

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

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	
	Jane Calamusa		
LA			EPA
Bren Haase			Mary Kay Lynch
Alyson Graugnard		NOAA	
Billy Plauche	FL	Chris Doley	
	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	LAT
MS	Phil Coram		Holly Herod
Chris Wells	Nadia Martin		
Bradley Ennis			

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **MS TIG:** The MS TIG held their annual Restoration Summit in November 2019. The annual meeting for the MS TIG was included as part of the summit. During the summit the TIG announced their reasonable range of alternatives for both oyster and wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats. The proposed alternatives include oyster spawning reefs, oyster gardening, and habitat restoration on state-owned coastal preserves (Wolf River Coastal Preserve, Hancock County Coastal Preserve). The MS Technical Team is working on drafting RP 2 and the goal is to publish the draft early this year. The MS TIG also finished the Supplemental RP/EA for Grand Bay in fall 2019 in order to expand the project and potentially acquire additional properties.
- b. **Cross TIG MAM:** The PDF circulated with the draft agenda outlines the Cross-TIG MAM’s activity updates. Work continues for guidance documents on coastal restoration monitoring related to birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals. The TIG programmatic report template is complete and mock-ups are currently being drafted in coordination with the LAT. The Cross-TIG MAM will be presenting at GOMOSES conference in February. The Cross-TIG MAM will be having an in-person meeting this month to continue their ongoing work.

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

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- SOP – Follow up from the December 16 webinar. The LAT thanked the participants for attending the December 16 SOP small group call to discuss the proposed edits to the SOPs. The LAT has received comments from Trustees and is working alongside TIG support to incorporate this second round of comments into the proposal and to clean up the redlined document so that it is cleaner and easier to read. The next SOP small group will be scheduled soon with a poll. There was discussion about the difference between business rules and the SOPs. The business rules will also be discussed within the SOP small group.

Action Items:

1. The business rules will be discussed during the small group call.
 2. The LAT will circulate a poll via TIG support in order to schedule the next SOP small group call.
- Approval of TC call notes. Discussion of call note approvals.

Action Items:

1. Please complete any outstanding call notes reviews by next Friday, January 17 so those can be posted on the Trustee Council website.
- Annual Reporting period is now open. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the LAT.
 - Plans for 2020 TC Public Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans. A proposed agenda is below for TC consideration. The group discussed attendance and subject matter in prior years. Potential ideas for sessions this year include a repeat of the NRDA 101 presentation, a session on monitoring and adaptive management session, or another topic specific session.

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, June 17

8-12 meeting slot for TIGs if needed

1-5 meeting slot for OO TIG (confirmed, may be shorter)

Thursday, June 18

8-12 meeting slot for RW TIG (confirmed, may be shorter)

1-3 Hold for potential TC meeting (if needed)

3-4 NRDA 101

4-5 Break for dinner

5-6 Open house

6-7 Presentations

7-8 Open house

Action Items:

1. Comments on the draft agenda are requested by Friday, January 17 to TIG support and the LAT.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, February 3.

**DWH Trustee Council
2/3/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Jane Calamusa	Ben Frater	Homer Wilkes
James Murphy	Patti Powell	Ann Hijuelos	Ron Howard
LA			EPA
Alyson Graugnard	FL		Tim Landers
Billy Plauche	Gareth Leonard	NOAA	
	Phil Coram	Chris Doley	
MS	Nadia Martin	Aileen Smith	LAT
Valerie Alley		Jamie Schubert	Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis		Natalie Gardner	

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. LA TIG: The LA TIG has been busy implementing projects and drafting restoration plans.
 - RP1: This is a two-phase restoration plan that we finalized in 2017. In the phase one plan we approved E&D funding for six projects, one of which is the Queen Bess Island restoration project which is conducting a ribbon cutting this afternoon. Four other projects, Rabbit Island, Spanish Pass Ridge & Marsh Creation, Lake Borgne Marsh Creation, and Jean Lafitte Shoreline Protection, are currently in the second phase of restoration for construction funding. Those restoration plans are expected to be released to the public as final plans later this month. Last, is the Terrebonne Basin Ridge & Marsh Creation project, and we are currently working on a restoration plan for phase two construction funding of that project.
 - RP2: Reallocation of Recreational Use: Focuses on early restoration funds that were reallocated to four projects. Implementation is underway for three projects, which includes artificial reefs, fishing piers, and enhancements to Elmer’s Island. A supplemental environmental assessment is currently underway for the Lake Charles Science Center and Educational Complex.
 - RP3: Strategic Restoration Plan in Barataria Basin: This strategic restoration plan focused on wetland, coastal, and nearshore habitat restoration in the Barataria Basin and ultimately approved moving forward with large-scale diversions and marsh creation and ridge restoration projects. There are currently two phase two restoration plans ongoing: (1) to potentially fund the Mid-Barataria Sediment

