

1 DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

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NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT & RESTORATION

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TRUSTEE COUNCIL ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

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PENSACOLA CITY HALL

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Council Chambers

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222 West Main Street

Pensacola, Florida 32502

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June 6, 2019

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MEETING FACILITATOR:

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Mr. Perry Franklin

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Professional Facilitator, Franklin Associates

1           MR. FRANKLIN: Good evening, everyone.  
2           My name is Perry Franklin and I will serve as your  
3           facilitator for the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource  
4           Damage Assessment and Restoration Annual Meeting.  
5           This meeting also serves as the annual meeting of the  
6           Region-wide Trustee Implementation Group, or sometimes  
7           you may hear the acronym TIG. I'd like to ask each of  
8           you to get comfortable and to silence your phones and  
9           to just relax. There's a lot of good information that  
10          is about to be delivered to you from many individuals  
11          who have come as far as Texas to be with us tonight to  
12          present information and we thank you-all for coming  
13          out.

14                 On behalf of the trustee council we would  
15          like to thank our host tonight, the City of Pensacola,  
16          and especially to Mayor Robinson for hosting tonight's  
17          meeting. And at this time I think Mayor Robinson is  
18          with us, if you could come forward, sir. Thank you  
19          so very much.

20                 MAYOR ROBINSON: Well, thank you and welcome.  
21          I talked to a few people, they said they were upset  
22          about the weather. It must have come with you because  
23          we've had four straight weeks of sunshine. But we  
24          thank you for that because we definitely needed some  
25          cooling and we love the greenery we have here.

1           We would say "Welcome to the western gate of  
2           the sunshine state where thousands live the way  
3           millions wish they could." We're very happy to have  
4           you here. We even are happy with our own Floridian  
5           delegation to remind them that 90 percent of Florida  
6           doesn't live in the right time zone, but we're glad to  
7           have you here today. And we're certainly happy to  
8           have all the people in from our federal agencies.  
9           We're very happy for you to get to see Pensacola and  
10          be a part of it.

11           Some of you from the federal agencies will  
12          probably say, yes, you were that Panhandle redneck  
13          that was raising so much hell during the oil spill,  
14          and that is correct. But I think we're all much  
15          better off with where we are today having gone what we  
16          went through. I think we're making differences for  
17          certainly our environment in Florida, but I think all  
18          of the Gulf, and we've built relationships. I know  
19          in local government I've built relationships with  
20          people from Texas, Louisiana, certainly Mississippi  
21          and Alabama, so it's a very good thing for us and I  
22          think we're working together. Probably this oil spill  
23          brought us together like nothing else that we could  
24          do. So thank you again for taking the time to be  
25          here. We certainly hope you enjoy your time in

1 Pensacola and your stay. We look forward and hope  
2 you'll come back and be part of us here in Northwest  
3 Florida. Thank you.

4 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mayor Robinson,  
5 a tireless advocate of restoration.

6 We have a court reporter with us tonight  
7 who will memorialize all of the proceedings of  
8 tonight's meeting and to ensure that your voice is a  
9 part of this record. That transcript will be posted  
10 to the trustees' Web site in the near future. As you  
11 can see, we also have with us American sign language  
12 interpreters and they will be with us throughout the  
13 entire evening.

14 The trustees want me to also point out, just  
15 in case you missed it during the open house which was  
16 taking place upstairs, if you did not get  
17 an opportunity to visit the open house, please join us  
18 upstairs as the subject matter experts will resume in  
19 that location immediately following tonight's meeting.

20 We do have a guest with us tonight, Ms. Keala  
21 Hughes. She is in the rear of the room. She is the  
22 RESTORE Council Director of External Affairs and  
23 Tribal Relations. Ms. Hughes has a table at the open  
24 house upstairs to help explain the ins and outs of the  
25 RESTORE Council. Thank you for being with us tonight.

1           When you came in you were asked to fill out  
2           a blue card. Everyone should have filled out a blue  
3           card, and there was question on here, "Would you like  
4           to make public comment?" Yes or no. If you said no,  
5           but after listening to the presentations you want to  
6           make public comment, that is more than welcome.  
7           In fact, we encourage you to make public comment.  
8           That's the important portion of the second half of  
9           tonight's meeting. If you're one of those individuals  
10          who said no, but you then want to make public comment,  
11          at any time if you will raise your hand we will get a  
12          card to you as I will need to call you forward during  
13          the public comment portion of tonight's meeting.  
14          So we encourage you to consider making public comment.

15                 So at this time let's go ahead and get  
16                 tonight's meeting started. I have the pleasure of  
17                 bringing up our first speaker, Ms. Leslie Reed,  
18                 Florida Department of Environmental Protection,  
19                 Deputy Chief of Staff and chair of the Trustee  
20                 Council. Ms. Reed.

21                 MS. LESLIE REED: Good evening. I'd like to  
22                 welcome you all to the annual meeting of the Trustee  
23                 Council and Region-wide Trustee Implementation Group  
24                 and thank you for your interest and your attendance.  
25                 Since the global settlement with BP in 2016 the

1 trustees have held a meeting every year to bring you  
2 up to speed on our efforts to restore the natural  
3 resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.  
4 This is our fourth trustee annual public meeting.

5 Tonight's agenda, first I'll introduce all of  
6 the trustee implementation group representatives for  
7 the council. After that I'll go over some information  
8 and an update of what we've done since our last annual  
9 meeting, and then you'll hear an update from each of  
10 our restoration area trustee implementation groups.  
11 After that we would like to hear from you. As Perry  
12 said, he will facilitate the public comment portion of  
13 the agenda, and after the meeting ends we'll reopen  
14 the open house and be available for further  
15 conversations and questions upstairs.

16 Now for introductions. Up here you'll see  
17 the names of the representatives for each of the  
18 restoration areas. We have Chris Blankenship with  
19 Alabama; we have Gareth Leonard with Florida;  
20 Bren Haase with Louisiana; Gary Rikard with  
21 Mississippi; Robin Riechers with the State of Texas.  
22 For the Department of Interior we have Mary Josie  
23 Blanchard; from Environmental Protection Agency is  
24 Mary Kay Lynch; from NOAA we have Chris Doley; and  
25 then for USDA we have Homer Wilkes. We thank you

1 all for being here.

