work.	
8	The work group continues to build off the	
9	previously released Monitoring and Adaptive	
10	Management Manual to develop new guidance for	
11	restoration projects focused on birds, marine	
12	mammals, seat turtles, fish, and other	
13	restoration types.	
14	The work group is also supporting the	
15	development of the upcoming 5-year programmatic	
16	review.	
17	Finally, then Monitoring and Adaptive	
18	Management Work Group is continuing to evaluate	
19	and make recommendations regarding our data	
20	management.	
21	So now on to the restoration updates of the	
22	night. Now we can start the updates from the	

1	Trustee Implementation Groups on what they are
2	doing for their restoration areas. As you hear
3	from each Trustee Implementation Group about the
4	work they undertook this year and anticipate in
5	the future, you'll hear some common themes.

As we plan for future restoration, we are 6 still getting public input early in the process. 7 8 Generally speaking, the Trustee Implementation 9 Groups are focused on a variety of activities, 10 including restoring the Gulf coastal habitats 11 and access to those habitats. The Trustee 12 Implementation Groups are also looking at improving water quality and addressing living 13 coastal marine resources, which includes birds, 14 15 oysters, turtles, and marine mammals. Perhaps most importantly for many of you, 16

10 refinapp model importancely for many of you, 17 you'll hear that restoration projects are 18 continuing to move forward, both on the ground 19 and in the water.

First off tonight, we're going to hear from Chris Blankenship for the State of Alabama and a member of the Alabama Trustee Implementation 1 Group.

2	Chris, the floor is all yours.
3	MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Robin. Thank
4	you all for joining us tonight. I appreciate
5	the opportunity to be here and share some of the
б	work that we've been doing with the Alabama
7	Trustees. I'd like to thank our Federal Trustee
8	partners as well as my staff in the great work
9	that they have done and are doing to implement
10	these projects.
11	To date, we've committedthe next slide.
12	To date, we've committed approximately \$184
13	million in projects and planning activities of
14	our total allocation of \$295 million. You'll
15	see tonight that that is the highest percentage
16	of restoration funding of any of the Trustee
17	Implementation Groups of the overall anticipated
18	deposits.
19	So, with that, I'm going to talk a little
20	bit about the three Restoration Plans, but it's
21	unlikely that we'll have a Restoration Plan, new
22	Restoration Plan in the near future as we

Page 22 implement the projects that are already 1 approved. 2 The recent activities--we'll continue to 3 implement and monitor the projects from early 4 restoration and from Restoration Plans 1, 2, and 5 6 3. In early 2021, we released an addendum to 7 the final Alabama Restoration Plan 3 that 8 approved the use of some interest that was 9 10 earned to fund two additional recreational use projects that were tentatively approved, 11 12 awaiting funding. 13 The project I'd like to feature tonight is the acquisition of the West End of Dauphin 14 Island. In October of 2020, we acquired 838 15 acres of the West End of Dauphin Island. That 16 17 is the largest undeveloped beachfront property 18 in the Coast of Alabama. Acreage includes 19 dunes, marsh, and beaches, which sea turtles and several bird species use for nesting and as part 20 of their life cycle. As most barrier islands 21 22 and areas along the coast, Dauphin Island is the

		Page	23
1	last spot that a lot of birds use as they make		
2	their migration to South America and Central		
3	America and then also the first piece of land		
4	that they see as they return from their		
5	migration, as they head back north. It's an		
б	extremely important piece of property for		
7	habitat for birds and sea turtles.		
8	Upcoming activities include development of		
9	a Bird Conservation Management Plan for this		
10	spectacular piece of property that is now in		
11	public ownership.		
12	Future activities include implementation		
13	and monitoring of the projects from early		
14	restoration and Restoration Plans 1, 2, and 3.		
15	We plan to have an annual meeting of the Alabama		
16	Trustee Implementation Group in the fall of 2021		
17	based on the governor's availability, but it		
18	could be pushed to spring of 2022 in order to		
19	have the best attendance possible for that		
20	summit.		
21	With that, I'd like to turn it over to my		
22	good friend, Gareth Leonard from the State of		

		Page	24
1	Florida, for an update on Florida restoration,		
2	but if you have any other needs or questions		
3	about not only NRDA but other restoration		
4	activities in the State of Alabama, please visit		
5	our website at alabamacoastalrestoration.org.		
6	Alabamacoastalrestoration.org.		
7	Gareth?		
8	MR. LEONARD: Thank you, Chris.		
9	I'm Gareth Leonard with the Florida Fish		
10	and Wildlife Conservation Commission and have		
11	the pleasure of representing the Florida Trustee		
12	Implementation Group tonight. Now, I'd just		
13	like to thank everyone that has taken the time		
14	to join us tonight.		
15	For Florida's funding update, as you can		
16	see on the slide, we have committed just over a		
17	quarter of the funding available to the Florida		
18	TIG. In particular, 57 projects and planning		
19	activities have been approved in the Florida		
20	restoration area. These 57 projects have a		
21	total estimated cost of approximately \$187		
22	million, which leaves over \$490 million in funds		

		Page 25
1	to conduct future restoration projects and	
2	activities in the State of Florida.	
3	Over the last year, the Florida TIG has	
4	been busy implementing the projects that have	
5	been previously approved, and we would like to	
6	say that we have completed construction of about	
7	15 of those 57 projects.	
8	As with everyone else due to COVID, we were	
9	forced to hold a virtual public meeting for the	
10	Florida TIG's annual public meeting, which was	
11	in December and was well attended.	
12	Finally, in late February of this year, the	
13	Florida TIG released its Draft Restoration Plan	
14	2 which proposed 19 projects for implementation	
15	for public review and comments. We held a	
16	virtual public meeting in March to present the	
17	plan to the public and to receive public	
18	comments, and this public comment period closed	
19	in late March.	
20	As previously mentioned, the Florida TIG	
21	has completed a number of projects. One of the	
22	projects that I'd like to highlight is the Phase	

