

**DWH Trustee Council
10/7/19 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Homer Wilkes
	Kelly Swindle	Debora McClain	Mark Defley
	Jane Calamusa	Ann Hijuelos	Ron Howard
LA			
Bren Haase	FL		
Billy Plauche	Gareth Leonard	NOAA	
		Chris Doley	LAT
MS	EPA	Rachel Sweeney	Holly Herod
Chris Wells	Mary Kay Lynch	Stephen Heverly	Nanciann Regalado
	Tim Landers		

Discussion Item 1: Alice Perry (RESTORE) – 10-year Report

- a. Discussion: Alice Perry from RESTORE joined the call to present the 10-Year Report that Alice is pulling together to mark the 10-year anniversary of the oil spill. The intent is for the document to be easily accessible to the general public. There is an outline drafted and goal is to gather information that is already publicly available in a cohesive way. The RESTORE council is asking whether the NRDA Trustee Council would like to participate in its 10-Year Report. Alice would use the TC website as an information source if the TC agrees to participate. Writing of the 10-Year Report has already begun. NFWF has not yet been contacted, but that will happen in the next few days. The group discussed the format and goals for the report. RESTORE Council’s intent with the document is to have NRDA, RESTORE Council, and NFWF provide highlights of their accomplishments over the last ten years for inclusion in the report. Discussion ensued on whether the groups want to combine in this manner. If TC decides to provide information, then it is requested to do so by October 17.

The TC discussed whether they want to participate in the RESTORE Council’s document.

- b. Action Items:
1. Alice will provide a revised outline for circulation to the TC and will let the TC know whether NFWF is participating in the report.
 2. The TC will hold an additional call later in the week to continue the discussion.

Discussion Item 2: Report Outs

- a. LA TIG: The TIG is busy on many fronts. They held their first web-based meeting a few weeks ago, which went well. Two large early restoration projects (Lake Hermitage Wetland Restoration Project and three out of four LA Outer Coast Restoration components) have completed construction and are now in the monitoring phase. The fourth component, Breton Island, will start construction soon. There are also a number of projects in the planning and construction phases. Selected examples include: construction on Queen Bess Island (currently underway) and Rabbit Island (ideally in construction next summer). Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation is a bit behind the others and is now in the preliminary design phase. There are numerous additional projects that are expected to begin construction next year. The LA TIG is also drafting several restoration plans including:
- Barataria Basin Strategic Restoration Plan: The plan includes two projects that will move forward. The Large Scale Marsh Creation project is in the review of alternatives process. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is in the drafting stage for EIS and Restoration Plan development and the goal is to have it out for public review next summer.
 - Living Coastal and Marine Resources Plan: In the early planning stages.
 - Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan: In the early planning stages.
- b. RW TIG: The RW TIG released a call for projects for RP 1 on September 25, with a closing date of October 25. The TIG is working on developing screening criteria. They would like to issue a notice of restoration planning in March 2020, release a draft in September 2020, and release a final plan in January/February 2021. They expect the plan will focus on all four RW restoration types (oysters, marine mammals, sea turtles, and birds). The RW TIG also has three early restoration projects that are ongoing. Two will come to a close in early 2020, and the Phase IV sea turtle project is going well and will continue for several more years.

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

Discussion Item 3: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. Cross-TIG MAM: No update for this month.

Discussion Item 4: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- Five-year programmatic review – The LAT walked through the circulated concept for the 5-year review. Overall the proposal would be a concise and easy-to-read document that takes advantage of existing tools and information to efficiently create a product. The goal is to provide feedback on the general concept by October 25. The LAT would then work with the contractor and Cross-TIG MAM to present three mock-ups. The expected date for publication is late summer 2021. In late 2018 the Trustee Council directed the Cross-TIG MAM to focus on the data evaluation section and the LAT to focus on the governance section. This proposal combines the Cross-TIG MAM focus and the LAT focus in one report. There was a question about the use of a 30-year time horizon the LAT included in the proposal. The cost estimate for different products would be provided in the mock-ups. The group discussed how the TIG information was expected to be gathered via a template the Cross-TIG MAM developed and whether this is focused solely on projects or on both projects and outcomes. Perhaps DIVER could be adapted to gather some of this information going forward.