2           So this is a quick review of the Trustee  
3 Council's responsibilities. The trustees are  
4 responsible for restoring the environment and  
5 compensating the public for natural resource injuries  
6 resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.  
7 We use the natural resource damage assessment to  
8 determine the extent of injuries to natural resources  
9 and to seek restoration or compensation from the  
10 parties responsible. The goal is to restore injured  
11 natural resources such as wetlands, fish and birds to  
12 the condition they would have been if the spill had  
13 not occurred. We are also responsible for addressing  
14 recreational uses like boating and swimming that were  
15 lost or affected as a result of the oil spill.

16           Let me give you just a bit of background  
17 before I give you the update on what we've been doing.  
18 This timeline shows the oil spill began in April of  
19 2010. He we began the natural resource injury  
20 assessment right away.

21           In April of 2011 BP agreed to make up to  
22 \$1 billion available for early restoration before the  
23 assessment was complete so we were able to get a jump  
24 start on restoration. From 2011 to 2016 we approved  
25 a total of five early restoration plans with a total

1 of 65 projects with a combined cost of \$866 million.  
2 Some of those projects have been completed and some  
3 are still underway.

4 In April of 2016 the federal government in  
5 the five Gulf states reached a settlement with BP  
6 totaling approximately \$20.8 billion. Of the  
7 \$20.8 billion, the settlement provided \$8.8 billion  
8 in natural resource damage assessment funds, which  
9 you will hear us refer to as NRDA from here on out,  
10 to support our work restoring the Gulf. The total  
11 includes the \$1 billion for early restoration, and  
12 that means there's another \$7.1 billion to fund the  
13 current planning and restoration, and \$700 million for  
14 adaptive management of unknown conditions.

15 On the timeline you can see the date  
16 indicated here, and today indicated along the 15-year  
17 timeline for payment by BP of restoration funds.  
18 To date implementation groups have approved more than  
19 200 projects for an estimated cost of approximately  
20 \$1.2 billion.

21 Along with the settlement the Trustee  
22 Council also finalized a programmatic restoration  
23 plan. This plan is programmatic, which means it  
24 includes overarching restoration goals for the entire  
25 Gulf ecosystem and broad restoration types that guide



1 the development and selection of restoration projects.  
2 It does not include a list of individual restoration  
3 projects like you often see in the implementation  
4 group restoration plan.

5 Besides determining the total amount of money  
6 BP would pay in NRDA damages, the settlement also  
7 determines where the money would be spent. The funds  
8 have been assigned to geographic restoration areas,  
9 one for each state in the restoration areas called  
10 Region-Wide and Open Ocean. Then within each  
11 restoration area funds are assigned to restoration  
12 types that were injured in those areas.

13 I know this is a bit difficult to read, so  
14 we do have copies available to you. If you were at  
15 the open house you may have grabbed one, but they are  
16 upstairs if you'd like to get one after this meeting.

17 To accomplish our restoration effort the  
18 settlement also established trustee implementation  
19 groups, often referred to as TIG, focusing on the  
20 different restoration areas. The Trustee Council  
21 provides coordination and ensures transparency,  
22 fiscal and scientific accountability, and consistency  
23 with a programmatic plan and a cross-implementation  
24 group.

25 The Gulf ecosystem, as you all probably know,

1 is very diverse with a wide variety of natural  
2 resource and habitats that depend on each other as  
3 shown in this diagram. The spill injured a wide range  
4 of wildlife and habitat, and also negatively impacted  
5 recreational opportunities like fishing and boating.  
6 The injuries were across the entire Gulf ecosystem.  
7 Because of these ecosystem-wide injuries, trustee  
8 implementation groups are taking a comprehensive and  
9 integrated ecosystem-level approach to restoring the  
10 Gulf consistent with our programmatic restoration plan  
11 discussed a few moments ago.

12 We're seeing common themes across these  
13 restoration activities. A lot of our projects benefit  
14 multiple restoration types. For example, projects  
15 focused on improving water quality also represent  
16 recreational opportunities, making beaches safer for  
17 locals and tourists, and restoration projects in  
18 wetland coastal and near shore habitats can also  
19 benefit where there is an oyster population. When  
20 possible, the trustees also strive to develop projects  
21 of restoration types across broad geographies.  
22 We have multiple bird projects that restore habitat  
23 in several states, and a 10-year early restoration  
24 project restoring sea turtles across Florida,  
25 Louisiana, and Texas.

1           We're also coordinating cross-funding sources  
2           to maximize Gulf ecosystem restoration. Along with  
3           NRDA funding we're leveraging the settlement funds  
4           managed through other bodies including the RESTORE  
5           Council and the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund which  
6           is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife  
7           Foundation. Examples include the Bahia Grande Coastal  
8           Corridor Habitat Acquisition and McFaddin Beach and  
9           dune restoration which leverage these funds.

10           Implementation groups are also looking to  
11           leverage funding with local and state agencies  
12           especially around recreational use projects. One  
13           example in Florida is the Norriego Point restoration  
14           and recreation project which utilizes both NRDA and  
15           state funding, all to accomplish more than it can do  
16           just within the NRDA program.

17           Finally, we work with local experts like  
18           commercial and recreational fishermen to offer short  
19           and long-term benefits for the fisheries while  
20           restoring targeted species of fish. An example of  
21           that is the Oceanic Fish Restoration project which is  
22           restoring tuna and other species in partnership with  
23           pelagic longline fishermen in Florida and Louisiana.

24           Along the lines of internal coordination  
25           one effort is our monitoring and adaptive management

1 work group that has been supporting TIGs with  
2 monitoring and adaptive management issues. The work  
3 group is continuing to work on the monitoring and  
4 adaptive management manual, specifically the project  
5 level guidelines. The work group is also supporting  
6 programmatic evaluation across TIG and restoration  
7 types. And finally, the monitoring and adaptive  
8 management work group is continuing to develop a data  
9 base structured for restoration monitoring data and  
10 our online data management system known as DIVER.

11 Now we can get to probably what you're all  
12 here for and the good stuff, the updates from the  
13 implementation groups and what they've been doing for  
14 their restoration areas. As you hear from each TIG  
15 about what work they've undertaken this year and  
16 anticipate in the future you will hear some common  
17 themes. As we plan for future restoration we are  
18 focused on getting public input early in the process.

