

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

November 14, 2017

10:00 a.m.

USGS Alaska Pacific University Campus
Anchorage, Alaska

TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

U.S. FOREST SERVICE:	Terri Marceron
AK DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME:	David Rogers
AK DEPARTMENT OF LAW:	Steve Mulder
AK DEPART OF ENVIRON CONSERVATION:	Larry Hartig
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR	Stephen Wackowski
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NOAA:	Jim Balsiger

Proceedings electronically recorded, then transcribed
by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501; 243-0668

- 1 ALSO PRESENT:
- 2 Elise Hsieh, Executive Director, EVOS
Cherri Womac, EVOSTC Staff
- 3 Lauri Adams, EVOSTC Habitat
Shiway Wang, EVOSTC Science Coordinator
- 4 Helen Woods, ARLIS
Linda Kilbourne, EVOSTC Administrative Manager
- 5 Peter Hagen, NOAA
Ron Britton, USFS
- 6 Rick Steiner, Oasis Earth
Sara Pace, ARLIS
- 7 Phil Johnson, USDOJ
David Mitchell, Great Land Trust
- 8 Sherri Dressel, ADF&G
Vernoica Varela, USFWS
- 9 Joe Darnell, USDOJ SOL
Elizabeth Gobeski, USDOJ SOL
- 10 Kurt Eilo, PAC Chair
Pys Miranda, ADNR
- 11 Mark Fink, ADF&G
Scott Pegau, PWS OSRI
- 12 Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA Fisheries
Carol Janzen, AOS

- 13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

- 1 ALSO PRESENT (CONTINUED)
- 2 Teleconference:
- 3 David Rogers, ADF&G
- 4 Andrew Whitehead
- 5 Dede Bohn, USGS Retired
- 6 Craig O'Connor, NOAA
- 7 Sylvia Kreel, ADNR
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	
2	Call to Order	04
	Approval of Agenda	04
3	Approval of Meeting Notes	05
	PUBLIC COMMENT	
4	MR. STEINER	06
	PAC Meeting Summary Comments	12
5	2016-18 PAC seat vacancy	30
	Investment	33
6	Long-Term Program	38
	Lingering Oil	91
7	Pigeon Guillemot Restoration	94
	Executive Director's Report	98
8	FY18 EVOSTC Annual Budget	100
	Reauthorization State Parks, Kenai River	105
9	Habitat Protection Parcels	108
	Bering River Coal Fields	117
10	Adjournment	122
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 11/14/2017)

(On record)

MS. HSIEH: If I may.....

MR. MULDER: Yes.

MS. HSIEH:please. We have David Rogers,
the Department of Fish and Game Trustee on the phone
today. He's feeling a little under the weather so he's
calling.....

MR. ROGERS: Hi, everybody.

MS. HSIEH:he's calling in from Juneau.
So because we do have someone on the phone we'll be
just asking him to affirm his vote, the rest of you
don't have to. That's kind of the process that has
evolved over time when people are on the phone so that
we know they're -- understand what's going on as the
meeting progresses.

Thank you.

MR. ROGERS: Sorry.

MR. MULDER: So have all the Trustees had a
chance to review the revised agenda and are there any
additions or changes.

MR. BALSIGER: I move we approve the agenda.

MR. MULDER: Do I have a second.

MS. MARCERON: Second.

1 MR. MULDER: David, do you vote in favor of the
2 approval of the agenda?

3 MR. ROGERS: No obj -- yes, I vote to approve.

4 MR. MULDER: All right. And hearing no nays
5 here in the room, the agenda is approved.

6 The next item on the agenda is the approval of
7 the January 11, 2017 meeting notes. There was a
8 meeting on January 11th. Is there.....

9 MR. HARTIG: Move to approve.

10 MR. MULDER: Move to approve. Is there a
11 second.

12 MR. BALSIGER: Second.

13 MR. MULDER: Any discussion or changes. I
14 think we've got David's name spelled correctly this go
15 around.

16 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

17 MR. MULDER: David, are you in favor of
18 approval of the.....

19 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

20 MR. MULDER: Yes.

21 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I approve.

22 MR. MULDER: Yeah. Anybody object.

23 (No objections)

24 MR. MULDER: Okay. Meeting notes are approved.

25 The next thing on our agenda is the time for public

1 comment. Do we have a sign up sheet.

2 MS. HSIEH: I don't think it's a sign up as
3 who's attending. I think maybe we could find out who's
4 on the phone for public comment and then go around the
5 room and see who with their own.

6 MR. MULDER: All right.

7 MS. HSIEH: Does that sound okay? Did they
8 check for -- oh, here -- I'm sorry. Yes. We have one
9 person speaking today, Rick. Anyone else speaking
10 today?

11 (No comments)

12 MS. HSIEH: Okay. So we have one person here
13 and we should just check who's online.

14 MR. MULDER: All right. Is there anyone on the
15 phone who would like to give public comment?

16 (No comments)

17 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, Mr. Steiner, you're
18 up.

19 MR. STEINER: Here?

20 MR. MULDER: Yes, please. Thank you.

21 MR. STEINER: Thank you very much. For the
22 record my name is Rick Steiner, I was the university's
23 -- for those one or two that I don't know, I was the
24 university's marine advisor for the Prince William
25 Sound region in 1983 until 1997. So both before and

1 during.

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: Do you need a microphone?

3 MS. STEINER: Do i?

4 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yes.

5 MR. STEINER: I can speak into the stand if
6 that would help.....

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah.

8 MR. STEINER:I don't suspect it will.

9 Again for the record, Rick Steiner. I was the
10 university's marine advisor for Prince William Sound
11 region stationed in Cordova for 15 or 16 years and I've
12 been involved -- and I was a commercial fisherman in
13 the region and have been involved with the Trustee
14 Council process since its inception. And I'd
15 appreciate these comments to be transcribed for the
16 record, would greatly appreciate that.

17 First of all I think the Trustee Council
18 continues to betray its fundamental responsibility of
19 doing everything possible to assist in the recovery of
20 the injured ecosystem. And particularly its
21 responsibility to approach restoration from a
22 comprehensive ecosystem context.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: Did you say -- I'm sorry, did
24 you say portray or betray?

25 MR. STEINER: Betray.

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay. Thanks. Sorry.

2 MR. STEINER: To fail, to fail to do everything
3 possible to protect and recover the ecosystem. And in
4 particular as directed by the Restoration Plan to fail
5 to look at this from an ecosystem, comprehensive
6 context.

7 And specifically I wanted to mention Bering
8 River. We've been proposing this for over 20 years, to
9 the Trustee Council directly for at least the past four
10 years. The Bering River, Eastern Copper River Delta in
11 my view, in many people's view, offers the last best
12 opportunity for the Trustee Council to restore and to
13 offset the injured resource services and injured
14 resources from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. This is
15 your single, biggest opportunity left in many of our
16 views. And it's not for a high dollar value, I think
17 it's very -- you know, you could do it very reasonably.

18 Chugach Alaska Corporation has already done a
19 lion's share of the job in the Eastern Copper River
20 Delta, probably 75 or 80 percent of the surface of the
21 area has been protected with no government involvement
22 whatsoever other than the California carbon market.
23 And that's a real salute to the private sector doing
24 the job here. The rest of the job has to be done by
25 the EVOS Trustee Council. And that's the big Bering

1 River Coal Field needs to be retired in perpetuity.

2 There's enormous public support for this,
3 Cordova District Fishermen United, the City of Cordova,
4 Copper River Watershed Project, Teddy Roosevelt, IV,
5 the decedent of Teddy Roosevelt who first brought the
6 area into public ownership and protection a hundred
7 years ago. And I would imagine Governor Walker, he
8 knows this area, he knows this area probably better
9 than the Trustee Council does directly, I mean, he grew
10 up not too far from there. So I would imagine he would
11 not want his Administration to be the one that leaves
12 this undone.

13 Actually to be frank the public really cannot
14 understand the reluctance of this Council to move
15 forward on this at this point. It has been years and
16 you have been entirely -- as far as I know, entirely
17 unresponsive to the overwhelming public support to get
18 this project done. I don't understand it, a lot of the
19 public doesn't understand it.

20 The link to injury analysis which we've been
21 asking for, we need to -- I think -- I would ask
22 respectfully that you commission that today. Just
23 agree to conduct a link to injury analysis for the
24 Bering River Coal Field connection to EVOS restoration
25 objectives. I know there's been some concern about

1 well, it's out of the region. Well, it's not. The
2 region line was drawn arbitrarily on the west bank of
3 the Copper River, makes no ecological sense. But
4 regardless of that the Restoration Plan provides for
5 the Trustee Council to conduct restoration projects
6 outside of the defined region when and if appropriate.
7 This is probably the most appropriate you'll ever have
8 in front of you.

