

**DWH Trustee Council  
7/11/22 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Dinane Foster
Angela Schrift	Amy Hunter	Jon Hemming	
	Jane Calamusa		
	Jaime Miller		
			<b>EPA</b>
<b>LA</b>		<b>NOAA</b>	Mary Kay Lynch
	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	Treda Grayson
<b>MS</b>	Lisa Robertson	Aileen Smith	
Chris Wells	Amy Raker	Melissa Carle	<b>LAT</b>
	Emily Mazur		Holly Herod

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. AL TIG: The Alabama TIG held their restoration summit in Spanish Fort, AL in May. During the summit they provided a report out on all of the *Deepwater Horizon*-related projects. That report is available if others would like it. Before the summit the AL folks hosted the RESTORE council at the Gulf State Park Lodge. In project news, the Weeks Bay Land Acquisition (Lloyd Tract) was completed recently. The Bayfront Park project in Mobile County (from AL Restoration Plan 1) is in construction for the next year or so. That project includes shoreline protection improvements and facility upgrades.
- b. FL TIG: The Florida TIG is working on finalizing the Phase V.4 Florida Coastal Access Project Restoration Plan. This includes the addition of the Dickerson Bay parcel. The plan includes the acquisition of the Dickerson Bay parcel, a 114-acre coastal parcel located in Wakulla County, FL. The land will be donated to FWS and managed as part of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to the acquisition the project will include minor restoration and recreational enhancement activities.

In the next couple of months the TIG expects to complete two restoration projects. The projects that are in construction for visitor day-use amenities are Deer Lake State Park in Walton County and Bald Point State Park in Franklin County. Next month construction will begin on the City of Parker Oakshore Drive Fishing Pier located in St. Andrews Bay. It is expected to be completed in March 2023.

There are also several updates on Restoration Plan 1 projects.

- The Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration - Planning and Design project fieldwork and modeling are complete; final design and reporting are due in October 2022. DOI is reviewing the information and preparing cost estimates for future implementation proposals.
- The Rattlesnake Bluff Road and Riverbank Restoration project contract for implementation was completed on May 30, 2022. A kickoff meeting with all project partners is scheduled for today, July 11.
- A small pilot project to treat torpedo grass for the Invasive Plan Removal at Gulf Islands National Seashore project was completed in 2021. A larger contract to treat 160 acres of torpedo grass will be issued in fall 2022.

Lastly, in Restoration Plan 2 news the contract for the Archaeological Survey for the Pensacola Beach Fort Pickens Road Wildlife Lighting Retrofits project has been awarded and installation of the lighting fixtures is expected to be completed by spring 2023.

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 has started its new fiscal year and task list. The task list was approved by the TC earlier this year. The Cross-TIG MAM has had some leadership changes. Nadia Martin will stay on as the state co-lead and the federal co-lead has transitioned from NOAA to EPA. Treda Grayson will be taking over for Melissa Carle.

There was one task related to unknown conditions remaining on the group’s 2021-2022 list. The task relates to continuing discussions on unknown conditions within the Cross-TIG MAM and drafting a presentation for the TC. Those slides are ready for the TC as a jumping-off point for discussion.

- b. Action Items: The slides will be circulated by TIG support and presented/discussed at an upcoming TC meeting.

**Discussion Item 3: LAT Items**

- a. Discussion:
  - 2022 TC Annual Public Meeting Recap – The post-webinar story was circulated for TC review. Please input your edits/approvals by COB today.

Out of 127 registrants only 63 attended and of those only 15 were not agency staff. There were 4 NGOs and 11 private citizens at the webinar. There was one verbal comment from a member of the public.

The group had an initial discussion about the attendance. Most TIG and TC meetings are in the late afternoon or evening. The state TIGs are seeing fairly good attendance at their meetings. For discussion on the next call, the LAT asked the TC to consider if changes to the TC Public Meeting are needed.

