

DWH Trustee Council 7/1/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Michael Cave	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Jaime Miller	Nanciann Regalado	Craig Johnson
Robin Riechers	Jane Calamusa		
	Chandler Williams		EPA
LA			Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier		NOAA	Gale Bonanno
Beth Golden		Chris Doley	Tim Landers
	FL	Natalie Matthews	Danny Wiegand
MS	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	
Bradley Ennis	Sarah Ketron		LAT
			Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG Restoration Plan 4 is out for public comment through July 24. The TIG will be holding a public webinar on July 10 at noon central to present and take public comment on the plan. They are also working on finalizing the Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan II and Environmental Assessment: Marine Mammals, which was released to the public in March and is expected to be finalized later this year. In project updates, construction is ongoing on the Dauphin Island Eco-tourism and Environmental Education Area project.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG is planning to release their Final Restoration Plan 3 next week. The plan is focused on water quality projects and includes 11 preferred alternatives for a total of \$111.5 million. The Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation early restoration project in Destin, FL will be re-starting the final phase of construction work. The Apollo Beach Recreational Sportfish Hatchery Facility (Restoration Plan 2) project has finished design and permitting and is starting the construction phase. FWC will be improving an existing office space and building an adjacent 6,500-square foot fish production facility to support production and release of up to one million juvenile sportfish (i.e. red drum and spotted seatrout) per year to further enhance recreational fishing opportunities and the natural fisheries populations. Site work has already started and will continue through mid-2025.

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

Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

Discussion: The group is working through proposed minor updates to the MAM manual. That package will be sent to the TC for review in the next few weeks. EPA is wrapping up its second year as the federal co-lead and will hand off that role to Sean Blomquist from DOI starting today.

Discussion Item 3: NEPA 5-Year Reevaluation

Discussion: The resolution reaffirming the applicability of the PDARP/PEIS is executed and will be posted on the administrative record.

Discussion Item 4: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

1. Annual TC Meeting Recap – The 2024 Trustee Council webinar was held on June 26. There were 162 registrants with 114 attending, so about a 70% conversion rate. Of those who attended, about 25% were non-federal or state employees. One member of the public provided a public comment that will be included in the transcript and one additional comment was received via email.

Action Items: The post-meeting materials package of slides, transcript, and web story will be circulated in the next few weeks.

2. TC Chair Rotation – A representative from Louisiana will be taking over the TC chair role starting August 1. Thanks to Gareth Leonard (Florida) for serving in that role for the past year.

Other Business

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

DWH Trustee Council 8/5/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Angela Schrift	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	Craig Johnson
Shannon Love	Jaime Miller	Nanciann Regalado	Jon Morton
Carly Vaughn	Jane Calamusa	Amy Mathis	
	Chandler Williams	Cody Haynes	EPA
			Mary Kay Lynch
LA			Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	FL	NOAA	Tim Landers
Beth Golden	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	Danny Wiegand
	Sarah Ketron	Craig O'Connor	Doug Jacobson
MS	Emily Mazur	Mel Landry	
Bradley Ennis		Ramona Schreiber	LAT
Chris Wells		Natalie Matthews	Holly Herod
Valerie Alley		Laurie Rounds	Angel Irwin
		Joe Edgell	

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. TX TIG: The TX TIG held their annual public meeting mid-morning on July 23 in Corpus Christi. They chose a booth-only format that allowed for a lot of engagement with the roughly 12 members of the public that stopped by. The Trustees are working on drafting Restoration Plan #3. The web story announcing the initiation of restoration plan drafting was released this morning. The plan will evaluate projects that would construct marsh through beneficial use of dredged materials and builds upon projects evaluated in Restoration Plan #1. The draft Restoration Plan #3 is expected to be released to the public by January 2025.
- b. OO TIG: The OO TIG is working on their Draft Restoration Plan #4 focusing on fish and water column invertebrates and sea turtles. For fish there's about \$320 million remaining and sea turtles has around \$35 million remaining. This plan is not expected to use the remaining allocations for these resource types. The draft plan is expected to be released in October 2024. There are seven fish and water column invertebrates projects and five sea turtle projects evaluated in the plan. If anybody would like more information on these projects, please reach out to the OO TIG. Other work includes an upcoming restoration plan with the LA TIG to do a joint restoration plan for the Chandeleur Islands. The Open

Ocean TIG anticipates holding their annual public meeting in October. They will be trying a new format that includes sharing brief videos highlighting progress by restoration type followed by a webinar with live Q&A.

