

**DWH Trustee Council  
10/5/20 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     |
| James Murphy     | Amy Hunter        | Debora McClain       | Tanya Culbert  |
|                  | Kelly Swindle     |                      |                |
| <b>LA</b>        | Emily Seale       |                      | <b>EPA</b>     |
| Maury Chatellier |                   |                      | Gale Bonanno   |
|                  |                   | <b>NOAA</b>          | Tim Landers    |
|                  | <b>FL</b>         | Chris Doley          | Mary Kay Lynch |
|                  | Gareth Leonard    | Rachel Sweeney       |                |
| <b>MS</b>        | Lisa Robertson    | Natalie Gardner      | <b>LAT</b>     |
| Chris Wells      |                   |                      | Holly Herod    |
| Bradley Ennis    |                   |                      |                |

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **LA TIG:** The LA TIG has been busy working on several items. Since the last update the LA TIG has approved three restoration plans and they are currently finalizing one more.
  - Restoration Plan 3.3 Large Scale Marsh Creation - Upper Barataria Component is the first plan the LA TIG recently finalized. The plan approves a marsh creation project (\$176M) to dredge in the Mississippi River and create marsh habitat.
  - Restoration Plan 5: Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Marine Mammals and Oysters is the second plan the LA TIG recently finalized. The plan approved one marine mammal project (\$3M) and three oyster projects (\$25.6M).
  - Restoration Plan 1.2 is the third plan the LA TIG recently finalized. The plan approved two projects, Spanish Pass and Lake Borgne, for construction that were previously funded for engineering and design. The combined project cost is \$214M and the ridge and marsh habitat creation projects are among the largest ever implemented by CPRA.
  - Draft Restoration Plan 7 includes Wetlands, Coastal, Nearshore and Bird projects and was released for public comment in August. The LA TIG is currently working on the responses to comments with a goal of having a final plan out by Thanksgiving. The draft plan includes five proposed project alternatives for a total cost of \$234M.
  - The LA TIG held a successful annual public meeting via webinar on September 9.

The RW, 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 – The first draft and layout of the introduction and financial management content is with the small group for review. The small group will review it for content and context and then it will be shared with the Trustee Council.

**Other Business**

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

## DWH Trustee Council 11/2/20 Conference Call Summary

### Attendees:

| <b>TX</b>        | <b>AL</b>      | <b>DOI</b>           | <b>USDA</b>    |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Robin Riechers   | Amy Hunter     | Mary Josie Blanchard | Ron Howard     |
| James Murphy     | Jane Calamusa  | Debora McClain       | Tanya Culbert  |
|                  | Emily Seale    |                      | Jon Morton     |
| <b>LA</b>        |                |                      |                |
| Maury Chatellier |                |                      | <b>EPA</b>     |
| Matt Mumfrey     |                | <b>NOAA</b>          | Gale Bonanno   |
|                  | <b>FL</b>      | Chris Doley          | Mary Kay Lynch |
| <b>MS</b>        | Gareth Leonard | Craig O'Connor       |                |
| Chris Wells      | Leslie Reed    | Jamie Schubert       |                |
| Bradley Ennis    | Nadia Martin   |                      | <b>LAT</b>     |
| Valerie Alley    |                |                      | Holly Herod    |

### Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. RW TIG: The RW TIG has been busy working on RP1. Earlier this year they identified their reasonable range of alternatives with 12 preferred alternatives for a total of \$99.6 million in the oysters, marine mammals, sea turtle, and bird categories. The plan also includes four non-preferred alternatives. The draft RP1 is expected to be out to the public by mid-March 2021. The approach and timing for public meetings will be discussed soon. Also, the monitoring and activity implementation plan for a colonial waterbird project has been approved. It will collect new data and analyze data from 2015. The group is also working on a long-term strategy for MAM allocation priorities.
- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG has approximately 35 restoration projects in progress. Some of these started in early restoration, including the Point aux Pins Living Shorelines early restoration which just completed construction. It appears that the most recent hurricane did not adversely affect the project area. The TIG has recently made several acquisitions.
  - They recently closed on roughly 850 acres on the west end of Dauphin Island from RP3. The management plan for the property should be underway soon.
  - From RP2, they recently closed on the Magnolia River Holmes Tract which is within the acquisition boundary of the Weeks Bay NERR.
  - Renovations to the pier at Gulf State Park were completed just before Hurricane Sally and now needs some repairs. They expect the pier to at least partially reopen in 2021.

- The Fort Morgan Pier project (RP1) is underway with construction.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG has recently completed several Phase III early restoration projects including Big Lagoon state park project, Highland View Boat Ramp project, Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area project, and Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida’s Gulf Coast project. In Early Restoration Phase V, DEP has completed the Leonard Destin Park project that included the acquisition of a 3-acre parcel and park construction among other amenities. The FL TIG is currently drafting its second restoration plan and will include the following restoration types: habitat projects on federally managed lands, sea turtle, birds, marine mammal, and recreational use projects. The draft plan is expected to be released in the first half of January 2021 and finalized in early May. The Florida TIG’s RP2 will leverage sea turtle and bird projects included in the Region-wide TIG’s first restoration plan. The FL TIG will hold their public meeting via a webinar on December 8 at 5 pm Eastern.

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 has been working on efforts for the 5-Year Programmatic Review. The group is developing their first drafts of content for each restoration type on a rolling basis. The team is planning a group webinar later in the month to work through the drafts in more detail. Once the revised content is ready the drafts will be shared with the 5-Year Small Group for review.

