

**DWH Trustee Council
4/6/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Homer Wilkes
	Kelly Swindle	Nanciann Regalado	
LA	Jane Calamusa	Ann Hijuelos	
Bren Haase			EPA
Matt Mumfrey	FL	NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
Greg Grandy	Phil Coram	Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
Rachel Haney	Nadia Martin	Rachel Sweeney	
	Gareth Leonard	Aileen Smith	LAT
MS		Laurie Rounds	Holly Herod
Chris Wells		Stephen Heverly	
Bradley Ennis			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **TX TIG:** The TX TIG is busy implementing projects from early restoration and RP1. Highlights include:
 - The Indian Point Stabilization project funded the construction of six breakwaters to stabilize shoreline and construction is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony is in the planning process.
 - For the water quality nutrient reduction project, the Nutrient Reduction Strategies Report was unveiled in the fall and presented during the public meeting in early December. Stakeholder outreach is now in progress. This is a multi-month stakeholder reach-out phase before the implementation phase will begin.
 - Two of the three wildlife recreational use projects are complete and the last one is nearly done. These projects acquired over 5,200 acres of property for the refuge systems in Bahia Grande, Laguna Atascosa, and the Mid-Coast project in Matagorda County.

- b. **OO TIG:** The OO TIG is in the process of finalizing the OO TIG MAM priorities which they anticipate releasing in the next few months. In 2019 the OO TIG approved 21 restoration projects for all six restoration types in RP1 and RP2. NOAA and DOI are the implementing trustees for those projects, which will ideally get underway in 2021. The OO TIG has started work on three MAM activities (two Gulf sturgeon, one marine mammal). The OO TIG is also continuing implementation of early restoration projects. The Oceanic Fish Restoration project held its repose season with 13 participants. DOI

also completed (and will be closing out) two OO public access projects: Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project and Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement project.

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 previously circulated the annual task list and attached to the agenda. The task list is for the workgroup's efforts from July 2020-June 2021. The Cross-TIG MAM is requesting TC approval of the list so the group members can work on their estimated budgets. One follow-up from the discussion during the last call is that the bullet related to the Unknown Conditions TIG has been removed. There are "up to three" in-person meetings requested, but that number can be reduced as needed. A phrase about how the Council is keeping the work moving forward even amidst the current public health situation could be appropriate.
- b. Decision: TX, LA, MS, AL, FL DEP, FL FWC, DOI, NOAA, EPA, USDA approve the Cross-TIG MAM task list for July 2020-June 2021.
- c. Action Item: The Cross-TIG MAM members will develop their budgets. Those numbers will be inserted into the task list and then circulated to the TC and RW TIG.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:
 - 10-year commemoration update – The draft communication has undergone several rounds of comments. The latest version is posted on SharePoint and comments are requested by COB tomorrow, April 7. The group discussed potential edits given the current public health situation. The placeholders for project counts and funding will be filled in before the next review.
 - SOP small group update – This will be covered via email.
 - Plans for 2020 TC Public Meeting – The group discussed the plan for holding the in-person public meeting in June. The meeting could be postponed until later in the year or moved to a virtual meeting. The LAT will check to see if it is stipulated in the ROD and/or included in the SOP. Discussion. Many other organizations are moving toward webinars or a pre-recorded session. Additional thought would need to go into how to provide the opportunity for the public to give feedback should the meeting be virtual. The goal would be to move as many parts of the meeting to virtual as possible. Proposal to have a virtual meeting later in the year, June may be difficult

give the current climate. Idea is to push the meeting back to a later date and have in-person or virtual meeting as the situation changes. The next call should cover this.

- 5-year small group – This will be covered via email. Responses to the questions will be requested via email.

b. Decisions:

1. The small group will add in language to address the current public health situation in broad terms.
2. An in-person public meeting in June will not happen. The meeting, whether virtual or in-person, will be moved to later in the year.

c. Action Item:

1. The 10-year commemoration small group will draft language regarding the public health situation for the TC to consider.

Other Business

- a. Follow-up on 10-year state and agency plans: There may be some interest in developing a joint statement with NRDA, RESTORE, and NFWF. This may be difficult to get approved given the amount of time that is left. The Federal trustees are developing a consistent message and many state Trustees are doing their own communications. Louisiana has scaled back their plans for in-person activities and instead will now do all their plans virtually. Louisiana is developing a series of videos. There is not currently a lot of media interest, but closer to the date there might be more media attention. LA might also do events associated with the anniversary of the date of the cap (July or September) but those plans are not firmed up. TX, MS: They were always planning on virtual meetings so those will continue as scheduled. FL: Was planning on a ribbon cutting ceremony, however, that has been cancelled and replaced with web stories. DOI, NOAA, USDA, EPA: Will continue to do their social media, blog posts, and/or videos which they originally planned. *National Geographic* and the *Atlantic* are both working on articles and might get in touch with trustees.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, May 4.