Action Items:

1. The web story out for review has a deadline of COB today. TIG support will recirculate the link.
  2. Holly will look into what the Consent Decree and PDARP state in relation to TC annual meetings.
  3. Continued discussion will take place on the next TC call.
- Annual Reporting Survey Update: This year the after-action review is an internal survey rather than a series of phone calls. We hope to circulate the survey by the end of the week to TIG members and DIVER users.
  - TC Chair Rotation – Thank you to Chris Blankenship for serving as TC chair this past year. Mississippi is up next in the rotation and Chris Wells will serve in that role starting on August 1.

**Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Monday, August 1.

**DWH Trustee Council  
8/1/22 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
Angela Schrift	Amy Hunter	Michelle Eversen	
Allison Fischer	Jane Calamusa		
Mike Cave			
			<b>EPA</b>
		<b>NOAA</b>	Mary Kay Lynch
<b>LA</b>	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	Gale Bonanno
Maury Chatellier	Gareth Leonard	Rachel Sweeney	Treda Grayson
	Rachel Schmalfuss	Laurie Rounds	
<b>MS</b>	Nadia Martin		<b>LAT</b>
Chris Wells			Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			
Valerie Alley			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. **TX TIG:** The Texas TIG released their second Final Restoration Plan on Friday, July 29. The plan selected 13 projects for a total of \$39 million in the Nutrient Reduction, Sea Turtles, Oysters, Birds, and Wetlands, Coastal and Nearshore Habitat restoration types. In project news, construction on the new Galveston Island State Park campground is complete and the campground opened in July. The campground project used multiple funding sources to build 95 camping sites in addition to many other amenities. The Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration project has completed construction. The channel was deepened and widened to increase tidal flow from the ship channel to the Bahia Grande. The project is aiming for an 11-14% increase in tidal flow. Biological and flow monitoring is ongoing. The TX TIG is hoping for up to 1,400 acres of wetlands restored as a result of the project which used \$5 million of NRDA funds.
- b. **OO TIG:** The Open Ocean TIG is continuing to develop their third Restoration Plan focusing on seabirds. They anticipate releasing the draft plan in early 2023. The OO TIG is also developing Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) activities. Many of these activities are likely to be phased and will be firmed up in late 2022 or early 2023. They are also implementing existing projects.
  - o The Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project is nearing completion of construction of two miles of bike and pedestrian lanes at the MS unit of Gulf Islands National Seashore.

- Sturgeon restoration and MAM activities are continuing their fieldwork, including a recently approved additional year of fieldwork because of COVID related restrictions that impacted the 2020 field seasons.
- The OO TIG also has several projects to reduce bycatch including one to test small bar turtle excluder devices (TEDs), which recently completed its initial testing of eight TED prototypes. The three most promising will be tested for target catch retention next.
- The hotspots mapping initiative is a joint project with NFWF that recently held an expert workshop in New Orleans for about 40 experts. A workshop report will be released soon.
- This is the final season for the Oceanic Fish Restoration Project. Thirteen vessel owners participated this season and project closeout is expected in 2023.
- The sea turtle nesting protection project in the Archie Carr region of Florida is ongoing. One parcel of connecting habitat is being purchased and will be included in the refuge.
- The Return 'Em Right project launched Gulf-wide on May 3. There has been high demand for descending device gear, so some shipping has been delayed. The project is hosting booths at Gulf fishing events and working through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to support state observer programs to collect data on descending device use.

The MS 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 does not have an update today.

**Discussion Item 3: LAT Items**

- a. Discussion:
  - Future TC Annual Public Meetings – DOI conducted some stakeholder outreach related to attendance with the most recent webinar. The most common reason people didn't attend the meeting was because an unexpected conflict arose. There was general support for holding the meeting earlier in the day, perhaps during the lunch hour.

Language from the PDARP and Trustee Council SOP was circulated to the group for reference. The group discussed plans for next year's webinar/meeting. Thoughts to consider include taking a closer look at the content, time of day, meeting format (in-person, virtual, video, dialogue, etc.), and other details. There may be the potential to combine in-person and virtual aspects of a meeting. There was general agreement that continued public meetings are important and the

content should be reviewed for potential improvements. If an in-person meeting for 2023 is desired the LAT will need to know by January 2023.

