

**DWH Trustee Council
4/4/22 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	Tanya Culbert
Angela Schrift	Jaime Miller	Nanciann Regalado	Craig Johnson
Mike Cave	Emily Seale		Jon Morton
	Jane Calamusa		
LA		NOAA	EPA
Maury Chatellier		Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
	FL	Aileen Smith	Treda Grayson
MS	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	Tim Landers
Chris Wells	Lisa Robertson	Melissa Carle	Mary Kay Lynch
Valerie Alley	Rachel Schmalfluss	Laurie Rounds	
Bradley Ennis	Amy Raker	Natalie Matthews	LAT
	Emily Mazur	Stephen Heverly	Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **TX TIG**: The TX TIG has a few updates for the group.
 - o The second-post settlement RP/EA was released to the public for review. The comment period recently closed and the TX TIG anticipates finalizing the plan by late summer.
 - o Construction of Dickinson Bay Island (part of the Texas Rookery Islands project) is well underway and is expected to be complete later this month. The island is targeting nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds.
 - o The McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration project is expected to start the mobilization phase in May 2022. This project leverages funding from many different sources and will revitalize 17 miles of shoreline on the upper Texas coast.
 - o The Pierce Marsh restoration project in Galveston Bay has just received its first batch of sediment from Army Corps of Engineers. They will likely need a few more batches of sediment in order to raise the land higher. The group discussed the options for local sediment sites to obtain dredged material.
- b. **OO TIG**: The Open Ocean TIG is busy implementing 27 restoration projects and MAM activities. They are holding a spring webinar at noon central on April 12. The webinar

will highlight information for their third restoration plan and a Strategic Plan for Fish and Water Column Invertebrates.

During the last update they mentioned they would focus on seabird restoration in Restoration Plan 3 which is being led by DOI. In March the OO TIG announced the initiation of drafting of the plan. They anticipate releasing the plan for public comment in late summer/early fall.

The Strategic Plan for the Fish and Water Column Invertebrates will be released late this week or early next week. The plan is intended to guide restoration planning for the remaining \$280 million in fish restoration. The factsheet was circulated to the leads of the other TIGs for awareness. They also presented the same information to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Technical Coordination Committee last month. An advance copy of the plan will be provided to the state TIG leads.

The OO TIG has also initiated a new process to identify priority MAM activities and approve MAM Implementation Plans. Earlier this year, they reviewed data and information needs from the OO trustees then identified several priorities to be developed into proposals to the TIG. They anticipate completing the selection of MAM activities and releasing final MAIPs later this summer.

The Return 'Em Right project is entering a new phase. The reduction to barotrauma of fish project has completed its first phase with for hire anglers. The website is www.returnemright.org. The next phase for the project will begin in early May and expand to private recreational anglers, charter captains, and industry groups. Social and print media will be used to help announce the availability of the training and gear. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the OO TIG representatives.

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

Discussion Item 2: Cross-TIG MAM

- a. **Standing Cross-TIG MAM Update:** The Cross-TIG MAM has two decisional items for the TC and one update.

Cross-TIG MAM Task List for 2022-2023: The group walked through the proposed task list. They expect the budget will be smaller than last year now that the programmatic review has been published.

- b. **Decision:** AL, MS, FL, LA, TX, DOI, NOAA, EPA, and USDA approve the proposed Cross-TIG MAM Task List for 2022-2023.

- a. **Cross-TIG MAM slides:** The slides are for the GOMCOM conference and use data that is already made public.
- b. Decision: AL, MS, FL, LA, TX, DOI, NOAA, EPA, and USDA approve the slide deck proposed by the Cross-TIG MAM.
- a. **Cross-TIG MAM Budget:** The group is discussing changing the CTM budget to align with the calendar year. If they do that then the budget for this cycle would be a 6-month or 18-month budget in order to get on an annual cycle.