		Page 26
1	3 Early Restoration Strategically Provided Boat	
2	Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast Project. We	
3	recently completed the monitoring phases of this	
4	project and the process of closing it out. This	
5	project funded enhancements to three existing	
6	boat ramps and two existing marinas located in	
7	Florida's Panhandle. In particular, the	
8	facilities for the City of St. Marks program,	
9	the City of Port St. Joe Frank Pate boat ramp,	
10	the City of Mexico Beach Canals Parks Marina,	
11	the City of Parker Earl Gilbert boat ramp, and	
12	the City of Panama City St. Andrews Marina.	
13	We are pleased to say that the monitoring	
14	show that with the successful implementation of	
15	the proposed enhancements and the subsequent	
16	public use of these facilities, the Florida TIG	
17	has been able to meet the project goal of	
18	enhancing, increasing recreational boating and	
19	fishing opportunities in the Florida Panhandle.	
20	Looking forward to the next share, the	
21	Florida TIG will continue the implementation and	
22	monitoring of previously approved projects. In	

		Page 27
1	addition, the Florida TIG is in the process of	
2	finalizing its second Restoration Plan, which	
3	should be released to the public later this	
4	month or the beginning of next month.	
5	Once we have finalized and released RP 2,	
б	the Florida TIG plans on starting restoration	
7	planning for its third Restoration Plan later	
8	this year. So please be on the lookout for a	
9	call for projects related to that. We will do	
10	an email blast to let the public know that we	
11	are ready to accept project ideas.	
12	At this point, I would like to hand the	
13	presentation off to Maury Chatellier with the	
14	State of Louisiana to give their update.	
15	MR. CHATELLIER: Hey, Gareth. Thank you	
16	very much.	
17	Good evening, everyone. Again, my name is	
18	Maury Chatellier with the Coastal Protection and	
19	Restoration Authority representing the Louisiana	
20	Trustee site, and as the other presentations	
21	have done, we start off with our funding update.	
22	To date, Louisiana Trustees have approved	

1	or committed 1.4 of the \$5 billion settlement
2	that Louisiana was allocated, again, which is
3	distributed over annually for 15 years, ending
4	in 2031. This \$1.4 billion includes dollars
5	allocated via resolution by the Trustees in the
б	calendar year 2020 through May of this year.
7	The Louisiana Trustees, we've been very,
8	very busy since our last annual meeting. We've
9	completed multiple Restoration Plans, run
10	through them here for you. We completed the
11	Final Restoration Plan and Environmental
12	Assessment 1.2 in February of last year. That
13	approved construction dollars for two projects,
14	two large-scale Marsh and Ridge projects, the
15	Spanish Pass project in Plaquemines Parish at a
16	cost of about \$88 million. Recently, we just
17	bid the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project for
18	about \$61 million, which will take dredged
19	sediment out from Lake Borgne and create marsh.
20	RPEA 5 was completed and funded and
21	authorized in August of last year. This
22	Restoration Plan included dollars for living

		Page 29
1	coastal marine resources, particularly marine	
2	mammals and oysters. This was a little bit less	
3	than a \$30 million effort. It includes multiple	
4	projects, including the Marine Mammal Stranding	
5	Network Effort overseen by NOAA and oyster	
6	hatchery, cult plant, and brood reef projects	
7	overseen by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife	
8	and Fisheries.	
9	Then recently, at the end of last year, we	
10	finalized Restoration Plan EA No. 7. This	
11	approved funding for three new design starts for	
12	wetland, coastal, and nearshore habitats as well	
13	as birds. This include HNC Bird Island in	
14	Lower Terrebonne Parish and the Isle of Pete in	
15	St. Bernard Parish, both of which are important	
16	pelican rookeries for the State, and it also	
17	provided funding for design of the Bird's Foot	
18	Delta project in Lower Plaquemines Parish. This	
19	project will look to restore the hydrology of	
20	the Bird's Foot Delta by dredging Pass-a-Loutre	
21	and South Pass as well as small placement for	
22	new habitat.	
1		

		Page 30
1	Also, in Restoration Plan No. 7, two	
2	projects were funded for construction, \$157	
3	million for the Terrebonne Ridge and Marsh	
4	Creation Project and then the Bayou Grande	
5	Cheniere Ridge and Marsh Project in Plaquemines	
6	Parish. The latter will use hydraulic dredge	
7	spoil from the Mississippi River to create marsh	
8	and ridge habitat at a cost of about \$65	
9	million.	
10	Then the Trustees have also been very busy	
11	moving projects forward from completed	
12	Restoration Plans that are not shown here,	
13	estimating a little over \$400 million in	
14	implementation cost. These projects include the	
15	Rabbit Island restoration over in Cameron	
16	Parish, a large-scale Barataria marsh using	
17	Mississippi River sediment. This project will	
18	be overseen by NOAA. It should bid in the next	
19	few weeks. It's about \$180 million effort.	
20	And then we have three projects that we	
21	moved forward in implementation from RP No. 6.	
22	These projects were funded for design in the	

