

**DWH Trustee Council  
2/4/19 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Aileen Smith
	Kelly Swindle	Nanciann Regalado	
<b>LA</b>	Jane Calamusa	Anne Hijuelos	
Alyson Graugnard			
	<b>FL</b>	<b>EPA</b>	
<b>MS</b>	Leslie Ames	Mary Kay Lynch	<b>USDA</b>
Gary Rikard	Gareth Leonard	Tim Landers	Ron Howard
Chris Wells		Gale Bonanno	
Teri Wyly			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The AL TIG currently has over 25 projects in some form of implementation, all of which are going well. Restoration Plan 2 has resolutions in various stages of the signature process. The focus and majority of the work for the AL TIG right now consists of work on Restoration Plan 3. Restoration Plan 3 will feature Recreational Use and Bird projects. The AL TIG anticipates completing Restoration Plan 3 by this summer.
  
- b. The FL TIG has resumed finalizing Restoration Plan 1. There are 23 preferred projects, totaling \$62 million. The T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park alternative received damage from Hurricane Michael, so its status was changed to non-preferred for now. Restoration Plan 1 is on schedule to be finalized in the beginning of March and the FL TIG is aiming to begin implementation soon thereafter. Overall, multiple restoration projects were impacted from Hurricane Michael and damage assessments are ongoing. The FL TIG is waiting for report-outs to hear how much money can be received from FEMA. Restoration Plan 2 is the next large focus, and should be commencing around the beginning of next month.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: Annual Reporting Schedule**

- a. Discussion: The deadline for annual reporting was originally April 22<sup>nd</sup>, however, with the five-week government shutdown, systems are still backlogged. The LAT suggests extending the deadline to May 31<sup>st</sup>. Approval is needed from the TC in order to begin the necessary training sessions and to circulate a revised schedule to include all the sub-steps in the reporting process.

Historically, the Trustee Council releases the annual reporting at the same time each year. The LAT recommends that a web story be published on the Gulf Spill Restoration website in order to notify the public of this delay. TC approval of the web story will be sought beforehand.

- b. Decision: The Trustee Council approves the new deadline for annual reporting and a web story post notifying the public.
- c. Action Item: The LAT will circulate a web story draft for TC review.

## **Discussion Item 3: 2019 Trustee Council Meeting**

- a. Discussion: As the annual reporting has been delayed, the annual TC public meeting will also need to be delayed so as not to preempt the publication of the reports. The dates for the meeting, previously planned for May, did not work for all Trustees. Potential dates for the first weeks in June will be distributed to the TC in the next few days.

Last year, the public meeting included a NRDA 101 education-type meeting. The TC discussed the idea of having a similar session the night before this year's meeting. Last year's event was well-received and since the meeting is in a different location this year, there will likely be a high level of public interest again. Last year's meeting was organized by a planning and facilitation group, as well as TC members who spoke at the session.

Clarification was provided to distinguish between the outreach workshop and the educational session. It was acknowledged that the recommended educational NRDA 101 session would be different than the outreach workshops discussed earlier by the TC. The overall idea of the NRDA 101 session is to draw a distinction between NRDA and RESTORE, as the two often get confused.

The planning process for the NRDA 101 session would start by examining the process last year and building off what worked and eliminating what did not. RESTORE was invited to speak with the group for this event last year. The TC would

coordinate to determine the purpose of the session, including how to distinguish between the three major streams of funding and then focus the session on NRDA.

- b. Decision: The TC annual meeting will be pushed to the month of June (Note: June 10-13 is the GOMA event, which could potentially cause overlap). The TC approves the NRDA 101 session to be hosted the night before the annual meeting.
- c. Action Item: Determine the Trustee's involvement and requirements for the NRDA 101 session. The LAT will provide new dates to the TC for review, once the available facilities are confirmed (within the next few days).

#### **Discussion Item 4: SOP Updates**

- a. Discussion: The LAT started to discuss updates to the SOP in December. A survey/questionnaire was drafted to send to the TIGs for input, as they work with this document on a daily basis. There are places in the SOP that the LAT believes need clarification (e.g. Chapter 7), or some places that use placeholders (e.g. Chapter 6). The LAT would use the survey feedback to guide their update schedule/process. A few places have already been highlighted for changes. The current SOPs were created several years ago so the intent is to provide updates where the Trustees identify it to be needed.
- b. Decision: The TC approves the LAT to finalize the questionnaire and circulate it to the TIGs.
- c. Action Item: The LAT will propose edits to Chapter 6 and circulate it by the end of February for TC review.

#### **Discussion Item 5: Outreach Workshop**

- a. Discussion: One of the takeaways from last year's TC meeting was an idea to provide ongoing outreach efforts across the Gulf States. After discussion and feedback from last month's call, this effort will not move forward at this time.
- b. Decision: No additional planning will be done for Gulf-wide outreach efforts at this time.

#### **Discussion Item 6: Cross TIG MAM Topics**

- a. Discussion: This topic is meant to be a recap of Cross-TIG MAM, given the past calls have run out of time. The proposed process for Programmatic Review was presented during November Trustee Council call. The Trustee Council comments varied between Trustees and the Cross-TIG MAM was unable to communicate that the group is in a holding pattern. The hopes are that during the March TC call, there will

be a rigorous discussion around the comments provided on the Programmatic Review and the group can identify a way to move forward.

