

**DWH Trustee Council  
7/1/19 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Holly Herod	Chris Doley
Robin Riechers	Patti McCurdy	Ann Hijuelos	Craig O'Connor
	Jane Calamusa		Rachel Sweeney
<b>LA</b>	Kelly Swindle		Aileen Smith
<b>MS</b>	<b>FL</b>	<b>EPA</b>	
Gary Rikard	Leslie Ames	Mary Kay Lynch	<b>USDA</b>
Chris Wells	Gareth Leonard	Gale Bonanno	Mark Defley
Teri Wyly	Nadia Martin		

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The AL TIG has a total of 37 projects in progress. Selected examples include Point aux Pins which is aiming to go out to project bid later this summer for implementation; the Dauphin Island Ecotourism project which is now in due diligence and will hopefully close by October; and the Laguna Cove project which is also in due diligence and is aiming to close in October. For RP2 land acquisition projects, the AL TIG is working with the property owners on the Holmes Tract. For Weeks Bay, they are hoping to leverage with an existing grant and are currently in due diligence. Share the Beach is having a very busy sea turtle nesting season. ADCNR's Marine Resource Division is working with NOAA staff on the Oyster Management Plan as part of an RP2 oyster project. The Alabama TIG is also currently drafting RP3. There are nine projects anticipated to be in the draft reasonable range and the small group is meeting in-person to discuss the draft plan before it goes out for TIG review in several weeks. The aim is to have a draft list of preferred projects by the end of the meeting and to have a final plan published by December 2019.
- b. The FL TIG released V.3 Restoration Plan for public review and comment. This plan focuses on the remainder of the funds allocated under early restoration Phase 5. RP1 was finalized in the spring and the Trustees are in the process of initializing the implementation plans and withdrawing the \$61 million for the 23 projects. The FL TIG will be going out in the next month or so with a call for projects for its RP2 which will focus primarily on Living Coastal Marine Resources and Habitat projects on Federally Managed Lands.

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

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

- a. Discussion: Update on the development of the Programmatic Review TIG Template. Nadia presented on the status of TIG Programmatic Review template. The group drafted a first version of the template and made revisions based on Trustee feedback. In June, the Cross-TIG MAM presented the template to each TIG and requested that each TIG provide a collated set of comments to the workgroup. Once those comments are in, the workgroup will review, address, and revise the template. The Cross-TIG MAM workgroup anticipates having an updated version of the template ready for the TC to discuss and review in August.
- b. Action Item: The TC will discuss the revised TIG Programmatic Review template on their August call.

**Discussion Item 3: Annual Reporting Timeframe**

- a. Discussion: As discussed during the in-person meeting in Pensacola, the LAT recommends leaving the May 31 deadline in place for reporting going forward. There were two lessons learned calls last week to gather feedback on the process so far. In general, folks are appreciative of having the later deadline and there is general support for that date.
- b. Action Item: A decision is requested by the September call so that the timelines can be set up for next year's reporting. This will be discussed on a future call.

**Discussion Item 4: Trustee Council Annual Public Meeting and Public Outreach/Education (NRDA 101)**

- a. Discussion: Recap of the annual meeting. Thank you to folks who attended. The rain may have kept some people away, but the open house before and after was a success. There was a suggestion that perhaps future public outreach/education (NRDA 101) meetings could be tacked onto an existing state meeting to improve attendance. Perhaps can be discussed more in August.
- b. Action Item: Send any ideas for how to improve the 2020 annual meeting to TIG support.

- a. Discussion: Potential dates for 2020. Please send any comments to TIG support. June 16-18, July 7-9, or sometime in the fall. Also need a decision by September.
  - b. Action Item: Send any comments on the proposed dates for the 2020 public meeting to TIG support. This will be discussed on a future call.
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- a. Discussion: NRDA 101
  - b. Action Item: Reminder to send ideas for NRDA 101 meeting to TIG support

### **Other Business**

- a. NOAA received a solicitation from GoMOSES with a request for the TC to consider having a representative on the GoMOSES executive committee. Alyson and Leslie had a call with the chair of the executive committee for GoMOSES. This will be discussed on the August call.
- b. The next TC chair will be from LA and the name will be circulated via email.
- c. Open Ocean TIG: The comment period for RP2 has been extended by 15 days until July 15. Two Monitoring Activity Implementation Plans were released by the OO TIG and both outline activities for data collection to inform future restoration planning for Gulf sturgeon. One activity is led by DOI and the other is being led by NOAA. These are the first Monitoring Activity Plans that have been developed by the OO TIG.
- d. The next call is August 5.