Diversion (MBSD) and (2) to potentially fund a large-scale marsh creation project in the upper Barataria Basin. Both the MBSD restoration plan and EIS are underway, and the TIG intends to release the marsh creation restoration plan in the next few months.

- RP4: Includes 19 recreational use projects and four nutrient reduction projects that are currently underway.
 - RP5: Living Coastal Marine Resource - Oysters and Marine Mammals: This plan is being drafted, and the draft restoration plan is expected to be released to the public next month.
 - RP6: Wetlands Coastal and Nearshore Habitat: In this plan the LA TIG intends to approve construction funding for three projects initially funded for E&D through RESTORE Council. Those projects are: West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization, Golden Triangle Marsh Creation, and Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline. The draft restoration plan was out for public comment in December, and the final plan will ideally be out to the public in March/April 2020.
 - RP7: The LA TIG is aiming to have a draft plan released to the public later this year that includes bird restoration projects and projects to restore wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats. The notice to solicit project ideas was released to the public in December, and the TIG is reviewing projects received right now.
- b. RW TIG: For the last six months the RW TIG has focused on planning for their first restoration plan which will cover sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and oysters. They anticipate including about \$70 million for projects in the first plan divided amongst the four types in roughly the same percentages as in the settlement. The Notice of Solicitation for project ideas closed in October, and the TIG is now screening 5,100 projects that have been put into each of the state portals and the Trustee portal since the inception of the portals. The RW TIG developed a multi-step screening approach and it is currently down to 975 projects and have several additional steps. Screening is taking several months longer than originally expected due to the large volume of projects for consideration. The RW TIG anticipates releasing the draft plan to the public in August 2020 and the final plan in early 2021 (January or February). The TIG is also still implementing the sea turtle early restoration project.

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: The Cross-TIG MAM has addressed the comments received on the slides for the GoMOSES conference. The group has also completed some formatting changes and cleaned up the speaking notes. Approvals from MS, NOAA, DOI, EPA are needed today. These were given verbally on the call. Also, the Cross-TIG MAM workgroup held an in-person meeting in Port Aransas, TX. They discussed the status of new monitoring guidance, data management, and potential MAM content for the 5-year review programmatic review. The LAT joined by phone as part of the 5-year review.
- b. Decision: MS, NOAA, DOI, EPA approved the Cross-TIG MAM presentation posted on SharePoint.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:
 - 5-year review – The LAT is coordinating with the Cross-TIG MAM on the 5-year programmatic review.
 - SOP – A kick-off call was held two weeks ago, and last week the group discussed proposed edits to Chapters 9 and 10. Another small group call will be held on Friday, February 7. A further update will be provided on the next TC call.
 - Webinar plan update – TIG support provides webinar capabilities for TIGs who might want to use them. In the past, the LAT would facilitate a reimbursement; however, given the limited time and expense related to webinar hosting and minimal prep work, the LAT would like to try hosting a LAT webinar account that the TIGs can use without additional reimbursement.

Action Item:

1. If a TIG would like to request a webinar, please contact TIG support and the LAT.
- 10-year remembrance – This topic will be discussed on a future call.
- Plans for 2020 TC Public Meeting – Several Trustees suggested replacing the NRDA 101 session with a MAM presentation. There was a suggestion to adapt the Cross-TIG MAM GoMOSES presentation for that time slot and discussion about what that presentation could include. An outline of what could be covered in a potential presentation will be circulated to the TC, with the aim to decide a path forward on the March call.

Action Items:

1. Consider adapting the Cross-TIG MAM GoMOSES presentation for a more general audience and consider what other specific topics should be presented at a MAM session.

