

DWH Trustee Council 10/7/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Michelle Eversen	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter	Nanciann Regalado	Jon Morton
	Jane Calamusa		
LA			EPA
Glenn Ledet			Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier			Gale Bonanno
Beth Golden	FL	NOAA	Danny Wiegand
	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	Tim Landers
MS	Sarah Ketron		
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfuss		LAT
Bradley Ennis	Nadia Martin		Holly Herod
			Angel Irwin

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. LA TIG: The LA TIG provided updates on several projects.
 - The Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project is the largest marsh creation project in Louisiana to date. The LA TIG shared drone images that show containment dikes awaiting fill.
 - The Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation project is adjacent to Lake Borgne and is progressing on schedule.
 - The Bird's Foot Delta Hydrologic Restoration project is also moving forward. The project will dredge Pass a Loutre to restore hydrologic connectivity in the Mississippi delta. The project team is considering several alternatives that vary dredge depth and locations.
 - The \$38 million Terrebonne HNC Island project will start construction soon. Creation and expansion of the roughly 30-acre island is expected to continue through February 2025 and will restore and conserve bird nesting habitat.
 - NOAA is leading engineering and design (E&D) work for Raccoon Island, which is Louisiana's westernmost barrier island. The E&D is nearing 30% completion.

Finally, in September the LA and OO Trustees released the notice of intent to begin drafting a joint restoration plan for the Chandeleur Islands. The draft plan is expected to be released around summer 2025.

- b. RW TIG: The RW TIG is continuing implementation of the 11 restoration projects from their Restoration Plan #1.

The AL and FL TIGs will provide report-outs during the next TC call.

Discussion Item 2: Cross-TIG MAM

- a. Discussion: The updated MAM Manual was posted to the Gulf Spill Restoration website and Administrative Record at the end of September. The planning and content development for the 2026 Programmatic Review is continuing. Representatives on the Programmatic Review TC Small Group met last week and are reviewing the Cross-TIG MAM's restoration type updates. The next Cross-TIG MAM milestone is to develop outlines for each restoration type section. The materials will make their way from the Cross-TIG MAM to the small group and then to the TC.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- b. Discussion:
 1. Vice Chair Rotation – Thanks to Ron Howard (USDA) for serving as Vice Chair for the last year. Chris Doley (NOAA) will serve in that role for the next year.
 2. Request for Annual Estimate of Administrative Expenses – This request happens yearly and is a record of what Trustees estimate for upcoming administrative expenses. The request will be circulated via email and is likely to be discussed for approval on the December call.
 3. Annual Reporting Milestones for CY24 – Annual reporting will start again in January 2025. The dates for annual reporting milestones are being adjusted for the upcoming year. The new guidance and training dates will be circulated via email as well as posted on Sharepoint. High level dates are:
 - January 2, 2025 - Data entry officially begins
 - April 14, 2025 - Data entry by Trustees complete
 - April 21, 2025 - Financial data entry by Trustees complete
 - April 22 to May 16, 2025 - TIG review
 - May 30, 2025 - Annual Reports published

Other Business

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

DWH Trustee Council 11/4/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	Jon Morton
Michael Cave	Jane Calamusa	Sean Blomquist	
	Chandler Williams		EPA
			Mary Kay Lynch
LA			Gale Bonanno
Glenn Ledet	FL	NOAA	Danny Wiegand
Maury Chatellier	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	Tim Landers
	Sarah Ketron	Craig O'Connor	
MS	Rachel Schmalfuss	Melissa Carle	LAT
Chris Wells	Nadia Martin	Natalie Matthews	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis	Emily Mazur	Stella Wilson	Angel Irwin
Valerie Alley			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG provided updates on ongoing projects.
 - The Gulf State Park Pier Renovation project sustained damaged from Hurricane Sally, but has since been repaired. The grand re-opening was celebrated in September.
 - The Enhancing Capacity for the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network Project Extension allows the original project to continue through at least 2027.
 - The early restoration project, Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky, is still underway. Retrofit of lights is in progress at the Gulf State Park Pavillion. Once complete, all beach-front lighting at the park will be sea turtle friendly.
 - The CAST Triage project provides funding to construct a sea turtle triage center and partial program support for the initial triage, treatment, release, and/or transfer of injured or ill sea turtles. The project also includes funding from the RW TIG.
 - The beach construction of the Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement Phases IIa and IIb project is complete, and the park amenities (such as restrooms, playground, boardwalk, etc.) are underway.
 - The Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism project is in construction and substantial completion of the amenities (such as boardwalk, parking, restrooms, etc.) is expected by the end of the month.

- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG is working on the Lincoln Park Boat Ramp and Dock Improvements project. Boat ramp construction and a new two-lane boat pier and access platforms are now complete. The FL FWC will monitor usage until 2026. Project implementation of the Reducing Threats to Sea Turtles through Removal of In-water Marine Debris along Florida's Gulf Coast project began in July. The team completed a 4-day cleanup cruise where they removed more than two miles of derelict crab trap line, 45 intact derelict traps, and 610 lobster trap pieces. In addition, the FL TIG is holding their annual meeting via webinar on December 5 at 1 eastern/noon central.