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

Discussion: The group is preparing MAM Manual updates for Trustee Council review and approval. Those will likely be sent out prior to the September call. A PDF with redline changes from the current MAM manual will be provided to streamline review. Changes include updates to the programmatic review and external engagement sections.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

1. TC Chair Rotation – Glenn Ledet from Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority took over the TC chair role starting August 1.
2. Federal End of Year Closeout – The federal government shuts down its financial systems every year for maintenance, and this year the system shutdown will include some upgrades so it will be a little longer. The expected system shutdown dates are September 20 through November 25. State Trustees will need to submit their withdrawal packages to the LAT budget team no later than September 9 (in order to receive funds around September 30). Federal Trustees will need to submit their withdrawals packages to the LAT budget Team by August 28 (in order to receive funds around mid-September). This information will also be circulated to all Trustees in an email from TIG support.

Action Items: Keep sending budget withdrawals even during the blackout period so they can be processed for payment.

3. Request to Review 2024 Call Notes – The call notes from the first half of the year are on Sharepoint for review if you would like to get a head start on those.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Labor Day (Monday, September 2). It will be rescheduled for September 9.

DWH Trustee Council 9/9/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	Ron Howard
Angela Schrift	Jaime Miller	Sean Blomquist	Jon Morton
	Jane Calamusa		
LA			
Glenn Ledet			EPA
Maury Chatellier	FL		Mary Kay Lynch
	Gareth Leonard		Gale Bonanno
	Sarah Ketron	NOAA	Danny Wiegand
MS	Amy Raker	Melissa Carle	
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfuss	Stella Wilson	
Valerie Alley	Nadia Martin		LAT
Bradley Ennis	Emily Mazur		Holly Herod
			Angel Irwin

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG is currently in the early stages of screening projects for Restoration Plan 5. Project implementation is ongoing for several projects. The Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline project is entering its final phase. The last two miles of shoreline are expected to be created by 2025. The MS TIG has completed project closeout for three early restoration recreational use projects: Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade, Popp's Ferry Causeway Park, and Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center. All monitoring activities and paperwork to complete the administrative closeout of the projects is complete. The restoration summit and MS TIG annual meeting will take place in November.
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: The Cross-TIG MAM activity update was attached to the call agenda. Work on the 2026 programmatic review is in progress. The "key messages" will be renamed to "content type updates" and those will be shared with the Trustee Council in the coming weeks. The programmatic review small group will meet on October 2 to discuss those content type updates among other tasks.

MAM Manual Updates: There are several revisions to the manual that were circulated via email for Trustee Council approval as well as an accompanying web story.

Decision: The MAM Manual Updates and web story were approved by representatives from AL, LA, FL, TX, MS, DOI, NOAA, EPA, and USDA.

The LA and RW TIGs will provide report-outs during the next TC call.

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

1. Memo for \$1 discrepancy – A clean and redline copy of a memo was distributed via email. This memo addresses the \$1 that BP overpaid by accident and explains how that \$1 discrepancy came to be. Recommendation is to use this document as a memo to the file that will be upload it to the administrative record. Next year the LAT will work with BP to ensure that the \$1 is considered in their payment.

Action Item: The LAT will upload the clarifying memo to the administrative record.

2. Vice Chair Rotation – Per the SOPs the vice chair rotates on October 1. NOAA is up next in the rotation and will circulate their designation for this role via email. Thanks to Ron Howard from USDA for serving in this capacity for the last year.

Other Business

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