Presentation Notes

Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group 2022 Annual Public Meeting

September 8, 2022

This document is intended to accompany the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group's presentation slides from their September 8, 2022, Annual Public Meeting webinar.

Slide 1

Hello. I'd like to welcome you to the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Annual Public Meeting. Thank you for your interest and attendance. My name is Jane Petersen, I'm a contractor supporting the Louisiana TIG, and I'll be going over the agenda and some preliminary information.

Slide 2

First, we will go over some webinar logistics.

Next, Mel Landry with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration will briefly talk to you about three DWH funding sources and explain our focus on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process.

Then, Mel will provide an overview of the DWH NRDA settlement dollars and the allocation of those dollars.

After that, we will have numerous Trustees provide an overview of restoration implementation.

After the presentation you will be able to provide input to the LA TIG via the process I'll now outline.

Slide 3

Hopefully everyone's logged in to the webinar by now. You should be able to see the control panel on the right-hand side of your screen.

If you're using a phone for audio, you should all be dialing in using the phone number provided by GoToWebinar—that's the number and access code listed under "Audio" in the control panel.

Please note that only presenters will be heard over the phone during the webinar; attendees will be muted.

Take a look at the "Questions" box at the bottom of the control panel (shown on this slide). If you have a comment you would like to share with the Trustees, please type it into this box and we will read as many comments as we can in the time allotted.

Slide 4

All the meeting materials will be available at https://la-dwh.com/ as well as the Trustee website https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/.

And now I'll turn it over to Mel Landry from NOAA to continue the presentation.

Slide 5

Hi, I'm Mel Landry and I'm the Trustee representative for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I'll walk you through the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Planning Process and then provide an implementation update.

Slide 6

There are 3 different sources of DWH funding that we work with in Louisiana. Today, we are here to talk about a portion of the NRDA funding. In addition to NRDA, the BP settlement also awarded funds through the Clean Water Act Civil and Criminal penalties.

NRDA – Oil Pollution Act (for damage oil caused to the environment):

- NRDA is a legal process under OPA whereby state and federal Trustees are designated to represent the public interest to ensure that natural resources injured in an oil spill are restored.
- This process includes:
    - The assessment of oil spill impacts on natural resources (2010-2015)
    - The restoration needed to compensate the public for the impacts to these natural resources (2012-ongoing)

In addition to the NRDA portion of the settlement:

- RESTORE Act – Clean Water Act Civil Penalties (penalty for spilling oil)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) - Criminal Plea Agreements:
    - Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (Gulf Fund)

Slide 7

- Annual payment of $319,211,220
- 2012-2016: $371,437,300 (Early Restoration)
- 2017/2019-31: $319,211,220
- 2018: $159,605,610

Slide 8

Here is the breakdown of the funding dollars by state and region, and by categories. I'm going to highlight the details for you. The settlement also determines where funds will be spent. The funds are broken out first geographically – into restoration areas aligned by states, as well as funds for the region-wide and open ocean restoration areas. Then by each restoration type in those areas.

Louisiana is getting the most, as you know: $5 billion. We have the information for the Louisiana Restoration Area broken down in the following slides. You can also find a copy of this table on the Trustee website.

Slide 9

This pie chart shows the allocation of funds between restoration areas. You can see that the Louisiana restoration area gets the largest allocation of $5 billion.

Slide 10

With the Louisiana restoration area, the $5 billion is distributed between restoration categories. This chart breaks down the allocation between restoration categories within the Louisiana Restoration Area.

Within these categories, the funds are distributed to restoration types. For example, within Living Coastal Marine Resources, you'll find sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and oysters.

Slide 11

The Louisiana TIG includes representation from 5 State and 4 Federal Trustees.

- The State Trustees are the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority, the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, all represented by Bren Haase.

- The Federal Trustees are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration represented by myself, Mel Landry; the Department of Interior, represented by Sarah Clardy; the Environmental Protection Agency, represented by Doug Jacobson; and the Department of Agriculture, represented today by Ron Howard.

Slide 12

The typical NRDA (OPA or CERCLA) process integrates the NRDA evaluation with the NEPA evaluation into a single restoration plan.