9 One quick question. I understand there's a
10 letter to the Trustee Council from the delegate -- from
11 someone in the delegation asking for this link to
12 injury analysis; is that correct?

13 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yes, sir, we received a letter
14 from Senator Murkowski asking for a link to injury
15 analysis to me. Add that to the record, is that added
16 already in our administrative record?

17 MS. HSIEH: It would be in your administrative
18 record. We can add it to the -- we don't really add
19 things to the transcript here, it would be added to the
20 official record.

21 MR. WACKOWSKI: Sorry this is my first.....

22 MS. HSIEH: That's okay.

23 MR. MULDER: That's okay.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI:so I -- I'm used to
25 congressional hearings.

1 MR. MULDER: Yeah.

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: Is it a problem to add it to
3 the record?

4 MS. HSIEH: It will be added to the official
5 record with that request.

6 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay.

7 MS. HSIEH: I only have a marked up copy here
8 because it was just to the Trustees, so it was not
9 disseminated to the public at this point.

10 MR. WACKOWSKI: Gotcha. Sorry, David, this is
11 Steve speaking. Sorry -- point out too that we did add
12 it onto the agenda item for number 14 to discuss.

13 MR. STEINER: Oh, I didn't see that. Okay.
14 Thank you very much. Okay. And just to.....

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: Do we have a copy for him?

16 MS. HSIEH: Of the agenda. They're over here
17 on the meeting packet as well.

18 MR. STEINER: Good. Thank you very much. I
19 appreciate that. So I'm glad that will be added to the
20 public record. And with the Senator's letter which I
21 have not seen, I just understood that it had been sent,
22 and the enormous public support behind the Trustee
23 Council at least doing the link to injury analysis
24 here, I would again respectfully ask that you move on
25 that today. If you don't and that mine happens to be

1 developed someday in the future, it's going to be on
2 your shoulders quite squarely. And I don't think -- I
3 don't think any of you want that later on.

4 At any rate I'd be glad to answer any
5 questions, but that's what I wanted to say. Please,
6 please, go ahead with this link to injury analysis for
7 Bering River. And then if it shows that there is a
8 direct link to injury and I think it's again your best
9 opportunity for restoring at least injured and yet to
10 be recovered resource services available throughout the
11 entire oil spill region, then I suggest you do the
12 project.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. MULDER: Thank you for your comments. So I
15 believe that was the only person signed up for public
16 comment. Next we'll move the Public Advisory Committee
17 comments.

18 Kurt.

19 MR. EILO: Good morning, everyone. Sherry told
20 everyone to keep their chins up so they could be heard
21 and she told me to keep both of mine up. I thought
22 that was kind of rude.

23 (Laughter)

24 MR. EILO: So I was reluctant chair of the PAC
25 again this time which is also quite amazing and I just

1 wanted to highlight one thing from the PAC meetings,
2 that you can see we generally followed all Science
3 Committee recommendations. You don't need to, in fact,
4 spend a lot of time reviewing PAC comments, however
5 there was one point where we spent it and frequently
6 got off track focusing about the zeroed out budget for
7 outreach and that resulted in two resolutions you'll
8 see in our minutes from our meeting. I think it's the
9 fifth and sixth resolution where we ask that the EVOS
10 reconsider the role of Trustee funds to do outreach and
11 to tell the story of Exxon Valdez spill.

12 I've actually sat in here in front of you with
13 that same resolution several years ago. And it just
14 represents some concern. We do realize that there are
15 partners to the Council here that do outreach
16 activities. We're not -- I guess the group wasn't
17 certain that those really tell the story of EVOS
18 actively and we -- our suggestion was that the Trustee
19 Council perhaps set Staff forward on the task to come
20 up with a strategy that really does tell the story and
21 the work of EVOS and the legacy of the spill and
22 ultimately prevent complacency.

23 So that would be the sum up of a single item
24 that really didn't concur with Science Panel. And I
25 think I did that in under a minute.

1 MS. HSIEH: Could I.....

2 MR. MULDER: Excellent. Any Trustees have any
3 questions.

4 MS. HSIEH:make a comment to.....

5 MR. MULDER: Okay.

6 MS. HSIEH: Unfortunately I wasn't at the PAC
7 meeting this fall for personal reasons and so poor
8 Lauri and Shiway were sort of thrown into it last
9 minute. But -- and Shiway is also our new Science
10 Coordinator so didn't have a history.

11 The outreach budget was not zeroed out this
12 year. What I had done is I had given them an arc
13 showing what the Trustee Council budget had been over
14 the last like nine or 10 years, but in portion. And it
15 -- outreach used to be its own separate budget, but
16 actually what we realized is our website gets I don't
17 know how many hits a year, in the thousands, and our
18 website is really a huge vehicle that people come to us
19 and we have students, media, reporters, always
20 interfacing with us, asking us questions anywhere from
21 a third grader to, you know, large international and
22 national newspapers. So we answer all those
23 individually. And we realized the outreach budget
24 wasn't really -- it's actually what we do every day in
25 our office and so we combined it in our admin. We

1 can't really separate it out because I do outreach,
2 Sherry does it, Lauri does it all the time. We
3 couldn't really parse it out.

4 At the 20th anniversary we did make a concerted
5 effort to have an event at the zoo that I felt was
6 fairly important to educate people on oil spills. We
7 had 1,200 people attend, 400 school children. It was a
8 great event. I took a lot of time, but we enjoyed it
9 and we also took up a lot of staff time for the Trust
10 Agencies who brought their skill to bear there. We had
11 a touch take, et cetera.

12 Subsequent to that in 2011 the Deep Horizon
13 happened. Our office was hijacked for weeks, months,
14 doing only outreach, responding to I don't -- we didn't
15 even count how many -- I mean, basically all day long
16 all we had was reporters and people talking about EVOS
17 and Deep Water Horizon. Deep Water Horizon created a
18 secondary tier of awareness of oil spills in this
19 country. And in fact the journalism and products that
20 now talk about oil spills in our country link EVOS,
21 Deep Water Horizon and hopefully there won't be another
22 layer on there. So we're noticing that we're sort of
23 sidecar on that discussion.

24 We love to educate people about EVOS and we
25 love to educate people about EVOS and we love to be

1 responsive, we're happy to hear any suggestions. Also
2 what Shiway and -- and I wasn't there, I'm sorry, to
3 help educate her because she literally started just a
4 few weeks before the PAC meeting, was to develop
5 invitation for FY '17 through '21, included outreach
6 for the programs. But also I had asked all the
7 Trustees to indicate who in their agencies did their
8 outreach because it's important to have the products
9 and information from our programs go through the
10 agencies and be used so that we don't have to all be in
11 like a potato sack race where everyone has to agree on
12 the product which can be hard with six agencies plus
13 Department of Justice. So Shiway has recently been in
14 touch with your agency outreach folks and has
15 discovered that there have been radio shows and
16 products and articles written from your agencies and
17 she'll probably give an overview of that. And we -- I
18 will be wanting to encourage and look forward to more
19 of that sort of activity.

20 And also I'm happy to hear from your agency
21 personnel what they need to help promote the different
22 activities and data for the stakeholders and members of
23 the public who are interested as well.

24 So that was just to give a brief update of what
25 -- sort of the history of what we have been doing. And

1 of course I'm always happen to hear ideas. I think
2 it's important that the public know about the
3 devastation of the spill and in fact in 20 -- for the
4 20th anniversary the first thing people saw when they
5 came in was a video of the animals actively and the
6 spill.

7 Of course Deep Water Horizon has kind of
8 eclipsed that in some ways in the national and
9 international view, but we continue to try and let
10 people know and answer very quickly any inquiries and
11 keep our website up-to-date.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. MULDER: Thank you.

14 MR. MULDER: Thank you.

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: This is Steve. Kurt, so a
16 question. Your point with outreach though is not about
17 the devastation of the spill, it's about the work that
18 EVOS is doing?

19 MR. EILO: I think it's all of those things.
20 So telling the full story because EVOS has done a lot
21 of things. I -- the best example that came out in the
22 meeting was how -- I wouldn't want to pick on
23 millennials, but I seem to do it often enough, but how
24 few of them really understand the scope of what
25 happened during the spill. They assume that

1 everything's done, cleaned up, that there isn't
2 lingering oil. The science behind it -- the amazing
3 science behind it, I think that whole story is what we
4 think it might be missing in some of our younger
5 generations. And that was our -- I think some of the
6 -- one of the comments that really struck home for me
7 is that might be the case.