Page 31 RESTORE Act and moved over for NRDA for 1 construction. 2 3 Since our last annual meeting, we've found the MAM, the Monitoring and Adaptive Management 4 front. We've been very busy as well. We have 5 funded ongoing efforts, including the Louisiana 6 Coastwide Fish and Shellfish Monitoring Program 7 8 as well as funding for the Monitoring and 9 Adaptive Management Planning effort. 10 We also have a couple of new MAM activities that have been funded. The Louisiana Coastwide 11 12 Reference Monitoring System. We have funded 13 developing a guidance for avian habitat 14 restoration and monitoring as well as we 15 recently in May of this year--we just funded an 16 effort to develop a plan to assess lower levels 17 in the Barataria estuary. So we've been very, very busy. 18 19 So the project I'd like to highlight tonight is the West Grand Terre Island Project. 20 Again, this was one that was funded previously 21 with restored dollars and was moved over to NRDA 22

		Page 32
1	for construction. West Grand Terre Island is	
2	located in Barataria Basin, just east of Grand	
3	Isle, and it is home to the historic Fort	
4	Livingston.	
5	The top image, if you can make this out, is	
6	a preconstruction photo of the project site	
7	looking eastward along Grand Terre. The	
8	projects will consist of hydraulically dredging	
9	offshore material and creating beach and dune	
10	habitat as well as intertidal marsh, with a	
11	shoreline protection feature along Barataria	
12	Pass in the Barataria Bay. The estimated cost	
13	of this project is about \$92.5 million.	
14	Construction is currently underway.	
15	The facilities you see on the top of the	
16	island have been removed from an earlier	
17	construction effort. They were a research	
18	facility that originally began construction in	
19	1959, with a majority of those buildings	
20	completed by the mid-'60s. So, again, those	
21	were removed, and I think that top picture shows	
22	very well the effects of coastal erosion in the	

		Page 33
1	State of Louisiana, as obviously those	
2	facilities were not constructed in the surf	
3	zone, but it just shows you how much that island	
4	has migrated since those facilities were	
5	constructed.	
6	In the bottom photo, you can see Fort	
7	Livingston on the western end of the island	
8	bordering Barataria Pass. Just a tidbit on Fort	
9	Livingston, in the early 19th century, Grand	
10	Terre Island was home to pirates under the	
11	command of Captain Jean Lafitte. These pirates	
12	were forced to leave the island in the early	
13	1800s when the U.S. Government decided to build	
14	a coastal defense fort, i.e., Fort Livingston.	
15	The fort was designed to control the	
16	entrance to Barataria Pass, thereby guard New	
17	Orleans against naval attacks from the south.	
18	Construction on that fort began in 1834 but	
19	was halted with the start of the Civil War, and	
20	it was never resumed, so the fort was never	
21	fully completed.	
22	Then, finally, our future activities that	

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		Page	34
1	we have on the horizon and ongoing, currently,		
2	the Trustees are focusing on two Restoration		
3	Plan EAs that are underway. Restoration Plan		
4	3.2, if this one is approved, this is for the		
5	Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. If approved,		
6	the large-scale project wouldat the		
7	Mississippi River to the Barataria Basin. It		
8	would allow a control release of fresh water		
9	nutrients and sediment in the basin to rebuild		
10	the wetlands and contribute to the broader		
11	restoration of the ecosystem. Again, the		
12	anticipated completion of this plan is sometime		
13	in the spring of next year, and again, the		
14	project's proposed budget would invest upwards		
15	of \$2 billion on implementation.		
16	Then, finally, we began a few months ago RP		
17	8, Restoration Plan No. 8, focusing on wetland,		
18	coastal, and nearshore habitat. We looked to		
19	move one or more projects into the E&D phase as		
20	well as to construction, and we're hoping to		
21	have RP 8 finalized by the end of this year.		
22	The screening process is currently underway.		

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1	So I appreciate everyone's time tonight,	
2	and with that, I will turn it over to Mr. Chris	
3	Wells, Mississippi Trustees.	
4	MR. WELLS: Thank you, Maury, and	
5	appreciate everybody's attendance tonight and	
6	interest in what all we're doing. I am Chris	
7	Wells, and it's my honor and privilege to	
8	represent the Mississippi Trustee Implementation	
9	Group and give everybody an update on our	
10	activities over the last year.	
11	You see here that we've committed	
12	approximately 56 percent of our total allocation	
13	thus far, the total allocation being \$295	
14	million. \$6 million has been allocated across	
15	various restoration types, including wetlands,	
16	coastal, and nearshore habitats, nutrient	
17	production, oysters, birds, and recreational	
18	opportunities in addition to early restoration	
19	work.	
20	Our recent activities, last year in	
21	September, we finalized and published our	
22	Restoration Plan 2, our second Restoration Plan.	

		Page 36
1	There being no rest for the weary, we started in	
2	October with the process of developing our	
3	Restoration Plan 3, and just this past Friday,	
4	we published our Notice of Initiation of	
5	Restoration Planning for that Restoration Plan	
6	3.	
7	The project that we would like to highlight	
8	tonight is our Hancock County Marsh Living	
9	Shoreline Project. This is one of our flagship	
10	project with the Mississippi Department of	
11	Environmental Quality, and NOAA, our	
12	co-implementing Trustees, it's a \$50 million	
13	project, included several components, 6 miles of	
14	living shorelines, 46 acres of subtidal reef in	
15	Heron Bay, 46 acres of marsh creation. The	
16	living shorelines were constructed between 2016	
17	and 2019, completed in March of 2019. We really	
18	like this aerial photograph here because it	
19	shows graphically or very clearly the reduction	
20	in wave energy that those living shorelines	
21	produce and therefore reduce the erosion rate	
22	there in that marsh.	
The 46 acres of subtidal reef was 1 constructed in 2017. It began construction of 2 3 the 46 acres of marsh in the last quarter of 2020 and was completed in May of this past year. 4 You see there sort of the grayish-looking 5 containment. We used dredged material, the 6 beneficial use or placement of dredge material 7 to construct that 46 acres of marsh, and we'll 8 be monitoring that as we go forward. 9 10 Future activities. We will continue our project implementation of the projects that have 11 12 been included in previous Restoration Plans. We will continue to draft the Restoration Plan 3 13 and have slated publication of that plan later 14 15 this year. 16 In terms of specifically with respect to 17 implementation of previous projects, previously approved projects, we'll be constructing living 18 19 shoreline of subtidal reefs in Bay St. Louis. It's one of those continuing the Mississippi 20 Oyster Gardening Program, which has been 21