Discussion Item 3: LAT Items

- a. Discussion:
 - 2022 TC Annual Public Meeting – The 2022 TC Annual Meeting and Open House will be held the evening of June 16, 2022. The public meeting will be held from 6-7 central and the open house from 7-7:30 central. Perry Franklin will facilitate the main meeting. We will need a new emcee for the open house portion; Lena Flannery can fill that role unless you would like to nominate somebody from your agency for that role.

Meeting Materials: A save the date web story will be circulated for review. There will also be a “registration is open” story later in May. The TC will need to review the TC slides, script, and factsheet in May which will be circulated via email.
 - Action Item: If you would like to nominate somebody for the emcee role please contact Nanciann and Holly.
 - Annual deposit resolution – The joint resolution was executed last week and is now posted in the administrative record. The distribution requests are in the process with the DOI financial team. The deposits will be made soon.
 - Gulf Spill Restoration Website – Staff update. Stephen Heverly is leaving NOAA at the end of the week to pursue another opportunity. NOAA will be relying on Stephanie Smith to fill in Stephen’s role. NOAA plans to hire somebody to fill that role in the future. In the meantime, please help the Comms team post webstories in a timely fashion. The comms team is meeting with TIG leads later this week to discuss details of how they can help ensure timely postings.

Other Business

- a. The group discussed the [report](#) that was put out by the National Academies of Sciences on the restoration of the Gulf. Several Trustees participated in the briefing, but many have not had a chance to closely review the document. If the Trustees would like to coordinate more closely with representatives from the National Academies of Sciences Bethany Kraft can help coordinate. The report references the work that the Trustees are doing across the Gulf.

Action Item: Consider adding this to the May agenda.

- b. The next regularly scheduled TC call is on Monday, May 2.

**DWH Trustee Council
5/2/22 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
James Murphy	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	Dinane Foster
Mike Cave	Jaime Miller	Nanciann Regalado	
	Emily Seale		
	Jane Calamusa		
LA	FL	NOAA	EPA
Bethany Kraft		Chris Doley	Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier		Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonanno
MS	Gareth Leonard	Melissa Carle	Treda Grayson
Valerie Alley	Lisa Robertson		Tim Landers
Bradley Ennis	Amy Raker		
	Rachel Schmalfluss		LAT
			Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG has a few updates for the group. They are finalizing their Restoration Plan 3 which is expected to be released to the public early this summer. The TIG has also begun work on Restoration Plan 4 and is in the process of screening projects in three restoration types. For the Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries early restoration project they have several components that are now complete and the last component of the living shoreline is in construction. The MS TIG also kicked off two habitat management projects from Restoration Plan 2, including activities for nuisance species removal and hydrologic connectivity.
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: The Cross-TIG MAM has been busy since the last update. They held several webinars to discuss lessons learned from the first programmatic review. Based on this they developed a set of recommendations to the TC. The group is working with the LAT and other small group members to compile a full set of recommendations that will be shared with the TC later in the year.

The Cross-TIG MAM also developed a presentation for the TC on information related to unknown conditions and adaptive management. That presentation and corresponding questions will be shared with the TC later in the year.

Several ongoing tasks will carry over into the funding for next year. Tasks include outlining a new section for the MAM manual related to the programmatic review, looking at the MAM template and how it is used by the TIGs, and discussing project monitoring

data integration into DIVER. The Cross-TIG MAM may do a test case to bring project monitoring data into DIVER.

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

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- 2022 TC Annual Public Meeting – The meeting planning is moving along on schedule. There are a few updates:
 - The Comms team is looking to firm up who will be speaking. Please mail those names to Nanciann and TIG support or input them into the slide deck.
 - If you are speaking please plan on logging into the webinar at 5:30 central.
 - Ben Frater (DOI) will serve as the emcee this year for the open house.
 - There are two web stories currently under review. Comments are requested by May 4.
 - The script and slide deck are also under review and comments are requested by May 24.
 - The factsheets (MAM, Data, TC) will be coming soon for review.
 - The Comms team is requesting that Trustees streamline the number of people answering questions during the open house open house so that number is manageable.
- Action Item: Review the web stories by May 4 and the slide and script by May 24.
- Annual reporting update – The TIG review phase is now underway and closes on May 20.
- National Academy Report – The group discussed the [report](#) that was put out by the National Academies of Sciences on the restoration of the Gulf. Several of their conclusions and recommendations are similar to ones that the Trustees are including on their own review of the programmatic review. In general, it can be difficult to get data out of DIVER due to how it is organized.
- Action Item: Once the LAT and Cross-TIG MAM after action items are submitted to the TC, those will be considered along with findings from the national academy of science report.