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: I would tend to agree with you
9 as a millennial on the Council. I was in third grade
10 during the spill and -- here in Anchorage. I actually
11 didn't even know EVOS existed until I went to work for
12 Senator Stevens on Capital Hill and then it was kind of
13 an afterthought. And then when I was nominated into
14 this job I had very little understanding or
15 appreciation of the existence or the work we've done.
16 And one example we talked about at our fall meeting is
17 some of our restoration projects. We built -- helped
18 fund building a river overwalk in the Kenai River,
19 right. And I don't even think we have a logo on there
20 saying, hey, we helped fund this.

21 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, if we could add signage to
22 some of our projects.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: I think that would be important
24 to know that the legacy of at least the Council will
25 live on. And I don't know if it's worth considering us

1 trying to look not just within the agencies, but maybe
2 at some sort of consultant to help us tell our
3 narrative. Is that the road you were going down,
4 is.....

5 MR. EILO: I think that covers part of it. I
6 -- you know, I have a lot of faith in Elise and I think
7 a lot of what we suggest is being done and perhaps it
8 could be communicated as a -- kind of a long term
9 strategy on how we're going to continue to tell that
10 story. And I think that might appease all of us to
11 know there is a plan forward.

12 MS. HSIEH: Can I -- maybe we can talk a little
13 more and I can come up with some things. I -- we have
14 discussed signage on some of the restoration projects,
15 especially now we're doing a lot of habitat enhancement
16 that really is physical on the ground where people can
17 see it such as the walkways. And that was done in the
18 past era as well. And actually -- so some of the past
19 era projects I probably wouldn't do because they
20 probably need a refresh and we're not doing that
21 currently. But over the last few years all the culvert
22 projects, some of the Kenai Flats projects, we could
23 talk to those project managers and see what would be
24 appropriate in those physical areas.

25 So it is true the Trustee Council has kept --

1 our office tends to work under the agencies that we
2 want to support, what the agencies would like to do
3 which is perhaps a little different than the initial
4 era where the Trustee Council itself sort of bannered
5 itself and had more of an advertising feel to it. And
6 I think that it was more effective trying to support
7 the agencies.

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: Do we engage -- sorry, this is
9 Steve again. Do we engage the school districts and the
10 State Board of Education on getting this included.....

11 MS. HSIEH: We're.....

12 MR. WACKOWSKI:in curriculum or.....

13 MS. HSIEH:The Department of Justice had
14 indicated in the past that Trustee Council funds are
15 not to be used for education. However during our
16 anniversary I did have the school district come and do
17 field trips. And so we could -- I could round back
18 around to the Department of Justice and it is its
19 curriculum now my children to me, but I could go back
20 to Department of Justice and see how they feel, I could
21 maybe come up with some ideas, maybe some outreach in
22 the schools, and see how the Department of Justice
23 would feel about that currently.

24 MR. MULDER: Steve.

25 MR. HARTIG: This is Larry. David, a couple

1 things. I think the outreach is real important, I
2 appreciate the fact you're bringing it up because I
3 think particularly now as legislators and others are
4 looking for sources of funds for different things that,
5 you know, are important to them, that, you know, they
6 know that the EVOS fund is out there and so they go
7 look there. And so I think it's important for
8 everybody to understand what EVOS is and what it isn't,
9 try to be clear on that. And that can get lost and we
10 just can't assume people will find that out on their
11 own.

12 On the education thing, I've had experience in
13 other venues on that and my experience has been the
14 school districts are pretty set on what they can teach
15 and they have a limited period of time to teach it and
16 you have to do teacher training and the curriculum has
17 to be approved. So it isn't like you just throw
18 something at them, they say, oh, this looks good and
19 then they start teaching it. It's a process. And I --
20 and so if we got into that I think we'd have to talk to
21 some of those groups that do curriculum and find out
22 what's involved and because it has to be neutral.....

23 MS. HSIEH: It.....

24 MR. HARTIG:and it has to fit in.....

25 MS. HSIEH: Right.

1 MR. HARTIG:with kind of what they have
2 to teach at each level and.....

3 MS. HSIEH: It currently is being taught in our
4 schools.

5 MR. HARTIG: Oh, yeah, it's integrated in
6 there.....

7 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

8 MR. HARTIG:in some fashion or another,
9 but if we were trying to -- you don't just walk in the
10 door with some.....

11 MS. HSIEH: No.

12 MR. HARTIG:and say here it is.

13 MS. HSIEH: Then every group would be walking
14 into the school asking.....

15 MR. HARTIG: Yeah.

16 MS. HSIEH:for their interest to be.....

17 MR. HARTIG: It's along there.

18 MS. HSIEH:I mean, maybe -- we did have
19 this whole field trip thing, you know, I really need to
20 talk to the Department of Justice because it takes the
21 Trustee Council in a different way if suddenly we're
22 putting on events where school children come which was
23 very successful and we did do it for that anniversary.
24 But we were cautioned about what these funds are for
25 which is natural resource damage. So we just have to

1 straddle those uses.

2 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I think the interpretive
3 stuff like on the things that we do purchase and that
4 sort of thing, like I know the Mill's parcel is coming
5 up down in Valdez and, you know, interpretative stuff
6 around that I think is kind of education that we can
7 do.

8 MS. HSIEH: That would be great. And actually
9 there's probably staff in some of your agencies that
10 could help us with that, or we could fund the signage
11 and interpretive materials for those projects. That
12 would be a great partnership.

13 MR. MULDER: Terri, did you have a comment.

14 MS. MARCERON: Yeah, I appreciate it too. I
15 read the notes carefully in terms of some of the ideas
16 that you did provide like attendance at Alaska Forum on
17 the Environment and the Federation of Native
18 activities. And I certainly see that some of that
19 outreach of just sort of showcasing what a summary of
20 current results are probably would be really helpful.
21 And then again I know it was also brought up the 30th
22 anniversary's coming up and there may be that
23 opportunity.

24 So I guess my take, Elise, is that I would
25 support, you know, your look sort of at -- sort of the

1 past history of some products tied in with what the PAC
2 is already kind of recommending and, you know, come
3 back to us with that. Including -- I like the
4 opportunity. We do have some interpretive.....

5 MS. HSIEH: That would be great.

6 MS. MARCERON:experts and there's
7 some.....

8 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

9 MS. MARCERON:fantastic different types
10 of folks that work on those kinds of signs that maybe
11 again you could just maybe provide us the options or
12 the array of a few choices recognizing you have to be
13 really careful.....

14 MS. HSIEH: Right.

15 MS. MARCERON:some of the side boards
16 that we have. But I appreciate the fact that the
17 outreach -- a lot of the information is very, very
18 technical which is what I read. And so making it sort
19 of to that other audience, to simplify and showcase
20 that even after years, like the forest -- we just got
21 done working on our plan, forest plan, and know that we
22 still have 3.7 miles of shoreline that still have oil
23 and again people may not realize that we still have
24 lingering oil on national forest systems. So there may
25 be some ways to keep it pretty simple, but also very

1 informal.

2 MS. HSIEH: And also in the past for the 20th
3 anniversary we worked with the National Park Service so
4 we would have -- we don't have those skills in our
5 office so we would need to lean on agency staff. And
6 NOAA has done an amazing job actually, using EVOS
7 information on their website and telling the story as
8 well.

9 MR. MULDER: Jim.

10 MR. BALSIGER: So I agree with all that's been
11 said, but if we're -- particularly as we approach 30
12 years and if you work and devise a strategy you might
13 want to look at specific money and budget next year to
14 accomplish some of this kind of stuff. I agree it
15 would -- what you said, Elise, that the website has
16 most of this stuff and it can be discovered in the
17 published papers if you want to do that, but it's not
18 quite the same as having a dedicated amount of money.
19 And I understand that the -- I don't want -- I'm not
20 trying to make another item that you have to keep track
21 of the money spent against it, but as we come to the
22 30th you might want to consider.....

23 MS. HSIEH: So actually what would be great is
24 if you guys could put me in contact with your outreach
25 -- well, I guess it's the same people for the programs

1 because that's what we did in the past is we funneled
2 the money to the agencies and helped -- and had their
3 staff who have experience and have the talents in these
4 areas to partner with us to come up with different
5 products. And then, you know, we worked with them to
6 do that.

7 MR. BALSIGER: Well.....

8 MS. HSIEH: Is that not.....

9 MR. BALSIGER:I think that's fine, but of
10 course our public people are -- public outreach people,
11 we have them employed full-time.

12 MS. HSIEH: Right.

13 MR. BALSIGER: And so when -- unless there's
14 extra people we can bring in or extra money, it's hard
15 to pile on more than we're doing which I
16 appreciate.....