22 previously funded through the National Fish and

		Page	38
1	Wildlife, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. We		
2	will continue to fund that through under NRDA		
3	and basic species management on coastal reserves		
4	property also.		
5	Finally, we'll be holding our annual		
6	restoration summit fall of this year. We'll		
7	also constitute the annual meeting of the		
8	Mississippi TIG. We hope everyone can attend		
9	the summit. Last year, it was held virtually.		
10	This year, we will be conducting it as a hybrid.		
11	We will be back face-to-face unless something		
12	drastically changes that prevents us from doing		
13	that. We will have a hybrid virtual		
14	participation option available for those who		
15	cannot attend in person.		
16	If you have any additional questions or		
17	want to see information about all of our		
18	Deepwater Horizon restoration efforts in		
19	Mississippi, you can go to our website,		
20	restore.ms.		
21	With that, I will turn it over to Robin		
22	Riechers with the State of Texas.		

[Pause.] 1 MR. WELLS: Robin may be on mute. 2 MR. RIECHERS: Thank you, Chris. Sorry 3 about that, being on mute. 4 I'm excited to be here representing the 5 6 Trustee Implementation Group of Texas, which is comprised of our Federal partners and, of 7 8 course, the three Trustee agencies in Texas: 9 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, General 10 Land Office, and the Texas Commission on 11 Environmental Quality. 12 Like others, we certainly have been 13 attempting to be busy in spending those allocation of dollars that we received, and of 14 15 course, Texas received \$238 million. To date, we've spent about \$107 million of that, which 16 17 represents about 45 percent of the total dollars that we have committed so far. 18 19 When we think about recent activities, of course, with projects in different stages, we're 20 going to first start with our construction 21 22 projects that we recently have began on, and the

1	first one I'll mention is the Galveston Island
2	State Park Beach Redevelopment. It's a
3	large-scale redevelopment project of Galveston
4	Island there, obviously, an important visitor
5	and beach opportunity for many beachgoers, and
6	they're south of Houston.
7	Then as we highlighted last year in our
8	presentation, we're beginning construction on
9	parts of our continued efforts on the Bahia
10	Grande hydrological restoration in South Texas.
11	Then as some projects got completed, we
12	then turned our attention to monitoring those
13	projects, and of course, a couple of those here
14	are Sea Rim State Park Improvement Project that
15	occurred near the Louisiana-Texas border and, of
16	course, the Indian Point Shoreline Erosion
17	Project that we're starting to monitor there as
18	well.
19	Then planned activities coming up, of
20	course, there's completing our Bird Island Cover
21	Habitat Restoration Engineering, so that we can
22	then think about now moving to construction on

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1	that project as well as our Dressing Point Texas	
2	Rookery Island also in that regard.	
3	When we think about a featured project,	
4	it's hard not to have this as our featured	
5	project. As so many of you know, we were really	
6	hit by Winter Storm Uri over here in February,	
7	and over 13,000 turtles were affected by that	
8	stunning, cold stunning event, a tremendous	
9	effort of our partners that we're able to pass	
10	through, and one of our projects is to really	
11	help with that nesting, stranding, and	
12	rehabilitation activities.	
13	This photo here is a photo of the	
14	convention center there in Corpus, which was	
15	opened up as a triage center because, obviously,	
16	with the cold stunning event that large, it	
17	somewhat overwhelmed some of the other places	
18	that we would typically rehabilitate in, and we	
19	were looking for places, but again, thanks to	
20	many, many partners up and down the coast who	
21	helped with that effort.	
22	When we think about future Texas TIG	

		Page	4	:2
1	acquisition and construction activities, we're			
2	going to continue. We've had some acquiring of			
3	habitat. One of those is Follets Island, and			
4	there are tracks that we're basically putting			
5	together to basically help create that barrier			
6	island and set it aside and so to keep it from			
7	development.			
8	Then I'll also just mention the			
9	hydrological restoration of the Bahia Grande,			
10	but also as a piece of that is some key			
11	acquisitions for ocelot habitat and basically a			
12	corridor there for many species that travel that			
13	corridor and are in that migratory flyway as			
14	well.			
15	Then in addition to that, we're going to			
16	begin construction on Texas Rookery Islands.			
17	Specifically, we have one there in Dickinson Bay			
18	off of Galveston. We also are looking to begin			
19	construction on our Bessie Heights Wetland			
20	Restoration Project, and the McFaddin Beach and			
21	Dune Restoration Project, we also highlighted			
22	that at one of these meetings because that's a			

		Page	43
1	large-scale project between Galveston and going		
2	towards Louisiana. Pierce Marsh Wetland		
3	Restoration is also included in that, and then		
4	we hope to begin construction, as we talked		
5	about, that hydrologic restoration portion,		
6	which is a very large-scale project with many		
7	different parts, but it's all intended to		
8	re-create and revegetate that into a wetland		
9	down there where it basically had become a dust		
10	bowl for quite sometime.		
11	Our future Texas planning activities		
12	include completing planning, engineering, and		
13	design on oyster restoration projects. We also		
14	are completing a dredge material planning for		
15	wetland restoration along the Texas coast. We		
16	are looking to Rollover Bay Island and in other		
17	Texas Rookery Islands as far as creating the		
18	engineering and design to basically reestablish		
19	those islands. Essex Bayou Habitat Restoration		
20	Engineering, we would hope to complete planning		
21	on that soon.		
22	Then, obviously, as many of us are going to		