19 Generally speaking, the TIGs have focused on  
20 restoring Gulf habitats and access to those habitats.  
21 The TIGs are expanding their work now to look at  
22 improving water quality and addressing living and  
23 coastal marine resources which include birds, oysters,  
24 turtles and mammals. Perhaps most importantly for  
25 many of you, you'll hear that restoration projects are

1 taking shape both on the grounds and in the water.

2 So first I am happy to introduce Chris  
3 Blankenship from the State of Alabama and a member of  
4 Alabama TIG.

5 MR. CHRIS BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. As Leslie  
6 said, I am Chris Blankenship. I'm the Commissioner of  
7 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
8 for the State of Alabama and I'm the lead trustee for  
9 the State of Alabama. We also have our geological  
10 surveyor for the State of Alabama, Dr. Nick Tew,  
11 a trustee for Alabama.

12 In Alabama \$295 million is the amount of the  
13 total settlement funds that were included for Alabama  
14 in the consent decree. So far we've committed  
15 \$162 million, which equates to about 55 percent of  
16 those funds that are committed to Alabama have been  
17 committed to restoration projects. Restoration Plan I  
18 was released in April of 2017. Restoration Plan II  
19 was released in September of 2018, and the \$162  
20 million does not include Restoration Plan III which  
21 we are currently working on right now. The breakdown  
22 of those \$162 million worth of projects can be found  
23 on the handout that's available outside the door or  
24 upstairs at the open house.

25 I just mentioned the Alabama TIG released its

1 second restoration plan in the fall of 2018 which  
2 included all of the ecological restoration types for  
3 which Alabama had received funding. Implementation of  
4 those projects is well underway. We solicited project  
5 suggestions in December for the third restoration plan  
6 which I mentioned a moment ago. We are currently  
7 developing that plan that will include projects for  
8 birds and the loss of recreational use. Of course,  
9 we're currently implementing and monitoring projects  
10 from early restoration and the first restoration plan  
11 as well, and welcome the opportunity to talk with any  
12 of you about those projects at the open house.

13 I do want to take this opportunity to  
14 highlight a couple of the projects that we are  
15 currently implementing. The first project is called  
16 the Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle Conservation Program.  
17 If you're from Alabama, most of you know this as  
18 Share the Beach, which is a sea turtle nesting,  
19 monitoring, and stewardship program that's currently  
20 being housed or conducted by the Alabama Coastal  
21 Foundation.

22 Share the Beach is a volunteer program  
23 that's been assisting with the monitoring of nesting  
24 and hatching sea turtles along the Alabama coast since  
25 2003. Over 400 volunteers work together to monitor

1 Alabama's beaches every day for nesting habitat,  
2 looking for evidence of sea turtle activity and  
3 nesting during the night from the previous night.  
4 This program has a long history of providing  
5 imperative nesting turtle nests and hatchling  
6 stewardship across the entire Alabama coast resulting  
7 in increased nest success, and the Alabama TIG is  
8 proud to provide the funds necessary to the continued  
9 operation, expansion, and enhancement of this program.  
10 These funds will also allow for enhanced public  
11 education surrounding the program and conservation of  
12 sea turtles in the wild as well as improve the overall  
13 data collection of the program.

14           To give you an idea of the importance of the  
15 program to Alabama's coast and the volume of sea  
16 turtle nesting the program works to monitor, the most  
17 recent year of full data there were 178 nests counted  
18 and protected across the Alabama coast thanks to the  
19 efforts of Share the Beach scientists and volunteers.  
20 So far this year just in the month of May we've had  
21 16 loggerhead turtles that have nested in Alabama,  
22 which is an above-average number for this time of year  
23 so far.

24           So what's coming next? We continue to  
25 implement and monitor the project. The third

1 restoration plan, as I mentioned, is now underway.  
2 You may have seen the notice that came out earlier  
3 this week that we've initiated that process. The plan  
4 will consider restoration projects for both birds and  
5 recreational use and we hope to have a draft plan out  
6 this summer. We're also looking forward to the annual  
7 meeting of the Alabama TIG this fall, so keep an eye  
8 open for that date and location for the future  
9 meeting.

10           Appreciate the opportunity to be here.  
11 We'll be looking forward to talking to anybody that  
12 has any questions about the restoration activities in  
13 Alabama at the open house that will follow this  
14 meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to share about  
15 some of the great work that's being done in Alabama,  
16 and I appreciate all of the other members from the  
17 Alabama TIG and from the federal agencies that we work  
18 with to implement these projects.

19           At this time I'd like to recognize Gareth  
20 Leonard from the State of Florida to give an update  
21 on Florida restoration activity.

22           MR. GARETH LEONARD: As Chris said, I'm  
23 Gareth Leonard. I'm Florida Fish and Wildlife  
24 Conservation's Gulf restoration coordinator. Along  
25 with Leslie Reed at DEP and our other partners we



1 formed the Florida TIG. So in Florida we were  
2 allocated \$680 million, and to date we have received  
3 just over \$240 million, and of that we have committed  
4 just over \$200 of that through early restoration and  
5 the recent release of our Restoration Plan I.  
6 The remaining \$438 million will be coming in equal  
7 payments to the state over the next 12 years in the  
8 amount of roughly \$36.6 million.

9 So what we have done to date, through early  
10 restoration we were allocated roughly \$144 million,  
11 and with that we have 33 early restoration projects.  
12 Of that we are actively implementing 29 of those, with  
13 four of them being completed, so that has taken up  
14 the lion's share of time to date.

15 Back in March we released Restoration Plan I.  
16 It is for \$61 million covering 23 projects over  
17 four restoration types, being habitat projects on  
18 federally-managed lands in which we have four  
19 projects; nutrient reduction for which we have two  
20 projects; water quality with nine projects; and then  
21 rec use projects that we had eight.

22 And then recently, back in April we initiated  
23 restoration planning for Phase V, which was an early  
24 restoration project in Florida that is for the  
25 creation and enhancement of coastal parks in the

1 Panhandle, so we initiated our final phase of that.  
2 So anticipate having a draft released to the public  
3 for your review and comment later this summer.

