

Meeting Summary

A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

B. DATE: February 04, 2015

C. LOCATION: Captain Cook Hotel, Endeavor Room, Anchorage, AK

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: (T = via teleconference)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Amanda Bauer	Commercial Tourism
Kurt Eilo	Sport Hunting/Fishing, PAC Chair
Gary Fandrei	Aquaculture/Mariculture
John French	Science/Technical
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Patience Andersen Faulkner	Subsistence, PAC Vice-chair
Kate McLaughlin	Conservation/Environmental

E. NOT PRESENT:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Angela Totemoff	Public at Large
David Totemoff, Sr.	Native Landowner
Steven Aberle	Commercial Fishing

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Elise Hsieh	Executive Director, Trustee Council (EVOSTC)
Philip Johnson	Designated Federal Officer, Department of the Interior
Cherri Womac	Trustee Council Staff
Linda Kilbourne	Trustee Council Staff
Catherine Boerner	Trustee Council Science Coordinator
Carrie Holba	Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS)
Dede Bohn	U.S. Geological Survey
Peter Hagen	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Ron Britton	Chugach National Forest

H. SUMMARY:

At 1:35 p.m. the Designated Federal Officer (Philip Johnson) opened the meeting and took roll call of PAC members. Seven members were present, establishing a quorum. The meeting participants introduced themselves.

Election of 2014-2016 PAC Chair and Vice-Chair:

Previous PAC appointments expired on November 31, 2014. Johnson asked for nominations for the PAC Chair position. Kate McLaughlin nominated the previous (2012-2014) PAC Chair, Kurt Eilo. Eilo indicated he would be willing to serve again as Chair.

Johnson asked for nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Gary Fandrei nominated John French, who indicated he would be willing to serve.

Eilo and French were elected to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions, respectively, by unanimous voice vote.

Previous Meeting Notes:

Stacy Studebaker noted a minor error in the draft notes (regarding her Principle Interest). Johnson and EVOSTC staff will correct the notes accordingly.

Motion: French introduced a motion to approve the meeting notes from the last meeting, as amended. Seconded by McLaughlin. **Motion carried.**

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Media Contact Discussion:

Johnson and Elise Hsieh distributed a joint-memorandum regarding contact with the media (attached). PAC members were reminded that media inquiries regarding Trustee Council or PAC activities are to be forwarded to Hsieh.

The PAC received FACA and Ethics training at the last meeting. Johnson asked if there were any questions about those topics. There was a general discussion regarding PAC member responsibilities vs. their other roles and affiliations outside of the PAC process.

Johnson, Hsieh and the PAC also discussed a question about contact between PAC members outside of an official meeting. The group was reminded that they cannot discuss PAC outside of a regular meeting, unless the DFO also participates in the conversation. Science questions can be referred to the Science Coordinator (Catherine Boerner). Process questions can be referred to Johnson and Hsieh. Questions on the current status of the EVOS reopener claim should be directed to the U.S. Department of Justice (contact information available on the EVOS Trustee Council website). Hsieh noted that the PAC's role is to act as a body, and its strength comes from acting as a body.

PAC Travel: Linda Kilbourne provided information regarding PAC travel and the reimbursement process.

Public Comment: The floor was open for public comment, either in person or telephonically. No members of the public requested the opportunity for comment.

Executive Director's Report:

The report by Hsieh included discussion of the Habitat Program, Science Panel, and other issues.

Habitat Program Report:

Hsieh indicated that while Habitat Program work was ongoing, there currently were no decisions or proposed actions ready to be considered by the PAC.

FY17-21 Invitation Review:

The Science Panel, EVOSTC and agency staff are reviewing the draft 2017-2021 Invitation, offering constructive comments. A draft is anticipated to be circulated to the PAC in June, 2015 and any subsequent drafts circulated to the PAC would highlight or summarize changes for ease of review. The request for proposals for the Five-Year Invitational Cycle (2017-2021) is expected to be ready by December 1, 2015.

The PAC may be asked to meet via teleconference sometime this summer, to provide members with an update on this process. PAC members should also plan on attending a meeting in October, 2015. Dates to be determined. Hsieh reported that before any future meetings, PAC meeting notes from the prior two meetings would be provided to the PAC members, to remind the members of recent issues and recommendations to the Trustee Council.

As with the FY12-16 Invitation, the FY17-21 Invitation requests that long-term program proposals address the full five-year term. Also similar to the first five-year term, there is an annual review of each fiscal year. Like the FY12-16 Invitation, the FY17-21 Invitation is an open, competitive invitation.

French indicated that 4-5 months would typically provide adequate time for an investigator to prepare and submit a proposal.

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS):

As requested at the October 2014 PAC meeting, Hsieh provided the PAC with ARLIS use statistics via an October 2014 email. The EVOSTC website visitation statistics (roughly 1,500 “hits” per day) reflects continuing interest in EVOS issues including Trustee Council activities.

PAC Member Discussions:

Chairman Eilo noted that the EVOSTC website needs to be updated to reflect new Trustee Council membership. Sam Cotten was recently added, but the Alaska Department of Law Trustee needed to be corrected.

Johnson reported that Pat Pourchot, Trustee for the Department of the Interior, is retiring at the end of February 2015.

Hsieh has prepared a packet of information that is distributed to new Trustees, to help with their initial orientation.

One of the Agency Staff in attendance, Peter Hagen, mentioned that NOAA has been working on a cooperative agreement for their Long-Term Monitoring Program. That process is currently following a five-year cycle.

Patience Andersen Faulkner was complimentary of the morning session, which provided PAC members with an excellent overview of the science program. Several other PAC members including McLaughlin and Fandrei agreed that the format worked well and recommended that a similar approach should be pursued in future years. Studebaker also appreciated the information and was impressed with the new technology that was demonstrated during the Science Workshop.

Dede Bohn noted that the Trustees are very interested in PAC input. Hsieh confirmed that observation, noting that the PAC's input and perspectives were particularly valuable to the Trustees when they are making difficult decisions.

Studebaker requested Habitat Program updates as frequently as possible. Hsieh agreed to provide updates when they are available, but noted that the acquisition process takes time and often involves sensitive negotiations before a potential project is ready and can be brought for review.

Habitat mapping was last completed in 2006. McLaughlin discussed the need for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who are doing this mapping, to update the information. These updates would benefit both the PAC and the public. Hsieh noted that the Trustee Council provides annual funding to DNR to perform this work and stated that the staff are doing their best, but the EVOSTC work must compete for time with other important projects.

Motion: Studebaker introduced a motion to "Encourage the Trustee Council to encourage DNR to allow their staff time to update the EVOS Habitat Acquisition Catalog." Seconded by Fandrei.

Motion carried.

Regarding the habitat work and updates, Hsieh noted that most of the acquisition work took place before 2006, with only a handful of new acquisitions since then. The termination of the Koniag easement was one notable exception.

Closing Remarks:

The Chair (Eilo) and the DFO (Johnson) thanked the PAC for their work.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

I. FOLLOW-UP:

1. Eilo and/or Hsieh will provide a verbal PAC report to the Trustee Council at their next meeting.
2. The PAC may be asked to participate in a teleconference some time during Summer 2015.
3. The next in-person meeting of the PAC will take place in October 2015 in Anchorage.

J. NEXT MEETINGS:

Trustee Council (Anchorage on March 25, 2015)

K. ATTACHMENTS (handed out at the meeting):

1. Memorandum regarding Media Contact (attached)

L. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson

Date