Action Item: Request to provide feedback to the LAT on the general concept by October 25.

- Recommendations on 10-year messaging – The group walked through the LAT’s recommendations for a TC 10-year-remembrance that was circulated with the draft agenda. Option one is a statement via email using the current list serve that also includes members of the press. Option two is a slight variation that combines photos, captions, and quotes with the statement. The group discussed these options. There was concern expressed by some members about not duplicating efforts between the 10-year-remembrance, 5-year report and possibly the RESTORE document.

Action Item: The TC will hold an additional call later in the week to continue the discussion.

- SOP – Status update. This information will be circulated via email due to the call running long.
- Annual Reporting Timeframe – This information will be circulated via email due to the call running long.
- Authorized budget change form – This information will be circulated via email due to the call running long.

Other Business

- a. Vice Chair Rotation – The incoming Vice Chair will be Dr. Homer Wilkes representing USDA.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, November 4.
- c. TIG Support will set up a call for Thursday or Friday to continue discussion of the RESTORE Council's and the LAT's 10-year-remembrance proposals.

**DWH Trustee Council
10/11/19 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	NOAA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
James Murphy		Debora McClain	
LA			USDA
Bren Haase			Homer Wilkes
Billy Plauche	FL		
Matt Mumfrey	Gareth Leonard	EPA	LAT
	Leslie Ames	Mary Kay Lynch	Holly Herod
MS		Treda Grayson	Nanciann Regalado
Chris Wells			

Discussion Item 1: (RESTORE) – 10-year Report

a. Discussion:

The TC discussed whether they want to participate in the RESTORE document and at what level. A revised RESTORE report outline was distributed to the Trustee Council earlier in the week. Questions to discuss:

1. Does the TC want to participate in the 10-year Report? If yes, at what level and by whom?
2. What participation will NFWF have in RESTORE’s report? NFWF is not planning to participate in any substantive way, and it is not known whether they will be doing any marking of the date on their own.

b. Decision: The Trustee Council agrees that it is appropriate for the RESTORE Council to mention NRDA as part of the context for the funding streams and the Trustee Council will provide the language for the document from existing documents, but will not further participate in the drafting of the RESTORE document.

c. Action Items:

- 1) EPA will provide comments to the RESTORE Council on its outline as it relates to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.
- 2) EPA will propose a draft paragraph and send it to the Chair and Vice Chair for review and circulation to the TC for approval and submit it to the RESTORE Council for inclusion in the document as soon as possible in the next two weeks. USDA will

communicate the group's decision to Alice Perry, and the Chair will communicate the decision to Ben Skaggs and request a courtesy review of the document 10-Year Report.

Discussion Item 2: LAT Recommendation on 10-year-commemoration

- a. Discuss the LAT recommendations for the anniversary. The group walked through the two options. The second option differs from the first option by including additional details such as photographs and quotes. The group discussed the coordination of Trustee agency, TIG, and Trustee Council messaging surrounding the anniversary.
- b. Action Items:
 - 1. The TC will continue to think about any commemoration and will discuss it on the next call.
 - 2. Individual Trustees and TIGs should think about what actions they might take at that level and what the expectations are of the Trustee Council as a whole.

Discussion Item 3: Business Rules

- a. Discuss the Business Rules that were recently rolled out.
- b. Action Item: The LAT will coordinate with MS and then will share the insights with the group.