4 For a plus in Florida, the lion's share of  
5 our injury was through the loss of recreational use,  
6 so through early restoration most of our focus was on  
7 providing for rec use. So we are highlighting today  
8 our artificial reef creation projects. It is being  
9 implemented through the western Panhandle, the five  
10 western counties, Escambia through Bay, and one local  
11 municipality, the City of Mexico Beach. It's roughly  
12 an \$11 and a half million project, and through  
13 December of this year we have deployed almost  
14 1,800 modules to enhance the recreational fishing  
15 opportunities for the public and the visitors to the  
16 State of Florida. We hope to have that project  
17 finalized in the next year or so and look to reap the  
18 benefits of increasing the fishing opportunities to  
19 the public.

20 What we have coming up is obviously, as I  
21 said, we still are actively implementing 29 of our  
22 early restoration projects. As indicated, we just  
23 finalized our initial restoration plan, so we are  
24 in the process of gaining the funds and will start  
25 implementing those additional 23 projects.

1 As indicated, we'll be looking to release a draft of  
2 our Phase 5.3 restoration plan later this summer.  
3 And we will also be doing a call for restoration  
4 projects for our Restoration Plan II. This plan is  
5 going to focus on living coastal marine resources,  
6 so we will have a call for birds, sea turtles, marine  
7 mammals and oysters, and potentially some work on  
8 habitat on federally-managed lands. So anticipate  
9 seeing that in a month or so.

10 So that's what we've got going in Florida.  
11 As I said, I'd like to thank City of Pensacola for  
12 hosting us and for everyone coming out tonight and  
13 I look forward to having conversations with you-all  
14 later tonight. So with that I'm going to hand it  
15 over to Bren with Louisiana.

16 MR. BREN HAASE. Well, thank you, Gareth.  
17 And good evening, everybody. I appreciate you being  
18 here this evening with us. My name is Bren Haase,  
19 I'm the Executive Director of the Coastal Protection  
20 Restoration Authority of Louisiana, and I'm  
21 representing the Louisiana TIG to talk with you about  
22 recent activities here in the Louisiana restoration  
23 area.

24 So we'll start talking about the funding,  
25 of course. Louisiana TIG was allocated \$5 billion

1 to restore our coast in damages associated with the  
2 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. As was discussed, of  
3 course, all that money doesn't come to Louisiana TIG  
4 at once. It comes over a period of 15 years. It ends  
5 in the year 2031. So of those dollars that have been  
6 allocated to the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana  
7 TIG, about \$460 million of those have been dedicated  
8 to project planning, monitoring and adaptive  
9 management, and, of course, implementation of numerous  
10 projects across our coast.

11 So a couple of plans that have been finalized  
12 here recently, or in the works recently, include  
13 Restoration Plan I, Phase II plan, final Queen Bess  
14 Island restoration plan. Restoration Plan I is the  
15 first plan, of course, as its number would indicate,  
16 that was developed post spill and included six  
17 restoration projects for Louisiana's coast. This  
18 Phase II plan is advancing the Queen Bess project,  
19 which was one of those six, and provides funding and  
20 allows us to implement that project which I'm happy to  
21 say will begin by the end of this year.

22 Restoration Plan II was finalized in 2018.  
23 It included four recreational use projects. One of  
24 those projects was the restoration plan for the  
25 Lake Charles Science Center and Education Complex.

1 This supplemental plan really is related to the change  
2 in location and a little bit of a change in design  
3 related to that center. We expect that a final plan,  
4 supplemental plan, will be released sometime in July  
5 and we're happy to report that implementation of that  
6 project will begin soon thereafter.

7 To focus just a little bit on Queen Bess  
8 Island, it really is an iconic location and island on  
9 Louisiana's coast. It's extremely important to the  
10 brown pelican. It lies in the Barataria Basin which  
11 was really one of the hardest hit portions of  
12 Louisiana's coast. At the time the oil was coming  
13 ashore, pelicans were nesting, rearing young on this  
14 island. They were heavily impacted. This is one of  
15 three of the largest rookeries for brown pelicans,  
16 and I should say other colonial nesting birds as well  
17 in coastal Louisiana, and it supports roughly  
18 20 percent essentially of the breeding populations of  
19 brown pelicans in the State of Louisiana. The brown  
20 pelican also happens to be the Louisiana state bird.  
21 So we're very happy to be getting some restoration  
22 work accomplished on this island, and again, pleased  
23 to report that that will be done or will begin before  
24 the end of this year.

25 Looking to the future, what's happening now

1 and what we expect to be coming up, a lot of good  
2 stuff again. Of course, with early restoration  
3 projects we've got one that the TIG is working to  
4 complete, that's the Breton Island project. And we  
5 continue to monitor and implement, of course, the  
6 other projects that are part of that early  
7 restoration group.

8 We continue to develop Phase II plans  
9 you'll see for the Restoration Plan I for the projects  
10 listed there. There's quite a few them. I mentioned  
11 Queen Bess already and of course getting that to  
12 construction sometime this year relatively shortly.  
13 Same thing for Restoration Plan II, really covered  
14 that already. But Restoration Plan III, we're  
15 developing Phase II plans as well for the mid  
16 Barataria sediment diversion large-scale marsh  
17 creation and Barataria Basin and Barataria Basin  
18 marsh creation as well. Likewise, Restoration Plan  
19 III will focus on living coastal and marine resources,  
20 primarily oysters and marine mammals, and that's  
21 underway now. And of course ongoing activities,  
22 monitoring and implementing the projects that are on  
23 the ground now along the coast of Louisiana.

24 So that concludes my remarks. I appreciate  
25 your time and your attention, and I want to introduce

1 Chris Wells with Mississippi who will be up here to  
2 talk with you about that restoration area.

3 MR. CHRIS WELLS: Thank you. I am Chris  
4 Wells, I'm the Director of the Office of Restoration  
5 for the Mississippi Department of Environmental  
6 Quality. I appreciate the opportunity to be here  
7 tonight to give you this update on what we're doing in  
8 Mississippi. So this slide, similar to the others,  
9 gives you an idea of the progress we've made in terms  
10 of allocating funding.

11 Our first early restoration project in  
12 Mississippi was the Mississippi Oyster Cultch  
13 Restoration Project which began in 2012, and since  
14 that time we've committed a little less than half of  
15 our total funding allocation of \$295 million in  
16 ten projects that are either complete, in the  
17 monitoring stage, under implementation, or in the  
18 permitting and planning phase. These projects address  
19 restoration types including wetlands, coastal and  
20 inshore habitats, oysters, birds, nutrient reduction,  
21 and loss of recreational use.