**DWH Trustee Council  
8/5/19 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Debora McClain	Chris Doley
James Murphy	Jane Calamusa	Ashley Mills	Craig O'Connor
		Ann Hijuelos	
<b>LA</b>			<b>USDA</b>
Bren Haase	<b>FL</b>		
Alyson Graugnard	Leslie Ames	<b>EPA</b>	<b>LAT</b>
	Gareth Leonard	Mary Kay Lynch	Holly Herod
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin	Gale Bonanno	
Chris Wells		Treda Grayson	
Teri Wyly			

**Discussion Item 1: Introduction of New TC Chair**

- a. Introduction of the new TC chair, Bren Haase from Louisiana.

**Discussion Item 2: Report Outs**

- a. Report-out from the TX TIG. The TX TIG completed construction at Sea Rim State park, one of their Phase III ER projects, and will move on to the monitoring stage soon. The TX TIG has also completed land acquisitions on a few properties. Additionally, the group has nearly completed their Water Quality Improvements Report in order to inform implementation of future projects. The TIG is planning a public meeting in October and will be looking into hosting it as a webinar.
- b. OO TIG. The Draft RP2 comment period was reopened due to Hurricane Barry. The plan will be finalized by early December. The OO TIG hosted a stakeholder meeting with the Vietnamese shrimp fishermen community. Around 20 people attended. The meeting was successful with engaging the public and included a Q&A period. The OO TIG is continuing their MAM planning efforts. They are looking at priorities to guide MAM funding in the future, which will likely be finalized early next year. The TIG is also working on adapting a third Monitoring Activity Implementation Plan for Marine Mammals. This MAM activity will be phased and will likely be released later this month.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: Cross TIG MAM Standing Agenda Item**

- a. **Discussion:** Update on the TIG Programmatic Review Template, including discussion of comments received from the TIGs and next steps. Multiple comments were received on the structure of the template, including organization by Restoration Type. The Trustees requested standardized tables across TIGs. The Cross-TIG MAM plans to revise the document based on TIG comments and then Trustee Council review will follow.

The group discussed Trustee Council approval of the Monitoring Guidance Documents in order for them to be released to the public. The new portions are highlighted in the file that was circulated with the call agenda. These documents were first circulated to the Trustee Council at the end of 2018 when the group provided comments and edits to revise the document.

- b. **Action Item:** The Trustee Council is tasked with reviewing the Guidance Documents for approval by August 16<sup>th</sup>. TIG support will circulate to formally initiate the comment period.

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

- a. **Discussion:** Cash Flow Tool – Status update. The draft cash flow tool is ready to be released. TIGs can request the tool from TIG support if they would like to use it. It will take approximately five days to develop. A webinar can be set-up to walk-through the details of the tool and how to use it. This tool provides information from DIVER to help the TIGs take a look at their finances from a larger, more generalized perspective.

Update on SOPs – The SOPs and business rules are in the updating process. The TC will see a draft (both clean and red-lined) for review by end of August or early September.

5-Year Programmatic Review – The LAT is in the process of creating a timeline and overall cost estimate for the support related to this task. The TC will have the chance to review in September.

Annual Reporting Timeframe – Follow-up on LAT recommendation to keep the May 31 deadline going forward. NOAA, FL, AL, DOI, EPA, LA, MS, TX approve the move to May 31. TIG Support will follow up with USDA to confirm unanimous approval.

Discuss potential dates for the 2020 Public Meeting – Suggested timeframes include June 16-18 or July 7-9. There was additional discussion regarding the fall. A decision has been requested by the September call. A survey will be circulated to determine which proposed dates work best for the TC. It would be best to consider how/when this event is scheduled as attendance outcomes have been low. A related conference will be taking place in New Orleans on May 26<sup>th</sup> which could serve as an opportunity to bundle events.

Reminder to send ideas for NRDA 101 meeting to TIG support by Friday 8/9.