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1	do, we're going to continue monitoring the			
2	projects that we've already completed, 20 for us			
3	and those that we've completed in our 2017			
4	Restoration Plan, and we'll continue to work on			
5	a Draft Restoration Plan 2.			
6	With that tonight, I'm going to hand it			
7	over to the Open Ocean Restoration TIG, Laurie			
8	Rounds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric			
9	Administration. Laurie?			
10	MS. ROUNDS: Great. Thank you very much,			
11	Robin, and good evening, everyone. I'm Laurie			
12	Rounds with NOAA, and I'll be providing			
13	tonight's update for the Open Ocean Trustee			
14	Implementation Group, which works to restore the			
15	wide-ranging and migratory species injured by			
16	the spill, including fish, sea turtles, marine			
17	mammals, deep seas corals, sturgeon, and birds.			
18	The Open Ocean TIG has committed			
19	approximately \$335 million, or about 27 percent,			
20	of our total allocation of \$1.2 billion. These			
21	funds are being used to plan and implementation			
22	restoration projects and monitoring activities			

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for all restoration types in the Open Ocean Restoration area. In addition, these funds are used to provide oversight and comprehensive planning by the Federal Trustees serving on all seven of the Trustee Implementation Groups. Some of our recent activities include continuing to implement and monitor three early restoration projects, including two projects to restore for lost recreational uses on federally managed lands in Mississippi and in Florida. We continued work to implement the 21 restoration projects approved in 2019, and these total almost \$242 million. They implement restoration across the Gulf of Mexico and in key breeding grounds for injured bird species. And implementation continued for three Monitoring and Adaptive Management activities to build critical information needs for Gulf

19 surgeon and marine mammal restoration.

20 We also began planning for our third 21 Restoration Plan in March by requesting the 22 submission of bird and sturgeon project ideas.

		Page 46
1	We received 76 project ideas before the May 10th	
2	deadline that are being reviewed now, so thank	
3	you to everyone who provided ideas.	
4	Our work to address monitoring and	
5	evaluation needs is also underway with the	
б	development of restoration objectives and	
7	indicators to help us evaluate our progress over	
8	time. An example of this work is the strategic	
9	planning that's underway for the Fish and Water	
10	Column Invertebrates restoration type, which was	
11	announced in March. A team of fisheries experts	
12	is leading Trustee planning, including	
13	stakeholder engagement, to identify restoration	
14	objectives and indicators for this important	
15	restoration type.	
16	We also held public and stakeholder	
17	roundtable meetings to get input on priorities	
18	for restoration, and we appreciate everyone's	
19	participation in those.	
20	Finally, we held a webinar in April to	
21	provide updates on our activities and asked for	
22	input on how to best engage with stakeholders.	

Page 47 The webinar materials and input we received were 1 recently posted to our Gulf Spill Restoration 2 3 website. So we appreciate all the ideas that were provided and look forward to using them to 4 tailor our outreach and engagement activities 5 moving forward. 6 I'd like to highlight next one of our 7 projects called the Oceanic Fish Restoration 8 Project, which was approved during early 9 10 restoration. Beginning in 2017, pelagic longline vessel owners have participated in a 11 voluntary 6-month proposed period each year as 12 13 part of this project. During the proposed period, they refrain from pelagic longline 14 fishing and have the option to fish with 15 alternative gear which produces less bycatch and 16 17 increases the survival of any bycaught fish. Throughout the project, data is being 18 19 collected to help determine progress towards our goals and the need for adaptive management. A 20 summary monitoring report for the project will 21 22 be released soon that documents the methods,

data, and results from the beginning of the 1 project in 2017 through 2020. 2 Initial monitoring results show the project 3 has been successful in reducing fishing pressure 4 on pelagic fish species and avoiding bycatch 5 mortality in the pelagic longline fishery. The 6 combination of reposed periods and the use of 7 alternative gear allows for large numbers of 8 both commercial and noncommercial species to 9 10 continue breeding in the Gulf of Mexico, which encourages the restoration of pelagic fish 11 populations. 12 13 So, in addition to describing progress towards our goals, the report will highlight the 14 15 importance of adaptive management. Improvements to the project were identified by closely 16 monitoring results and by listening to 17 recommendations from participants and 18 19 stakeholders. These improvements help to increase the number of participants and broaden 20 the project's geographic scope over time. 21 22 The Oceanic Fish Restoration Project will

continue to partner with pelagic fishermen 1 through at least 2022 and will also continue to 2 3 monitor and report progress and meeting our goals to restore oceanic fish that were injured 4 5 by the oil spill. Moving forward, the Open Ocean TIG will 6 continue to implement and monitor a total of 24 7 8 restoration projects and three monitoring and adaptive management activities. We will 9 10 continue developing restoration objectives and 11 indicators that address our monitoring and adaptive management priorities, and we're 12 13 excited to begin drafting our third Restoration Plan for birds and sturgeon. We also will 14 15 continue our stakeholder outreach efforts, 16 including holding our annual TIG meeting later 17 this year. Thank you very much for your attention and 18 19 continued participation in the Open Ocean Restoration. Next, I'd like to turn it over to 20 Jon Wiebe with the State of Louisiana who is 21 22 going to provide the presentation for the

