

**DWH Trustee Council  
10/2/23 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
Angela Sunley	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	
Allison Fischer	Jaime Miller		
Carly Vaughn	Jane Calamusa		<b>EPA</b>
Shannon Love	Chandler Williams		Gale Bonanno
		<b>NOAA</b>	Tim Landers
<b>LA</b>		Chris Doley	Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier	<b>FL</b>	Rachel Sweeney	Danny Wiegand
	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	
<b>MS</b>	Sarah Ketron		<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfuss		Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			Angel Irwin

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **LA TIG:** The LA TIG updated the group on several projects that are currently in the construction phase. Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project construction is ongoing and is about 40% complete. It's the largest marsh creation project by acreage to date that the LA TIG has worked on. It is expected to be done next summer. The Grand Cheniere Ridge Marsh creation is also ongoing. There are some saltwater issues due to the low levels of the Mississippi River, so the Army Corps of Engineers is rebuilding the saltwater sill. The Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 10 with remarks from numerous folks. The contract is executed, and preliminary work will start at the end of October.

The LA TIG will start work on Restoration Plan #9 soon for Chandeleur Island restoration. The LA TIG will use a 15-minute video update in lieu of an annual public meeting. The anticipated release date is October 18. The video includes directions on making public comment through the TIG's email address. There is no end date for making public comment.

- b. **RW TIG:** The RW TIG is working on wrapping up the books on Restoration Plan #1 by drafting resolutions to close out that planning effort. The TIG also reviewed the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for the Colonial Waterbird Monitoring project, which is expected to be closed out soon. That project created an Avian Data

Monitoring Portal with some interesting data visualizations.

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

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

- a. Discussion: No updates on today's call.

**Discussion Item 3: LAT Items**

- b. Discussion:

- YouTube Channel – The [YouTube Channel](#) is set up and the link was included in the agenda. Videos of webinars and updates will be posted as they are released to the public.
- Request for Annual Estimate of LAT Expenses – The annual administrative estimate for all Trustees will be circulated via TIG support next week. A spreadsheet will be included to help with planning purposes. It will be discussed on the November Trustee Council call.
- Annual Reporting Milestones for CY23 – The milestones for CY23 annual reporting will be circulated via TIG support later this week. DIVER data may be updated at any time. One change for this year is to provide a longer window to update financial data. Trainings will be offered later this fall.

**Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, November 6.

**DWH Trustee Council  
11/6/23 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Allison Fischer	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Carly Vaughn	Jane Calamusa	Michelle Eversen	Ben Battle
Natalie Bell	Chandler Williams		Jon Morton
Robin Riechers			
Shannon Love	<b>FL</b>	<b>NOAA</b>	<b>EPA</b>
	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonanno
<b>LA</b>	Sarah Ketron	Natalie Matthews	Tim Landers
Maury Chatellier	Amy Raker		Danny Wiegand
	Rachel Schmalfuss		
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin		<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells	Emily Mazur		Holly Herod
Valerie Alley			Angel Irwin
Bradley Ennis			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG is making progress on many projects, such as the Gulf State Park Pier Renovation, Dauphin Island Ecotourism project, and Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvements. It was a record year for snowy plovers at the Dauphin Island West End site. The TIG is also beginning to plan its fourth Restoration Plan, as well as a supplemental plan for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network project.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG’s Cat Point Living Shoreline project was recently recognized by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association as one of the five recipients for its 2023 Best Restored Shores. The TIG has many projects currently in construction, with some likely nearing completion over the next few months. The Trustees are working on their third Restoration Plan and planning for their annual public meeting, which will be held via webinar, on December 7.
- c. The TX and OO TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

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

- a. Discussion: No updates on today’s call.

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

#### b. Discussion:

- YouTube Channel – The [YouTube Channel](#) is set up. TIGs’ annual meeting recordings will be posted there going forward.
- Request for Annual Estimate of LAT Expenses – The annual administrative estimate for all Trustees was attached to the agenda. The Trustee Council will vote to approve the estimate in December.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, December 4.
- b. Potential government shutdown: If a lapse of funding looks likely, the federal Trustees will meet and put together a document outlining what to expect.