2. The LAT and Cross-TIG MAM will work on an outline and distribute it to the TC in advance of the March call.

Other Business

- a. State and agency plans for 10-year remembrance. This will be postponed until a later date. TIG support will circulate a poll to set up a date and time for an extra TC call before March 2. The idea is to have a discussion about the state and agency activities.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, March 2.

**DWH Trustee Council
2/20/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Caroline Sweeney	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Homer Wilkes
		Debora McClain	Ron Howard
LA	FL	Nanciann Regalado	Carrie Castille
Bren Haase	Gareth Leonard		
Gregory Grandy	Leslie Reed	NOAA	EPA
Matt Mumfrey		Chris Doley	Tim Landers
Rachel Haney		Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonnano
	MS	Aileen Smith	
	Chris Wells	Stephen Heverly	LAT
	Bradley Ennis	Natalie Gardner	Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: 10-Year Commemoration Activities

- a. Discussion: The group discussed the activities of the various agencies to mark the anniversary of the spill.
 - LA: The state has a number of events planned in conjunction with the 10-year commemoration of the spill.
 - The state is planning a week of service called “Coastal Week 2020”. Various partners (NGOs, service groups, etc.) have been contacted to see if they will participate and run their own service events from April 12 – April 19. A formal press release will come from the Governor’s office.
 - The LA legislature coastal day is Wednesday, April 18.
 - Sunday, April 19 will be a private event/thank you for stakeholders and leadership during the spill.
 - The plans for Monday, April 20 are still in the conceptual phase. The current thinking is that the day will be called, “Remembrance and Recovery” so there will be a private ceremony for families of the 11 men who died, likely at the Port Fourchon lost at sea memorial. Then the “Recovery and Restoration” event will likely start at 10:30 at Port Fourchon in one of the slips. The Governor may speak along with other government officials and perhaps attendees from the federal government. After that, they are planning a lunch in a tent on-site at the port and then in the afternoon there will be tours of the projects in the

vicinity (Queen Bess, Terrebonne Barrier Island Project, Caminada Headlands). They hope to have the details finalized soon. If LA needs any assistance from the federal Trustees, please let them know. The Trustee Council members will be invited to the lunch on the 20th by the Governor's office.

- NOAA: NOAA has two themes that will be the focus of web stories, blog posts, and social media. "Advancements on Response and Science" will focus on the state of the science related to oil spills over a week-long period likely starting in late March/early April. NOAA's outreach will also focus on several restoration projects and the people who are implementing those projects. Likely projects include the Gulf Corps effort and how the fishing community is a partner in fish restoration projects. As NOAA develops their FAQs and talking points they will share them with the group.
- DOI: DOI is planning to release a series of web stories, social media, and videos that are expected to be released in the days surrounding the commemoration of the incident. The exact rollout is still being determined.
- EPA: EPA is working on a video that will be released the week of April 13. The theme is on EPA's trusteeship in NRDA and the expertise and services that EPA brings to the NRDA. There will be a focus on projects in LA and MS.
- USDA: USDA is still firming up their outreach plans, but it will likely be similar to the other federal Trustees and be largely online.
 - USDA will forward an email describing the outreach that NFWF is planning. USDA also has call into the RESTORE Council to see what they are planning.
- FL: Florida has not yet planned any events, but they will let the Governor's office know that the Louisiana Governor's office is planning an event and will provide those details to the Governor's office.
- MS: Request for LA to provide an outline of the schedule and general activities to the TIG so they can share it with their leadership. MS is not planning any events.
- AL: The Governor is planning a day of service at a restoration project the Friday before the anniversary with media availability. They will share the LA plan for Monday with the AL Governor's office.
- TX: They have started initial discussions for activities, but do not yet have a plan.

- TC: The Council's joint activity will be a web story release on the Gulf Spill Restoration website. The website could also point to other stories/activities of the federal and state Trustees.
- The water subcabinet has representatives from the federal Trustees as well as several others. There is a desire from the Principals on that subcabinet that there is a concerted message from the federal family level. Perhaps the federal family will release a joint press release that could include the Governors of the Gulf states as well. The group is working on developing that message. The water subcabinet is also interested in general talking points and a general calendar.

b. Action Items:

1. LA will draft an outline of their events and share it with the group.
2. The Trustees will share/link/re-post media from all the Trustees when possible.
3. Water Subcabinet Principal and deputy-level contact information will be provided by USDA to the TC chair.