Page 50 Region-wide TIG. 1 MR. WIEBE: Thank you, Laurie. 2 As Laurie said, I'm Jon Wiebe. I'm program 3 manager for Louisiana Department of Wildlife and 4 Fisheries Restoration Program, and I co-chair 5 the Region-wide TIG with Maury Chatellier and 6 with Vice Chair Ron Howard. 7 8 Our TIG's funding update highlights a 9 commitment of approximately \$51 million to date 10 for projects and planning out of the \$350 million total allocation, and for additional 11 12 details, please reference the associated Region-wide Funding Chart. 13 In our recent activities, we continue to 14 15 oversee the implementation and monitoring of early restoration projects and have expended a 16 17 great deal of effort on the development of our 18 first Restoration Plan, REPA 1, which we 19 released to the public in March and includes nearly \$100 million for 11 proposed projects for 20 birds, sea turtles, oysters, and marine mammals, 21 22 as well as in April, we held two public meetings

1	for the draft RPEA, which generated substantive		
2	interest and comment. For additional		
3	information, please reference the fact sheet		
4	associated with Region-wide.		
5	Our current featured project is the		
б	Colonial Waterbird Monitoring MAM activity. It		
7	is being implemented as we speak. I believe		
8	they're flying through Louisiana right now. As		
9	you can see from the representative images, this		
10	MAM activity principally consists of two		
11	components, that being coastal-wide aerial nest		
12	photographic surveys as well as nest dotting or		
13	counting analyses. This is a proven and highly		
14	accurate monitoring method that was extensively		
15	utilized during the Deepwater Horizon response		
16	and assessment.		
17	The Region-wide TIG plans on utilizing		
18	information generated from this activity along		
19	with established ongoing small-scale monitoring		
20	programs. They document both Colonial Waterbird		

21 Breeding Population Performance Project outcomes

22 as well as to inform future restoration project

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1	decision-making at a Region-wide scale.		
2	As for our future activities, we anticipate		
3	finalizing Restoration Plan 1 by the fall of		
4	this year. We'll continue the implementation		
5	and monitoring of early restoration projects.		
6	We hope to begin implementation of select		
7	projects for RP 1 as well as discuss and		
8	identify current and future Region-wide		
9	priorities.		
10	I thank you for your time and your		
11	attention, and with that, I'll hand the floor		
12	back to Perry.		
13	MR. FRANKLIN: All right. Thank you, Jon,		
14	so much, and thank you to all of the other		
15	speakers who have participated in tonight's		
16	webinar and have made tonight's webinar		
17	possible.		
18	Now we're going to Public Comment portion		
19	of tonight's meeting. I'd like to remind each		
20	of you that when you registered for tonight's		
21	webinar, as asked that if you wanted to make a		
22	comment during the meeting, we gave you		

1	instructions	of	how	to	do	that.	

2	Now we have sort of a unique situation
3	tonight. We had over 10 individuals to do that,
4	and they signed up, but for whatever reason,
5	they are not online. And so I see that there
6	are over 108 attendees participating in
7	tonight's webinar.
8	So, at this time, I'm going to appeal to
9	each of you that if you would like to add your
10	name on the list to provide public comment, it
11	is very simple to do. All you need to do is go
12	to the Questions box, which is located on the
13	right-hand side of the webinar's interface, and
14	simply type in your name, and there, we have the
15	instructions on the screen. All you have to do
16	is type in your name into the Questions box to
17	request a speaking slot, and a person from the
18	team will reach out to you, and we will get you
19	going. Don't be bashful. If you have something
20	on your mind and you would like to offer a
21	suggestion, now is that time. We would like to
22	hear from you.

Page 54 So I would like to remind you that the 1 Trustee Council Representatives shown on this 2 slide are here on the webinar to listen to your 3 public comments, and as with previous Trustee 4 Council public meetings, the Trustees will be 5 listening only and will not be answering 6 questions, consistent with previous Trustee 7 8 Council meetings. 9 All right. So there's no sense in me going 10 through the directions for those people who have signed up previously because those individuals 11 12 are not here, but I do want to remind everyone 13 that you are muted automatically, and we will 14 unmute you, should you put your name into the 15 Questions box and request a slot to speak. 16 Also, if you called in using a phone and 17 are planning to speak, you must enter your individual audio PIN. Note that this PIN is 18 19 different than the access code, and we'll teach out to you if you have any questions related to 20 21 that. 22 As shown on this slide, if you're using a

phone, please make sure your computer audio is
not selected.

3 All right. So, again, I see we have 107 attendees participating in tonight's webinar. 4 Surely, one or more of you would like to make a 5 public comment, and so we're going to just pause 6 for a moment and give you a moment to do that, 7 and if you look at that slide, it tells you how 8 9 to enter your name into the Questions box to 10 request a speaking slot. And you'll just have to enter your audio PIN if you plan to speak via 11 your phone, and then we will unmute you, and 12 we'll go forward. 13 So, at this time, I would just like to 14 15 pause to give individuals a moment if they would like to consider making public comment at 16 17 tonight's meeting. 18 [Pause.] 19 MR. FRANKLIN: Maybe I can offer an incentive and give you more than 3 minutes. 20 How 21 about that? 22 Oh, look, we have someone, a brave soul

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		Page !
1	amongst us, Samantha Richman. Samantha Richman,	
2	if you are part of an organization or	
3	representing an organization, when we unmute	
4	your line, if you will state your name for the	
5	record and the name of the organization if there	
б	is one, and then we will give you 3 minutes to	
7	make your public comment.	
8	Samantha, the floor is yours, and again, if	
9	you're using your phone, you'll need to type in	
10	the audio PIN, and you can see the instructions	
11	on the screen.	
12	MS. RICHMAN: Can you hear me?	
13	MR. FRANKLIN: Yes. We can hear you, Ms.	
14	Richman.	
15	MS. RICHMAN: Fantastic. I clicked a	
16	number of buttons. Thank you.	
17	MR. FRANKLIN: We can hear you. So please	
18	proceed.	
19	MS. RICHMAN: My name is Samantha Richman.	
20	I work for the U.S. Geological Survey out of San	
21	Francisco Bay.	
22	My question is in regards to the	