17 MS. HSIEH: Well, the funding would go.....

18 MS. ADAMS: Back to NOAA.

19 MS. HSIEH:to NOAA. Yeah, there would be
20 funds attached in the.....

21 MR. BALSIGER: Right. So I think we need to
22 identify them is my point.

23 MS. HSIEH: Right.

24 MS. ADAMS: Right. Okay.

25 MR. WACKOWSKI: Is there any -- is there not --

1 this is Steve, David, sorry.

2 MR. ROGERS: I couldn't tell. Thank you.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay. What's the reluctance to
4 look at a pot of money to bring someone on part-time
5 into EVOS itself instead of borrowing someone from the
6 -- or borrowing our manpower from the agencies. I know
7 a lot for DOI. The federal agencies want a hiring
8 freeze and so that hits a lot of the public affairs
9 staff who are shorthanded. So is there reluctance to
10 bring someone like a consultant or something like that
11 onto your staff to help or I -- I'm trying to
12 understand that?

13 MS. HSIEH: Well, we can always expand the
14 administrative budget and hire more people, I mean,
15 that's what I (indiscernible - simultaneous
16 speech).....

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Well, I'm not saying it has to
18 be, you know, a state, but can you bring on like a
19 consultant or a contractor for a finite period of time
20 for the.....

21 MS. HSIEH: To be honest with you a consultant
22 -- it would be better for me to even just have some
23 phone conversations with some agency outreach people
24 because a consultant what I'll have to do is to say --
25 I'll have to -- it's like doing your taxes, I'll have

1 to bring them all the projects to say here's the
2 projects that are recent, here's where signage is
3 appropriate and they'll say, great, let's do some
4 signage. I mean, so it would actually create more work
5 for me to educate a consultant. I think that if our
6 group sits and looks at our projects and starts to try
7 and build that into upcoming projects and also look at
8 our recent habitat enhancement projects, we can go back
9 to Rys Miranda who's here, Great Land Trust, I think
10 all of our partners who make these projects happen, can
11 have some great ideas whereas if I bring in a
12 consultant I'm going to have to explain -- I'll spend a
13 lot of time explaining for them I think.

14 MS. ADAMS: And probably the thing is that if
15 we undertake that kind of effort then there would be a
16 budget attached to doing any of the ideas.

17 MS. HSIEH: That's correct.

18 MS. ADAMS: So there would have to be a
19 comeback with a budget.....

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: Isn't that what.....

21 MS. ADAMS:to do the signage.

22 MS. HSIEH: Yes, that's right.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI:Mr. Balsiger just proposed
24 though?

25 MS. HSIEH: Yes, that's right. That's what

1 we'd do.

2 MS. ADAMS: Right. Right.

3 MS. HSIEH: But in the meantime before we meet
4 again and before there's funds attached, we're happy to
5 look at that. I think you'll be, you know, taking
6 steps.

7 MR. MULDER: Kurt.

8 MR. EILO: Am I allowed to -- I don't know how
9 to -- how do I make a point of order here. Just wanted
10 to make two thoughts following that. One point of
11 clarification is that for those that don't know, I
12 actually organized Alaska Forum on the Environment and
13 these comments weren't specifically requesting that --
14 EVOS involvement in the forum and it wasn't meant self-
15 serving in that way. So I want to make that clear.
16 However we would support any proposal that you wanted
17 to, it doesn't involve cost for us, only for you to
18 prepare it.

19 And the second is that maybe the outreach team
20 could seek volunteers from organizations that would be
21 willing to participate in the public sector. And that
22 was just a idea.

23 MR. MULDER: All right. Thank you very much
24 for your time.

25 MR. EILO: Thank you.

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: According to this, Mr. Phil
2 Johnson and the 2016/18 PAC Conservation/Environmental
3 seat vacancy. The status of our solicitation.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Good morning.

5 MR. MULDER: Morning.

6 MR. JOHNSON: So as I think some of you know
7 there's a vacancy on the PAC, it's for the
8 Conservation/Environmental interest. And so that's for
9 the remainder of the term which runs through December
10 2nd, 2018.

11 So the Secretary of the Interior actually is
12 the person that selects the new PAC members and is the
13 selecting official. And so we have prepared a draft
14 Federal Register notice and it's under internal review
15 within DOI. So we will -- you know, once that internal
16 review's done we'll send it over to the Office of the
17 Federal Register, it takes two or three weeks to
18 publish it and so it's in process.

19 I think one other thing I'd like to mention is
20 that we're asking for or we're planning on putting it
21 out for 45 days. If under fact a committee rules it's
22 30 days is the minimum, but we thought it can't hurt to
23 give a little extra time just to have people be able to
24 view -- become aware of the notice, pull their
25 materials together, that sort of thing.

1 And let's see, I think the -- so then how that
2 process would work is and how the draft Federal
3 Register is written is that the materials would come
4 into the EVOS office and then they would provide those
5 -- you know, package them up and provide those
6 materials to DOI. And so that's the process as I
7 understand it.

8 And the next PAC meeting will be in September,
9 2018, so there's plenty of time to work on this. It's
10 not like we're in a rush. So there's plenty of time
11 to, you know, go out to the public and hopefully get
12 some good candidates.

13 MR. MULDER: All right. Any questions.

14 MR. JOHNSON: So any questions, if.....

15 (No comments)

16 MR. MULDER: Thank you very much.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks.

18 MR. MULDER: That brings us to the Annual Asset
19 Allocation, item number 6, Investment.

20 Elise.

21 MS. HSIEH: The EVOS Investment Working Group
22 met in the spring as they do every year, to review a
23 presentation by Callan Associates and determine an
24 asset allocation recommendation for FY '18. The
25 Investment Working Group currently consists of Paul

1 Eriendson of Callan Associates, Bob Mitchell of
2 Department of Revenue, both of whom are on the phone I
3 believe to answer any questions. Steve Mulder and Jen
4 Shore, Department of Law, Joe Darnell or Liz Gobeski of
5 Department of Interior, Solicitor's Office, myself and
6 Laurie Adams and Larry Hartig of Department of
7 Environmental Conservation. The Investment Working
8 Group is typically assembled in the early spring and
9 Trustees are contacted should they wish to join or
10 participate, kind of a open group.

11 Over the years EVOS investment funds have been
12 invested fairly aggressively, yielding substantial
13 earnings for the Council and also having weathered a
14 severe downturn in 2008/2009. As the investment funds
15 slowly wind down to an anticipated end in 10 to 15
16 years, the asset allocation is tailored to reflect
17 anticipated time horizons and spending patterns. Thus
18 the asset allocation recommended by the group for FY
19 '18 reflects a slightly more conservative posture than
20 that in the past few years while still pursuing a
21 growth and risk oriented net.

22 The asset allocation recommended by the
23 Investment Working Group is Mix 3 in the asset
24 allocation review that's in your packets dated April of
25 2017 shown on page 9 with domestic equity it's 35

1 percent plus or minus 7 percent, international equities
2 22 percent plus or minus 7. Domestic bonds 43 percent
3 plus or minus 5 percent and a cash equivalent of --
4 plus 10 percent minus 0 percent.

5 There is -- Paul and Bob are on the phone to
6 answer any specific questions, but this year things are
7 fairly stable and just kind of ratcheting back slightly
8 to a more conservative mix.

9 MR. MULDER: Any questions.

10 (No comments)

11 MR. MULDER: So this agenda item needs a
12 motion. Any volunteers.

13 MR. HARTIG: This is Larry. I move we approve
14 the following asset allocation for FY '18. Domestic
15 equities, 35 percent, plus or minus 7 percent;
16 international equities, 22 percent, plus or minus 7
17 percent; domestic bonds, 43 percent, plus or minus 5
18 percent cash equivalents, 0 percent plus or minus 10
19 percent -- minus 0 percent.

20 MR. MULDER: Is there a second?

21 MR. ROGERS: Second. David here.

22 MR. MULDER: Are you in favor, David?

23 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

24 MR. MULDER: Anyone opposed?

25 (No opposing votes)

1 MR. MULDER: All right. So that motion.....

2 MR. BALSIGER: Mr. Chairman.

3 MR. MULDER: Yes. Just a (indiscernible), who
4 serves on that group from the Trustees.....

5 MS. HSIEH: It was the.....

6 MR. BALSIGER:

7 MS. HSIEH: I just mentioned them and it's Paul
8 Eriendson of Callan Associates, Bob Mitchell,
9 Department of Revenue, Steve Mulder or Jen Shore,
10 Department of Law, Joe Darnell or Liz Gobeski of
11 Department of Interior, Solicitor's Office, myself and
12 Laurie and Larry Hartig. But it's an open group, we
13 solicit you guys every spring and happy to have you.