22 Over the last year our activities within the  
23 TIG, other than continuing to implement those projects  
24 that I mentioned, have been focused on two primary  
25 planning activities. First is a supplement to our

1 first restoration plan. Our Restoration Plan I  
2 included three projects, two of which were habitat  
3 restoration and land acquisition-type projects, one of  
4 those being the Grand Bay project. I'll talk a little  
5 bit more about that in a moment. But we are presently  
6 in the process of drafting a supplement to the Grand  
7 Bay project that will allow additional acquisition  
8 and continued habitat restoration and management  
9 activities that were identified in the original  
10 restoration plan. The additional acquisition will  
11 also be within the same approved project boundary  
12 from Restoration Plan I.

13 The second planning activity we are currently  
14 engaged in is our Restoration Plan II. And it's  
15 important that we distinguish between the supplement  
16 to Restoration Plan I, the Grand Bay project, and this  
17 Restoration Plan II. On June 11, 2018, we published a  
18 notice to the public soliciting restoration project  
19 ideas, and in October of last year we published a  
20 notice of initiation of restoration planning. We are  
21 currently in the process of drafting Restoration  
22 Plan II and anticipate the final restoration plan and  
23 environmental assessment by the end of this year.  
24 That plan will focus on wetlands and coastal initial  
25 habitat and oysters.



1           I mentioned the Grand Bay project. This is  
2 one of our projects that we wanted to highlight  
3 tonight. In December of 2018 we completed our first  
4 acquisition that required approximately 1,500 acres to  
5 be added to the Grand Bay near. MDEQ, along with the  
6 Department of Interior through the Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service, are the lead trustees on this. We are  
8 working with the Department of Marine Resources in  
9 Mississippi and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to  
10 implement the management components of the plan.  
11 They have initiated baseline monitoring of vegetation  
12 and birds and are currently evaluating additional  
13 land acquisition and habitat management opportunities  
14 within Grand Bay.

15           This slide provides a map obviously. The  
16 areas shaded in blue are the currently publicly-owned  
17 properties that are being managed, and the areas  
18 shaded in orange are those that are targeted for  
19 additional management with supplemental funds that  
20 will be added through this supplemental plan.

21           In terms of what we will be doing in the  
22 future, obviously we will complete the drafting of the  
23 supplemental restoration plan. We'll hopefully be  
24 publishing that by the end of the summer and the draft  
25 Restoration Plan II will be -- I said end of summer --

1 end of this year, and draft Restoration Plan II will  
2 follow soon after. Obviously we will continue the  
3 implementation of the current projects on the slate.  
4 And we invite everyone to mark your calendars and join  
5 us for our annual Mississippi Restoration Summit in  
6 Biloxi on November 12.

7 I'll be around and glad to answer any  
8 questions that anyone may have, but for now I'll turn  
9 it over to Robin Riechers to give an update on Texas.

10 MR. ROBIN RIECHERS: Thank you, Chris,  
11 and certainly we want to thank Pensacola for hosting  
12 us here and thank all of you for coming out tonight.  
13 Again, my name is Robin Riechers. I'm director of  
14 Coastal Fisheries with Texas Parks and Wildlife and  
15 I'm here representing the Texas TIG. Our Texas  
16 trustee agencies are also represented here tonight,  
17 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and General  
18 Land Office, along with our federal trustees who were  
19 recognized as federal agencies on the trustee council  
20 earlier.

21 So in starting out, I kind of want to talk  
22 about our funding update as well. You can see here we  
23 committed approximately \$107 million for projects and  
24 planning activities as of May. Leaves us in the  
25 neighborhood of 55 percent of our moneys remaining

1 of which we were allocated \$238 million. When we get  
2 further onto future activities we'll talk a little bit  
3 about where some of those future monies will probably  
4 be allocated.

5 As we talk about our recent activities,  
6 of course we continue to work on implementation for  
7 our early restoration projects. Our artificial reef  
8 projects which I mentioned last year have already been  
9 completed. There was some restoration of some damages  
10 occurring in state parks for human use that either we  
11 have completed or we're near completion on. So most  
12 of our early restoration work at this point still  
13 focuses on our sea turtle protection, which was a  
14 combination of law enforcement, sea turtle stranding  
15 networks, as well as some protection of nesting  
16 beaches. So that's ongoing as well.

17 In addition to that we have some land  
18 acquisitions in the mid-coast area in south Texas  
19 that are nearing completion or getting very close to  
20 completion. That's a continuation of a project we  
21 have on Follet's Island where we're trying to piece  
22 work together some acquisitions there to create a long  
23 stretch on that island of basically Gulf-to-Bay  
24 protection. And then we also have some areas down by  
25 the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge that

1 we're looking to complete, and we have some other  
2 mid-coast National Wildlife Refuges that we're going  
3 to be adding some acquisition lands to there.

4 From a planning perspective, one of the  
5 things that's still ongoing for us is McFaddin Beach  
6 Ridge and Salt Bayou hydrological restoration that's  
7 going on on the upper coast, which if you're familiar  
8 with that area, it's basically from Galveston  
9 stretching over to Beaumont-Port Arthur area. And  
10 just to highlight that, that is an area that's  
11 leveraging funding from NRDA, NFWF, RESTORE, U.S.  
12 Fish & Wildlife Service, and any other funds that we  
13 can find.

14 So instead of featuring a particular project  
15 what we wanted to try to do here was feature how we  
16 really looked at this. And we just talked about  
17 McFaddin Beach. This can be really repeated in that  
18 McFaddin Beach-Salt Bayou area, around Galveston area,  
19 the mid-coast area, Corpus, what we call the coastal  
20 bend area, and then down to the lower Laguna. And  
21 what we're really talking about is a patchwork quilt  
22 of all the different funding sources that we can look  
23 at to create the restoration that we need in kind of  
24 an area like that taking a landscape approach to that.  
25 And so what this picture is showing, the dots are a

1 little bit hard to read, but dots and squares indicate  
2 that we've had some sort of restoration activity down  
3 there, and it's a restoration activity that might have  
4 been NRDA, it might have been RESTORE, it might have  
5 been NFWF. And I'll tell you there are some on  
6 there -- that's what we've listed here, but there's  
7 others from other funding sources that we have that  
8 are down there as well.