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1	presentation with the living shoreline project.		
2	I apologize. I did not catch who gave that		
3	presentation, but my question is, what		
4	structures are you using for that particular		
5	living shoreline? Because it was a great		
6	example.		
7	MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. And consistent with		
8	other meetings of this sort, this is going to be		
9	a public comment that we will put into the		
10	public record, and that public record will be		
11	taken into consideration when the final		
12	documents are produced, and so there will not be		
13	a Q&A at this time but simply for you to place		
14	your public comment into the record.		
15	Did you have any other comments, Ms.		
16	Richman?		
17	MS. RICHMAN: Any plans on using other		
18	living shoreline structures that are being		
19	created right now, one in particular called		
20	ECOncrete, which is a bioactive concrete? I'm		
21	not affiliated with the company, but they seem		
22	to have great success.		

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		Page
1	MR. FRANKLIN: All right. Does that	
2	conclude your comment, Ms. Richman?	
3	MS. RICHMAN: Sure. I guess so. Thanks	
4	for taking me.	
5	MR. FRANKLIN: Well, we thank you so very	
6	much.	
7	The next individual to provide public	
8	comment is Carol Adams-Davis. Ms. Davis, if you	
9	are part of an organization, if you will	
10	represent that organization stating the name of	
11	that organization following your name, we would	
12	appreciate it. The floor is yours.	
13	[No audible response.]	
14	MR. FRANKLIN: If you are speaking, Ms.	
15	Davis, we cannot hear you. You may be	
16	self-muted. If you will unmute yourself? If	
17	you are currently speaking, Ms. Davis, we cannot	
18	hear you. You may need to view the screen and	
19	look at the audio PIN process. You also may be	
20	self-muted.	
21	MS. ADAMS-DAVIS: Can you hear me now?	
22	MR. FRANKLIN: I can hear you loud and	

Page 59 clear. Please proceed. 1 MS. ADAMS-DAVIS: I wanted to ask about the 2 3 new purchase of the West End of Dauphin Island. I wondered since it's now a publicly owned 4 5 property, are there any Restoration Plans that are similar to the Mississippi restoration of 6 their barrier islands? 7 8 MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. 9 MS. ADAMS-DAVIS: Thank you. 10 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you very much, Ms. 11 Davis. The members of our listening panel have 12 13 taken that note down, and we appreciate it. 14 Does that conclude your comment, Ms. Davis? 15 [No audible response.] MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. And we are working 16 17 with another individual to get their audio corrected at this time, so just please note the 18 19 next individual who is going to be in the queue is going to be Jessica Bibza, and we're working 20 21 with her. 22 Jessica, if you can hear me, you can now

Page 60 proceed, and please state your name for the 1 record. 2 3 MS. BIBZA: Okay. There you go. It did say I was still muted by the organizer, but now 4 5 I'm not. Hi. I'm Jessica Bibza, National Wildlife 6 7 Federation. I actually just wanted to give a comment in 8 response to one of the questions at the open 9 10 house asking about seeing results from the projects and having it disseminated to the 11 12 public. 13 I did follow the instructions. Thank you very much for directing me towards those 14 15 as-built tabs, the Monitoring and Adaptive Management tab, as well as the document tabs. 16 17 I just want to say that, yeah, there's information there, but I would say it's really 18 19 not in a very, maybe, user friendly, easy-to-digest format. Back in the days that we 20 21 had the in-person open house events and there were projects that were proposed, you all put 22

		Page	61
1	together these really attractive fact sheets,		
2	similarly did things like with the GEBF-funded		
3	projects, with kind of a glossy document. There		
4	was a map of the area, the project partners, the		
5	project funding.		
6	Something that was a little bit more		
7	visually engaging, I think, for the general		
8	public, I'm just going to pick one example, not		
9	picking on that project at all. Seagrass		
10	Recovery at Gulf Islands National Seashore,		
11	that's a Florida project. If I look at		
12	as-builts, it just says type of habitat, SAV.02		
13	acres was restored, and there's a little		
14	description and the number of bird stakes that		
15	were put in, the predator control that was		
16	implemented. It's really great stuff, and a		
17	nerdy geek like myself, I am fine with digging		
18	into those details, but if I want to get the		
19	public excited about how these funds are being		
20	invested, the documents that are available		
21	online are not the way to do that. So I urge		
22	you to kind of come up with something that's a		

Page 62 little bit more user friendly. 1 Also, you did mention the NOAA DIVER 2 website. I have to tell you I avoid going there 3 at all costs because it's not user friendly 4 5 either. 6 Thank you. MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you very much, Ms. 7 Bibza. 8 9 She mentioned the fact sheets, and I would 10 just like to remind you when we opened, we directed the public to the location of several 11 fact sheets that are on the Trustee Council's 12 13 website, and those can be found at gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov, and so, again, if 14 you want to take a look at some of those fact 15 16 sheets that have been prepared, that is the 17 location, gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. All right. So there are now 99 attendees. 18 19 Certainly, there has to be one other individual who would like to make public comment, and we 20 would just like to give them a moment to 21 consider that, and if you would like to give 22