**DWH Trustee Council
3/2/20 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
	Kelly Swindle	Debora McClain	
	Nicole Hampton	Nanciann Regalado	
LA			EPA
Bren Haase	FL		Tim Landers
Matt Mumfrey	Phil Coram	NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
	Leslie Ames	Chris Dole	Gale Bonanno
MS	Nadia Martin	Rachel Sweeney	
Chris Wells			LAT
Bradley Ennis			Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. AL TIG: The AL TIG is busy implementing projects from a number of restoration plans.
 - The AL TIG finalized RP3 in December 2019. The plan focuses on recreational use and bird projects. At this point, the AL TIG is conducting initial compliance and is in the beginning stages of project implementation.
 - RP2 project implementation includes the Week Bay (East Gateway Tract) acquisition which closed in December and the Magnolia River (Holmes Tract) acquisition phase 1, which will start soon. The Assessment of Alabama Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphin Populations and Health project completed their first season earlier this year and biopsied 38 dolphins. In January 2020, the funding support for the Alabama Marine Mammals Stranding Network began.
 - RP1: The Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education Area project held a kickoff meeting last month. The Fort Morgan Pier project construction bids are under review.

- b. FL TIG: The FL TIG requested project ideas for RP2 early last fall; however, they decided to delay the screening of those projects to allow time for the RW TIG to complete their project screening for RW RP1. There is likely to be a fair amount of overlap on types of projects between the two TIGs. Once the RW TIG completes its screening, then the FL TIG will restart its screening process, likely later this month.

The FL TIG held their first annual summit last year. The all-day event was attended by 118 people and featured 25 presentations covering NRDA, NFWF, and RESTORE. The evening concluded with a public meeting of the FL TIG.

The Phase V early restoration project, Florida Coastal Access, has a number of project components that have recently been completed, including the Navarre Beach Marine Park in-holding acquisition, the Salinas Park addition (featuring an elevated boardwalk and pickleball courts), and Innerarity Point Park (which includes ADA compliant docks, picnic pavilions, and playgrounds among other amenities). Also suggest viewing the recent web story on Lynn Haven Preserve with the 25-foot crawfish climbing structure. 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: The Cross-TIG MAM is working with the LAT on the Programmatic Review efforts. The Programmatic Review small group is focusing on initial discussion topics and will be holding their kickoff call this Friday.

The Cross-TIG MAM is working on a write-up of the upcoming tasks for the next year. It will likely be available for TC review later this month and may be discussed during the April call. The group discussed whether the TC would like the Cross-TIG MAM to hold off on doing initial work on how to make progress on the unknown conditions.

- b. Action Item: The Cross TIG MAM task list for 2021 will be circulated for TC review in the next few weeks.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:
 - 10-year commemoration update – Last month the TC was provided with some options for activities related to the 10-year anniversary of the oil spill. It was decided to publish a web story on gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov and send that story out via email to the mailing list. A small group was formed with representatives from a number of the Trustees to draft and refine that message. The initial draft is ready for TC review, and the link will be circulated after the call. The document is in two parts, the first is the main story and the second includes the text for the internal links that provide the project information.
 - Plans for 2020 TC Public Meeting – We had to adjust the venue for the meeting and will now be at Le Pavillon hotel. On the previous TC call, the group discussed holding a NRDA 101 presentation or replacing it with a MAM focused session. The Cross-TIG MAM drafted a document that was attached to the agenda for the TC to consider for a potential MAM session. The goal is to make a decision on the April call. The TC discussed the different audiences (general public/NGOS/ technical stakeholders) and potential topics for the session.

b. Action Items:

1. Comments on the draft 10-year commemoration are requested by Friday, March 13 via SharePoint.
2. TIG support will circulate the room block link.
3. Review the MAM Workshop attachment and let the Cross-TIG MAM and LAT know if you have any questions. The goal is to make a decision on the content of the session during the April call.

Other Business

- a. Follow-up on 10-year state and agency plans: Louisiana circulated the outline of events for their 10-year anniversary activities. USDA will circulate any activities from NFWF and/or RESTORE when they become available.
- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is Monday, April 6.