

**DWH Trustee Council  
1/4/21 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Craig Johnson
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
	Emily Seale	Ann Hijuelos	
<b>LA</b>	Kelly Swindle		
Bren Haas	Jane Calamusa		<b>EPA</b>
Maury Chatellier		<b>NOAA</b>	Gale Bonanno
	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	Tim Landers
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	
Chris Wells	Nadia Martin		<b>LAT</b>
Bradley Ennis			Holly Herod
Valerie Alley			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **MS TIG:** The MS TIG held their annual restoration summit on November 10, 2020 which included the MS TIG annual meeting. Over 200 people were in attendance at the virtual summit. They announced the finalization of their Restoration Plan 2 and those projects are in the early stages of implementation. The MS TIG also kicked off their restoration planning process for Restoration Plan 3. They are now in the screening process and anticipate a reasonable range of alternatives ready by Q2 of 2021. They are also implementing several early restoration projects including building the last component of the Hancock County Living Shoreline Project and building 46 acres of marsh. Several components of the Living Shorelines and Reef project are also moving ahead and are in the bidding or construction phases.
- a. **Cross-TIG MAM:** The Cross-TIG MAM circulated an activity update with today's call agenda. Since the last update in September, the group has been focused on programmatic review efforts. The Cross-TIG MAM is focusing on:
  - o The summaries of each restoration type.
  - o The monitoring guidance for the MAM Manual including work on birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and oysters.
  - o Data management connectivity and coordinating with the LAT and DIVER.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: LAT Items**

### a. Discussion:

- Update on the 5-Year Programmatic Review and Draft Content – The 5-Year Small Group has been working on reviewing the key messages and three goal-oriented sections (financial management, recreational use, and submerged aquatic vegetation). Once the small group review is complete the sections will be shared with the Trustee Council for review. This will likely occur in February, rather than January as was previously stated.

Action Items: The LAT will circulate the initial sections for review in February.

- 2021 Annual Meeting – The 2021 annual meeting will be held virtually in June. The proposed dates are June 15, 16, and 17. There may be an open house or time for breakout groups before the formal presentation. That will be decided closer to time of the annual meeting.

Decision: The 2021 annual meeting will be held on June 17.

Action Items: TIG Support will send a Save the Date for that evening/early afternoon and extra time can be removed from the invitation. LA will coordinate with NFWF to determine that there is no conflict that week.

- Call Note Review – Please complete your call note review by January 29 so they can be posted to the Administrative Record and the Gulf Spill Restoration Website. Contact the LAT if you need more time.
- Annual Reporting – The 2020 annual reporting cycle started today, and the QA/QC reports will be sent to each Trustee to help facilitate Trustee review. Contact the LAT know if you need any additional information.

## **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, February 1.

**DWH Trustee Council  
2/1/21 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Tanya Culbert
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
	Emily Seale	Ann Hijuelos	
<b>LA</b>	Kelly Swindle		<b>EPA</b>
Maury Chatellier	Jane Calamusa		Gale Bonanno
Jon Wiebe		<b>NOAA</b>	Mary Kay Lynch
Matt Mumfrey	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	
	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	<b>LAT</b>
<b>MS</b>		Laurie Rounds	Holly Herod
Chris Wells			Nanciann Regalado
Valerie Alley			
Bradley Ennis			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. LA TIG: The LA TIG has been busy working on finalizing Restoration Plan 7 which was released in December 2020 and approved \$234 million in Wetlands Coastal Nearshore Habitat and Bird projects. The plan approved construction funding for two projects and engineering and design for three projects. The LA TIG has also been working on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and the corresponding restoration plan and EIS which are expected to be released in early March. In 2020 the LA TIG approved over \$1 billion in NRDA funds for construction and engineering and design projects. Today the LA TIG issued a notice of solicitation for projects to be included in Restoration Plan 8.
  
- a. RW-TIG MAM: In 2020 the RW TIG continued its annual funding for the Cross-TIG MAM and LAT activities. The RW TIG is nearing close-out of the strategic frameworks. The RW TIG is working on the TIG’s first restoration plan and just started a full review of the draft plan in January. The TIG anticipates releasing the Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment in March with a final plan released in November. The RW TIG expects to have two virtual public meetings in the second week of April (afternoon and evening) and will coordinate those meetings with other scheduled TIG meetings. The TIG’s Colonial Waterbird Monitoring activity is ongoing and includes aerial photography, nest counting, and dataset collection among other activities. MS and AL are also doing nesting counts in similar efforts.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: LAT Items**

### a. Discussion:

- Update on the 5-Year Programmatic Review and Draft Content – The 5-Year Small Group is in the middle of key agency review of a package of draft content. Once the high-level comments are incorporated into those sections the package will be circulated to the TC in mid-February.
- Action Items: The LAT will circulate the initial sections for review in mid-February.
- Call Note Review – Please complete your call note review as soon as possible so they can be posted to the Administrative Record and the Gulf Spill Restoration Website. Contact the LAT if you need more time.
- TIG support will send a reminder to those with outstanding approvals.
- SOP –A draft revised copy of the SOP will be provided to the TC along with an outline of recommendations in the next month or so.
- Conference Lines – Over the next few weeks TIG Support will ask Trustees to delete existing calendar invitations and accept the new invitations from the GRO FW4 Conferencing email account. This new format will be Microsoft Teams meetings which should help address issues with multiple calendar invitations and allow screensharing and videos. There will also be call-in numbers and breakout rooms available. There is no need to download any software, you can use the web version. The timing is not certain, but it will likely happen soon.
- Let the LAT and TIG Support know if you would like a practice call.

