

**DWH Trustee Council  
1/8/24 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter	Katherine Bleau	Jon Morton
	Jaime Miller		Craig Johnson
	Jane Calamusa		
<b>LA</b>		<b>NOAA</b>	<b>EPA</b>
Maury Chatellier	Chandler Williams	Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonanno
		Mel Landry	Tim Landers
	<b>FL</b>	Natalie Matthews	Danny Wiegand
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Ramona Schreiber	
Chris Wells	Sarah Ketron	Stella Wilson	<b>LAT</b>
Valerie Alley	Rachel Schmalfuss		Angel Irwin
Bradley Ennis	Nadia Martin		Holly Herod

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG provided an update on several efforts.
  - The MS TIG Final Restoration Plan #4 is expected to be published in the federal register tomorrow. Seven projects were selected for implementation in the following restoration categories: Wetlands, Coastal and Nearshore Habitat; Nutrient Reduction; and Restoring Lost Recreational Use. The total cost of all seven projects is approximately \$26 million.
  - The MS TIG is expecting to complete the purchase of an additional 800 acres for the Grand Bay Habitat Acquisition project soon.
  
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: An update from the Cross-TIG MAM was circulated with the call agenda. They are busy getting ready for the next programmatic review and are setting up resource subgroups and laying the groundwork for that effort. The group is also planning to meet in-person in conjunction with the GOMCOM conference in February.

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

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

### a. Discussion:

- NEPA Update – In June 2023 the NEPA regulations were amended to require that programmatic environmental documents must be reviewed every five years to ensure that they are still relevant. Other requirements include page limits and time limits among others. One of these changes was to re-evaluate programmatic documents every five years. The federal Trustees have established a small team to talk about this and would like to invite the states to participate in these discussions and drafting of a Trustee re-evaluation document, e.g., Memo to File. Discussion.

Action Items: Send your name to Holly if you would like to participate in the small group. Names are requested by EOD on Friday, January 12. TIG support will distribute a list of the applicable changes.

- Please review and sign off on the 2023 TC call notes posted on Sharepoint. Ideally the review will be completed no later than the end of January.
- Annual Reporting Reminders – Emails with milestone dates, tips, as well as Trustee-specific QAQC reports have been sent out. If you have any questions let Holly or Angel know.
- Annual TC Meeting Planning – The Comms team is thinking about the annual meeting. An email with options for format and dates will be circulated soon for discussion (and decision if possible) on the February TC call.

## **Other Business**

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

**DWH Trustee Council  
2/5/24 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Erin Plitsch	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter	Nanciann Regalado	Jon Morton
	Jaime Miller		
	Jane Calamusa		
<b>LA</b>	Chandler Williams	<b>NOAA</b>	<b>EPA</b>
Maury Chatellier		Melissa Carle	Mary Kay Lynch
		Craig O'Connor	Gale Bonanno
	<b>FL</b>	Natalie Matthews	Tim Landers
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard		Danny Wiegand
Chris Wells	Sarah Ketron		
Valerie Alley	Nadia Martin		<b>LAT</b>
Bradley Ennis	Amy Raker		Angel Irwin
			Holly Herod

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. LA TIG: The Louisiana TIG provided an update on several efforts.
  - Construction efforts are nearly halfway complete on the Lake Borgne Marsh Construction project. Two dredges onsite have pumped approximately 6.7 million cubic yards of materials so far. Construction on the Grande Cheniere Ridge Marsh Creation Bayou project was recently completed. This river edge project created approximately 340 acreage of habitat. The Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion project is ongoing and is about 8% complete. Work is ongoing on both sides of the highway.
  - Chandeleur Island – The Opportunity for Preliminary Public Engagement (OPPE) document was released to the public last month for public comment. This project was originally a Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group project for Engineering and Design and is now moving forward as a construction project for the LA TIG. Comments on the OPPE will be accepted through February 16.
- b. RW TIG: The RW TIG completed the transfer of the Pilot Town land acquisition to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Surveys and management practices are currently underway. Other Regionwide TIG activities include implementation of projects from

Restoration Plan #1, reviewing their cash flow, and working on project annual reports.

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

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

Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM is having an in-person meeting on February 19 in conjunction with the Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON). The group will be working on planning for the 2026 programmatic review. The group is also putting together their workplan for the next fiscal year. That document is being shared with group representatives during the in-person meeting and then will be shared with the Trustee Council. Discussion, and perhaps approval, of the workplan will be included on the March Trustee Council call agenda.