**DWH Trustee Council
5/4/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Jane Calamusa	Debora McClain	
		Ann Hijuelos	EPA
LA			Mary Kay Lynch
Bren Haase	FL		Gale Bonanno
Matt Mumfrey	Phil Coram	NOAA	
	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	LAT
MS		Rachel Sweeney	Holly Herod
Chris Wells		Stephen Heverly	Nanciann Regalado
Bradley Ennis		Natalie Gardner	

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **MS TIG:** The MS TIG released their Restoration Plan 2 for public comment on April 22 and will hold a webinar on May 13. The plan includes two wetlands coastal nearshore projects and two oyster projects. The wetlands projects involve habitat management on two state owned and managed properties in the coastal preserves program. They also include a pilot for prescribed grazing for removal of invasive plants. The oyster projects include deployment of cultch within Mississippi Sound and a continuation of the Oyster Gardening Program that was originally funded through NFWF. The total project cost for all four projects is approximately \$15M. The MS TIG hopes to finalize the plan by the end of the calendar year.

- b. **Cross-TIG MAM:** The Cross-TIG MAM walked through the completed tasks document. The team is continuing to work on monitoring guidance for the living coastal and marine resources. The draft guidance documents are undergoing technical review by Cross-TIG MAM members and they are discussing how to organize the guidance so it is easy to use by the TIGs. The group completed the Wetlands, Coastal, Nearshore Restoration Type pilot study effort and is continuing work on developing content for the 5-year programmatic review. The group catalogued key findings of this pilot effort in a few different ways: 1) prepared a summary of available information or monitoring data that are in DIVER; 2) identified some options for how that information might be aggregated across projects and TIGs; and 3) documented how feasible it was to use DIVER for this purpose as well as observations we noted along the way. The team also made a presentation at the GoMOSES conference in February.

The Cross-TIG MAM is also working on a budget task list for the RW TIG. The numbers are still being refined, but will likely be sent to the TC and RW TIG this week. The TC approved the task list on the April call and the budget will need to be approved by the RW TIG.

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

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- SOP small group update – The team sent a draft decision memo to review before this call. Responses on the memo are requested by May 15.
- Annual Reporting Web Story – There will be a web story to accompany the June 1 release of the annual reports. Please keep eye out for the email requesting review of the web story.
- 2020 TC Public Meeting Planning – On a prior call the TC decided to postpone the annual public meeting that was originally planned for June in New Orleans. There's a need to continue planning for that meeting. The TC discussed meeting location, timing, and format. An in-person meeting is preferable but may not be possible given the current public health situation. If there is a webinar it's important to have a public comment opportunity. The group discussed accessibility issues. There was a suggestion to hold a webinar in July. Staff will get in touch with the RESTORE Council because they might also be planning a meeting in July.
- Gulf Spill Restoration Website Updates – In the fall, the TC heard a few updates about improvements to the Gulf Spill Restoration website. Those improvements are now closer to being rolled out. The group walked through a short presentation on the planned website improvements. The communications team will need to touch base with the TIGs to update the text. In an ideal world the website improvements would roll out just before the annual reporting. The team will endeavor to have the updates ready by then.

b. Decisions:

1. Plan for a webinar in mid-July to serve as the annual public meeting.
2. The TC approves the communications team working with the Public Affairs Community of Practice and the TIGs as needed to update their website text.
3. There is no need for TC approval on the Restoration Area webpage content.

c. Action Item:

1. Send responses to the SOP decision memo by May 15.
2. The communications team will think about access issues, dates, and format for a virtual meeting in July.

Other Business

- a. 10-Year Remembrance Feedback. There were a number of stories in the local Louisiana press covering the event. Some of the items were eclipsed by larger news events, but generally the Trustee products were well-received.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, June 1.

