

**DWH Trustee Council  
10/2/17 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
Don Pitts	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	Craig O'Connor
	Patti Powell	Kevin Reynolds	Melissa Carle
<b>LA</b>	Will Brantley	Clare Cragan	Laurie Rounds
Billy Plauché		Ann Hijuelos	
Alyson Graugnard	<b>FL</b>	Ashley Mills	
	Gareth Leonard	Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley	<b>DOJ</b>
<b>MS</b>	Amy Raker		
Chris Wells		<b>EPA</b>	
		Gale Bonanno	
		Mary Kay Lynch	
		<b>USDA</b>	

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The TX TIG is working on implementing several early restoration projects. Several of the artificial reef projects will be checked-out in the near future to ensure there was no damage from Hurricane Harvey. The Sea Turtle Project is going very well and both TX and Mexico reported a record-level number of Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nests. The TX TIG is currently working on developing workplans for 2018-2019 nesting season. The TX TIG released a draft restoration plan in early June and conducted a series of successful public meetings. The final plan is expected to be released by mid-October and is likely to include 13 projects. Lastly, the TX Trustee are in the process of selecting a firm to conduct an audit of the TX finances.
  
- b. The OO TIG's request for project ideas closed in May and included all the OO TIG restoration types (fish and water column invertebrates, sturgeon, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and mesophotic reefs and deep benthic habitats). The OO TIG is currently screening approximately 1600 project ideas for the first OO TIG restoration plan. At this point the TIG anticipates moving forward with all the restoration types. The OO TIG will engage with the other TIGs as they narrow down project ideas. They anticipate an EIS scoping period in early 2018 for fish and water column invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic reefs and deep benthic habitats. For sturgeon and birds they anticipate an EA will be released to the public in 2018. The OO TIG is in the process of rescheduling the meeting with a group of interested NGOs that will take place on November 30. The ongoing early restoration projects are going well. The oceanic fish restoration project (formerly known as the pelagic longline project) had a successful pilot phase and the TIG recently approved

changes to the types of gear fishers can use. For the ferries project at Gulf Island National Seashore, they expect the ferries to be operational next year.

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

### **Discussion Item 2: Trustee Council Public Meeting**

- a. Discussion: The room block for the rescheduled TC Public Meeting is now open. The meeting will be during the evening of November 30. An updated name tag list will be circulated closer to time.

### **Discussion Item 3: MAM Update**

- a) The group has been working on the MAM manual and it underwent a trustee review in August. The revised draft is nearing finalization and the group hopes to finalize the document by the end of October. The plan is to circulate the document for fatal flaw review starting on October 26 and will be shared with the TC then. The Cross TIG MAM Workgroup (workgroup) has an in-person meeting on November 2. The workgroup will likely request final approval of the document in early November. After Version 1 of the MAM manual is complete they'll start focusing on Version 2 which will focus on project level monitoring standards, programmatic adaptive management, DIVER database structures, and developing recommendations for analysis and reporting standards. Discussion of an interim feedback loop for the TC and workgroup to coordinate on the Version 2 document. The workgroup proposes looking at interim products/milestones for the TC to provide feedback earlier and with more frequency.
- b) Action Items:
  - 1. The workgroup will move forward with drafting interim products/milestones related to Version 2 for the TC to review.

### **Other Business**

- a. Next call is Monday, November 6

**DWH Trustee Council  
11/6/17 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
Robin Riechers	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
James Murphy	Amy Hunter		John Catena
	Jane Calamusa		Melissa Carle
			Mike Peccini
<b>LA</b>			
Billy Plauché			
Alyson Graugnard			<b>DOJ</b>
	<b>FL</b>	<b>EPA</b>	
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Gale Bonanno	
Chris Wells	Amy Raker	Mary Kay Lynch	
Gary Rikard	Gil McRae		
Teri Wyly		<b>USDA</b>	

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The MS TIG is participating in the MS DEQ restoration summit on November 14. The summit will cover the three funding streams (RESTORE, NFWF, and NRDA). The MS TIG will discuss the three projects in the first MS TIG restoration plan. The TIG is working on the implementation plans for the three projects and anticipates having them all in place by early 2018. There are also six early restoration projects that are being implemented at this time.
  
- b. The Cross TIG MAM workgroup is currently working to complete Version 1.0 of the MAM Manual. They are a few weeks behind schedule, but expect to circulate the document for fatal flaw review the week of November 13. A final formatted version of the document will be circulated to the TC the last week of November. The Cross TIG MAM requested time on the December TC call to discuss the MAM manual further. The workgroup is also planning an in-person meeting December 12-14 in Baton Rouge to discuss the content and next steps for Version 2.0 of the MAM Manual. Version 1.0 focuses on project monitoring, while Version 2.0 will be expanded to include guidelines for additional project types and programmatic evaluation.