- b. Action Item: The TC will prepare for discussion regarding the Cross-TIG MAM Programmatic Review for the March TC call.

### **Other Business**

- a. Please review the 2018 call notes so they can be posted on Gulf Spill Restoration.
- b. The next TC call is Monday, March 4.
- c. NOAA website updates – most of the Trustee information is out of date. It is recommended that the various Trustees work with NOAA to update the information. This update to information is already in progress.

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### Attendees:

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Debora McClain	Chris Doley
Johanna Gregory Belsner	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	Craig O'Connor
	Patti McCurdy		Rachel Sweeney
<b>LA</b>			Melissa Carle
Bren Haase		<b>EPA</b>	Laurie Rounds
Billy Plauche		Mary Kay Lynch	
Alyson Graugnard	<b>FL</b>	Gale Bonanno	
	Leslie Ames		<b>USDA</b>
	Nadia Martin		Ron Howard
<b>MS</b>			Mark Defley
Chris Wells			

### Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. The TX TIG is busy on implementation of projects from RP1. The Sea Rim Park has had a number of amenities that are complete. The sea turtle projects are starting year four for a variety of nesting, stranding, and enforcement activities. The Follets Island project has purchased three tracts of more than 267 acres and the Laguna Atascosa project team is expecting to close on two tracts in the next few weeks for over 3,000 acres. The other projects from RP1 are in varying stages of contracting and construction.
  
- b. The OO TIG is continuing to implement projects from early restoration. This year marks the third year of the Oceanic Fish Restoration project. There are ten participants for this year's repose period. A summary story with details is posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website. The OO TIG is working on the strategy and adaptive management document and held a workshop on February 4 in conjunction with the GoMOSES conference. About 60 participants attended and contributed to small group discussions about data needs for resource specific groups and ecosystem needs. The forthcoming document will discuss how the OO TIG will achieve goals related to monitoring and adaptive management. The OO TIG also has two restoration plans in development. Restoration Plan 1 contains bird and sturgeon projects and is expected to be released to the public in March or early April. Restoration Plan 2 covers the remaining four restoration types and is currently in the draft review stage.

The MS TIG and Cross TIG MAM will give their report outs on the next TC call.

**Discussion Item 2: Trustee Council Annual Public Meeting and Public Outreach/Education (NRDA 101)**

- a. Discussion: Logistics update
- b. Decision: The dates are confirmed for the June meetings in Pensacola. The NRDA 101 meeting will be held on June 5 and the Trustee Council public meeting will be held on June 6. Both meetings will be held in the evening at Pensacola City Hall.
- c. Action Item: TIG support will circulate calendar appointments and a request for attendees in order to secure the room block.

**Discussion Item 3: SOP Update**

- a. Discussion: The LAT received feedback from almost all the Trustees in response to the SOP questionnaire. The LAT will reach out to any outstanding commenters, consolidate the input, and will circulate it to the full TC. Several Trustees noted places where language could be clarified or updated to reflect the current status of process. There did not appear to be any areas that warrant a team being formed to draft updates. During the April Trustee Council call, the LAT will discuss the plan for updates. Any changes, no matter how small, will be run through the Trustee Council for approval.
- b. Action Item: The LAT will consolidate the comments and will circulate it to the TC. The topic will be revisited again in April.

**Discussion Item 4: Next Steps for Trustee Council 5-Year-Programmatic Review**

- a. Discussion: There was a summary of the discussions that have taken place so far. In March 2018, the TC first started discussing the Five-Year Programmatic Review. In June 2018, the TC approved the Cross TIG MAM's task list to look at the synthesis of monitoring to date. In July 2018, the TC decided the first programmatic review would be released in 2021 and that the document should include information on coordination, finances, governance, and the monitoring pieces. The Cross TIG MAM developed a proposal that the TC provided comment on in November 2018. The Cross TIG MAM's current proposal is for a phased approach by the Cross TIG MAM, the LAT, and various Trustees to address concerns raised by the TC in November.

The Trustees discussed whether there was a need for a phased approach with this level of effort and whether/how this report aggregates information from the annual reports. That section will be an aggregation, but the idea is that this will be more qualitative and really look at how effective restoration has been.

There was a suggestion for the LAT and a contractor to help with the coordination, financial, governance, and outreach activities sections while the evaluation component would be pulling information from each TIG. In order to ensure consistency, the Cross TIG MAM would set up the types of information that would be pulled from each TIG. The Cross TIG MAM could also provide a template at the beginning of the process.

- b. Decision: The LAT will work with a contractor as needed to determine the scope of the coordination, financial, governance, and outreach sections in the Five-Year Programmatic Review. The Cross TIG MAM will draft for TC approval a template for each TIG to complete since they have representatives from every TIG on that group.
- c. Action Item: The LAT will move forward with scoping the coordination, financial, governance, and outreach sections. The Cross TIG MAM will develop the template for each TIG. The cross TIG MAM will report on a timeline for that effort on the next TC call.
  - a. Discussion: The group discussed the Cross TIG MAM's request for a standing agenda item.
  - b. Decision: Agreement that a standing agenda item would be helpful.

### **Other Business**

- a. The next TC call is Monday, April 1.
- b. Introduction of LA Trustee Bren Haase, the new executive director of CPRA and Louisiana's Trustee representative on the Trustee Council.