

**DWH Trustee Council
7/10/23 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Clare Cragan	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Jaime Miller	Nanciann Regalado	
Allison Fischer	Jane Calamusa		EPA
Carly Vaughn	Chandler Williams	NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
		Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
LA	FL	Rachel Sweeney	Tim Landers
Maury Chatellier	Gareth Leonard	Michelle Donahue	Danny Wiegand
	Sarah Ketron		
MS	Amy Raker		LAT
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfluss		Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis	Nadia Martin		Angel Irwin

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. AL TIG: The Alabama TIG has been busy working on several projects. The Gulf State Park pier was completed but then damaged by a hurricane, so the TIG now has permits in place and a contractor selected for repair work starting in November. The TIG has also extended one of its sea turtle projects for another year and drafted an upcoming termination for several components of an oyster hatchery project.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG is about to release its notice of initiation of restoration planning for its third Restoration Plan. It has a reasonable range of 14 water quality projects valued at about \$137 million. The TIG is also making progress on current projects, such as in Restoration Plan 1 Pensacola Beach project starting work in October and in Restoration Plan 2 fish hatchery project starting construction later this year.
- c. The TX and OO TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM group started a new year of work on July 1. Its task list has been circulated for approval. The group held an in-person meeting in Austin, TX last month and discussed the next programmatic review and updates to the MAM Manual. Danny Wiegand from EPA is taking over as co-lead for the group.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

b. Discussion:

- LAT Staffing Update – Angel Irwin will be working with Holly Herod and taking over many LAT responsibilities.
- 2023 TC Annual Public Meeting – The annual meeting was held on June 20. There were 105 attendees, multiple public comments, and positive feedback on the highlights video.

Action Items:

1. Review the web story with materials by Thursday, July 13.
- TC Chair Rotation – Gareth Leonard (FL) will take over the role of TC chair starting on August 1, 2023. Thanks to Chris Wells (MS) for serving in this capacity for the previous year.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, August 7.

**DWH Trustee Council
8/7/23 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Angela Schrift	Amy Hunter	Nanciann Regalado	Ben Battle
Shannon Love	Jane Calamusa		
Natalie Bell	Chandler Williams		EPA
	Jaime Mille	NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
LA		Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	FL	Melissa Carle	Tim Landers
	Gareth Leonard	Laurie Rounds	Danny Wiegand
MS	Amy Raker	Natalie Matthews	
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfuss	Michelle Donahue	
Valerie Alley	Emily Mazur		LAT
Bradley Ennis			Angel Irwin

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **TX TIG**: The TX TIG updated the TC on several projects. The Dickinson Bay Rookery Island project is in its first season of nest monitoring and initial reports are very promising. Pierce Marsh is using dredged material to raise elevations to support intertidal marsh. One pump is done, and a second pump is scheduled for the fall. This will create 120 acres of coastal wetlands. Planning work is also underway for the 13 projects selected for construction in last year’s Final Restoration Plan 2. The TX TIG is also looking into doing another restoration plan to fund construction of some projects that were approved for engineering and design in 2017.

- b. **OO TIG**: The OO TIG is working on Restoration Plan 3 to restore seabirds. The 45-day public comment period is now closed, and they expect to release the final plan in September 2023. The OO TIG anticipates approving seven projects for a total of approximately \$33 million. The projects take place in Canada, the northern U.S., and the Caribbean. The OO TIG is also starting to think about their next restoration plan and is currently accepting project ideas for the Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles Restoration Types. The OO TIG is also implementing more than 30 active restoration projects and MAM activities. They recently approved a Monitoring and Adaptive Management activity to develop a framework to evaluate the cumulative outcomes of marine mammal and sea turtle restoration in the Open Ocean Restoration Area. Also, the sea turtle restoration project from Restoration Plan 2 just completed an

objective to complete a comprehensive plan for in-water sea turtle data collection in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. If any TIGs or Trustees have questions, please reach out to the OO TIG lead. The OO TIG will notify the Trustees when the date is set for their upcoming annual meeting/webinar.

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

Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM group will have a report out on the next call.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- b. Discussion:

- Gulf Spill Restoration (GSR) Website Update – The migration of the GSR site to the newest version of the website software is underway. This should increase the site security and decrease load times. It's expected to be completed by the end of October. The goal is to migrate the site as is, but there may be specific features of pages that aren't able to migrate over. The TC may need to weigh in on those elements during September's call and/or via email depending on timelines.
- Trustee YouTube Channel – The LAT walked through a proposal to stand up a YouTube Channel to store TIG webinar videos. The TC discussed the proposal and how YouTube would interact/link to existing Trustee resources.

Action Item:

1. Get in touch with the LAT if you have any questions. The topic will be raised on the September call as a decision item.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) The call will be pushed back a week until September 11.

**DWH Trustee Council
9/11/23 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Nanciann Regalado	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter		
Mike Cave	Jaime Miller		
Natalie Bell	Jane Calamusa		EPA
	Chandler Williams	NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
LA		Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	FL	Rachel Sweeney	Danny Wiegand
	Gareth Leonard	Melissa Carle	
MS	Amy Raker	Mike Peccini	
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfluss		LAT
Valerie Alley	Sarah Ketron		Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			Angel Irwin

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **MS TIG**: The MS TIG released their Fourth Draft Restoration Plan (RP4) on August 31. The deadline for comments is October 2. The draft plan includes projects in three restoration types: Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction, and Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities. The TIG evaluated 11 alternatives and is proposing seven preferred alternatives for implementation at a total cost of approximately \$26 million.

Project implementation update: The Wolf River Coastal Preserve Habitat Management project started prescribed fire on 130 acres, road repair, and hydrologic restoration among other work. The Grand Bay Land Acquisition and Habitat Management project recently closed on an additional parcel bringing the total acres acquired to more than 1,500.

- b. **Cross-TIG MAM**: The Cross-TIG MAM walked through their activities update. They held an in-person meeting in June in conjunction with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) All Hands Meeting. The Cross-TIG MAM is working on a draft section for the MAM Manual that outlines programmatic review procedures. That draft is currently in review by the programmatic review small group and will be sent to the TC for review later this fall. The Cross-TIG MAM is also working on what was formerly called a “MAIP template” which is being developed into a MAIP considerations document. The group is also preparing for the upcoming programmatic review and is looking into timing for standing up small working groups by resource type. The Gulf of Mexico Conference

(GOMCON) will be in February 2024 in Florida and the group may also hold an in-person meeting aligned with the conference.

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

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- Trustee YouTube Channel – The LAT requested approval of the proposal to stand up a YouTube Channel to store TIG webinar videos.

Decision Item:

TX, LA, MS, AL, FL, NOAA, USDA, and EPA approved the creation of a Trustee YouTube channel. DOI provided approval via email.

- Gulf Spill Restoration (GSR) Website Update – The migration of the GSR site to the newest version of the website software is underway and in its final stages. The load times for pages will be greatly enhanced. Some color changes will be necessary for 508 compliance and the environmental compliance page will be reformatted.
- Upcoming Vice Chair Rotation – Thanks to Mary Kay Lynch (EPA) for serving as Vice Chair for the past year. Ron Howard (USDA) will serve in that capacity starting October 1.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, October 2.