Due to the size and complexity of some projects, we have decided to phase restoration planning under certain circumstances. One example was the first LA TIG restoration plan, which included selection of six projects for E&D, three of which were over $100 million each.

The Strategic Restoration Plan for the Barataria Basin was also a Phase 1 plan.

Much of our planning efforts have been the Phase 2 Plans that evaluate the Engineering & Design approved in the Phase 1 Plans to select the preferred projects for construction.

I'll walk through the phased approach here.

Slide 13

This slide shows a phased restoration planning approach.

The DWH PDARP is a Programmatic EIS and Restoration Plan. For Phased Restoration, in the first phase an OPA evaluation is conducted to selected projects to further develop, typically this means Engineering & Design. In most cases, E&D impacts are fully evaluated in the PDARP and incorporated in the Phase 1 plan, so no additional NEPA evaluation is required in the first phase. After E&D has progressed sufficiently, a Phase 2 plan (or plans) evaluates design alternatives under NEPA and OPA and selects a preferred design alternative for construction funding.

The Phase 1 Plan is not an exhaustive evaluation of impacts. The Phase 1 Plan sets up a more robust analysis in the phase 2 plan.

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Just as a quick review of our responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for restoring the environment and compensating the public for natural resource injuries resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

We used a natural resource damage assessment to determine the extent of injuries to natural resources and to seek restoration or compensation from the parties responsible for those injuries.

The goal is to restore injured natural resources – such as wetlands, fish, and birds – to the condition they would have been in had the spill not occurred. We are also responsible for addressing recreational uses, like boating and swimming, that were affected by the spill.

Slide 15

Now we'll begin with the Louisiana funding update.

To date, the Louisiana Trustees have approved or committed $1.4 billion of the $2.13 billion received from BP so far. Once the LA TIG receives its full funding after 15 years (ending in 2031) that allocation will be $5 billion. The $1.4 billion includes all dollars allocated via resolution in calendar year 2021 and through May of this year. Now let’s walk through each of the restoration types and discuss our accomplishments to date.

Slide 16

We'll begin with the goal of Restore and Conserve Habitat. The goal of Restoring and Conserving Habitats recognizes that wetlands, barrier islands and coastal habitats are highly productive and serve as important nursery and foraging habitat for many living coastal and marine resources. There are two restoration types that Louisiana received funding for under this goal, the first being Wetlands, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats. This restoration type has the largest allocation of DWH funds at over $4.3 billion. To date, the Trustees have initiated or completed 13 WCNH projects.

Slide 17

The projects under WCNH consist of large-scale marsh and ridge restoration projects, beach, dune and back barrier marsh on barrier islands, living shoreline features, and large-scale hydraulic restoration. Construction on five of these projects has been completed with the remaining in construction or in engineering and design. When all completed, these large-scale projects will account for over 11,000 acres of created coastal habitat to offset the effects of the DWH spill.

Slide 18

Throughout this presentation, we'll highlight some of the work we've conducted over the last year. The Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation Project is an example of our WCNH work.

Slide 19

Anticipated benefits:

- Project is building up to 1,190 acres of wetlands in the Barataria Basin
- Create and/or restore interspersed and ecologically connected marshes in the upper Barataria Basin
- Increase vegetation and nekton productivity in the project area

Slide 20

Here is a picture of the project in construction.

Slide 21

Where we are now:

- The construction of containment dikes began in February
- Construction of marsh creation areas began in August

Now I'll hand it over to Maury Chatellier from the LA CPRA for an update on Federally Managed Lands.

Slide 22

Thanks Mel.

The next restoration type under Restore and Conserve Habitat is Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands. This restoration type will ultimately receive $50 million by 2031. The Trustees have initiated one project under this restoration type for approximately $22.8 million, and that project is Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve down in Jefferson Parish.

Slide 23

The Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Project was funded in RP 1.3.

After the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, fresh water was released into Lake Cataouatche in Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, and that resulted in the loss of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). The project would create favorable conditions for the re-establishment of at least 50 acres of SAV. This project would also help protect the SAV from wave energy by engineering and designing a breakwater structure along the shoreline. Final design for this project is complete, and advertisement for construction is pending.

