Briefing Summary D R A F T

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

B. DATE/TIME: July 9, 2012

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska (teleconference)

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

Name	Principal Interest
Amanda Bauer (T)	Commercial Tourism
Kurt Eilo	Sport Hunting/Fishing, PAC Chair
Gary Fandrei (T)	Aquaculture/Mariculture
John French (T)	Science/Technical
Stacy Studebaker (T)	Recreation Users

E. NOT PRESENT:

Name	Principal Interest
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Jason Brune	Public-at-Large
Patience Andersen Faulkner	Subsistence, PAC Vice-chair
Jennifer Gibbins	Conservation/Environmental
David Totemoff	Native Landowner

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Name	Organization
Elise Hsieh	Executive Director, Trustee Council (EVOSTC)
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Department of the Interior
Cherri Womac	Trustee Council Staff
Linda Kilbourne (T)	Trustee Council Staff
Catherine Boerner (T)	Trustee Council Contractor
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)
Katrina Hoffman (T)	Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC)

H. SUMMARY:

At 10:02 a.m. Doug Mutter, Designated Federal Officer, opened the meeting and took roll call of PAC members (a quorum was not present, so no action could be taken). The meeting participants introduced themselves.

The floor was open for public comment. None was requested.

Elise Hsieh provided the Executive Director's report. The EVOSTC is shifting its annual funding cycle from October 1 to February 1 in order to provide year-round funding due to built-in lead time for contracting, timed investment release schedules, and to dovetail with the Program's funding cycles. This also better allows for fall meetings (instead of summer) for the EVOSTC and PAC. This schedule can still accommodate fund releases according to State and Federal fiscal years. Project proposals would then be due each September 1, with PAC review during October-November and EVOSTC approval during November-December.

EVOSTC offices will be relocating July 18-20, 2012, to Grace Hall, one of the U.S. Geological Survey buildings on the Alaska Pacific University campus. This will save money. The EVOSTC investment policy was updated with the assistance of the EVOSTC's Investment Working Group, Alaska Department of Revenue, Callan Associates, U.S. Department of Justice and Alaska Department of Law. The financial and reporting policies are being updated, nothing major, just house-keeping fixes.

Hsieh noted that more support was being requested by the Gulf of Alaska Keeper (GoAK) for marine debris (MD) cleanup. A GoAK project was funded at approximately $1.5 million over 3 years, but with the approach of Japanese tsunami debris, additional work will be needed. She said that evidently the Idaho National Guard was willing to assist with helicopter support. The EVOSTC office has been assisting GoAk where possible, including working with the MD State government lead, Larry Hartig and his staff. EVOSTC staff had also reallocated approximately $5,500 from their FY 2012 administrative budget to fund hazardous materials training for the ongoing GoAK project. Gary Fandrei asked about the appropriateness of this as an EVOSTC effort. Mutter advised that NOAA had a wide-ranging project underway to prepare an interagency marine debris response plan and that the use of military assets through the Innovative Readiness Training program was a possibility.

Hsieh noted that the EVOSTC had worked through a several year public process to allocate restoration funds and had focused on the need for Long-term Programs and that these Programs would likely have unanticipated funding needs. She also noted that every year there will be requests for funding for non-Program projects, some of an emergency nature, but that the EVOSTC should try to focus on their long-term Programs. In turn, the Programs should be expected to produce results and product which justify the EVOSTC's commitment. John French agreed, questioned diverting additional funds to MD and suggested the State should be the lead on this, noting the need for longer-term, comprehensive planning. Stacy Studebaker supported the policy to stay the course on long-term programs and not get sidetracked. She also noted that there has always been a lot of MD washing ashore from various sources.

Mutter reminded the PAC that member nomination submissions for the next two-year PAC term (October 2012-September 2014) were due to Cherri on August 3, 2012. If PAC members wish to continue to serve, they need to submit complete packages for vetting through the DOI process for ultimate appointment by the Secretary of the Interior.

Hsieh discussed the FY2013 work plan, noting that it is a working document in development, as they are reformatting the document to allow for additional project and Program information. However, no major shifts in projects, or new projects, are being proposed with regard to continuing projects and the Programs. There is the MD additional funding issue and a pigeon guillemot project which is waiting to complete its National Environmental Policy Act analysis. In

addition, the NOAA wastewater individual projects may be ready for EVOSTC review in January 2013.

Hsieh outlined some upcoming activities: the EVOSTC office will start to consider options for digitizing and organizing twenty years EVOSTC records. This will likely be expensive but will position the EVOSTC for the future and its eventual virtual presence. She would like to wait until the Programs have products and results before emphasizing public outreach; EVOSTC annual reports for the last two years are being reviewed and data updated and clarified; there will not be a big 25th anniversary event; the office is still assisting with Deepwater Horizon spill requests; and the Science Panel membership is being expanded. She will continue to email monthly status reports and she has requested habitat staff prepare quarterly habitat updates that can be circulated. Studebaker asked for an update on habitat projects, specifically the potential for a conservation easement at Sitkalidak. Hsieh noted that, as of last week, she had the informal impression that Old Harbor was considering other options.

Katrina Hoffman provided a status report on the Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) and Herring programs. She presented a PowerPoint slide show, which Cherri will distribute to PAC members. Also managing elements of the LTM project are Chris Holderied and Molly McCammon. The program got underway February 1, 2012, and the first field season is now in progress. The program's outreach committee has met and there have been 2 Principal Investigator meetings, with another scheduled for November. Recruiting has begun for a science review panel, and a cooperative agreement between NOAA and PWSSC has been completed. The PAC will become involved in the outreach program during the community involvement phase. This element of the LTM program is termed "Gulf Watch Alaska." French asked about the ranges of the killer whale pods being studied.

Catherine Boerner reviewed the draft annual work plan. No additional funds are being requested for the LTM program. The Herring program is shifting some funds between fiscal years, but no additional monies are requested. A new project amendment was submitted for the Irvine project, adding $31,000 and there is broad science panel support for the amendment. This lingering oil project will conclude in FY13 with a final report.

Holderied noted that bringing the various Principal Investigators together to discuss their projects and common needs has resulted in a successful exchange of information and sharing of resources and data. Hoffman said they have set up an on-line portal for the sharing of data (the "Ocean Workspace." French noted prior collaborative efforts, such as the Sound Ecosystem Assessment, had fallen apart after initial success. He emphasized the importance of collaborative and open data sharing at the outset, as these Programs have, and the need for continued encouragement by the Team Leads for PIs to collaborate.

Hsieh reviewed the proposed FY2013 budget, which was distributed via email. Downsizing continues, where possible. She summarized various modifications to the budget elements. This year's budget covers a 16-month period due to the transition to the new schedule. Several items include rollover funds from the previous year. New investment counselors have been hired. The IT budget includes upgrades as well as the office move. She noted that the Herring Coordinator position as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was still vacant.

Studebaker thanked Cherri Womac and Carrie Holba for their efforts over the years. French said that marine debris issues included invasive species and ecosystem impacts from small pieces of

plastic and Styrofoam.

The briefing was adjourned at 11:20 a.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 14, 2012)

K. ATTACHMENTS (handed out at the meeting):

1. None

L. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson	**Date**