**DWH Trustee Council  
12/4/23 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Angela Schrift	Jane Calamusa	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Allison Fischer	Chandler Williams	Michelle Eversen	Ben Battle
Shannon Love	Jaime Miller		Jon Morton
Robin Riechers			
Natalie Bell			<b>EPA</b>
	<b>FL</b>	<b>NOAA</b>	Mary Kay Lynch
<b>LA</b>	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
	Sarah Ketron	Craig O'Connor	Tim Landers
<b>MS</b>	Amy Raker	Laurie Rounds	
Valerie Alley	Emily Mazur		<b>LAT</b>
Bradley Ennis			Angel Irwin

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **TX TIG**: The TX TIG provided an update on several efforts.
  - Their annual public meeting was posted on the [Trustees' YouTube channel](#) this morning. Comments will be accepted for a week.
  - The Galveston Island Habitat Acquisition project provides habitat for a wide variety of birds. The TIG is hoping to close on the property in 2024 and then it will be protected into perpetuity.
  - The Texas Shorebird and Seabird Stewardship project would protect bird habitat and reduce disturbance to birds via a variety of techniques. They anticipate working with the American Bird Conservancy and other local bird nonprofits.
  - The McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration project is the largest beach nourishment project in Texas to date with 17 miles planned to be improved. So far, they have nourished and planted more than half of the acreage. The project is on hiatus for equipment repairs, but it is expected to be back in construction soon.
  - The next Texas restoration plan is expected to focus on the construction of the eight projects using dredged materials that were approved for engineering and design in the 2017 TX TIG Restoration Plan #1. The TX TIG will not be requesting new project ideas for their next restoration plan.

- b. OO TIG: The OO TIG is busy with restoration planning. In September 2023 they released the Final Restoration Plan #3 that approves seven projects for implementation at a cost of approximately \$33 million. The TIG is developing the implementation plans for those projects that will take place in the Caribbean and Canada and anticipates starting implementation on many of the projects in 2024.

The OO TIG also recently requested projects ideas for Restoration Plan #4 and the team has been screening projects ideas. Since the last update to the TC, the OO TIG approved an additional MAM activity, the Deep-Sea Benefits MAM Activity. This 5-year activity will improve their ability to assess broader ecosystem benefits of mesophotic and deep benthic community restoration to other restoration types, specifically marine mammals, fish and water column invertebrates, and sea turtles. The OO TIG also approved Phase 2 of the Evaluating the Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Stressors on Cetaceans MAM activity.

The OO TIG is also implementing 33 restoration projects and MAM activities. Project highlights include the Restoring for Bluefin via Fishing Depth Optimization project which will restore western Atlantic bluefin tuna and other pelagic species by identifying and sharing fishing practices that are expected to reduce bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery. NOAA is leading this project and established a new partnership with a Mississippi State University and the Gulf Research Institute for Highly Migratory Species to conduct the project.

The OO TIG held their annual meeting earlier this year via a webinar. The materials are posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website.

- 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**

- a. Discussion: No updates on today's call.

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

- b. Discussion:
- Decision Point – Annual Estimate of LAT Expenses – The group discussed the estimates that were circulated with the agenda.

Decision: AL, MS, TX, FL, NOAA, DOI, USDA, EPA approve the 2024 admin estimate. Louisiana approved the budget via email.

- Gulf Spill Restoration Website Migration – The Trustees’ website, [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov), migrated to a new site recently. If you see any issues let TIG support know, and they will pass it along to NOAA.
- Review of TC Distribution List – Please review the list of TC contacts that was distributed with today’s call agenda. Any changes are requested by Wednesday, December 13 so that TIG support can send invitations for the 2024 calls.
- Please review and sign off on the 2023 TC call notes posted on Sharepoint.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, January 8.