9           So what I want to highlight, though, is if  
10 you look, some of those dots are out there on the  
11 island, and that's basically, you know, again, that  
12 Gulf Beach-to-Bay tidal marsh protection, some of the  
13 largest areas left on South Padre Island are being  
14 protected through acquisitions. That's turtle nesting  
15 habitat, so that's important for that as well. So  
16 that's part of that whole turtle restoration.

17           I just mentioned hydrological restoration on  
18 the upper coast. And we have the same thing going on  
19 here, a little bit different, but in Bahia Grande  
20 where basically tidal flat area had been cut off from  
21 water sources, and so we're reconnecting that  
22 hydrologically and then trying to get fresh water  
23 inflows back in there as well as that tidal influence.  
24 And I can tell you from my own biologists who work in  
25 that area, they've already seen through some of that

1 work sea grass starting to grow back in some of the  
2 areas where we made that reconnection. So that's  
3 pretty exciting work down there.

4 In addition to that you can see that some  
5 boxes up there are connected to the Laguna Atascosa  
6 Wildlife Refuge. That's in the darker green there  
7 and you'll see some of those close nearby. We know  
8 all things are connected with our ecosystem approaches  
9 that we take. It just so happens that's also part of  
10 the ocelot corridor that we're trying to establish  
11 down there for protection. Obviously it protects  
12 birds, colonial nesting birds, white marsh habitat in  
13 that area, but it also has that extra benefit of being  
14 a very important area for that ocelot protection down  
15 in that area.

16 When we think about future activities, as  
17 I said, where some of that future money may go,  
18 currently we're conducting studies, engineering and  
19 design studies on water quality and nutrient reduction  
20 on oysters and oyster habitat increases and on  
21 beneficial use of dredge material. So when those get  
22 completed we would expect those to go into one of our  
23 next restoration plans. We'll continue with our  
24 implementation and monitoring of the projects that we  
25 have ongoing from the 2017 restoration plan trying to

1 finish up our early restoration projects.

2 And then lastly, we're hoping to plan a  
3 public meeting in the fall. The dates haven't been  
4 set for that yet, but as soon as we get those dates  
5 we'll get that out to all of you who want to trek over  
6 to Texas and come visit us over there. With that,  
7 certainly thank you again for your attention and your  
8 time, and I'm going to recognize from Open Ocean  
9 Laurie Rounds.

10 MS. LAURIE ROUNDS: Thank you very much,  
11 Robin. I'm Laurie Rounds. I'm with NOAA's  
12 Restoration Center, and I am NOAA's Open Ocean  
13 Restoration lead, and wanted to provide the update for  
14 the Open Ocean Restoration area. Some of the Open  
15 Ocean trustee implementation group consists of the  
16 four federal trustees that you heard mentioned before.  
17 That's NOAA, Department of the Interior, U. S. EPA,  
18 and U. S. Department of Agriculture. And we also work  
19 and coordinate with the state trustees, especially  
20 when our restoration I'll talk with you a little bit  
21 about overlaps with their state jurisdiction. So we  
22 work together to focus on those wide-ranging and  
23 highly migratory species that were injured by the  
24 spill.

25 All right. So also our funding update.

1 We were allocated in the Open Ocean restoration area  
2 \$1.2 billion and we have committed approximately  
3 \$85 million of that allocation. These funds were  
4 committed to implement early restoration, to conduct  
5 restoration planning and state culture outreach, and  
6 also to support the federal trustees' participation  
7 and comprehensive planning across all of the trustee  
8 implementation groups. As we'll talk a little bit  
9 about and I'll share with you in a moment, it also  
10 involves developing restoration plans for all six of  
11 the Open Ocean restoration types and working on our  
12 Open Ocean monitoring and adaptive management work  
13 as well.

14           Some of our recent activities by the Open  
15 Ocean trustees include completing the Gulf Islands  
16 National Seashore ferry restoration project right here  
17 in our backyard where we are in Pensacola. This has  
18 provided two 150-person passenger ferries that are now  
19 operating in Pensacola. The project was implemented  
20 by the Department of the Interior to help improve  
21 access to the park and reduce auto traffic on its  
22 roads. And through successful leveraging and  
23 partnership through the City of Pensacola, Escambia  
24 County, and the National Park Services, ferries are  
25 now providing service between downtown Pensacola,



1 Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of the  
2 National Seashore. So we're really excited about that  
3 project.

4 The trustees also continue to implement and  
5 monitor our other early restoration projects,  
6 including the Oceanic Fish restoration project and  
7 three projects to restore lost recreational uses on  
8 federally-managed land. As I mentioned, we conducted  
9 restoration planning for all six of the Open Ocean  
10 restoration types and that's been a focus for the  
11 trustees since we announced that effort in February  
12 of 2018.

13 We were excited that we were able to have  
14 a great public comment period and finalized our first  
15 Open Ocean restoration plan focused on birds and  
16 sturgeons. That was finalized in March of this year.  
17 And we just released our second Open Ocean Restoration  
18 plan on May 15, and that plan focuses on sea turtles,  
19 marine mammals, fish, and mesophotic and deep benthic  
20 communities.

21 In addition to developing restoration plans,  
22 the trustees developed the Open Ocean Monitoring  
23 Adaptive Management Strategy which was released in  
24 early May. So that strategy lays out the processes  
25 that the TIG will follow to identify and to prioritize

1 information and data gaps that will help us to plan,  
2 implement, monitor, and evaluate restoration in the  
3 Open Ocean restoration area.

4           And then outreach engagement was also really  
5 important activities for us over the last year for  
6 all of our efforts. But earlier this year we held a  
7 monitoring adaptive management workshop. That was  
8 very exciting. We had more than 50 stakeholders  
9 participate and help us identify information needs for  
10 Open Ocean restoration. That was very successful.  
11 And then we've been continuing these efforts. Just  
12 June 4th here we had another opportunity for the  
13 public to come and provide some input on monitoring  
14 adaptive management information.

15           So tonight I'd like to feature one of our  
16 early restoration projects, the Oceanic Fish  
17 Restoration Project. This was an early restoration  
18 project that was led by NOAA, which is in its third  
19 year as a partnership to restore oceanic fish species  
20 that were injured by the spill. The Trustee Council  
21 allocated \$20 million for this project. So the  
22 Oceanic Fish Restoration Project is being implemented  
23 as the partnership between NOAA, pelagic longline  
24 fishermen, and the National Fish & Wildlife  
25 Foundation.