14 MR. WACKOWSKI: Are investors on the phone?

15 MS. HSIEH: Excuse me, are investment
16 advisors.....

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah.

18 MS. HSIEH:Department of Revenue and Paul
19 Eriendson, yes.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'm just curious, how much is
21 the fund maintenance fees and the commissions
22 associated, like yearly average?

23 MS. HSIEH: We have recently reduced our third
24 party account associate's fee. Actually I can't
25 remember the exact number it was. I believe it was

1 proposed for 17 to \$25,000 this year, but we've reached
2 a -- we talked to Callan and they are on tap for the
3 Trustee Council, for us to prompt a review by them if
4 we -- at a time where we feel something unusual's going
5 on or if we'd like another set of eyes, we have a very
6 good working relationship and appreciate our long
7 standing relationship with Callan. So I actually did
8 reduce that in the budget this year, that cost.

9 And Department of Revenue has a custodial cost
10 and, Bob, do you know what the percentage is, I know
11 we're getting a good deal, but.....

12 MR. MITCHELL: This is Bob. Unfortunately I
13 can't quote you the percentage, but I can talk -- I can
14 speak to the process. The fees that are assessed are
15 kind of the cost of our operation that is allocated to
16 the two portfolios that we manage on your behalf. So
17 it would be a pro rata allocation. So think of it as
18 cost for us. If you'd like more specific information
19 I'd be happy to research that, but unfortunately I
20 don't have that in front of me.

21 MS. HSIEH: Linda, our admin manager is here.
22 Can you remember the annual cost?

23 MS. KILBOURNE: It's about 700,000.

24 MS. HSIEH: Okay. Per year?

25 MS. KILBOURNE: Yeah.

1 MS. HSIEH: The 200 -- it ranges around 196 to
2 \$212 million.....

3 MS. KILBOURNE: Correct.

4 MS. HSIEH:per year? Okay. Does that
5 help you? Are you sure it's 700?

6 MS. KILBOURNE: Well, when we first get it it's
7 about a million, but then they adjust per their work
8 and we usually get adjusted at the end and it's about
9 700 I think.

10 MR. WACKOWSKI: That was my question.

11 MS. HSIEH: There we go.

12 MR. MULDER: Okay. Any other questions.

13 (No comments)

14 MR. MULDER: We'll move on to agenda item
15 number 7, the Long Term Programs. Or did.....

16 MS. HSIEH: You know, I just -- the -- I would
17 say that the services the Department of Revenue
18 provides is sort of wide ranging to us. We often use
19 them for a lot of different advising. And we have --
20 we've done well by following their advice and having
21 them also be the custodian of the fund. Bob Mitchell
22 in particular has worked with us through that massive
23 downturn which we recovered from very well and we
24 appreciate the Department of Revenue and their work
25 with our funds.

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: Right. And so -- but there was
2 a history.....

3 MS. HSIEH: Yes.

4 MR. WACKOWSKI:to the settlement fund, it
5 wasn't always.....

6 MS. HSIEH: That's correct.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI:invested by the Department
8 of Revenue.

9 MS. HSIEH: It used to be in a court registry
10 where it made almost nothing. And federal legislation
11 helped move it into the stock market which is why we --
12 you all sit here today because of the aggressive
13 investment, the inherent performance of the stock
14 market during this really extreme 10 year period and
15 the Trustees and Department of Revenue and our third
16 party advisors, Callan, for staying the course. And
17 recovering well from the different recessions during
18 which time we have cut back our budget and we would do
19 again if we had a market drop, you'd see our office do
20 as we did before, we really cut back and tighten our
21 seat belts and ride it out. So we have had that
22 experience twice.

23 MR. MULDER: Welcome, Shiway. You're going to
24 lead us through the discussion for our long term
25 programs.

1 MS. WANG: Hi.

2 MS. HSIEH: Our new Science Coordinator, Shiway
3 Wang.

4 MS. WANG: I'm happy to be here. Like Elise
5 said I just started in August so here we go. I'm going
6 to start off with the Gulf Watch Alaska Program.

7 The Gulf Watch Alaska Program is progressing
8 well. The Science Panel is pleased with the quality of
9 the proposals and recommends funding the entire
10 program. Program lead, Mandy Lindeberg, and her
11 management team continue to strengthen coordination of
12 logistic and synthesizing the results. And the program
13 has had a productive year, 19 papers have been accepted
14 in a peer review journal, 45 data sets have been made
15 public and there were 13 DOI and NOAA agency public
16 outreach products, including web articles, educational
17 videos, TV stories and K through 12 presentations.

18 The PIs are achieving program and project goals
19 on a timely manner. Plans for FY '18 have not shifted
20 from their original submission in FY '17.

21 And now I'll hand it over to Mandy to go over
22 some of the program highlights for FY '17.

23 MS. LINDEBERG: So I'm Mandy Lindeberg with
24 NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center located
25 with the Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau. I have --

1 let's see I started my first research project with the
2 Trustees in 1990. Okay. We're not doing the math,
3 that's enough. It was a long time. So we've done lots
4 of oil spill research and I'm honored to lead this
5 program and the management team and the group of
6 wonderful scientists involved in this project.

7 I have a little bit of a cold, so hopefully my
8 voice holds out. If you can't hear or -- let me know.

9 Just for those of you that are new, the program
10 has five main objectives. We want to sustain and build
11 upon existing time series data sets that are in the
12 EVOS affected region. Some of these data sets are long
13 term, decadal, some I think up to 40 years too, pre-
14 spill. So these are really significant long term time
15 series data. We want to monitor key ecosystem
16 components and changes that happen with those, how
17 they'll impact the injured resources. Also make this
18 data available including any historic data we can get
19 our hands on, make it available to the public in many
20 different forms. And also develop science synthesis
21 products for decision makers and be able to communicate
22 our findings to regional partners, tribal villages and
23 management agencies.

24 Our program organization, pretty simple. We
25 have a Program Management Team, we also have a Outreach

1 Steering Committee and a Science Review Panel and then
2 we have a Science Coordinating Committee that oversees
3 our ecosystem components, the environmental drivers and
4 the pelagic and nearshore ecosystem.

5 So I'm focusing in here on the ecosystem
6 components. This is really the core of the program,
7 this is where it all happens. We have the
8 environmental drivers folks, a series of projects that
9 are oceanographic and also looking at primary
10 productivity in these oil infected areas. And also the
11 pelagic ecosystem group is looking at predator/prey
12 relationships and their populations. And also the
13 nearshore ecosystem that's looking at keytropic species
14 in the nearshore and their health. And as you can
15 see there's a lot of agency and nonprofit organizations
16 involved here with lots of in kind services going to
17 these projects. Scientists with a wealth of
18 information about the nearshore and the Northern Gulf
19 ecosystem, really an incredible group of people.

20 And here's a -- sort of a monitoring footprint
21 of the program. The outer white line is the spill
22 affected area and you can see our various monitoring
23 efforts in that. Inside there we have different
24 ecological regions like Prince William Sound, the Kenai
25 coast, Kachemak Bay, and even out on the Katmai coast.

1 And I'm not going to go into all the details of that,
2 it's a messy map, but that's a good thing. That means
3 we're covering these areas, we're looking at how these
4 different ecosystems are responding to potential
5 changes that we're seeing in the Gulf. So the messier
6 the better, I say.

7 I'm just going to highlight some of our recent
8 findings. It's been focused on the marine heat wave
9 that we experienced in 2014 and '16. Scientists like
10 to affectionately call this the warm blob and we've
11 been documenting this event. The Environmental Drivers
12 Group has seen enormously high temperatures at the
13 surface and also at depth throughout our monitoring
14 regions. I've seen in primary productivity a decline
15 in cold water species of zooplankton and a long -- and
16 they're a nutritional -- nutritionally zooplankton
17 associated with cold water and instead we're seeing a
18 warm water species persist, they're not as
19 nutritionally rich. These are the bugs, these are the
20 things that feed larger organisms so it's very
21 important to understand what's going on with this
22 primary productivity.

23 The pelagic ecosystem, they've seen declining
24 populations in seabirds and forage fish during this
25 time. They've seen changes in the behavior and the

1 distribution and the diets of a lot of the predators.
2 And unfortunately we've seen some die offs of marine
3 birds and some unusual mortality events with marine
4 mammals.

