

**DWH Trustee Council  
7/6/20 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
	Kelly Swindle	Ann Hijuelos	<b>EPA</b>
<b>LA</b>	Emily Seale		Mary Kay Lynch
Bren Haase	Jane Calamusa		Tim Landers
Maury Chatellier		<b>NOAA</b>	Treda Grayson
Matt Mumfrey	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	
	Phil Coram	Rachel Sweeney	<b>LAT</b>
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard		Holly Herod
Chris Wells			Nanciann Regalado
Bradley Ennis			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG released its third restoration plan in December 2019. Construction on two of the projects included in that plan has already started. The Dauphin Island West End acquisition is scheduled to close around mid-October and the Gulf State Park Pier Renovation is expected to be re-opened later this summer. The contract for the Point aux Pins Living Shoreline construction was executed in June, and pre-construction meetings are ongoing. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of October.
- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG is focusing on its second post-settlement restoration plan. The first post-settlement plan was approved in March 2019 and one of those water quality projects (Alligator Lake Hydrological Restoration) is now complete. The second restoration plan had a call for projects in August 2019 and will focus on recreational use, habitat on federally managed lands, birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles. The project screening is nearly complete and the TIG expects to have a reasonable range of alternatives later this month with a draft plan released either the end of 2020 or the beginning of 2021. This plan will look to leverage and build upon a number of potential Region-wide projects (particularly birds and sea turtles).

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

**Discussion Item 2: Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update**

- a. Discussion: No updates at this time.

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

a. Discussion:

- TC Chair rotation –Bren was thanked for his work as Chair of the Trustee Council over the last year. Per the SOP, Texas will take over duties of that role starting August 1, and Robin Reichers will fill that position.
- Website update – The updates for the website previously reviewed with individual TIGs/Trustees are still with NOAA, which is working to get them live on the website.
- 2020 TC Public Webinar Planning – The webinar will be held on July 16 at 6 pm central. Friday, EOD was the deadline for review of materials (factsheets, MAM, data factsheet, script, and post-webinar webstory). Some edits have been received and the Comms team is aiming to distribute revised documents later today or early tomorrow.

The Comms team has held a few practice webinars with Perry Franklin and the team to work through any logistical issues. On Monday, July 13 we will have full dress rehearsal with Bren, Perry, the American Sign Language interpreters, TIG speakers, and the court reporter.

We will only be taking public comments, not answering questions, during the webinar. We will answer logistical or technical questions via the chat function of the webinar. Bren and Perry will show their webcams so attendees will see some faces during the webinar. The transcript will be posted after the webinar. We will also be updating the registration story with the factsheets. There are currently 140 people registered and 12 speakers signed up.

Discussion included virtual meeting security, the speaker order, and logistics for the webinar.

### **Other Business**

- a. The Trustee Council received a letter from Ocean Conservancy which was distributed on June 14. The group discussed a response to the letter which was also sent to the Executive Director of the RESTORE Council. The LAT will draft an acknowledgement and circulate it to the TC for review and approval.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, August 3.

**DWH Trustee Council  
8/3/20 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Craig Johnson
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Tanya Culbert
	Kelly Swindle		
<b>LA</b>	Emily Seale		<b>EPA</b>
Bren Haase	Jane Calamusa		Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier		<b>NOAA</b>	Tim Landers
Matt Mumfrey	<b>FL</b>	Nadia Martin	Gale Bonanno
	Leslie Reed	Rachel Sweeney	
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Laurie Rounds	<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells		Ian Zink	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			Nanciann Regalado

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **TX TIG:** The TX TIG is implementing projects from their first restoration plan. Select project updates include:
- Indian Point Shoreline Protection Project: This project includes 2,800 feet of breakwaters that protect up to 50 acres of marsh and lagoon habitat. The project is now complete and has moved into monitoring.
  - Follets Island Land Acquisition: The TX TIG just closed on an additional 16 acres of undeveloped land that will be added to the protected area. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> tract acquired with *Deepwater Horizon* funds.
  - Mid-Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef: The project created habitat by sinking the 371-foot boat *The Kraken* off the coast of Galveston. So far, they are seeing some good attachment.

Planning has begun for the TX TIG’s second post-settlement restoration plan. They are anticipating a final plan release in spring 2022 and are currently working on the restoration types they will be considering.

- b. **OO TIG:** The OO TIG released their updated OO MAM Strategy in June. A copy of the strategy was circulated to the Trustee Council. The updated Strategy included the initial priorities for MAM in three categories:
- Evaluation of restoration outcomes and progress.
  - Characteristics of key stressors on open ocean resources.