1           The project began as a pilot in 2017 and  
2           has been in full implementation for 2018 and 2019  
3           with a total of 27 participants across those years.  
4           The project provides an opportunity for fishermen to  
5           voluntarily help restore fish species, fish  
6           population, by taking a break from pelagic longline  
7           fishing through the year for six months from January  
8           to June. And this year there have been ten vessels  
9           that have been participating. There have been eight  
10          from Louisiana and two from Florida. So this, of  
11          course, helps to restore oceanic fish species recover.

12          The project is also providing fishing  
13          communities the opportunity to use alternative fishing  
14          gear rather than the pelagic longline gear. Pelagic  
15          longline gear can accidentally or unintentionally  
16          catch non-target fish species and other species, also  
17          termed bycatch. Some of the species that can be  
18          accidentally caught up in the pelagic longlines  
19          include bluefin tuna, marlin, sharks, and sea turtles.  
20          So the oceanic fish project is helping to restore  
21          oceanic fish population injured by the spill by giving  
22          them time to grow and to reproduce during the  
23          voluntary break from pelagic longline fishing, and  
24          data collected by the project from previous years is  
25          also showing a reduction in bycatch for those

1 fishermen that opt to use those alternative fishing  
2 gear. So this cooperative restoration effort is  
3 anticipated to continue for an additional three years  
4 to help to restore these important fish populations in  
5 partnership with the fishermen that rely on them.

6 So to talk little bit about our future  
7 activities coming up, as we're moving forward we will  
8 continue to implement and to monitor our remaining  
9 recreational enhancement early restoration projects.  
10 We have projects at the Bon Secour National Wildlife  
11 Refuge in Alabama, Gulf Islands National Seashore in  
12 Mississippi and Florida. Implementation of course  
13 will also continue on the Oceanic Fish Restoration  
14 Project as mentioned.

15 We are also excited that we are going to be  
16 getting implementation on the three new restoration  
17 projects that were selected in our first restoration  
18 plan for birds and sturgeons. These projects include  
19 projects to identify and characterize potential Gulf  
20 sturgeon flying habitat in the Pearl and Pascagoula  
21 Rivers and to enhance breeding for common loons and  
22 black terns in the Northern U. S. areas where these  
23 species breed.

24 As I mentioned earlier, the Open Ocean  
25 trustees released our second restoration plan on

1 May 15, and the public comment period goes through  
2 July 1st for that plan. So we're looking forward to  
3 receiving those comments and considering them and  
4 finalizing our second restoration plan to select  
5 restoration projects for fish, sea turtles, marine  
6 mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities.

7 And then lastly, we're going to be continuing  
8 our activities and efforts to identify potential data  
9 gaps and to a full restoration being conducted by the  
10 Open Ocean TIGs. So we will continue those efforts  
11 to identify and prioritize monitoring adaptive  
12 management needs and present that information as  
13 an update to our Open Ocean monitoring adaptive  
14 management strategy.

15 So thank you very much for your attention,  
16 and look forward to talking with anyone who might have  
17 some additional questions back up in the open house.

18 I will now turn it over to Gareth Leonard who is going  
19 to provide the update for the Region-Wide Trustee  
20 Implementation Group.

21 MR. GARETH LEONARD: Thank you, Laurie.

22 So in addition to chairing the Florida TIG I am also  
23 chairing the Region-Wide TIG this year which is  
24 comprised of five states and the four federal  
25 entities. So as you can see there, the Region-Wide

1 TIG was allocated \$350 million. Today we have  
2 allocated roughly about 12 percent. So we've been  
3 taking a slow and measured approach to this, but we  
4 are positioning ourselves to begin restoration  
5 planning later this year.

6 So, as indicated, we've been working behind  
7 the scenes to develop our scope and schedule to start  
8 our RPl planning, which for us, Region-wide TIG, we  
9 have funds for living coastal and marine resources,  
10 sea turtles, marine mammals, birds and oysters. So  
11 anticipate seeing initiation of restoration planning  
12 later this year on that. And then also we have three  
13 early restoration projects assigned to the Region-wide  
14 TIG and we are actively implementing two of those,  
15 with one being complete.

16 For us in Region-wide TIG our flagship  
17 project is the Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project.  
18 It is a larger \$45 million project that is being  
19 implemented by both Region-Wide and Texas TIG.  
20 For Region-Wide they have two components valued at  
21 \$25 million. The first component is enhancing the  
22 sea turtle stranding network, and we have seen  
23 significant benefits from this enhancement. Over the  
24 last two years we've had some significant cold snaps  
25 across the Gulf, and the stranding network has

1 responded to over 8,900 strandings over the last  
2 two years. So this influx of money has been greatly  
3 appreciated and benefited the recovery of sea turtles  
4 from these events.

5 The other NOAA program that the money is  
6 enhancing is both their Gear Monitoring Teams.  
7 To that end they have been able to hire both equipment  
8 and personnel to implement two additional Gear  
9 Monitoring Teams to help with shrimp bycatch  
10 reduction. And then they have also been able to  
11 enhance their Southeast Shrimp Trawler Fisheries  
12 Observer Program, and to that end over the last two  
13 years they've been able to add almost 600 observer  
14 days at sea on vessels. So that's exciting for the  
15 Region-Wide TIG and for NOAA to be able to increase  
16 their capacity.

17 For future activities, as I said, be on the  
18 lookout for restoration initiation planning from us  
19 later this year. And as indicated, we're going to  
20 finish up one of our early restoration projects this  
21 year and then we'll continue implementing the Phase IV  
22 early restoration. The sea turtle project was a  
23 ten-year project, so it's got a long way to go on  
24 that. So with that I will hand it back over to Perry  
25 to take us to comments.

1           MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Gareth. At this  
2 time we're going to invite members of the public who  
3 desire to give verbal comment to raise their hand.  
4 Do we have any individuals that would like to give  
5 public comment at this time? I think we did such  
6 a good job at the open house maybe there are no  
7 additional comments.

8           We do have one, okay. If we can get a  
9 blue card to that individual.

10           I'd like to introduce members of the  
11 listening table to come forward. From Florida  
12 we're going to have Gareth Leonard; Alabama,  
13 Chris Blankenship; Mississippi, Gary Rikard;  
14 Louisiana, Bren Haase; Texas, Robin Riechers;  
15 DOI, Mary Josie Blanchard; NOAA, Chris Doley; and  
16 from USDA Mr. Homer Wilkes.