The TX and OO TIGs will provide report-outs during the next TC call.

Discussion Item 2: Cross-TIG MAM

- a. Discussion: The 2026 programmatic review draft restoration type content updates were circulated on October 25. These were drafted by the Cross-TIG MAM and reviewed by the programmatic review small group. The Cross-TIG MAM is now working with the resource subgroups to develop outlines for each of the restoration type sections.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- b. Discussion:
 - 1. DOI Financial Systems – The DOI financial systems are back online as of today. They expect processing of financial requests to start by the end of the week.
 - 2. Annual Estimate of LAT Expenses – Annual estimates of LAT expenses are requested by November 6. The full set will be circulated for review and approval on the December Trustee Council call.
 - 3. 15-Year Anniversary of the Spill – LAT Comms is recommending the Trustees prepare a message for the 15th anniversary of the spill. They recommend editing the 10-year message to update the background information, reference new documents (such as the 2021 Programmatic Review), and update the themes as needed. The goal is to circulate a draft before the December Trustee Council call, so the story is wrapped up before annual reporting starts in the new year.

Action Item: LAT Comms will proceed with drafting a web story to mark the 15th anniversary of the spill.

- 4. Review the TC Distribution List – A distribution list will be circulated this week. Please review and send in any changes and then we will add the calendar invitations for 2025.

Other Business

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

DWH Trustee Council 12/2/24 Conference Call Summary

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Shannon Love	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	
Michael Cave	Jaime Miller	Sean Blomquist	
Angela Schrift	Jane Calamusa		EPA
	Chandler Williams		Mary Kay Lynch
LA			Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	FL	NOAA	Danny Wiegand
Beth Golden	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	Tim Landers
	Sarah Ketron	Craig O'Connor	
MS	Rachel Schmalfuss	Natalie Matthews	LAT
Chris Wells	Amy Raker	Laurie Rounds	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis	Nadia Martin		Angel Irwin
Valerie Alley			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **TX TIG**: The TX TIG is planning a public meeting for late January 2025 in Galveston, TX. They expect to discuss the release of Draft Restoration Plan 3, which focuses on projects that use dredged material to restore marsh habitat. The public meeting will also focus on use of the remaining Texas TIG Sea Turtle restoration funds. They expect to have public comment sessions for both topics.

Project updates:

- The Galveston Island Habitat Acquisition project recently purchased a 142-acre parcel that was then donated to the project partner. The property was slated for development but will now be protected under a conservation easement that is underway. The TX TIG contributed a little over \$2 million out of the total cost of \$6.9 million for the parcel.
 - Dredging is complete for the McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration project and planting is underway along more than 14 miles of newly created beach and dunes.
- b. **OO TIG**: The OO TIG provided a number of updates on recent work.
- The OO TIG released Draft Restoration Plan 4/Environmental Assessment: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles on October 30, 2024. The plan includes ten preferred alternatives for implementation with a budget of about \$210 million. In November they held two public webinars to discuss the draft

plan. The associated factsheets and script are posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

- They are continuing to work with the LA TIG on the Chandeleur Islands Restoration Plan. The OO TIG is evaluating funding and benefits for the Open Ocean Bird allocation and developing a Fish and Water Column Invertebrates project.
- The OO TIG expects to begin development of a supplement to Restoration Plan 2 in early 2025 to continue work on four existing mesophotic deep benthic projects. The mesophotic deep benthic team will also be hosting a webinar in Spring 2025 to go in deeper depth on recent fieldwork, preview the 2025 supplemental restoration plan, and provide updates on educational partnerships with the Audubon Aquarium (New Orleans) and the Mississippi Aquarium (Gulfport).
- The OO TIG is continuing to manage 45 projects and monitoring and adaptive management activities. They anticipate completing the monitoring phase of the Early Restoration Oceanic Fish project in early 2025. Several additional projects have completed project work or are on track for that milestone by 2025 (including three monitoring and adaptive management activities and five sea turtle projects among others).
- The OO TIG annual webinar will be held on December 11 over lunchtime and includes a question and answer session and the opportunity for live verbal public comments. This year they tried a new approach and developed short highlight videos for four restoration types in order to share more information about projects. These are posted on the [Trustees' YouTube channel](#).

The MS TIG and Cross-TIG MAM will provide report-outs during the next TC call.

Discussion Item 2: Cross-TIG MAM

- a. Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM is continuing to work on restoration type outlines for the 2026 programmatic review. An in-person meeting is anticipated for February.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- b. Discussion:

1. Annual Estimate of Administrative Expenses – The annual estimates of administrative expenses were circulated with the agenda for today's call.

Decision: TX, LA, MS, AL, FL, NOAA, DOI, USDA, and EPA approve the 2025 Trustee administrative budget estimates.

2. 15-Year Anniversary of the Spill – The LAT Communications team shared a draft web story with the call agenda.

Action Item: The TC will review the story no later than December 31 and discuss edits (as needed) on the January TC call.

3. Review the 2024 Call Notes – Please review the call notes and put an “X” in the checklist before the end of the calendar year. The call notes will be posted on Gulf Spill Restoration in early January.

Other Business

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