Slide 24

The next overarching goal is Restore Water Quality. Louisiana will ultimately receive $20 million for Nutrient Reduction projects. The Trustees have $9.7 million of these funds to date to initiate four projects. These projects are being implemented by the USDA.

Slide 25

The four projects to address nutrient reduction on agriculture lands in the state of Louisiana are:

1. Agriculture Best Management Practices (or BMPs) on Dairy Farms in St. Helena Parish
2. BMPs on Dairy Farms in Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes
3. BMPs on grazing and agriculture lands in the Bayou Folse Watershed down near Houma, LA
4. Winter water holding and BMP in rice production areas in Cameron and Vermillion Parishes

Nutrient reduction can enhance overall ecosystem health by benefitting the estuaries that are integral habitats providing food, shelter, and nursery grounds for many of the Gulf of Mexico's ecologically and economically important species. Nutrient reduction involves a suite of activities to reduce nutrient loadings, depending on the watershed and agriculture production type, hence the three themes for these projects: dairy farms, grazing and cropland, and winter water holding.

Baseline in-stream water quality monitoring activities have been initiated; after most of the site-specific best management practices are implemented, post-execution water quality monitoring will be initiated.

Slide 26

The winter water holding/BMP project on rice producing farmlands is one that we would like to highlight. This project targets rice producers in priority HUC-12 watersheds (outlined in green) to accelerate the implementation of conservation practices that will reduce nutrient loading to streams and tributaries. This project is designed to filter nutrients utilizing irrigation drainage water, while providing key habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife species. To date, approximately 8,200 acres (outlined in red) of privately owned farmlands have been enrolled in this program. Water quality monitoring in these priority watersheds is also underway.

Slide 27

The next restoration goal is to Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources. There are five restoration types that were funded for Louisiana under this overarching goal, and you see them here with the full funding allocation for each.

The Louisiana Trustees continue to evaluate implementation strategies for sea turtles and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs).

Slide 28

The next restoration type under Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources is the Bird restoration type.

The DWH oil spill exposed dozens of species of birds to oil in a variety of northern Gulf of Mexico habitats, including open water, island waterbird colonies, barrier islands, beaches, bays, and marshes. Birds were exposed to oil in several ways, including physical contact with oil in the environment; ingestion of external oil during preening; and ingestion of oil while foraging and consuming contaminated prey, water, or sediment.

The TIG will ultimately receive $148.5 million for this restoration type. To date, we've authorized approximately $116 million, or almost 78% of the total allocation, for six projects. These projects have consisted of primarily restoring beach, dune, and marsh habitat at key colony locations across the state. Three projects have been completed, with the remaining projects either in construction or engineering and design.

Slide 29

The project I'd like to highlight for the bird restoration type is North Breton Island. North Breton is located off the coast of Louisiana, 17 miles northeast of Venice, LA and 63 miles southeast of New Orleans. It is the southernmost island of the Chandeleur barrier island chain and is a part of

Breton National Wildlife Refuge in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This project was designed and implemented by the Department of the Interior through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The challenge facing Breton island was the loss of elevation due to natural erosion and storm events, which reduces available nesting ground.

As part of Phase III Early Restoration, DWH Trustees and BP agreed to fund the Louisiana Outer Coast Project for four islands, including Breton. DOI is the Implementing Trustee for this project, with NOAA and the State of Louisiana responsible for implementation of other 3 island projects.

Breton is the site of an important brown pelican rookery. An estimated 27,613 brown pelicans were killed as a result of the DWH spill.

The photo on this slide was taken in September 2020, right after Hurricane Sally.

Slide 30

The project consisted of hydraulically dredging offshore material to create and restore beach, dune, back-barrier marsh, and mangrove habitat to provide nesting and foraging habitat for brown pelicans, terns, skimmers, gulls, and other species affected by the spill. The cost to implement the project was $55,012,805.20.

A total of 6.59 million cubic yards of fill material was added to the island. Construction started in November 2020 with all fill material being placed by December 2021. In addition to the fill material, 14,730 linear feet of sand fencing was added along the dune crest of the island.