**DWH Trustee Council
11/4/19 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
	Patti Powell	Debora McClain	
LA	Amy Hunter		EPA
Bren Haase	Kelly Swindle		Mary Kay Lynch
Billy Plauche	Jane Calamusa	NOAA	
		Chris Doley	
	FL	Rachel Sweeney	LAT
MS	Gareth Leonard	Aileen Smith	Nanciann Regalado
Chris Wells		Stephen Heverly	
Gary Rikard			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG has a number of projects in implementation. For example, the Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education Area parcel was acquired on October 30 and the archaeological survey will occur soon. The Laguna Cove property closed in September. All land acquisitions from Restoration Plan I are complete. For Restoration Plan II, the East Gateway Tract at Weeks Bay is expected to close by the end of the month and all other RPII projects are on schedule. The draft final Restoration Plan III is out for TIG review through COB tomorrow. The plan includes seven preferred alternatives for a total of \$22 million. The final document will be sent to DOI by November 19 for their internal review with the goal to publish RPIII by December 18.
- b. FL TIG: The TIG approved the Phase V.3 Coastal Access Project Final Restoration Plan in September. This is the land acquisition project in Santa Rosa county and the Trustees expect to close on the property in a few weeks. The FL TIG is currently implementing the 23 restoration projects approved in FL Restoration Plan 1. The FL TIG also requested project ideas for Restoration Plan 2 and is busy sorting and reviewing the project submissions. They expect RP2 to focus on oysters, birds, marine mammals, turtles, recreational use, 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: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. There is no update for this month.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- Recommendations on 10-year messaging – The group discussed the revised 10-year remembrance document that was circulated with the agenda. The current proposal is for a web story that will be posted on the Trustee website as well as circulated via email per the usual listserv. The group discussed whether the accomplishments should be connected back to the goals in the PDARP. This would allow the focus of the web story to be at the Gulf level. There was general support for the re-organization and to add in examples of early restoration. DOI is interested in forming a small group to draft the web story once the outline is complete.

Action Items:

1. The LAT will send an updated version to TIG support for distribution.
 2. Trustees should review the examples and provide information back to the LAT and TIG support by November 18.
- SOP – The revised SOP was circulated to the TC on October 30 with revised files sent on October 31. Comments/corrections were originally requested by November 22. The group discussed the approval process for an SOP revision and why the revisions are being undertaken at this time. The LAT stated that current SOP has placeholders and areas that need updating. The original SOP was finalized in April 2016 and updated in November 2016 by resolution. The approval process for this update is the same as the November 2016 modification. Once the revisions are complete and the document is reviewed, the TC may approve the revised SOP via a resolution. Once approved, the revised version would be posted on the administrative record and the Trustee website. The deadline for comments on the circulated version will be extended until Friday, December 13.
 - Action Item:
 1. The deadline for comments on the circulated version of the SOP is extended until Friday, December 13.
 - Business rules – The group discussed the approval process for business rules. The LAT clarified that the process for business rules is different than the SOP. There is no set approval process right now for business rules that are developed to address existing problems. However, if there is a completely new business rule then the group will discuss. In the future, the LAT will endeavor to explain the necessity for the business rule up front.
 - Website updates – Development on the website updates are underway and are on schedule. The web team will keep the TC updated as the rollout date gets closer.

Other Business

- a. The NRDAR paragraph for the RESTORE Council report was sent to RESTORE Council staff last week.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, December 2.
- c. Reminder – 2020 TC Public Meeting – Please hold June 16, 17, and 18. The exact dates and times will be confirmed closer to the meeting.

**DWH Trustee Council
12/2/19 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Homer Wilkes
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Ron Howard
	Seth Newton	Ann Hijuelos	
LA	Jane Calamusa		EPA
Bren Haase			Mary Kay Lynch
Matt Mumfrey		NOAA	Gale Bonanno
	FL	Chris Doley	
MS	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	LAT
Chris Wells		Laurie Rounds	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			Nanciann Regalado

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **TX TIG:** The TX TIG is holding their annual public meeting as a pre-recorded presentation via webinar that is available to the public on Wednesday, December 4. In project news, the TX TIG has several projects that are nearly complete including the Sea Rim State Park Improvements; the shoreline erosion protection project at Indian Point Park; and approximately 3,000 acres of habitat acquisition at several refuges. The TX TIG is also planning to release a nutrient reduction strategies report on Wednesday in conjunction with the public meeting. The report will help the TX TIG determine where to conduct nutrient reduction work in the future.

- b. **OO TIG:** The OO TIG has approved and anticipates releasing their second restoration plan this week. The plan focuses on restoration projects for sea turtles, marine mammals, fish, and mesophotic reefs and deep benthic habitats restoration areas. The TC will receive a pre-publication copy of the executive summary this week. The final restoration plan selects 18 projects for a total cost of almost \$226 million. The OO TIG is looking forward to working with the state partners to implement the projects. NOAA is also leading outreach to key stakeholders for legislative and media contacts the day before the plan’s release. The OO TIG is also continuing work on its MAM strategy and identifying initial MAM priorities. The OO TIG held a workshop in late November to discuss MAM priorities and are planning to meet in January to discuss the recommendations. The TIG anticipates releasing a strategy in early 2020. The OO TIG is holding its annual meeting on December 12 via webinar, which includes a Q and A session.