Other Business

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

**DWH Trustee Council
6/6/22 Conference Call Summary**

Attendees:

TX	AL	DOI	USDA
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Mike Cave	Amy Hunter	Nanciann Regalado	Tanya Culbert
	Jane Calamusa		Jon Morton
	Bethany Kraft		
			EPA
LA		NOAA	Mary Kay Lynch
Maury Chatellier	FL	Rachel Sweeney	Gale Bonanno
	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	Treda Grayson
MS	Lisa Robertson		
Bradley Ennis	Amy Raker		LAT
Chris Wells	Rachel Schmalfuss		Holly Herod

Discussion Item 1: Report Outs

- a. **LA TIG:** The LA TIG is busy with a number of efforts. In restoration planning they are working on Restoration Plan 3.2 Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion. They are now looking at a final plan near the end of 2022. The LA TIG received a significant number of comments on the draft plan. Draft Restoration Plan 8 is development is underway. The plan has two proposed engineering and design projects and two proposed projects for construction. The fatal flaw review will start later in June and a final plan is expected to be released soon thereafter. The LA TIG has also initiated Restoration Plan 7.1 for construction of two bird island projects, which they anticipate releasing later this fall.

Project Updates: Construction is ongoing for the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project. The project is scheduled to be completed at the end of June. RP 1.2 includes the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation and the Barataria Ridge and Basin Marsh Creation Spanish Pass projects, which are both underway. Once completed they would be the largest project by acreage and the largest project in volume of marsh creation, respectively, for the LA TIG. The RP 3.3 Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation project is being implemented by NOAA and is underway. North Breton Island Restoration (part of the early restoration Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project) was completed at the beginning of 2022. The LA Trustees also recently finalized their programmatic Monitoring and Adaptive Man strategy document and are now developing nine individual MAM activities for a total of \$25 million.

- b. **RW TIG:** The RW TIG is working on implementing projects from early restoration and Restoration Plan 1. Out of the 11 projects in RP1, six have project implementation plans

approved. Two more implementation plans are under review and the remainder are in working draft form. The RW TIG will be working on moving those implementation plans forward.

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

Discussion Item 2: LAT Items

a. Discussion:

- 2022 TC Annual Public Meeting – The meeting planning is moving along on schedule. There are a few updates:
 - Timing - please arrive 20 minutes early if you are speaking. Listeners can arrive 5-10 minutes early.
 - Confirmation of speakers, walkthrough of the slides
 - Reminder of practice runs: Open House Q&A practice session on June 8 at noon central and a dress rehearsal on June 13 at 11 central.
 - Materials update: Please review the three factsheets by COB today. Tomorrow morning these will be sent for translation into Vietnamese. There will be one post-webinar web story to review after the meeting materials are developed.
 - Camera plan: We are recommending that TC listeners don't turn on their camera. The ASL interpreters and facilitators will have their cameras on.
 - Questions/discussion
- FYI that the National Academies of Sciences Films and Webinar is on June 14

- Annual reporting update – Thank you to everybody who was involved in completing the annual reports. The group produced 279 reports, for 232 restoration projects and 47 planning/admin efforts plus the annual financial report. This included 26 new projects in CY2021, a 9% increase from the previous year. The TIGs approved three final restoration plans. Thirteen projects are now closed and another 25 are complete. The environmental compliance status and links available to the public have been recently updated. There will be an “after action” review to discuss ways to improve the annual reporting process. A questionnaire will be circulated to the TIGs in advance of the calls. Any relevant items will be raised with the TC on a future call.

Other Business

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, July 4. It will be moved to July 11.