17           As they are taking their seats I would like  
18 to bring forward our first individual to provide  
19 public comment, Ms. Thao Vu.

20           MS. THAO VU: Good evening. My name is  
21 Thao Vu. I'm director of the Mississippi Coalition  
22 for Vietnamese-American Fisher Folks and Families.  
23 I would like to thank you, City of Pensacola, for  
24 hosting this. I attended late and didn't get to  
25 participate in the open house, so maybe I'm making



1 comments that were answered and that's the reason why.  
2 It's good to see some familiar faces from Mississippi  
3 and the federal folks as well.

4 Two days ago I attended the Open Ocean  
5 adaptive management strategy, right? I would like to  
6 comment and actually suggest that all the TIGs,  
7 every, single TIG, have an adaptive management and  
8 modeling strategy and to go beyond that as well.  
9 I think that's critically important. And then from  
10 that you need to have a monitoring plan, and within  
11 that monitoring plan you need to have the types of  
12 restoration and your approach. And within that, under  
13 all of that, you need to have some robust matrix and  
14 to give the public an opportunity to review that and  
15 to comment on that.

16 This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.  
17 Our Gulf is beautiful. Our Gulf of Mexico, and in  
18 Mississippi our bays and the watersheds all across the  
19 Gulf. However, we have serious ecological and  
20 environmental issues, not only from the Deepwater  
21 Horizon oil spill, but from freshwater, the native  
22 habitats, and it's critically important. It has been  
23 politically challenging the past nine years and we  
24 didn't start initial reparation on time years ago.  
25 It's only been several years.

1           So I think we need to have some foundational  
2 things in place. We do not want to spend millions and  
3 tens of millions of dollars investing all of these  
4 important projects. We need to have like a monitoring  
5 plan and a matrix, see if we're actually achieving the  
6 outcome that we want to achieve. If not, we need to  
7 take some corrective measures. And to make everything  
8 more transparent as well, and for us to have more  
9 ongoing opportunities to engage with TIG. Eight TIGs,  
10 and we only get to engage with the TIGs at an annual  
11 meeting. That's not sufficient or adequate.

12           We want to be able, for example, if a TIG can  
13 engage with communities on the front end, we want to  
14 learn more about the plans. And maybe after annual  
15 meetings we could comment more on certain plans or  
16 draft plans or projects, right, which really right now  
17 is the Open Ocean, but there's not so much opportunity  
18 to comment. So we would like to have those  
19 opportunities.

20           The other thing I would like to really  
21 reiterate is particularly for fishing communities  
22 across the Gulf, we are just critically, critically  
23 linked to our ecosystem and to help the ecosystem.  
24 And particularly Mississippi, our oyster reefs are  
25 so degraded, and now we're having serious issues from

1 the spill that's happened the second time. We need  
2 targeted focus. We need immediate help to get our  
3 reefs to restore back to help filter the water, to  
4 provide habitats for our oysters and other marine life  
5 and to really start to really and truly help our  
6 Mississippi sound. And ultimately we want to start  
7 there and get into the Gulf of Mexico.

8           You know, it's critically important to get  
9 this right. Our fishing communities are struggling  
10 right now, every day, every season. Our oyster  
11 seasons have been earlier. We've lost about  
12 95 percent of our harvesting base. In 2009 we  
13 harvested over 300,000. Last year we harvested around  
14 3,700 and our six to seven months dwindled down seven,  
15 eight days. That is really terrible.

16           And our communities can't wait. We know that  
17 good restoration takes time. We know that. But  
18 something has to be done. Something has to be done.  
19 We need to think about maybe adaptive management,  
20 changing our approaches to restoration. You know,  
21 incorporate the knowledge of local people who possess  
22 traditional ecological knowledge and the knowledge  
23 they process to really help restore our resources to  
24 the best they can be. I think there's a data gap,  
25 right, and there are fishing communities to help

1 enhance the understanding that the federal and state  
2 agencies have of the natural resources because we've  
3 spent decades on the water. But that kind of  
4 relationship building has been lacking and we want to  
5 be able to work and improve that process and basically  
6 just learn and collaborate with the agencies and help  
7 them restore our resources. Thank you for the  
8 opportunity to comment.

9 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Ms. Vu. Are there  
10 any others who would like to make public comment at  
11 this time? Let's get a blue card here, please, to  
12 this individual. If you'll state your name.

13 MS. JANET BOWMAN: Hi. I'm Janet Bowman with  
14 the Nature Conservative and I work for the Florida  
15 Chapter in Tallahassee. One of observations I've had  
16 about your comments, which I think is a really good  
17 thing, is I noticed that all five states are in the  
18 process of planning oyster restoration projects.  
19 And in terms of timing as you-all embark on the  
20 region-wide restoration planning that is coming up  
21 this year, you know, it's a great time to coordinate  
22 and leverage the projects you already have identified  
23 on the way with the \$60 million that's available for  
24 oyster restoration. And with the RESTORE opportunity  
25 that's coming up, that looks like it will include a

1 significant oyster component.

2 So my wish is -- or my request is that as  
3 you all do your restoration planning that you really  
4 think about how to maximize the restoration effort  
5 across the three buckets to really look Gulf-wide at  
6 what needs to be done from a Gulf of Mexico systemic  
7 perspective to restore oysters in the Gulf of Mexico,  
8 because we're really very close to losing that  
9 resource. Thank you.

10 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you very much. The  
11 next individual who would like to make public comment?  
12 If you'll just raise your hand we'll get a card to you  
13 and invite you to come forward.

14 Very well. So at this time, if there are no  
15 further individuals to make public comment, we will  
16 conclude this portion of tonight's meeting and resume  
17 on the second floor where you can interact with these  
18 subject matter experts and interact with them  
19 one-on-one to get your specific questions answered.  
20 Thank you so very much and safe travels.

21

22 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were  
23 concluded at 7:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

I, TERRY RUSHING HOFFMAN, Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for the State of Florida, do  
hereby certify:

That I was authorized to and did  
stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and  
that the transcript is a true and complete record of  
my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for  
nor related to any party to said action, nor am I  
financially interested in this proceeding.

DATED this 18th day of June, 2019.

---

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