Here you see a post-construction aerial photograph that was taken earlier this year. This shows the 426 acres of the newly constructed island.

The island will be planted with 282 acres of native vegetation on the dune, back-barrier marsh platform, and a mangrove marsh area. Plantings for mangrove and dune are expected for Fall 2022-Spring 2023. Plantings for back-barrier marsh will take place 1 to 2 years later, as the marsh platform needs time to settle before it's ready to be planted.

Future efforts for the island will consist of eight years of long-term monitoring for vegetation survival, habitat acreage, colony mapping, bird production estimates, and conditional parameters for island structure like breaches, shoreline position, and sediment volume.

Slide 31

The next restoration type I'd like to discuss is restoration for oysters. Injuries to oysters were evaluated as part of the DWH NRDA. That evaluation demonstrated substantial spill- and response action-related impacts on intertidal and subtidal oysters in the northern Gulf. More specifically, the combined effects of reduced spawning stock, larval production, spat settlement,

and spat substrate availability have compromised the sustainability of nearshore and subtidal oysters throughout the north-central Gulf of Mexico.

The Trustees have allocated the entirety of DWH oyster recovery funds at just under $40.9 million. This includes $26 million in settlement funds and $14.87 million in early restoration funds.

Four projects have been implemented by the trustees under the oyster restoration type. A single, multi-component oyster project was initiated with early restoration funds. Three oyster projects were approved in Restoration Plan #5 with the purpose to restore oyster population damaged by the DWH spill: enhancing oyster recovery using brood reefs, cultch plant oyster restoration, and hatchery-based oyster restoration.

Slide 32

Today, I'd like to highlight brood reef and cultch plant construction projects.

The objective of the brood reef oyster restoration alternative is to increase spawning oyster populations and offset impacts resulting from exposure to DWH oil, dispersant, and response activities through the construction of a network of spawning stock oyster reefs.

Reef material, when placed in oyster spawning areas, provides a substrate on which free floating oyster larvae can attach and grow. Brood reefs are composed of both cultch material (e.g., limestone rock, oyster shell, or fossilized oyster shell), and non-harvestable vertical artificial reef material (e.g., boulders), which provide substrate to support dense populations of oysters. The goal of this alternative is to develop a network of brood reefs that would serve as spawning stock to improve and maintain oyster production on Louisiana's Public Oyster Seed Grounds (POSG) and Public Oyster Seed Reservations (POSR).

Brood reefs would be closed to harvest for as long as they remain functioning spawning stock reserves.

Here you see a photo of brood reef material being moved to construction site.

Four brood reef oyster restoration projects were constructed in November and December 2021, with a cost of about $400,000 for each.

Monitoring to assess the performance of brood reef projects is ongoing.

Slide 33

As with brood reefs, the objective of the cultch plant alternative is to create oyster reefs through the placement of cultch. Constructing cultch plant reefs is similar to brood reef construction, as it entails placing cultch material in suitable oyster habitat to provide a substrate for free floating

oyster larvae to attach and grow, which in time results in a mature productive oyster reef. The main difference between cultch plant construction and brood reef construction is the size of the material placed. Cultch plant material is smaller, as it is intended to be relocated or can be relocated at a future date.

Here you see construction of the Drum Bay Cultch Plant in St. Bernard Parish, LA. A total of 29,300 cubic yards of limestone were used to create two 100-acre areas in Drum Bay, for the cost of $2,395,275.00. Once performance criteria are met, the areas will become available for either market harvest or bedding harvest, where the resource is collected for transfer to other oyster leases.

Slide 34

At the Caillou (Sister) Lake cultch plant in Terrebonne Parish, LA, which was constructed in September 2021, results from monitoring conducted thus far show high productivity, as seen in photos above from dredge sampling events in November 2021 (three months post-construction) and late February 2022 (six months post-construction). You can see by month six, spat and seed-sized oysters completely obscure cultch material they are attached to.

Now, I'll ask Mel Landry with NOAA to come back and discuss the Trustees' accomplishments with marine mammals over the past year.

Slide 35

Thanks Maury.

Responding to marine mammal strandings gives us the opportunity to relocate or rehabilitate dolphins and whales, and gives us valuable data on how we can reduce injuries and deaths.

