

**DWH Trustee Council  
4/3/23 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        | Gant Massey          | Craig Johnson   |
| Angela Schrift   | Jane Calamusa     | Ashley Mills         |                 |
|                  | Chandler Williams | Nanciann Regalado    | <b>EPA</b>      |
|                  |                   |                      | Mary Kay Lynch  |
| <b>LA</b>        | <b>FL</b>         | <b>NOAA</b>          | Gale Bonanno    |
| Maury Chatellier | Gareth Leonard    | Chris Doley          | Tim Landers     |
|                  | Sarah Ketron      | Craig O'Connor       | Lenny Bankester |
| <b>MS</b>        | Amy Raker         | Dan Van Nostrand     |                 |
| Chris Wells      | Rachel Schmalfuss | Mike Peccini         |                 |
| Bradley Ennis    | Nadia Martin      | Laurie Rounds        | <b>LAT</b>      |
| Valerie Alley    |                   | Michelle Donahue     | Holly Herod     |
|                  |                   |                      |                 |
|                  |                   |                      |                 |

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **TX TIG**: The Texas TIG gave an update on three projects.
  - McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration: To date, Texas has completed over seven miles of the beach nourishment project and vegetation plantings are in progress for portions of the project.
  - Follets Island Habitat Acquisition: Texas recently acquired a 443-acre beach to bay parcel on Follets Island. This is the fourth land purchase under this project and it is available for passive uses such as birdwatching.
  - Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project: This is a large, multi-partner project. The portions that are implemented by Texas include response to a sea turtle cold stun event in late December 2022. The rescuers found more than 700 sea turtles, of which more than 500 survived and were released.
  
- b. **OO TIG**: The Open Ocean TIG is busy with their third restoration plan which focuses on birds. The plan was released for a 45-day public comment period in March 2023 and they planned two webinars that are open to the public. They anticipate finalizing the plan by September 2023. They are beginning to consider the schedule and priorities for their next restoration plan.

Additional efforts by the OO TIG include:

- Continuing to develop implementation plans for the set of MAM activities developed last year and implement more than 20 projects.
- Since the OO TIG's last update to the TC they have approved three MAM activities that will help the TIG gain additional information necessary for restoration planning.
- Earlier this year they approved the fish restoration planning project, Characterization of Caribbean Fisheries Interactions with Highly Migratory Species, that focuses on data gaps for species from Caribbean countries.
- They have also made a lot of progress with the four Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities restoration projects, originally approved in 2019. These projects will be the focus of a webinar on April 11 that is open to the public.

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

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

- a. Discussion: The group is continuing to work on their budget for the upcoming year that will be sent to RW TIG soon.

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

- b. Discussion:

- 2023 TC Annual Public Meetings – The group walked through the TC slides and factsheets. The multimedia overview of TIG achievements through a video or photo montage as a transition from the TC section to the TIG section will be previewed on the May TC call.

#### Action Items:

1. Review the web stories and materials that will be circulated by TIG support.

- Programmatic Review After Actions – The milestones spreadsheet will be updated and re-circulated.

#### Action Items:

1. Review the email and discuss on the May TC call.

- Gulf Spill Restoration (GSR) Website Migration/Drupal – The website will be migrated from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 later this year. This migration shouldn't affect any forward-facing look, feel, or functionality of the website. There is no significant downtime expected with the migration.

- Proposed Revisions to Resolution Best Practices – An updated resolution best practices file will be circulated to the TIG for review with a deadline of April 21. The proposed updates primarily relate to the topic of earned interest.

**Other Business**

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

**DWH Trustee Council  
5/1/23 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        | Michelle Eversen     | Ben Battle      |
| Angela Sunley    | Jane Calamusa     | Nanciann Regalado    |                 |
|                  | Chandler Williams | Gant Massey          |                 |
|                  | Jaime Miller      |                      | <b>EPA</b>      |
| <b>LA</b>        |                   |                      | Mary Kay Lynch  |
| Maury Chatellier |                   | <b>NOAA</b>          | Gale Bonanno    |
|                  | <b>FL</b>         | Craig O'Connor       | Tim Landers     |
| <b>MS</b>        | Gareth Leonard    | Rachel Sweeney       | Lenny Bankester |
| Chris Wells      | Sarah Ketron      | Stella Wilson        | Hugh Sullivan   |
| Bradley Ennis    | Rachel Schmalfuss | Natalie Matthews     |                 |
|                  | Nadia Martin      | Michelle Donahue     | <b>LAT</b>      |
|                  |                   |                      | Holly Herod     |
|                  |                   |                      |                 |

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **MS TIG:** The Mississippi TIG is working on their fourth restoration plan, which they expect to release to the public in Q3 of this year. The plan is expected to include projects in the Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction; and Provide and Enhance Recreational Use Opportunities restoration types. Among the projects in the reasonable range is construction of the last 1.7 miles of breakwater for the Hancock County Living Shoreline project. In ongoing project news, a contractor for the St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline construction has been selected. The MS TIG also has a 700-acre parcel under contract to add as a land acquisition to the Graveline Bay Land Acquisition and Management project. The MS TIG is also kicking off work on six new projects that were included in their third restoration plan.
- b. **Cross-TIG MAM:** The Cross-TIG MAM's activity update was circulated with the agenda for today's call. The group has completed reflection on the previous program review which was coordinated with the LAT. They also completed a pilot effort with the NOAA DIVER team to look at how to better incorporate MAM data in DIVER. This year's activities include drafting procedures for developing future program reviews and getting organized for the next review. The group will be holding an in-person meeting in June.