1	public comment, simply as the image on the slide
2	on the screen says, you just need to enter your
3	name into the Questions box, which is on the
4	lower right-hand side of the webinar's
5	interface, and we will get you in the queue and
6	call you right up.
7	So there are a couple names that were
8	previously on a list, and now they're not. If
9	Horacio is still online and if you wanted to
10	give public comment, simply type your name into
11	the Questions box, and we will call you right
12	up. You have your hand up, and if you have your
13	hand up for that purpose, we would like to get
14	you on that speakers list. Just simply type
15	your name into the Questions box, which is on
16	the interface of the GoToWebinar, and we will
17	get you right up.
18	All right. It looks like he has done that.
19	So, at this time, the next person forward to
20	give public comment is Mr. Horacio Polanco, and
21	if I'm misstating your name, I apologize.
2.2	

22 Please proceed with your public comment, sir.

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1	MR. POLANCO: Yes. Hello. Hi, everybody.			
2	Congratulations for this opportunity. It's very			
3	good for everyone. I am calling from Mexico.			
4	I am very, very interested in your program			
5	because it's very important for us too. My			
6	question is why don't put some money in this			
7	program in the Mexican coast state like			
8	Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Tabasco, Campeche,			
9	Queretaro, et cetera.			
10	Remember the ecosystem is the same, and we			
11	share a lot of fisher spaces, for example, who			
12	come from Florida to Yucatan each year, going			
13	and back, and I believe we need some support to			
14	this large sums of the local money because we			
15	believe it's very important and may the same			
16	program or the same monitoring activities to			
17	care the Gulf of Mexico because we havewe			
18	share the same water, the same system every day.			
19	But I believe this is very urgent.			
20	I have information in datasets, funds give			
21	a hand to the Tamaulipas biologists to care the			
22	turtles, for example, but we believe we need			

Page 65 more hands to protect some areas in the Veracruz 1 state shores, near to the Tuxpan Port, for 2 3 example. It's my point of view, and congratulations 4 5 for this program. It's very good. Thanks for 6 the opportunity. 7 MR. FRANKLIN: And thank you so very much for participating and offering that public 8 9 comment. We really appreciate that. 10 Again, just want to reiterate the format of tonight's meeting that this is the Public 11 Comment portion of the public meeting. There is 12 13 a listening panel who are taking notes of your public comments, and this is not a Q&A session. 14 15 That was during the open house where many of the same individuals did participate in a Q&A 16 17 session. So we thank you again for your participation. 18 19 So I'd like to remind you if you can hear my voice and you're one of the 91, now, 20 individuals who are attending, we thank you very 21 much, first of all, for spending your precious 22

		Page 66
1	evening with us to learn about this process, and	
2	secondly, if you are an individual who has a	
3	comment based on the presentation that you have	
4	listened to and received, simply go onto the	
5	GoToWebinar interface, and in the Questions box,	
6	if you'll just type in your name, we'll get you	
7	in the queue to present your public comment.	
8	I want to thank those who have come	
9	forward, and we'll just give a brief pause at	
10	this time to see if others are typing in.	
11	[Pause.]	
12	MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. The next individual	
13	to provide public comment is Colin Nelson.	
14	Colin, if you will begin your public comment by	
15	stating your name for the record, and if you are	
16	representing an organization, the name of that	
17	organization. The floor is yours.	
18	MR. NELSON: Thank you. My name is Colin	
19	Nelson. I am a private individual.	
20	And my comment for the record is that in	
21	future presentations of this type, one of the	
22	items I would like to see addressed is a comment	

		Page 67
1	from the organizers as to why the levels of	
2	committed spending seem to be significantly	
3	below the funding limits. On the bar charts	
4	that we saw no various presentations, some of	
5	them, I think, were as low as 15 percent, and	
6	that just seems to be indicate to me that there	
7	is money available, but the organization is not	
8	actually keeping up with the availability of	
9	that spending to create and manage projects.	
10	I'm not asking, obviously, for money to be	
11	wasted; however, I do note that there is a	
12	significant gap there. And some explanation as	
13	to why that exists would be, I think, useful to	
14	the public.	
15	With that, I wish you a good evening.	
16	Thank you for a very interesting presentation,	
17	and thank you for the opportunity to make a	
18	comment.	
19	MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson, for	
20	submitting that comment.	
21	At this time, if there are any others who	
22	would like to make formal public comment, we	

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1	would ask you to simply type in your name into		
2	the Questions box, which is in the GoToWebinar		
3	interface, bottom right-hand corner of your		
4	screen, and we will gladly call you forward.		
5	This will be our final pause to see if any		
6	others would like to make public comment.		
7	[Pause.]		
8	MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. Seeing that we have		
9	no others, I do want to thank those individuals		
10	who came forward to provide public comment, as		
11	all of those comments are extremely important.		
12	At this time, I would like to turn the		
13	meeting back over to Mr. Riechers to formally		
14	close out tonight's meeting. Thank you.		
15	MR. RIECHERS: Thank you again, Perry.		
16	I certainly want to take this moment here,		
17	and really, as all of you can see by the work		
18	in progress that we've shared with you tonight,		
19	the Trustee Council and the Implementation		
20	Groups are all very committed to restoring the		
21	natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico for		
22	years to come.		

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1	We hope to continue with the pace that		
2	we've been ableand the rate of progress that		
3	we've been able to have up to this point here,		
4	having our sixth meeting, but as we all know,		
5	over the course of the last year and even moving		
6	forward in this year, we're certainly having to		
7	consider and go forward with safe practices in		
8	light of the current public health situation.		
9	But, again, on behalf of the Trustee		
10	Council and the Trustee Implementation Groups, I		
11	want to thank each of you very, very much for		
12	attending this webinar tonight. We hope you		
13	found the information presented both informative		
14	and useful, and I wish you all a very good		
15	evening. Thank you again.		
16	[Whereupon, at 7:17 p.m. Central, the		
17	meeting concluded.]		
18			
19			
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21			
22			

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