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

### **Discussion Item 2: Trustee Council Public Meeting**

- a. Discussion: The room block cutoff for reservations is Friday, November 10. The run of show document and an updated nametag file will be circulated via email closer to the meeting date.

### **Discussion Item 3: Trustee Annual Admin Budget Estimate**

- a) Reminder that the annual admin budget estimates are due.
- b) Action Items:
  - 1. Send in budget numbers by November 17.

### **Other Business**

- a. Next call is Monday, December 4
- b. Reminder that end of year reporting and data entry will be starting soon. There will be DIVER trainings in December, January and February and the schedule will be circulated soon. The reports will be published on April 20, 2018.

**DWH Trustee Council  
12/4/17 Conference Call Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>TX</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
James Murphy	Chris Blankenship	Mary Josie Blanchard	Chris Doley
	Amy Hunter	Debora McClain	John Catena
	Jane Calamusa	Ann Hijuelos	Melissa Carle
		Nanciann Regalado	
<b>LA</b>			
Alyson Graugnard			
		<b>EPA</b>	<b>DOJ</b>
	<b>FL</b>	Gale Bonanno	
<b>MS</b>	Gareth Leonard	Tim Landers	
		Mary Kay Lynch	
		<b>USDA</b>	

**Discussion Item 1: Report Outs**

- a. The LA TIG has a number of restoration initiatives underway. Their first restoration plan approved a number of projects that are in E& D. They are aiming to release their second restoration plan, which re-allocates the \$22 million that was originally earmarked for the Louisiana Marine Research and Science Center, before the end of 2017. The LA TIG is also aiming to release a third plan this month, which is a strategic restoration plan to restore wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitat in Barataria Basin. The plan looks at approaches and techniques to serve as a preferred alternative to restore this particular category. In July 2017 the TIG requested public input for recreational use and nutrient reduction projects, with the goal to release a plan in summer 2018. The TIG also requested project ideas in August for SAV, sea turtles, birds, marine mammals, and oysters. The TIG is currently evaluating those options.
- b. The RW TIG held a successful working session last week. The TIG released strategic frameworks to the public earlier this summer and is now focusing on next steps. The TIG discussed available funding amounts and created a small group to conduct a resource evaluation of resource needs and data gaps for each of the living coastal marine resources applicable to the RW TIG. By the end of February 2018 the small group hopes to have recommendations to the full RW TIG for next steps.

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

## **Discussion Item 2: Trustee Council Public Meeting**

- a) Discussion: The meeting and open house were attended by approximately 90 members of the public, plus Trustees and staff. The general feedback was that the open house format was helpful for attendees. The materials are posted on the website, except for the transcript which takes a week or two to produce.

## **Discussion Item 3: MAM Manual Version 1.0**

- a) Version 1.0 of the manual was attached to the TC call agenda. Melissa Carle (NOAA) gave an overview of the process the document has undergone so far. The Cross TIG MAM workgroup has worked collaboratively over the past year or so to provide monitoring guidance to the TIGs on project level monitoring guidance. The document has undergone multiple levels of Trustee review including attorney review and a fatal flaw review. It is now ready for TC review and approval. The main body is about 30 pages while the document itself is over 100 pages because it includes attachments. The MAM manual as a whole is intended to be an Appendix to the TC SOP. This version is the final document for TC approval. Discussion of the approval process and timeframe. Proposal to develop a resolution to approve the MAM Manual and then draft a web story to release it. Aim for December 15<sup>th</sup> to get signatures on the resolution.
- b) Action Items:
  1. DOI will draft a resolution to be circulated at the same time the manual is under review.
  2. DOI is in the process of drafting a web story to announce its release. Aim to circulate all the documents at the same time (ideally by December 8).
  3. The final document will be posted on the Administrative Record, released via a web story on the TC website, and distributed via email blast.

## **Discussion Item 4: Trustee Annual Admin Budget Estimate**

- c) Just before the call an email was circulated with a spreadsheet of annual estimates for admin funds for each Trustee.
- d) Action Items:
  1. Take one last look at the table and contact Debora if there are any questions.

## **Other Business**

- a. Timing and consistency of public notices – Debora researched to see if notices have been delayed in the past. In some cases, TIG activities are not distributed via the TC

email blast system. For example, an update might be sent only to interested parties through a state email blast system. Discussion. LAT recommends that regardless of the particular area the restoration activities are happening in, the email blast should go out via the TC email blast system to ensure that it hits the widest possible audience. New recommendation is that every time a web story goes up and email blast from the centralized TC account goes out. TC agrees. Discussion about potential ways to give a heads up to users about when things are likely to happen.

- b. 2018 Trustee Council public meeting – Last year the TC decided to shift public meetings to late April (after April 20) or early May going forward as well as holding the meeting in the location that corresponds to the chair. Discussion. Decision needs to be made on or before the next TC call on January 8. Will distribute a poll to TC members to inform the discussion before the next call.
- c. Next call is Monday, January 8.