## **Other Business**

- a. Ocean Conservancy Letter sent to the TC Chair and the Chair of the RESTORE Council (RC) (circulated on 7/25 and attached for reference). The RESTORE Council will be discussing this letter on Wednesday, August 14. The TC discussed the contents of the letter. Some of the concepts or ideas in the Ocean Conservancy letter overlap with public comments on the OO TIG RP #2. The RC will coordinate its response to the OC letter with the TC. The TC will further discuss a response to the OC letter, taking into account the RC response. The OO TIG is just beginning to work through the comments on OO TIG RP #2 and their responses by around September with the development of the final plan. The OO TIG will flag any overlap in issues raised by the OC letter and RP #2.
- b. Follow up on the GoMOSES request. Alyson and Leslie spoke with the executive chair, Larry McKinney, and requested to have someone from the TC on their committee. GoMOSES would like to have someone who would help with the preparations for their conference. The TC discussed the responsibilities for this type of involvement. The majority of the work would occur in the fall and the workload will require review and approval of certain documents. The Trustee Council requested to receive a more detailed sense of the time commitment involved with this official representation. The Trustee Council determined they would initiate further conversation between the council and the GoMOSES executive committee in order to make an informed decision.
- c. The next call falls on Labor Day, so the proposal is to push it back to Tuesday, September 3. The TC approved this proposal. The next TC call will occur on Tuesday, September 3.
- d. Deadlines:
  1. Need a decision for 2020 in-person TC annual and public meeting by September call.
  2. Need a discussion for the annual reporting deadline, so a schedule can be developed by the September call.
  3. Send ideas for improving the NRDAR 101 presentation by August 9, 2019.

**DWH Trustee Council  
8/26/19 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Rachel Sweeney
	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	Natalie Gardner
<b>LA</b>			<b>USDA</b>
Bren Haase	<b>FL</b>		Ron Howard
Alyson Graugnard	Phil Coram	<b>EPA</b>	
		Mary Kay Lynch	<b>LAT</b>
<b>MS</b>			Holly Herod
Chris Wells			
			<b>TIG Support</b>
			Gabriella DeConti (IEc)

**Discussion Item 1: Discussion of possible response to the Ocean Conservancy letter**

- a. The Trustee Council discussed the path forward to respond to a letter from the Ocean Conservancy. The TC agreed to draft a response that the TC Chair will sign as a representative of the Trustees.
- b. Decision: The LAT will draft a letter for Trustee review.



# Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council

September 9, 2019

Alexis Baldera, Chris Robbins, and Rachel Guillory  
Ocean Conservancy  
421 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Suite B  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Baldera, Mr. Robbins, and Ms. Guillory:

On behalf of the Trustee Council for the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration, I want to thank you for your letter dated July 23, 2019, providing recommendations regarding our program management, public engagement, and scientific best practices.

We are committed to strong and efficient program management, inclusive public engagement, and a foundation of sound, scientific best practices. Just a few examples demonstrating our commitment are:

- The Trustee Council continues to host an annual public meeting in addition to the annual meetings held by each Trustee Implementation Group, and we appreciate stakeholder involvement at these events such as that provided by Ocean Conservancy and other NGOs.
- In 2018, we released the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Manual, to provide guidance for the monitoring needed to evaluate restoration outcomes and benefits to injured resources. On August 29, 2019, we released an updated Appendix with new monitoring guidelines for restoration projects for oysters and submerged aquatic vegetation, and for projects that protect and conserve habitat.
- We have designed our webpages for easy use by the public, and we are continuously modifying the pages to make information more accessible and understandable. We regularly post new information as we seek public input on project ideas and draft restoration plans.

In the Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan, the Trustees agreed to track our status towards meeting our established restoration goals, including the Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Administrative Oversight goals. We plan to focus on the progress of our restoration program approximately every five years, post-settlement (April 2016). Many of your recommendations naturally fit into this review.