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

Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. Discussion: The Cross-TIG MAM is continuing to look at the project level monitoring information in DIVER to explore how it can be monitored across the TIGs.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:

- 5-year review concept and comments – Thanks for the comments on the PowerPoint concept and the discussion on the October call. An email was sent out in response to comments, but there is some further discussion that is needed.

Q1: Should an ad hoc workgroup be stood up? If so, should this workgroup serve as a pre-review to work through the 5-year program review?

Q2: What topics should be addressed in the review? The proposal is to produce a mockup of the report at different detail levels for the TC to consider. The idea is to have a basic report and then the TC can choose to add additional details. The proposal is for the LAT to work with the Cross-TIG MAM on the mockup and then run it through the ad hoc committee before it goes to the TC. The information from the Cross-TIG MAM template is also included in the “menu options” that the TC would consider. The Cross-TIG MAM template would include the items that the TC selects for the report. The Cross-TIG MAM will draft the areas related to MAM and TIG activities, and the LAT will work on the administrative activities and information gathering from DIVER. The rest of the information would come from the TIGs. This 5-year activity has two parts: some of this information is designed to be a self-review for the Trustee reflection and some of it is an external piece for the public. The goal is to bring additional information to the TC for review and selection in February or March 2020. The target due date will be determined once the mockup has been selected and will depend on the complexity of the document.

Decisions:

1. The TC agrees to stand up an ad hoc workgroup to work on the 5-year review.
2. TC agrees that mockups would be useful.

Action Items:

1. If you would like to join the workgroup, email TIG support and the LAT coordinator by December 6.

SOP – The TC discussed reassembling the small group for reviewing the SOP. The small group previously worked on the SOPs and there is a proposal to reconvene the group. There was a suggestion to hold a call or webinar to discuss the changes that were made so far. The first overview call will be open to anyone on the TC who wants to attend, and then the small group will continue the discussion.

Decisions:

1. TC agrees to reassemble the SOP small group, if needed after the overview call.

Action Items:

1. TIG support will schedule an overview call to review the SOP changes.
 2. If you would like to join the SOP workgroup, email TIG support and the LAT coordinator.
- Plans for the 2020 TC Public Meeting – Research is ongoing for meeting locations and more details will likely be available later this month. LA offered their assistance with venue research if needed.
 - Discuss recommendations for the 10-year-remembrance – The outline for the 10-year message is drafted and the next step is to begin drafting the text. Comments were requested via TIG support. The goal is to form a small group to begin drafting the 10-year remembrance message. The aim is to have the draft done far in advance of the anniversary.

Action Items:

1. TIG support will re-circulate the document and request comments from the Trustees.
2. Email TIG support if you would like to join the 10-year-remembrance small group.

Other Business

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

**DWH Trustee Council
12/16/19 Webinar Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Johanna Gregory Belssner	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Mark Defley
Michael Tennant	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
Michael Lewis	Seth Newton	Clare Cragan	
Scottie Aplin	Kelly Swindle		EPA
Ray Newby	Nicole Hampton		Gale Bonanno
			Treda Grayson
	FL		Tim Landers
	Gareth Leonard	NOAA	
	Lisa Robertson	Aileen Smith	
MS		Jamie Schubert	LAT
Valerie Alley		Laurie Rounds	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis	LA	Stella Wilson	Andy Schwarz
Melanie Green	Ann Howard	Melissa Carle	
Alaine Young	Denise Stafford	Christy Fellas	

Discussion Item 1: SOP Webinar

Discussion: The LAT walked through the current redline draft version of the Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures.

Decisions:

1. Several topics will be discussed in greater detail during an ad hoc small group call.

Action Items:

1. The LAT will circulate the appendices to the SOP and the changes to the environmental compliance manual.
2. The business rules will be posted on SharePoint.
3. The LAT will add the new set of Trustee comments to the document and will set up a series of small group calls.
4. Comments are requested by 12/20 (if possible) for those who have yet to submit comments.
5. The LAT will recirculate the original set of comments received on the document.