Slide 36

The stranding network team has been working on the ground for nearly two years. Over the past year, they have responded to 28 strandings. 25 were bottlenose dolphins. 18 of these reports were recovered on the same day, two were recovered on the next day, and eight were unrecoverable.

The team is also currently monitoring two out of habitat dolphins. The pair appear healthy, have plenty of food, and are in good salinity. Therefore, we don't plan to intervene until the calf is older or if their health deteriorates.

Now I will turn it over to Joe Wyble for recreational opportunities.

Slide 37

Here we have the restoration type Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities.

Slide 38

The Gulf of Mexico is a popular destination for outdoor recreation, such as boating, fishing, and going to the beach. The Trustees estimated the public lost over 16 million user days of boating, fishing, and beach-going experiences as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* spill.

Louisiana has been allocated $60 million for recreational use improvements. These funds have been fully allocated to a total of 23 projects that provide public access to recreational improvements, including fishing piers, boat launches, campgrounds, signage, artificial reefs, and education facilities.

Of the 23 projects, 11 are complete and 6 are in construction, with several of those nearing the end of construction. At the photo on the right, you can see some members of the next generation of coastal stewards enjoying the crabbing at one of those completed projects. Six more projects are in design and are expected to proceed to construction either later this year or early in 2023. All of the projects are expected to complete construction no later than 2024.

I'd like to highlight several of these projects that typify the range of recreational features that are being implemented.

Slide 39

First is the Middle Pearl River WMA Boat Launch, which involved a renovation of an existing boat launch on the west bank of the Middle Pearl River in the Pearl River WMA in St. Tammany Parish. Project features include a highway approach apron for boat ramp traffic from LA Highway 90, a crushed limestone parking area, two concrete boat launch ramps, three loading docks, an extended wrap-around boardwalk, and a dredged boating slip.

What you're seeing in these pictures is a view from the loading docks of one of the concrete boat ramps and the parking lot at left, and at right a view down the boardwalk to LA-90 which illustrates the convenient access this project provides to boaters.

The total project budget was $775,000, and it was completed in November 2021.

Slide 40

Next we have Atchafalaya Delta WMA Campground Improvements, which involves improvements to the existing Wax Lake Outlet Campground in the Atchafalaya Delta WMA to provide a safe, protected campsite accessible by boaters. Project features include bulkhead installation along the campground, sediment placement behind the bulkhead to restore some of the lost acreage of the campground, and jetty construction to stabilize the bank and bulkhead.

The total project budget is about $4.2 million, and it is nearing the end of construction. In the photos you can see an action shot of the bulkhead installation (at left) and an overhead shot of some of the completed bulkhead and sediment infill (at right). Construction activities should wrap up this month.

Slide 41

Finally we have the Cypremort Point State Park Improvements project, which involves the construction of multiple improvements in Cypremort Point State Park in St. Mary Parish, including:

- Restoring the public beach;
- Reinforcing canal rock embankments;
- Installing a new marsh boardwalk;
- Repairing and upgrading existing roads and parking areas; and
- Constructing a new RV campground.

The total project is about $5.6 million, and it is currently in construction, with many of the features already completed. What you see in the photos are some action shots of the boardwalk construction and beach restoration (upper left and lower right, respectively), and next to each of them the finished product.

The beach reclamation was completed in July 2021, and the boardwalk and rock revetment were completed in March 2022. A contract for the RV campground and road improvements was awarded in June 2022; we expect construction to begin shortly and be completed in Summer 2023.

So that’s a snapshot of the recreational use program; I will now turn the presentation over to Rick Raynie, who will give an update on the Monitoring and Adaptive Management effort.

Slide 42

Thank you, Joe.

My name is Rick Raynie with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and I will be providing an update on Monitoring and Adaptive Management.

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Recognizing the unprecedented amount, type, and geographic scope of the DWH oil spill, the Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) calls for the Trustees to fund monitoring and adaptive management to support the various restoration plans, in addition to funding the activities associated with implementing each Restoration Type. This work could include: resolving key uncertainties that limit restoration planning; informing and evaluating restoration outcomes across multiple projects and Restoration Types; and providing a common public portal to access monitoring data and other important information related to restoration activities.