5 In the nearshore ecosystem we've seen some
6 variable patterns among the keytropic species. Some
7 are driven in local areas, but others are Gulf wide.
8 An example is an outbreak of disease, sea star wasting
9 disease, you may have seen that in the news. I'm
10 always impressed that a invertebrate got so much air
11 time. People love sea stars and they're a voracious
12 predator in the nearshore. So it's an important thing
13 to be looking at that is definitely associated with
14 this heat wave.

15 So that's kind of a quick -- really quick
16 overview of some of our findings. Now I'm going to go
17 through and give you about 35 slides of data summaries.
18 No, I'm kidding. I won't do that to you. Just seeing
19 if you're paying attention. We could do it though if
20 we really want.

21 Instead I'm going to shift gears and talk about
22 some of the program successes from a management point
23 of view. We've been in motion now for over five years,
24 we're well into the sixth year. And we've got a head
25 of steam going on, we got critical mass that we're

1 really starting to see. We're seeing new
2 collaborations of users, increases in resource sharing,
3 leveraging of funds, scientific relationships and
4 different ways of accessing data. So why are we seeing
5 these increase right now. I think it's because we've
6 demonstrated that the program has staying power. It's
7 not just a two year, one off project. We're here with
8 a long term program and we've been really productive.
9 So people are now wanting to collaborate with us,
10 they're wanting to partner up.

11 So I'm just going to give you a few examples of
12 some of the collaborations and some of the users of the
13 Gulf Watch Information. This is a quote from Mandy
14 Migura and Dr. Kate Savage from the Alaska Regional
15 Stranding Network. About a year ago we contacted them
16 and said, hey, you know, we've got a whole fleet of
17 researchers out there during different times of the
18 year. If you ever need help with a stranding event let
19 us know, here's our contact information and when we'll
20 be out, our schedules. And it turned out to be
21 fortuitous because that following summer we had two
22 whales that stranded in Prince William Sound and our
23 scientists were able to locate the carcasses, get some
24 critical samples for those folks. That helped them
25 understand what's going on with these whales. So that

1 has been a really good working relationship with those
2 folks.

3 Also the National Park Service, Dr. Benjamin
4 Pister is a director of the Ocean Alaska Science and
5 Learning Center, gave us a great example of how he uses
6 Gulf Watch data. They use it to inform their staff on
7 what's going on with the marine resources in their
8 parks areas. Also visitors and interpretative centers,
9 they create documents like this resource brief on --
10 this one's on sea otters and how the Gulf Watch
11 monitoring is monitoring that population.

12 MS. HSIEH: Are logos on it? Thank you.

13 MS. LINDEBERG: Huh?

14 MS. HSIEH: Are logos on them?

15 MS. LINDEBERG: Yes, they're right there and
16 they have several of these. So it's been really great
17 to get -- that's a huge audience those guys get to with
18 all the tourists. So that's a great way to go about
19 that.

20 Also Dr. Stephani Zador with the Alaska
21 Fisheries Science Center has been using our Gulf Watch
22 data to include in her ecosystems considerations report
23 to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on an
24 annual basis. We have indices with our data that she
25 uses to look at the overall health of the Northern

1 Pacific. So she relies a lot on several of our data
2 sets for this report.

3 Also a use, Alaska Ocean Observer System, and
4 Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Preserve is
5 collaborating with Gulf Watch oceanographers in
6 Kachemak Bay to look at issues of concern right now
7 there for ocean acidification and harmful alga blooms
8 and developing risk assessment tools for PSP. And they
9 provide this information on the IOS platform so the
10 public can go here and user groups like Shellfish
11 Growers Association and also subsistence harvests of
12 shellfish and clam and learn about the science behind
13 these issues and how to deal with it safely.

14 Also a little nerdy part, but new sighting. We
15 collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
16 and Dr. Kathy Kuletz is a seabird coordinator there.
17 And she needed an observer out on a NOAA vessel this
18 summer on a charter through some of our oil spill
19 areas. So we put an observer on there and we had an
20 unusual observation that resulted in a sighting of --
21 the first sighting of a Nazca Booby, *Sula granti*, a
22 very cool scientific name. And this is unusual, it was
23 in the Bering Islands and it's usually only seen in the
24 Southeastern Pacific Ocean. It's way out of its range,
25 but this is a great example of, you know, just getting

1 eyes out there, trained eyes out there, we were able to
2 capture these events and see changes happening.

3 Also important to the program is leveraging of
4 funds. This last year we had a huge success with this,
5 some of our Gulf Watch PIs at University of Alaska
6 Fairbanks Oceanographer were awarded the National
7 Science Foundation Long Term Ecological Research Site.
8 This is bringing a million dollars per year plus ship
9 time into the Gulf area for oceanographers. It will
10 result in expanded sampling or that monitoring
11 footprint that we have on the shelf and in Prince
12 William Sound. And it'll add another crew in the
13 summer. Also it will increase the amount of routine
14 oceanographic measurements that are being taken and
15 we'll also be able to have experimental studies,
16 additional ones, to help us understand why certain --
17 we see productivity is so variable in some areas. And
18 so our Gulf Watch PIs are very excited about this, it's
19 going to fill a lot of data gaps. But really I think
20 the one reason they got the funding was because Gulf
21 Watch programs existed. It's a long term monitoring
22 program, it's already up and running and the Science
23 Foundation was like we can add to this and help get
24 more information to this monitoring program. So that
25 has been a huge success.

1 Also working relationships and new ones for the
2 program is really important. We've had a great working
3 relationship with Herring and Research Monitoring
4 Program led by Scott Pegau and his PI. We regularly
5 work together in that program. But we've also been
6 reaching out to people like Stephanie Zador for the
7 Ecosystems Consideration reports and making regular
8 contributions to that. In addition to that we've
9 also reached out to the International North Pacific
10 Marine Science organization known as PICES and
11 contributing to their five year report that's coming
12 out soon. We've also integrated with NPRB, GoWire
13 Ecosystem Program and our PIs are working with theirs
14 on syntheses and also sharing resources to organize
15 some special sessions in a workshop in an upcoming
16 Ocean Sciences 2018 conference. So there's going to be
17 some serious science conversations going on there. So
18 that -- I'm looking forward to that.

19 Our outreach is going strong. Recently we for
20 this five year increment have established an Outreach
21 Coordinator, we've identified members for our Outreach
22 Steering Committee, we've also started a new quarterly
23 newsletter that goes to the Trustee staff and the
24 Science Review Panels and the PAC.

25 MS. HSIEH: It'll be going to the PAC now too.

1 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

2 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

3 MS. LINDEBERG: And we've already done two
4 issues, another one is coming out soon. Those are
5 really helpful to track what's going on with the
6 program.

7 And we're also using the sponsoring agency
8 public relations folks to increase the program's
9 visibility, use their resources and get our findings
10 and products out there. We've worked on -- gotten
11 professional videos out on the Mirror Die Off Story,
12 we've done press releases with some of the agency folks
13 that helped a lot and also with local interviews with
14 news stations. So we're going strong in that
15 department. You can always do more outreach though,
16 right. So we're still working it, improving it,
17 expanding it, getting the message out.

18 And as Shiway mentioned we've been wrapping up
19 the first five years of the program with some big
20 products. This is a special issue that's forthcoming.
21 We have the 19 peer reviewed papers that includes
22 papers from Gulf Watch Program and the Herring Research
23 and Monitoring Programs. Those papers are actually
24 available now online. But we're putting the volume
25 together in a special issue and we've got a forward in

1 there from Dr. Pete Peterson and Jeep Rice, our Senior
2 Scientist. Pete's on the Science Review Panel. They
3 know all about the history of the spill and so
4 knowledgeable. So they wrote a wonderful forward for
5 this issue. We also have an introductory paper to set
6 the stage for the 19 papers. So we're really excited.
7 That volume should be together and available in January
8 so pretty soon. And we also published the 45 data sets
9 from the program for the first five years. And those
10 are now available on the DataONE node which is a
11 national node so all the other nodes of data
12 repositories all have access to our data now. So we
13 are getting really long arms and fingers out all over
14 the place.

15 MS. HSIEH: Does DataONE go international as
16 well?

17 MS. LINDEBERG: It does.

18 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

19 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

20 MS. HSIEH: DataONE is a huge replication
21 source.

22 MS. LINDEBERG: It's really -- it's a big coo
23 for us I think, it's really.....

24 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

25 MS. LINDEBERG:putting us on the map.

1 So.....

2 MS. HSIEH: It's the gold standard I think.

3 MS. LINDEBERG:for us that are going to
4 retire at some point, it'll always be there.

5 And so also we've got a new research work space
6 thanks to ASUS and Axion providing the PIs with these
7 new powerful tools to deal with the data management
8 behind the scenes and get them ready for the public.
9 So, you know, we'll be going great guns on all of this,
10 we're pretty excited.