Action Items:

1. The LAT will share a cost comparison between in person and virtual meeting.
  2. Trustees should continue to think about this topic in advance of the next call.
  3. The LAT will prepare several options for the group's consideration.
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- **Unknown Conditions Next Steps:** This topic was raised by the Cross-TIG MAM last month. The funding for Unknown Conditions comes from interest earned on the principal balance of the payments and any accrued interest. The funding is up to \$700 million for Unknown Conditions and it could be less depending on the interest earned. The full interest isn't anticipated to be earned until 2031 when the Trustees are required to take the withdrawal. There is approximately \$285 million accrued so far. Discussion. General agreement that unless there is a major unknown condition that comes up, it's advantageous to leave the funds in the account in order to maximize the interest generated.
  - **Annual Reporting Survey Update:** The survey link was circulated to the folks who participated in annual reporting. If you or your staff haven't filled it out, please do so by August 12.

**Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled for Labor Day, September 5. The call will be moved back a week to Monday, September 12.

**DWH Trustee Council  
9/12/22 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>USDA</b>
Robin Riechers	Amy Hunter	Mary Josie Blanchard	Ron Howard
	Jane Calamusa	Michelle Eversen	
	Chandler Williams		
<b>LA</b>			<b>EPA</b>
Bren Haas			Gale Bonanno
Beth Golden		<b>NOAA</b>	Treda Grayson
Chris Barnes	<b>FL</b>	Chris Doley	Tim Landers
	Gareth Leonard	Craig O'Connor	Mary Kay Lynch
<b>MS</b>	Emily Mazur		
Chris Wells	Lisa Robertson		<b>LAT</b>
Valerie Alley			Holly Herod
Bradley Ennis			

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. MS TIG: The MS TIG's third restoration plan final was released in June 2022 and selected seven projects for implementation. RP3 includes a debris removal project on federally managed lands, two enhanced stranding and marine mammals projects, one marine mammal bycatch reduction project, a bird stewardship project, and two restoring lost recreational use projects. The MS TIG is now working on developing the reasonable range for Restoration Plan 4. In project news, they completed construction on the Big Island Living Shoreline project (part of the Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries project) earlier this year. The Hancock County project has completed construction of 46 acres of marsh and is now in its settlement phase. The team also identified additional source materials to add another 100,000 cubic yards. Lastly, the MS TIG is getting started with implementation of the six new projects approved in RP3 as well as implementing RW projects.
- b. Cross-TIG MAM: The Cross-TIG MAM is working on some ongoing priority activities from last year. They are reflecting on the programmatic review process and identifying opportunities for improvement. Those recommendations are still being refined and will be shared with the TC soon. For 2022-2023 priority activities include: developing procedures for synthesizing information and monitoring results across the TIGs; continuing revisions to MAM report templates; and doing a pilot effort for integrating project level MAM data into DIVER.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: LA Mid Barataria Update**

- a. Discussion: The Final EIS for the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion project and Restoration Plan are scheduled to be released on September 23.

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

- a. Discussion:
  - Future TC Annual Public Meetings – The group walked through slides that outlined previous meeting metrics. The LAT recommendation for next year is a virtual meeting without an open house with updated content. Discussion. The group may want a combination of options where there is a condensed version of TC content along with more narrative TIG presentations. The first decision for the TC is webinar vs in person for next year, then they can determine the changes to presentation content and style. The LAT would need to know by the end of December if the TC would like an in-person meeting in 2023.

### Action Items:

1. Think about these options in advance of the November call. Will aim to reach consensus decision.
- After Action Review: The after action review of the programmatic review is in progress. There's a list of recommendations and decision points for the TC to consider. A poll will go out to small group members to re-convene the group to review the document in preparation of it being circulated to the TC.

### Action:

1. Let TIG support know if you have any new staff on the programmatic review small group.
- Vice Chair Rotation: The vice chair is rotating on October 1 and will move to Mary Kay Lynch (EPA) on October 1. Thank you to Mary Josie Blanchard (DOI) for serving in this role for the past year.

## **Other Business**

- a. The next regularly scheduled TC call is scheduled October 3.