## **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, March 1.

**DWH Trustee Council  
3/1/21 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Craig Johnson
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Michelle Everson	
	Emily Seale	Debora McClain	
	Kelly Swindle	Ann Hijuelos	<b>EPA</b>
<b>LA</b>	Jane Calamusa		Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	Bethany Kraft	<b>NOAA</b>	Mary Kay Lynch
	Seth Newton	Chris Doley	Treda Grayson
		Rachel Sweeney	Tim Landers
<b>MS</b>	<b>FL</b>	Laurie Rounds	
Chris Wells	Gareth Leonard	Aileen Smith	
Valerie Alley	Leslie Reed	Craig O'Connor	<b>LAT</b>
Bradley Ennis	Amy Raker	Natalie Gardner	Holly Herod
	Lisa Robertson	Stephen Heverly	Nanciann Regalado
	Rachel Schmalfuss		
	Nadia Martin		

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. AL TIG: The Gulf State Park Pier, which was recently renovated by the Gulf State Park Pier Renovation project in Restoration Plan III, was affected by Hurricane Sally. The pier was closed for a time, but it has now been partially reopened to the public. For another Restoration Plan III project (Dauphin Island West End Acquisition), the AL TIG acquired 800 acres on Dauphin Island in October 2020 and will now work with DOI and Mobile County to develop a bird management plan for this property. Finally, the AL TIG has selected the National Audubon Society as the contractor to implement the Stewardship of Coastal Alabama Beach Nesting Bird Habitat project from Restoration Plan III. This project mirrors the recently concluded NFWF project, so the next steps are to hold a meeting to develop the first year's implementation plan.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG has a number of project updates.
  - o FDEP has advertised the construction bid for the Phase III Pensacola Living Shoreline project in Escambia county. They anticipate work will begin later this spring.
  - o FWC recently completed construction of its Phase III Florida Artificial Reef project. The project will be monitored for three more years.

- FDEP is nearing completion on the Lynn Haven Park component of the Phase V Florida Coastal Access Project. They anticipate it will be completed in April 2021 and then the 90-acre park will be turned over to the city in late spring/early summer.
- Several Phase II and III projects have been completed and will be closed out in DIVER this year.

Last Thursday, the Notice of Availability for the FL TIG Draft Restoration Plan 2 was published in the Federal Register with a 30-day public comment period. The plan includes 19 preferred alternatives for a total of \$62.2 million. The public meeting will be at 5:00 eastern on March 11. The FL TIG and RW TIGs worked together to leverage some projects in both TIGs. The plan is likely to be finalized in late May.

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

### **Discussion Item 2: Cross TIG-MAM Update**

- a. Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM is working on their work plan for next year (July 2021 - June 2022) and will provide it to the TC for review and approval soon.

### **Discussion Item 3: LAT Items**

- a. Discussion:
  - Annual Deposit – TIG support circulated a request for annual deposit amounts and comments on the draft resolution.
  - Action Item: Reminder to send in information on annual deposit and any comments on the draft resolution to the LAT coordinator and TIG support by March 12.
  - Update on the 5-Year Programmatic Review and Draft Content – Last week TIG support circulated an email requesting TC review regarding general style and content for a few sections of the 5-Year Programmatic Review. The LAT coordinator would like to schedule an ad hoc call for detailed discussion of the content of the 5-Year Programmatic Review. The TC discussed the role of the document, readability, telling the story to the public, and the process for noting items for internal Trustees’ consideration. An example TIG page layout will be circulated after the call for TC high-level review. The idea is that the TIG pages would be an area to pull information from DIVER and give space for each TIG to highlight a project story. There is flexibility for the TIGs to select what content

they would like to write within a general framework. The TC has prepared the text for financial management, recreational use, submerged aquatic vegetation, and key messages. The questions for the TC to weigh-in in is whether this is the right level of detail, use of graphics, etc.

- Action Items: The small group will continue to compile a list of topics for the TC to consider internally. The TC will continue its review of the documents. The ad hoc call to discuss the content in more depth will be held at 2 pm CST on March 22.
- SOP – The small group has reviewed all the comments and discussed which edits to recommend to the TC. There is just one outstanding topic that the group is working through with DOJ regarding agreed upon procedures and audits. After that language has been finalized then the SOP with recommendations will be sent to the TC.
- Teams Call – The transition to Teams for TIG and TC calls started earlier today. If you have any questions or issues in the future please reach out to TIG support.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, April 5.