Also noted in the PDARP, the Trustees will conduct monitoring and evaluation needed to inform decision-making for current projects and to refine the selection, design, and implementation of future restoration.

Adaptive Management is a form of structured decision-making applied to the management of natural resources in the face of uncertainty (Pastorok et al. 1997; Williams 2011).

This process both advances scientific understanding and provides critical feedback to inform future decision-making (Williams et al. 2007).

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in August 2021, the Trustee agencies, facilitated by the Water Institute of the Gulf, finalized the LA TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management Strategy, which provides recommendations for SMART Objectives, and also recommends a process for developing and funding the most critical of those activities.

Beginning in September 2021, the LA TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management Small Working Group began implementing this Strategy.

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The MAM Strategy was built on the foundation of the Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP), represented by the green figure to the left showing high-level objectives.

The MAM Strategy narrowed the focus of these high-level objectives to those needs and activities that are particularly relevant to Louisiana, which is represented in the yellow figure on the right.

This resulted in the development of either SMART Objectives, or Fundamental Objectives that are necessary precursors to develop those SMART Objectives.

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This slide represents an example of how this was applied – in this case, relative to oyster restoration.

A High-Level Objective would be: Balance growth of oyster population on NRDA-enhanced and restored reefs with ecologically sustainable public harvesting.

Refinement of that objective to a Fundamental Objective would be: Maintain or increase oyster abundance on managed or restored areas of public seed grounds (POSG) over time.

This could be further refined into a SMART Objective such as: Oyster density on coastal Louisiana POSG and DWH NRDA restored oyster reefs is at least 20 seed-sized oysters (25mm or larger) per square meter at least once during annual sampling within each 4-year monitoring window following project construction.

This is something that can be objectively measured.

A SMART Objective is something that is:

- Specific about what restoration effort will achieve
- Provide a measurable target for restoration success
- Includes targets that have been identified by resource experts as achievable
- The measures are relevant to ecosystem objectives
- A program-appropriate timeline is identified for quantifying progress

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In addition to the development of Fundamental and SMART Objectives, the MAM Strategy also identified a planning process.

The MAM Small Working Group followed this recommended planning process, which included the development of pre-proposals, and full MAM Activities Implementation Plans (MAIPs) for those activities that were deemed most urgent to move forward.

Several check-in and approval steps were required by the full LA TIG (shown in green).

The Step 4 check-in in the December/January time period allowed the full LA TIG to review and approve the pre-proposals from the MAM SWG.

In May/June 2022 the LA TIG reviewed and approved the final MAIPs and budgets (Step 7).

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Regarding budgets, Louisiana will ultimately be allocated $225 million for Monitoring and Adaptive Management. Prior to this past year, the LA TIG had previously approved approximately $23.5 million (shown in blue on the pie chart).

This year, the LA TIG approved an additional $20.4 million (shown in orange), resulting in a total commitment to date of $43.9 million, leaving $181.1 million of the MAM dollars un-committed.

This year, the LA TIG approved an additional nine activities for a total of 15.

Types of projects include short, targeted data collection efforts; partial support for long-term monitoring programs; and activities at the programmatic level.

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The 9 MAM activities which were approved for this year address needs by Restoration Type and include:

- Five Wetland Coastal and Nearshore Habitat (WCNH) MAM activities (#1-5 on the list): These include several barrier island activities, an activity to focus on learning more about fish and invertebrate habitat requirements, and an activity to investigate inter-annual changes in wetland area and habitat types.
- One Sea Turtle MAM activity (#6 on the list) improving our understanding of sea turtle habitat use in eastern Louisiana.
- One Marine Mammal MAM activity (#7 on the list) developing recommendations for monitoring bottlenose dolphins.
- One Oyster MAM activity (#8 on the list): An oyster activity which will provide managers with a tool to examine reef connectivity through larval transport, and help inform decisions about oyster restoration projects.
- One programmatic MAM activity (#9 on the list) to create an electronic repository for lessons learned during ecosystem restoration of coastal Louisiana, from planning steps to

construction to monitoring and evaluation, at both programmatic and project scales. This will be a tool to capture knowledge and to inform future projects in a variety of ways.