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

- a. Discussion:
  - Annual Reporting Milestones – An email was sent out last month that listed the major milestones for annual reporting. Trainings are being scheduled and sent out via TIG support. Key dates:
    - January 4 - Data entry begins (but you can enter data any time)
    - April 16 - The final day for data entry
    - June 1 - Publication date for next year
  - Update on the 5-Year Programmatic Review – The communications team prepared an approach for programmatic review communications per the TC’s request. The small group will review that this week and then it will be sent to the TC via email for review and consideration. We will seek approval on the December call. The first draft and layout of the introduction and administrative

oversight content is with the small group for review. The small group will review it for content and context and then it will be shared with the Trustee Council.

**Other Business**

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

**DWH Trustee Council  
12/7/20 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

| <b>TX</b>      | <b>AL</b>         | <b>DOI</b>     | <b>USDA</b>    |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Robin Riechers | Chris Blankenship | Debora McClain | Tanya Culbert  |
| James Murphy   | Amy Hunter        | Ann Hijuelos   |                |
| Angela Schrift | Emily Seale       |                |                |
|                | Kelly Swindle     |                |                |
| <b>LA</b>      | Jane Calamusa     |                | <b>EPA</b>     |
|                |                   | <b>NOAA</b>    | Gale Bonanno   |
|                | <b>FL</b>         | Chris Doley    | Mary Kay Lynch |
| <b>MS</b>      | Gareth Leonard    | Rachel Sweeney | Tim Landers    |
| Chris Wells    | Leslie Reed       | Laurie Rounds  |                |
| Bradley Ennis  |                   |                | <b>LAT</b>     |
| Valerie Alley  |                   |                | Holly Herod    |

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **TX TIG:** The TX TIG has been busy implementing projects. Indian Point Shoreline Erosion Protection project has six breakwaters installed to protect the surrounding habitat and they have made significant progress on a new campground at Galveston Island State Park. In early November, the TX TIG held their annual meeting via an online presentation. A PDF of the presentation is available on the Trustee website. The TX TIG is working on their second restoration plan and a request for projects closes on December 10. The TIG is asking for ideas for wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats; nutrient reduction; oysters; sea turtles; and birds. A draft plan is expected to be released in fall 2021.
- a. **OO TIG:** The OO TIG held their annual public meeting via webinar on November 5. The presentation is available on the Trustee website. The TIG is continuing to implement three early restoration projects, 21 post settlement projects, and three MAM activities. Project highlights include:
  - The Gulf Sturgeon MAM activity to assess population status and trends worked with partners this year to incorporate over 30 years of mark recapture data into the Gulf sturgeon databases and develop standardized data entry forms and software for data entry on tablets to support improved data collection across the region.
  - The OO TIG formed new partnerships with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Florida Sea Grant as part of the project to restore reef fish by developing best practices for fish descending devices to reduce barotrauma. The

first phases of the project are focusing on Alabama and the Florida panhandle areas.

- There are five sea turtle projects in the early stages. One highlight is the establishment of partnerships with the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research and the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge to support the In-water Data Collection and Nesting Beach Habitat Protection projects. Further, the OO TIG partnered with and continues to work collaboratively with the menhaden industry on a project to develop methods to better observe sea turtle interactions in that fishery.
- There are four marine mammal projects in very early implementation with ongoing partnerships. They formed new partnerships with the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System, the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, and Axiom Data Science on the project developing a new digital platform for Gulf marine mammal data sets called CETACEAN.

The OO TIG is starting to think about their third restoration plan and will likely request project ideas in spring 2021. Additional work includes beginning to implement the Open Ocean MAM Strategy and addressing the priorities the TIG identified in their June update to that document. The OO TIG is learning from similar efforts by the LA TIG and hopes to coordinate.

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 has been working on efforts for the 5-Year Programmatic Review. The group is coordinating closely with the LAT and the 5-Year Small Group on developing content.

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

- a. Discussion:
  - Review the TC Distribution List – Please review the distribution list that was attached to the agenda. If you have any edits please send them to TIG Support and Holly.
  - Update on the 5-Year Programmatic Review and Draft Comms Plan – The 5-Year Small Group is making progress on the Administrative and Oversight sections and is starting to see text from the Cross-TIG MAM. They anticipate sharing some example sections with the TC for an initial sense of content and level of detail. The intent is to make sure the group is on the right track before too much content

is drafted.

A draft communications strategy was sent to the TC earlier in November and also attached. The Comms team and 5-Year Small Group are recommending a web story, email, factsheet and permanent landing page. There are several other actions the TC could consider.

Decision: The TC approves a webstory, email, factsheet and permanent landing page for the 5-Year Programmatic Review.

Action Items: The group will discuss the potential additional actions at a later date. The draft content will be provided to the TC in January.

- 2021 Annual Meeting – The 2020 meeting was a virtual meeting. For the 2021 meeting the LAT proposes either a June 2021 meeting via webinar or a fall 2021 in-person annual meeting (subject to travel restrictions). A fall meeting could be combined with outreach for the 5-Year Programmatic Review. If needed, the meeting could be rescheduled as a webinar. The group discussed the options.

Decision: The TC will plan on holding its 2021 meeting as a virtual meeting in June.

- Administrative Costs Needs – Thank you for sending the information on administrative costs. The collated file will be circulated after the call.
- Call Note Review – Thank you for the reviews so far. The TC will be asked for approval in January or February and then the notes will be posted on the Trustee website.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, January 4.