11 Oh, I'm done. So there's some of the motley
12 crew, there's some swimmers from the herring folks in
13 there that snuck in. But it's a great group, really
14 passionate about keeping this program going. And I'm
15 going to meet with them tomorrow in Cordova, we have
16 our big annual workshop then.

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Who are these, these are all
18 the PIs on the.....

19 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI:various projects?

21 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah. That was from one of our
22 annual meetings a couple years ago. Going to put on
23 the agenda for a group photo this year, update it.

24 MR. MULDER: Thank you, Mandy.

25 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah, thank you.

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: Mandy, I was -- I brought this
2 up in our fall meeting, but I was glad to see the slide
3 on the research being used to inform the Pacific --
4 North Pacific Council. I stressed the importance of,
5 you know, our science not just being for the sake of
6 science, but it being actual so policymakers can make
7 informed decisions. So kudos to you, thanks for
8 putting up the slides and appreciate the work you guys
9 have done.

10 MS. LINDEBERG: Yes, thank you.

11 MR. MULDER: Jim.

12 MR. BALSIGER: So, Mr. Chairman, Steve brings
13 up a good point, you know, people wonder how this gets
14 used and so Mandy points out this annually gets cranked
15 into the ecosystem chapter of the status of stocks.
16 But the North Pacific Council, I'll make up a number,
17 it probably has 30 significant actions a year as it
18 considers regulations. There's an analytical package
19 that goes with each of those and it's rare if that
20 analytical package in the Gulf doesn't refer to work of
21 the Gulf Watch or the goal for those things. So the
22 use of this is way broader than just that one chapter
23 you recognized. So Steve has a good point. I'm not
24 quite sure how to make whoever needs to know aware that
25 this is useful in many, many places.

1 MR. MULDER: Larry.

2 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I really appreciate
3 everybody's effort on this and it exceeded my
4 expectation. I was a strong supporter for this when we
5 put it together for EVOS funding. But I was curious, I
6 don't know if you're right the person, maybe Jim could
7 help, but is this kind of unique or are there -- I
8 mean, you look across Alaska and you look at other
9 areas of Alaska, you know, this data set is it unique
10 or is it -- are there other parts of the state where
11 you have similar data sets, similar research efforts in
12 progress?

13 MS. LINDBERG: No, in my opinion it is unique.
14 It's a huge state, we all know that. We've got the
15 Arctic, we've got all these huge regional areas that
16 are all very different. But what we have here I think
17 really are these decadal data sets, they're becoming
18 gold mines for researchers.

19 MR. HARTIG: That goes with my next point
20 is.....

21 MS. LINDBERG: You just don't have that kind
22 of data in the state.

23 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, we're -- at our Department
24 we work with others on data sets for environmental
25 quality, you know, pollutants in Southeast Alaska is a

1 big focus right now because of transboundary mine
2 concerns and with part being, you know, U.S. Forest
3 Service and others to try -- and the Canadians, we have
4 an agreement with them to share data. But I'm looking
5 at that as sort of a model for collaborations in other
6 parts of the state and I'm wondering if that's what's
7 happening here, you know, other parts of the state are
8 looking at it, what they're doing in Prince William
9 Sound and all these groups collaborating. But I just
10 wonder if there's a way of -- you know, maybe not to
11 this level, but replicate it in other parts of the
12 state, this kind of cooperation and sharing of data.

13 MS. LINDEBERG: I'm not aware of that. There's
14 not a lot in the state.

15 MR. HARTIG: It's hard getting these kind of
16 data sets.....

17 MS. LINDEBERG: It's really hard.

18 MR. HARTIG:and maintaining programs.....

19 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

20 MR. HARTIG:without some kind of special
21 attention.

22 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah, I agree.

23 MS. HSIEH: I think the Trustees have been able
24 to facilitate that by having one funding entity with
25 the two programs and requiring integration, requiring

1 -- the programs have been so responsive and the Trustee
2 have pushed so hard for the data it's really been a --
3 you know, a worthwhile labor that first five years, but
4 now you can see it paying off and it's -- I think you
5 guys are uniquely positioned to facilitate that kind of
6 collaboration.

7 MS. WANG: All right. Great. Thanks, Mandy.
8 We are going to move on to the Herring Research
9 Monitoring Program. The HRM program is also continuing
10 to make progress and also had a productive year. A
11 manuscript from the first five year program are also
12 making their way through the review process and again
13 the special issue is you see research too is dividing
14 end of the year.

15 So there were three ADF&G public outreach
16 products which included a radio story, website link and
17 web article. Program goals are being achieved in a
18 timely manner and all projects except for one are
19 recommended for funding. The one exception is proposal
20 number 18170111-D Gorman, which has been recommended a
21 fund contingent upon the principal investigator's
22 submission of a revised proposal that addresses the
23 Science Panel's questions and comments mainly related
24 to technical issues using scales to assess the age and
25 maturity of herring.

1 The PI has been very responsive and I just
2 received her revised proposal last night. So I look
3 forward to reviewing it and sending it to the Science
4 Panel.

5 Overall plans for FY '18 have not changed from
6 their original submission in FY '17 except for two
7 projects. The first is the Herring Disease Program II,
8 18120111-E, Hershberger. So briefly last year the
9 project developed a reliable test to detect antibodies
10 associated with the viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus,
11 more conveniently known as VHS, which may be
12 contributing to the lack of recovery of herring
13 populations in Prince William Sound.

14 So the Herring Program would like to expand the
15 Prince William Sound field sampling effort to more
16 fully understand what age classes are being affected by
17 this virus. And this would allow managers to
18 incorporate this more detailed information about
19 disease and age of exposure into the age structure
20 assessment model and improve model performance. But
21 this requires an increase in sampling effort. So in
22 order to do this the program has requested an
23 additional annual funding of 24.5K starting in FY '18.
24 And this is supported by the Science Panel, myself, the
25 PAC and the Agency Director.

1 And Scott can give you more details about their
2 findings in his presentation.

3 The other requested change in FY '18 is in
4 regards to an additional post-doc position. In the FY
5 '17 through '21 invitation approximately 278,000 for FY
6 '18 through '20 was designated for funding one three
7 year post-doc position which was included in the
8 Herring Program FY '17 through '21 budget. Two highly
9 qualified candidates applied for the post-doc position.
10 One proposal will be funded under the currently
11 authorized funding and addresses the role of disease
12 affecting both herring recruitment and standing biomass
13 which will be important in light of the catastrophic
14 decreases in spawning biomass over the last three
15 years.

16 A second proposal will be funded -- oops,
17 sorry. The second proposal examines statistical
18 relationships between herring recruitment and bottom up
19 and top down (indiscernible) factors which will provide
20 the critical synthesis of data between the herring and
21 Gulf Watch Alaska Programs over the last five years.
22 The Program Post-Doc Selection Committee, Science Panel
23 and myself, consider both proposals of high quality to
24 merit funding. Each proposal will provide different,
25 but necessary information that will benefit the EVOS TC

1 Program. And as noted there is funding for one of the
2 three year post-doc already included in the Herring
3 Program and currently there is no funding dedicated for
4 a second three year post-doc.

5 So in the FY '17 through '21 invitation there
6 was 150K for a cross program publication group which
7 some of you may recall from last year and it has not
8 attracted any successful proposals. So we suggest
9 using these cross program publication group funds this
10 year towards the first year of the second post-doc and
11 funding for the second post-doc would be expected to
12 continue in FY '19 and FY '20 and requested in those
13 future years' budgets.

14 The second post-doc would work with Trevor
15 Branch in his modeling and stock assessment of Prince
16 William Sound herring projects.

17 So now I will hand it over to Scott Pegau, our
18 program lead, to give the program highlights.

19 MR. PEGAU: This will be interesting with me
20 being put on a short lead. I have a bad habit of
21 wandering all over.

22 So first thing you'll notice is I don't have
23 nearly the artistic eye that Mandy has. So my slides
24 don't look nearly as pretty as hers. I'm going to talk
25 about a lot of what we've looked at over the last five

1 years. Obviously we've been into -- we're six months
2 into the sixth year of this program so a lot of the new
3 projects that just started off are exactly that,
4 they're just getting started. So I've put in a lot of
5 the names from the first five years because I'll be
6 presenting results of theirs.