Again, we appreciate your recommendations and continued commitment to restoration in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

Bren Haase  
*Deepwater Horizon* NRDAR Trustee Council Chair

cc:

Doug Benevento, Chair Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council  
Ben Scaggs, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council



**DWH Trustee Council  
9/3/19 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	Jane Calamusa	Nanciann Regalado	Natalie Gardner
	Patti McCurdy	Ann Hijuelos	
<b>LA</b>			
Bren Haase			<b>USDA</b>
Billy Plauche	<b>FL</b>		Mark Defley
	Gareth Leonard	<b>EPA</b>	
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin	Tim Landers	<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells		Gale Bonanno	Holly Herod
Teri Wyly		Treda Grayson	

**Discussion Item 1: GoMOSES Request**

- a. Discussion: Dr. Larry McKinney from GoMOSES joined the TC call to discuss the request for a member of the TC to join the GoMOSES executive committee. The executive committee is considering if a successor meeting to GoMOSES would have value. The current executive committee is drafting a proposal to hold a scientific meeting every other year in conjunction with GOMA. Currently the Academy of Sciences, GoMRI, and other organizations are in support of a successor conference. The goal is to have a better connection between scientists, resource managers, and other groups. The benefit to gathering the group is to exchange information and provide a forum to build partnerships and share results. The ask is for a representative from the council to assist with the current GoMOSES conference and possibly continue to help with future events.

**Discussion Item 2: Report Outs**

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG is currently working on two restoration plans. The Grand Bay Supplemental restoration plan would allocate an additional \$10 million to habitat acquisition and management at Grand Bay. The plan is expected to be released in the next week. The second plan in progress is MS Restoration Plan II which is currently in draft stage. It will include wetlands, coastal and nearshore and oyster projects will cost approximately \$15 million for four projects. The draft plan is expected to be released by late 2019 or early 2020. The annual MS restoration summit will be held on November 12. The summit will also serve as the annual meeting of the MS TIG.
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: The file circulated with the agenda provides a status update on the tasks the Cross TIG MAM is working on this year. The additional guidance documents approved by the TC (SAV, Oysters, Protect and Conserve Habitat) were released last

Friday. The group is still working on additional guidance documents for birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals. These will be circulated to the TC for review and approval at a later date. Other Cross TIG MAM activities include discussing programmatic level cross-TIG evaluations, working on the programmatic template, working with the TIGs, holding in-person meetings as needed, and moving forward on other long-term tasks.

The TIG programmatic reporting template was circulated to the TIGs for comments, and the group has developed a revised version of the file. The revised template will be ready for TC review soon. There are also a number of process-level questions that arose during the TIG comment process that TIG Support will circulate to the TC.

The LA and RW TIGs will give their report outs on the next TC call.

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

- a. Discussion: SOP – Status update. The document is nearly updated, and both a clean and redline version will be circulated via TIG support. The aim is to receive fatal flaws/comments and then the SOP may be approved via resolution.

5-Year Programmatic Review – The Cross TIG MAM has done a lot of work on the reporting template and helped raise higher level questions. The LAT is working with the Cross TIG MAM on the questions/process and would like to ask the TC to have the Cross TIG MAM hold off on approving the template until the larger questions are considered. The LAT met with a contractor to discuss ideas for the 5-year review. The goal is to have an outline for the TC to review and approve by the October call.

Annual Reporting Timeframe – The TC decided May 31, 2020, will be the publication deadline for annual reporting. Other key dates are: October 15 for beginning communications with the TIG; DIVER training will be conducted in the fall; and data entry will open on January 2. The full schedule will be circulated via email.

Updates to the Trustee website – NOAA and the LAT are working on updates to the website to make it more user friendly. Updates include text revisions, adjusting the order of content blocks, and creating new features such as a box that links to PEPC for plans that are in draft form.

Discuss potential dates for the 2020 Public Meeting – All Trustees responded to the survey and June 16-18 are the dates that work for most Trustees. Texas has a conflict because the Gulf of Fisheries Management meetings that week. Another popular choice is July 14-16; however, that one wasn't selected by LA as a preferred date and they are the host. The group discussed the two date options and Texas can work with the June 16-18 date.

Decision: The meeting will be held on June 16-18 in Louisiana.

## **Other Business**

- a. Ocean Conservancy Letter and Response. A draft of the response was circulated earlier today via email. The group discussed edits to the draft letter. The revised letter will be circulated to the TC for approval, and Doug and Ben will be sent a courtesy copy shortly before it's sent to the Ocean Conservancy.
- b. Discussion of the GoMOSES request. The TC decided that they will stay involved in GoMOSES at their current levels and will contemplate further involvement in the future. The Chair and the LAT will get in touch with Dr. McKinney.
- c. Vice Chair Rotation. New vice chair term takes effect on October 1, and USDA will provide a name to the TC before the end of September.
- d. The next TC call is Monday, October 7.