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

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

### a. Discussion:

- 2023 TC Annual Public Meetings – Thanks for your review of the web stories. Those are being translated into Vietnamese and will be posted in the next few weeks. As a reminder, please review the TC script, factsheet, and slides. Ask your TIG lead if you haven't seen the TIG-specific factsheets. The video/photo montage discussed on last month's call is in process.

### Action Items:

1. Review the TC script, factsheet, and slides that were circulated by TIG support by May 5. TIG support will re-circulate the links.
  2. One more factsheet on data and the Trustees website will be sent for review via email in the next few weeks.
- Annual reporting – The annual reports and webstory will be released on May 31. The webstory will be circulated to the TC for review shortly.
  - Programmatic Review After Actions – The group walked through and discussed the milestones spreadsheet and recommendations documents that were circulated with the agenda. After the discussion, the Programmatic Review recommendations document was approved by a voice vote. The next programmatic review is expected to be released around November 2026.

### Decisions:

1. MS, LA, AL, FL, TX, NOAA, DOI, EPA, USDA approve the formatting recommendations (numbers 1-3) and the content recommendations (numbers 1-8).

## **Other Business**

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

**DWH Trustee Council  
6/5/23 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

| <b>TX</b>        | <b>AL</b>         | <b>DOI</b>           | <b>USDA</b>    |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Mike Cave        | Chris Blankenship | Mary Josie Blanchard | Ron Howard     |
| Shannon Love     | Jaime Miller      | Michelle Eversen     | Ben Battle     |
|                  | Jane Calamusa     | Nanciann Regalado    | Craig Johnson  |
|                  | Chandler Williams |                      |                |
| <b>LA</b>        |                   |                      | <b>EPA</b>     |
| Maury Chatellier |                   |                      | Mary Kay Lynch |
|                  |                   | <b>NOAA</b>          | Gale Bonanno   |
|                  | <b>FL</b>         | Chris Doley          | Tim Landers    |
| <b>MS</b>        | Gareth Leonard    | Craig O'Connor       |                |
| Chris Wells      | Sarah Ketron      | Natalie Matthews     |                |
| Bradley Ennis    |                   | Michelle Donahue     |                |
| Valerie Alley    |                   |                      | <b>LAT</b>     |
|                  |                   |                      | Angel Irwin    |
|                  |                   |                      |                |

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **LA TIG:** The Louisiana TIG has been busy working on a number of efforts.
  - The Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion project was approved for funding in February and discussions with the contractor are ongoing to finalize the details. The LA TIG is also finishing up discussions with NFWF for their part of the funding for that project.
  - Construction is complete on approximately 10 miles of shoreline protection for the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline project in St. Bernard Parish. All the structures are placed and warning signage is being put in now.
  - The NOAA-led Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation project dredge activities were recently completed.
  - The bird nesting projects have been very successful. Engineering and Design work on Chandeleur Island is expected to be complete in 2025-2026. The LA TIG has photos of recent turtle nesting. Rabbit Island also has documented nesting activity of pelicans and other species. A recent survey counted over 4,000 brown

pelican nests and over 14,000 laughing gulls and in total there were over 32,000 nests on the island.

- Seven Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) projects totaling \$36 million are in the final stages of TIG approval.
- b. RW TIG: The RW TIG is focusing on implementing projects from their first restoration plan. All of the resolutions and implementation plans are now complete from Restoration Plan 1. In addition to implementation the group is working on a few resolutions to reconcile budgets. They also completed the annual reports and have been working on updating materials for the upcoming TC annual meeting. The RW TIG is also working on a funding resolution to cover Cross-TIG MAM work from July 2023 through June 2024. A workgroup to reduce marine debris impacts from sea turtles and birds has been meeting monthly to coordinate as the project is implemented in each state.

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

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

a. Discussion:

- 2023 TC Annual Public Meeting – The annual meeting is on June 20 and the registration link is live. Input on the meeting materials is requested by COB today. Let TIG support know if you'd like to see the run of show document. A practice session will be held on June 14 for folks with speaking roles. The group previewed and discussed the highlights video for the annual meeting.

Action Items:

1. Review the TC script, factsheet, and slides that were circulated by TIG support by May 5.
  2. Review draft video and input any comments on the spreadsheet on Sharepoint.
  3. If you'd like to join the practice session let TIG support know.
  4. TIG support will send an email requesting comments by COB on June 9.
- Annual reporting – The annual reports were released via web story on May 31. Thanks for everybody's hard work on these. Holly will be in touch regarding after action items later this month.

## **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, July 3. The group decided to push the call back a week to July 10.
- b. Chip Kline will be moving on from leading CPRA and the current Executive Director of CPRA Bren Haase will move into Chip's position this summer.