- Assessment of focal open ocean resources and important habitats.

A public webinar was held on June 22, which was well attended and included a question and answer period. The next steps will be to select a subset of those priorities and begin work.

The OO TIG is also continuing to implement the 21 projects and three MAM activities approved in 2019, as well as the early restoration projects. NOAA recently completed several agreements with implementation partners including the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Florida Sea Grants, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Gulf of Mexico Coastal Observation System (GCOOS), and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association. Outreach and education work on the DOI-led project to protect nesting loon habitat is also underway with several public engagement activities about the harmful effects of lead tackle on loons. The OO TIG is also planning their annual meeting and expect it to be a webinar in the fall.

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: No updates at this time.

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

- a. Discussion:
  - 5-Year Program Review – The small group developed a recommendations document that was circulated with the call agenda. A subsequent email provided additional background information. The group discussed the proposed timing and content of the 5-year program review. The group discussed the expected level of effort, general timeframe to draft the review, and next steps. The group discussed the sharing of recommended timing (from the small group) and specific direction for the small group (from the TC).

#### Action Items:

1. Review the document and be ready to discuss on the September TC call.
2. The Cross-TIG MAM will continue to collect the available data.
3. Send any comments on the draft document to Holly and copy TIG Support in advance of the September call.
4. The small group will provide the TC with a proposed schedule.

- 2020 TC Public Webinar Wrap-up and Comments – Nearly 300 people registered for the webinar and 165 of those attended and typically stayed on for the entire time. There were public comments from seven individuals, some of whom were private individuals and others that were representatives from the National Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the National Wildlife Federation among others. About two weeks before the webinar an individual sent in comments because this person was no longer able to participate. The group discussed how to memorialize those additional comments for the record. The group also discussed how to respond to an email from an individual who went over their allotted 3-minute time and had additional comments he wanted to present.

Decision: The TC chair will work with the LAT to send responses to individuals after review by the Trustee Council, to those individuals. The additional submitted comments will be placed in the administrative record.

### **Other Business**

- a. The Trustee Council thanks Bren Haase for his leadership as the Trustee Council Chair over the past year.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, September 14.

**DWH Trustee Council  
9/14/20 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
	Kelly Swindle	Ann Hijuelos	
<b>LA</b>	Nicole Hampton		<b>EPA</b>
Maury Chatellier			Mary Kay Lynch
Matt Mumfrey		<b>NOAA</b>	Gale Bonanno
	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	
	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin	Aileen Smith	<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells	Leslie Reed		Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG has been busy working on several items.
  - The MS TIG finalized Restoration Plan 2 and expects to release it this week. RP2 allocates \$15.3 million total towards two wetlands, coastal, nearshore projects (\$4.8 million) and two oyster projects (\$10.5 million).
  - The TIG is also working on RP3, which will likely have a solicitation for project ideas released to the public soon. The reasonable range of alternatives is expected in Q1 or Q2 in 2021.
  - Early Restoration project updates: Construction recently began on 46 acres of marsh in Heron Bay, which is a part of the Hancock County Living Shoreline project. Construction is scheduled to begin in October on a 90-acre subtidal reef for the Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries project which was approved during early restoration.
  
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: The Cross-TIG MAM attached an activity update with the agenda for today's call. A few highlights include:
  - The group is focused on the programmatic review. They are in the process of extracting project-level information from DIVER and producing data summaries by restoration type.
  - They are also working on guidance documents for birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and fish and water column invertebrates.

- They are continuing to conduct data management coordination with the DIVER team and the LAT.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: LAT Items**

### a. Discussion:

- Vice Chair Rotation – The federal family rotates annually in October and Chris Doley (NOAA) will serve in that role for the upcoming year. The group thanks Homer Wilkes (USDA) for his work in the vice chair role in the previous year.
- Call note review – Please review the call notes posted on SharePoint.
- 5-Year Programmatic Review – The 5-Year Programmatic Review document with recommendations and Trustee comments was circulated before call. The Council discussed next steps. In general, the Council is agreeable with the draft document including the Trustee comments. The 5-Year small group will bring back any future decision items to the TC.

### b. Decision:

- The Trustee Council approves the 5-Year Small Group recommendations with comments and the timeline for the 5-Year Programmatic Review.

### c. Action Items:

- Review the call notes on SharePoint for the previous calls held this year.

## **Other Business**

- ### a.
- The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, October 5.