**DWH Trustee Council
6/1/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
James Murphy	Nicole Hampton	Mary Josie Blanchard	Tanya Culbert
		Debora McClain	
LA		Ann Hijuelos	EPA
Bren Haase			Mary Kay Lynch
Matt Mumfrey	FL		Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	Phil Coram	NOAA	
	Gareth Leonard	Chris Doley	LAT
MS	Nadia Martin	Rachel Sweeney	Holly Herod
Chris Wells		Jamie Schubert	Nanciann Regalado
Bradley Ennis			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. LA TIG: The LA TIG has several updates on completed restoration plans and projects.
 - The Queen Bess Island project was successfully completed in March 2020. The governor attended the groundbreaking ceremony and the pelican nesting has been going really well.
 - Restoration Plan 1.3 was completed in February 2020 and includes \$37M for two projects: Rabbit Island and Jean Lafitte Shoreline Protection.
 - Restoration Plan 6 was approved in April 2020 and includes \$209M for three projects: West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization Nourishment (\$92.5), Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (\$50M), and Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline (\$66M).
 - Ongoing Restoration Plan efforts including three draft restoration plans that are near completion and have been through the public comment period. If approved there would be more than \$390M in approved projects.
 - Restoration Plan 7 for wetlands, coastal nearshore habitat and bird projects is just getting underway. The screening team is nearing completion of their work and the LA TIG hopes to release a draft plan in November 2020.

- b. RW TIG: The RW TIG is focused on the planning process for Restoration Plan 1. They are anticipating including projects for all four RW restoration types (oysters, birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals). The team has been working on screening project concepts and then developing potential projects for the RW TIG to consider. The TIG is currently

working on completing their reasonable range of alternatives by mid-June.

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

Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update

- a. Discussion: Update on the Cross-TIG MAM budget for next year. The Cross-TIG MAM is still working on the funding request with the RW TIG. The LAT helped draft a resolution for \$860,000 for the next year. Due to carryover, the requested funding for this year is approximately \$400,500. There are a few outstanding numbers to confirm and then the resolution will be executed by the RW TIG.
- b. Action Items: The RW TIG will finalize and execute the resolution in the near future.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:
 - 5-Year Program Review update – The small group is working on an outline of potential topics to include in the 5-year review that will be brought to the TC. The group discussed whether the TC would like to say anything about the upcoming 5-year program review during the public meeting.
 - Web Story update – Three web stories (webinar save the date, 2019 annual reporting, and the update of the Gulf Spill Restoration website) were circulated last week for TC review. The deadline was last Friday at noon. The edits have been incorporated and the annual reports story should be posted on the Gulf Spill Restoration website today.
 - 2020 TC Public Meeting Planning – The group walked through the detailed email sent to the TC on May 21. The group discussed logistics for the webinar including the date, time, and whether they can see the presenters/listeners. There are options including showing both the PowerPoint presentation and the speaker/facilitator or only showing the slides. Another suggestion was to add headshots onto the slide with the listening panel names. The format will be GoToWebinar. The group discussed the details of how to take public comments. The idea is to have all comments be verbal for three minutes and a court reporter will produce a transcript. The registration link will include a request about whether they would like to speak and then follow-up instructions will be sent. The agenda for the webinar will be:
 - Introductions (Perry Franklin will facilitate)
 - TC Presentation (Bren Haase)
 - TIG Presentations
 - Public Comments – three minutes per person and facilitated by Perry Franklin

- To conduct the public comment session, we will open the audio line of each person making a public comment.
- Wrap up (Bren will thank commenters, audience for attending, and close the meeting)

The Cross-TIG MAM group recommending that a workshop is not held during the July meeting. The TC decided there will be no MAM workshop this year.

The group discussed whether the TC would like to have a virtual open house where the public can converse with TIG members in a less formal way (essentially mimicking the open house) and if so how to make that happen virtually. One idea is for each TIG to have their own link and then people could attend that “table”. In that case the TIG lead and others be monitoring the chat box and answer questions verbally. There are also other options that could be developed further if the TC is interested. There is some concern that re-creating an informal conversation is not possible to recreate virtually.

The Communications team is working on the materials and will send the TC presentation for review and edits in the near future.

b. Decisions:

1. There will not be a Cross-TIG MAM workshop this year.
2. There will not be a virtual open house this year.
3. The date is July 16, 2020 and it will be held in the early evening.

c. Action Item:

1. The 5-Year Review Small Group will prepare talking points in the event that the TC decides to include that information in the annual meeting.
2. The communications team will request headshots to accompany the slide of the listening panel and will circulate the public meeting materials to the TC for review in the near future.

Other Business

- a. The federal Trustees are preparing an update for their political appointees. Most of that information will come from information in DIVER. There may be some TIG-specific reach-backs to confirm information. The federal Trustees are aiming to pull together a high-level gathering of project status and ongoing initiatives in the next two weeks.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, July 6.