

Meeting Summary D R A F T

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

B. DATE/TIME: July 26, 2011

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska (teleconference)

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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Principal Interest</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Torie Baker (T) | Commercial Fishing |
| Amanda Bauer (T) | Commercial Tourism |
| Jason Brune (T) | Public-at-Large |
| Kurt Eilo | Sport Hunting/Fishing, PAC Chair |
| Gary Fandrei (T) | Aquaculture/Mariculture |
| Patience Andersen Faulkner (T) | Subsistence, PAC Vice-chair |
| John French (T) | Science/Technical |
| Stacy Studebaker (T) | Recreation Users |

E. NOT PRESENT:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Principal Interest</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Jennifer Gibbins | Conservation/Environmental |
| David Totemoff | Native Landowner |

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Organization</u> |
|-----------------------|---|
| Elise Hsieh (T) | Executive Director, Trustee Council |
| Doug Mutter | Designated Federal Official, Department of the Interior |
| Cherri Womac | Trustee Council Staff |
| Linda Kilbourne | Trustee Council Staff |
| Catherine Boerner (T) | Trustee Council Contractor |
| Carrie Holba (T) | Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) |
| Barat LaPorte (T) | Patton Boggs |
| Pete Hagen (T) | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) |
| Kris Holderied (T) | NOAA |
| Dede Bohn (T) | U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) |
| Veronica Varela (T) | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) |
| Samantha Carroll (T) | Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) |
| Molly McCammon (T) | Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) |

H. SUMMARY:

At 10:02 a.m. Kurt Eilo, PAC Chair, opened the meeting. Doug Mutter, Designated Federal Official, took roll call of PAC members (a quorum was present). The meeting participants introduced themselves.

The April 13, 2011, PAC meeting summary was approved. There were no modifications proposed for today's agenda.

The floor was open for public comment. Molly McCammon and Kris Holderied spoke in support of the use of the firm Axiom as a subcontractor for managing data under the Herring and Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) proposals, and emphasized the ongoing collaboration activities. Any past-due reports have all been submitted. Both said they appreciated the work the PAC members have done in reviewing proposals.

Elise Hsieh provided the Executive Director's report. The next Trustee council meeting is set for September 15, later than anticipated due to scheduling issues. She reviewed the action items on the Trustee Council's agenda. She noted that the budget was being pared down and they are starting to position agency and Trustee Council staff for the long-term program. There are several updates and revisions to FY 2012 proposals in response to questions from the PAC, Science Panel, and Trustee Council staff--Principal Investigators have been responsive.

Hsieh reviewed the proposed FY2012 budget. Staff are reviewing past expenditures and annual reports to update the overall status of funds and work to date. She summarized various modifications to budget elements. The PAC budget has been reduced due to fewer in-person meetings. She also noted that Trustee Council policies and procedures will require modification to adjust to the long-term program.

Hsieh pointed out that Carrie Holba would be working half-time on archiving records at EVOS starting this fall. Stacy Studebaker raised concern about reducing the efforts to maintain the 20-plus years of information and data at ARLIS. Hsieh said that ARLIS did not maintain "data" (other projects will address the historical data questions) and that Holba would still work part-time at ARLIS. Holba said she was discussing with Federal and State archivists, how to handle official EVOS historical records. She noted that the Trustee Council would remain a "Founders" supporting member of ARLIS this year.

It was moved by Patience Anderson Faulkner, second by Studebaker, that **the PAC supports the fiscal year 2012 EVOS budget, as presented.** There were no objections.

Hsieh and Catherine Boerner explained the updates and revisions to several projects proposed for the FY 2012 Work Plan:

- ❑ Community-based Marine Debris Program--Discussions with Alaska Geographic and the Chugach School district have taken place. The Alaska SeaLife Center is looking into providing an interactive exhibit.
- ❑ PWS Harbor Cleanup Project--A revised proposal with funds leveraged has reduced the cost of this effort, which will be managed by NOAA staff. Studebaker raised a concern about the details of the effort, it is not clear what will be done and where. John French mentioned the need to coordinate this with the U.S. Coast Guard clean harbors program. Eilo stated that he supported the cleanup of harbors. Boerner said the details of the project would not be clear until 2013, after groundwork to determine exact needs. The only changes to the project are a reduced budget. The PAC agreed that Eilo would present an oral summary of the concerns of the PAC at the upcoming Trustee Council meeting, stating that: **While there are merits to the cleanup of harbors, the Trustee Council should**

proceed with caution, as there are few details at this time explaining what this project will accomplish.

- ❑ Vessel Wash-down and Wastewater Recycling Facility--outstanding legal issues have been resolved and Trustee Council questions have been answered.
- ❑ PWS Herring Research and Monitoring Program--The Science Panel said the response to their concerns and further coordination was good. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will partially fund a herring liaison position. Improved modeling techniques will be included as a separate project (PI is Branch). Torie Baker stated that this type of effort is what is needed to help resource managers in their decision-making. It was moved by French, second by Anderson Faulkner, that **the PAC concurs with the Science Panel recommendation to fund the Branch modeling project.** There were no objections. LTM Marine conditions and Injured Resources and Services--Lingering oil projects (Ballachey and Carls) will be included in the LTM program.

Hsieh and Boerner reviewed the situation with the data management element of the long-term program (especially for the LTM and Herring projects). Issues raised by the Science Panel, Trustee Council staff, and the PAC called for additional work and collaboration to assist with establishment of a data management system that includes accessible scientific data as well as public information. In response, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) submitted a proposal to work with Axiom (a subcontractor to AOOS), and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution also submitted a proposal. Elements of both options were reviewed and discussed. Data management generally consumes about 30% of a research program budget, the costs for including one of these options for assistance remain within that range.

Hsieh stated she had not made a recommendation to the Trustee Council, her role is to bring options for their consideration. She plans for the EVOS data to be open and available to the public via more than one venue. French noted that he had no problem with either NCEAS or Woods Hole—he questioned Axiom’s role and staying power. McCammon said that Axiom would be a subcontractor to AOOS, had been doing cutting edge work, and was committed to the project—they have a 4-year contract. She also stated that the AOOS Board was committed to the project. French said he supported the NCEAS and Axiom collaboration. Eilo summed the PAC interest in the Trustee Council investing in and implementing a solid data management, synthesis, and public access system.

Eilo asked about the purchase of the Poore parcel on the Kenai River. Jason Brune stated that he was opposed to any new habitat acquisitions. Samantha Carroll noted that such purchases have been river frontage, sloughs, riparian habitat and tidelands. This parcel has river front and salmon rearing habitat. Eilo noted that this area is commonly referred to as “Eagle Rock” and includes a private boat launch—it would be nice to have it better managed by the State. French moved, second by Studebaker, that **the PAC supports the purchase of the Poore parcel by the Trustee Council for allowing public access to the Kenai River.** Brune’s general objection was noted, there were no other objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

I. FOLLOW-UP:

1. Eilo will provide an oral PAC report to the Trustee Council at their next meeting.

J. NEXT MEETINGS:

--Trustee Council (Anchorage on September 15, 2011)

K. ATTACHMENTS (handed out at the meeting):

1. None

L. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson

Date