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

a. Discussion:

- NEPA Update – The NEPA small team met on Friday and folks discussed the outline process the federal agencies proposed to go through this new requirement. A recap and poll to schedule the next call was distributed to the group. The NEPA group expects to continue discussions. The Trustee Council discussed funding options for states to participate in this group.

Action Items: The LAT will work up some funding options for the group to consider.

- 2023 TC Call Summaries – Thank you for your review and sign off on the 2023 TC call notes. These will be posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website shortly.
- Annual Deposit – The annual deposit resolution will be prepared by the LAT. It will look very similar to previous years. The resolution will be circulated next week with signatures due around March 15.
- Annual TC Meeting Planning – The options were circulated via email on January 22. The group discussed the three proposed formats: webinar, in-person meeting, or both a webinar and in-person meeting. The group discussed June 12 or June 26 as the date. The group discussed whether to create a highlights video/photo reel for this year's event that highlight projects that have been completed or met major milestones in the last year.

Action Item: The LAT will gather information on what projects were completed or met milestones in 2023.

Decision Point: The 2024 annual meeting will be held via webinar on June 26.

**Other Business**

- a. Update from Mary Kay Lynch on a FOIA request that is due April 5.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, March 4.

**DWH Trustee Council  
3/4/24 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Shannon Love	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	
	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	
	Chandler Williams		<b>EPA</b>
<b>LA</b>			Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier		<b>NOAA</b>	Gale Bonanno
		Chris Doley	Tim Landers
	<b>FL</b>	Rachel Sweeney	Danny Wiegand
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	
Chris Wells	Sarah Ketron	Mel Landry	<b>LAT</b>
Valerie Alley	Emily Mazur	Natalie Matthews	Angel Irwin
Bradley Ennis			Holly Herod

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **AL TIG**: The Alabama TIG provided an update on several efforts. They are drafting a supplemental plan to extend the Enhancing Capacity for the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network project for another three or four years. The resolution to approve the supplemental plan is currently out for signature and the plan is expected to be released for public comment next week. The Alabama TIG is also in the early stages of developing Restoration Plan #4. Restoration types currently under consideration are Wetlands, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats; Birds; Oysters; Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities; and Nutrient Reduction.
- b. **FL TIG**: The FL TIG provided updates on a number of projects and restoration efforts.
  - They are working on the Apollo Beach Recreational Sportfish Hatchery Facility project. The contractor is selected and construction is expected to be complete by summer 2025. The project will construct a production facility to produce up to a million juvenile sportfish such as red drum and spotted seatrout.
  - The Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration – Phase 2 project is also underway. All reefs are expected to be deployed by the end of 2024.
  - The City of Parker - Oakshore Drive Pier early restoration project was completed in January 2024 and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in February. The 563-foot-long pier provides a number of fishing and recreational opportunities.

- The Florida TIG Draft Restoration Plan #3 is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 8 and a webinar is planned for March 27.

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

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

Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM Task list for 2024-2025 was shared with the Trustees earlier this month. Once the task list is approved by the Trustee Council, the Regionwide TIG would approve the funding request.

Decision Point: AL, FL, LA, MS, TX, DOI, NOAA, EPA, and USDA approve the Cross-TIG MAM Task list for 2024-2025.

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

a. Discussion:

- NEPA Update – On a previous call the Trustee Council asked for funding options for staff time for the PDARP Applicability Affirmation Analysis. The LAT circulated two options for consideration. The group discussed the time and effort involved in this endeavor. A six-page document is being drafted by NEPA experts from NOAA and DOI that will be ready for review and approval by the other Trustees in the coming weeks. A cost reimbursement (rather than fixed cost) could be included in a future RW TIG resolution that could provide funding.

Action Items: Trustees should track their time spent to participate in this effort.

Decision Point: A Regionwide TIG resolution to fund the review and approval work by Trustees will be drafted after the PDARP Applicability Affirmation Analysis is complete.

- Annual Deposit – The annual deposit resolution was circulated with review ending on March 6. The resolution will be circulated for signature in mid-March.
- Annual TC Meeting Planning – June 26 is the date for the Trustee Council Annual Meeting/Webinar. The group discussed the plan for a highlights reel for the upcoming webinar. If another video is created the suggestion is to spend more time on fewer projects and add project labels. The goal is to convey that work is ongoing on various projects.

Action Item: The Trustee Council approves of the LAT Communications team reaching out to TIGs to determine which projects have existing materials.

**Other Business**

- a. Informational Item: NOAA financial management system transfer. The Department of Commerce deployed a new financial management system. The deployment at NOAA is still underway. As a result, some actual costs for Q4 may be delayed for this year's annual reports. NOAA will likely include actual costs for Q1-Q3 and then report Q4 once they are available.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, April 1.