The length of funding for these activities varies by activity and ranges from two to five years, depending on the activity. Total MAM funding approved for these activities is $20.4 million.

This concludes the Monitoring and Adaptive Management update, and I will turn things back over to Maury.

Slide 50

Thank you Rick.

As you can see, the Louisiana TIG has made great progress to date. So now we'll talk a bit about our ongoing restoration planning efforts.

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Moving forward, The Trustees are working on two Restoration Plans:

Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #3.2 – Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion: The final MBSD EIS is scheduled for release by the US Army Corps of Engineers on September 23, 2022. The Trustees are planning to release the Final MBSD Restoration Plan concurrent with release of the Final EIS. We are working with the Army Corps to finalize the documents in response to the public comment period that began in March of 2021. We encourage you to review the Final EIS and Final Restoration Plan when they are released.

Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #7.1 – Birds: And again, the Trustees are currently working on Draft RP #7.1 focused on the restoration and conservation of bird habitat in Louisiana. In Restoration Plan #7.1, the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group proposes the selection of one construction preferred alternative for the Terrebonne HNC Bird Island. The draft plan is out for public comment at this time and will close on September 26th. Following completion of the public comment period, the Trustees will review the public comments and make changes to the draft plan as necessary before releasing a final plan before the end of the calendar year.

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Takeaways from the DWH LA TIG NRDA undertaking:

- As we stated before, Louisiana will receive $5 billion in restoration dollars through NRDA through 2031. This is specific to the LA TIG and does not include NRD dollars that may come to the state through the Region-wide or Open Ocean TIGs.
- The Trustees have allocated over approximately $1.4 billion for projects and activities to compensate for damages from the DWH oil spill. This figure represents 72% of the funds available to the state through this year.
- Inclusive of Phase 1 (project design) and Phase 2 (project construction) plans, the TIG has initiated or completed 14 individual restoration plans to date with 63 individual projects either initiated or completed.

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This ends the implementation portion of the presentation. As a reminder, the meeting materials can be found online at these websites. At this time I'd like to turn it back over to Jane for the public comment portion of today's meeting.

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Thanks Maury. It's now time for the comment portion of the webinar. If you haven't already, please use the Questions box on the right side of your screen to enter a comment for Trustee staff.

Comments will be read aloud, and questions answered, as time allows

We'll pause for a minute to wait for comments to come in.

See Q&A Session below.

We will also summarize the comments we received today and post the summary to the TIG website.

Thank you all for your comments, I'll now turn it back to Maury Chatellier to wrap up the webinar.

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On behalf of the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, I want to thank you all for attending our 2022 Annual Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Public Meeting.

We hope that you found the information helpful and informative.

We also appreciate your interest in our ongoing efforts to restore for the natural resource damages caused by the historic DWH oil spill.

We will continue with our restoration efforts and continue to keep you updated as we make progress.

You can find the materials for today's meeting on these websites and where you will also find useful information about our progress and ongoing efforts.

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Thank you and have a great afternoon.

Q&A Session

Question: It looks like we have a question related to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. Mel, would you like to give us an update on that plan?

Answer (Mel Landry, NOAA): As many folks know, as noted on the FAST-14 Dashboard, the Final MBSD EIS is scheduled for release by the US Army Corps of Engineers on Sept 23, 2022. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group is planning to release the Final MBSD Restoration Plan concurrent with release of the Final EIS. We are working with the Army Corps to finalize the documents in response to the public comment period that began in March of 2021. We will not be providing additional information on the MBSD during this meeting, but we encourage you to review the Final EIS and Final Restoration Plan when they are released.

Question: Where are the projects most likely to be posted once construction plans are ready for bid?

Answer (Maury Chatellier, CPRA): Once projects go through the planning process with the Trustees, if they are implemented by the state of Louisiana or CPRA, they'll show up on the CPRA website, https://coastal.la.gov/. There are links on that website that can get you to the contracts portion and you can pull up those projects. You can contact CPRA and be notified or be on the mailing list when contracts or projects are ready to go. You can click on links through the website, and you can see the projects, the bids, the specifications, etc.