7 Just a reminder why are we looking at herring.
8 Back in the '80s we were looking at a population that
9 was estimated nearly 120,000 tons. A couple years
10 after the oil spill that crashed down close to 20,000
11 tons which is the fisheries threshold, this being
12 metric tons. We bounced around that fisheries
13 threshold. The blue line is the age structure analysis
14 model and these last three red dots are based off of
15 acoustic surveys of what our population is and so it's
16 our best guess as to where things are. We are -- we've
17 just transitioned ASA models and I'll actually show you
18 results from that.

19 But the important thing to take is now we're
20 looking at somewhere probably between three and 5,000
21 tons. So we went from 120 down to three or five. This
22 is important for both the economy of the region, it was
23 a huge fishery and the ecology of the region. Herring
24 represent about 90 percent of the forage fish. Even at
25 that 20,000 tons, that was the estimate that they were

1 -- about 90 percent of the forage fish.

2 So design, we began in 2012, you know, we're
3 obviously just starting our second five years. We are
4 focused in Prince William Sound, there's so much that
5 needs to get done we had to kind of decide a focus
6 area. And unlike the Gulf Watch Alaska Program which
7 is a monitoring program, we have a mix of monitoring
8 projects and process studies. So it's being able to
9 track what's happening and then also apply studies that
10 help us address why we think we're seeing what we are.

11 Pictured here is actually some -- a series of
12 pictures from the Herring Tagging Program, putting out
13 acoustic receivers, downloading data from them and
14 surgery on a herring that was taking place this spring.

15 So goals and objectives. You know, we're
16 looking to improve the predictive model of the herring
17 stocks through observation and research. And this is
18 really aimed towards Fish and Game as far as a
19 management agency, being able to improve the models
20 that are used there. So we are looking to expand and
21 test the herring stock assessment model used in Prince
22 William Sound. We're providing the inputs necessary to
23 actually run that model. We examined the connections
24 between herring condition or recruitment to the
25 physical and biological oceanographic factors and we

1 continue to look for new ways to improve our monitoring
2 capabilities.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: So your goal is not to tie or
4 try to understand the connection between the oil spill
5 and herring crash.....

6 MR. PEGAU: No.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI:it's just a count?

8 MR. PEGAU: You know, what we are looking --
9 we're more interested in at this point is why aren't
10 they recovering. Because if we're to look at any kind
11 of restoration -- active restoration activities, you
12 have to understand what's limiting their recovery so
13 that you put your effort on the correct side of any
14 bottleneck. The arguments about why they crashed, you
15 know, we did I think a -- at this point we know we
16 don't have the data to answer that.

17 MR. HARTIG: But, Scott, this is Larry.

18 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

19 MR. HARTIG: Your -- I know that herring
20 populations swing quite a bit and over.....

21 MR. PEGAU: Yep.

22 MR. HARTIG:long periods of time.

23 MR. PEGAU: Yep.

24 MR. HARTIG: How far outside those kind of
25 historic ranges are we talking about if these more

1 recent data hold true?

2 MR. PEGAU: So that's actually one of the
3 results I'm going to show.....

4 MR. HARTIG: Okay. Sorry.

5 MR. PEGAU:but I'll tip my hand. In a
6 meta-analysis of worldwide population -- herring
7 populations and their crashes, Prince William Sound is
8 the deepest and longest in duration. So when you look
9 worldwide Prince William Sound is way outside the norm
10 for crash.

11 MR. HARTIG: Thank you.

12 MR. PEGAU: So in the first five years we had a
13 little bit of a -- we had a focus that really looked at
14 young of the year. We had a lot of different projects
15 that went in a number of different categories so the
16 first set were all designed to look at the model and
17 provide information. The second set in green is things
18 that were necessary to help us put together a
19 synthesis. The ones in the top right were designed to
20 check the assumptions that we had in our measurements
21 and make sure that we weren't going to do 20 years of
22 measurements that turned out not to have value. And
23 then we -- the ones in the lower right were designed to
24 look at new approaches to monitoring. And then
25 coordination and outreach addressed all of them. So

1 I'm going to actually pull some highlights from those
2 first five years so that's why I want you to be aware
3 of that.

4 Right now current projects are -- you know,
5 we're down to seven projects. Modeling from Trevor
6 Branch. Aerial and age surveys which is the basic
7 information collected by Fish and Game necessary to run
8 a age structured analysis model. Acoustic surveys as
9 another check for what the population level is.
10 Disease research. Reproductive maturity which is the
11 one that Shiway mentioned. A herring migration
12 coordination. And then the research fellowships, Maya
13 Groner who will be coming in working primarily with
14 Trevor Branch and myself, her focus is on disease
15 ecology. And the request to you was to support a
16 second fellowship which is David McGowan who looks at
17 recruitment and the environmental conditions.

18 So some of the lessons learned in the first
19 five years. I said we had a focus on young of the
20 year. One of the assumptions was that we'd be able to
21 do acoustic surveys in a manner that would allow us to
22 determine survival. And what's pictured here is four
23 different surveys of the same area. And if you just
24 look at the dark blue color. So survey one was the
25 first three days of October, survey two was in the

1 middle of October, survey three was at the end of
2 October. And what you see is that when we surveyed the
3 exact same area and try to estimate what our age zero
4 population is, we're -- have a factor of 10 plus
5 variation. And that really set the stage for this
6 current five years because if we can't get a survival
7 estimate we're kind of limited in how much we can say
8 about the age zeros. So you'll see that the current
9 five years were focused much more on the adults as we
10 try to sort out what our capabilities are there.

11 Since we were looking at age zeros a lot of
12 information on first year growth was plotted here. The
13 blue is water temperature versus growth of the herring
14 in the first summer. And so for the most part there's
15 a good correlation 2004, '5 and 1989 for some reason
16 all sit as outliers. Now what's plotted in -- with the
17 green dots is Diatom abundance. And that plot includes
18 2004 and 2005. And it is the tightest of the
19 relationships we found between environmental conditions
20 and herring growth. And, you know, we don't think of
21 herring eating diatoms, but what diatoms have, and it's
22 important, it's diatom abundance not total chlorophyll,
23 it's not the total primary productivity, it's a food
24 quality issue because diatoms have essential fatty
25 acids that are required for growth. And the orange is

1 the actual zooplankton levels which is the food for
2 herring.

3 Another thing that we found is that there is a
4 critical size to survive. So in the upper right the
5 blue dots are measurements of the scale growth
6 increment versus fork length. That red dotted line is
7 when we look at Fish and Game's historical data base
8 and what is the smallest fish that shows up surviving
9 to spawning age, that's the line that those fish have
10 to cross. So about 85 millimeter fork length is --
11 seems to be a very important size for the fish to
12 reach. When we look at the RNA/DNA we also find that
13 there's a change. So the fish have a mechanism where
14 they shift from growth which is the higher they are in
15 RNA/DNA the more they're trying to grow into lipid
16 storage. So they're trying to get fat. So if they can
17 reach about 80 millimeters they are also able to shift
18 away from growth and try to get fat so that they can
19 survive that first winter.

20 One of the interesting things was the tagging
21 study. It was done originally as a proof of concept
22 where we tagged fish, we demonstrated the feasibility
23 of not only tagging, but those fish survived much
24 better than most people would have predicted. What
25 surprised me is that they could leave the spawning

1 grounds and be at the southern end of Montague Strait
2 within three days. So 115 kilometers three days after
3 surgery or four days because we hold them a day before
4 we release them. And so in the current program
5 there's expansion of this effort. One of the
6 interesting things was the first time we did it almost
7 all the fish went down to Montague Strait, this last
8 time they all went out Hinchinbrook entrance and then
9 came up around Montague Strait.

10 Genetics. It was an interesting thing because
11 when we looked at the genetics of the fish in Prince
12 William Sound and compared it to regions outside, this
13 top graph shows that Prince William Sound fish look
14 genetically similar to those upstream of us. So Kayak
15 Island and Yakutat are all clustered pretty tight.
16 When we first looked at that top graph we saw that
17 Kamishak which is Cook Inlet, Iliamna and Kokak which
18 are Shelikof Strait, all looked extremely different,
19 you know, and the geneticist said this is like the
20 difference of salmon between Prince William Sound and
21 Cook Inlet, it's that genetically different. Then when
22 we looked at individual fish, so the black dots are
23 Prince William Sound fish, the green dots are the Kokak
24 fish and the yellow dots which are Cook Inlet, then we
25 saw that Cook Inlet is actually a mix of these two

1 stocks, one from Shelikof Strait and one that's
2 genetically similar to Prince William Sound that's
3 being mixed in that Cook Inlet area. And this is
4 helping us understand, you know, parts of why they're
5 -- the potential for gene flow is showing the potential
6 for reasons why Cook Inlet crashed, Kodiak Island did
7 not because of these mixtures. But it also refers back
8 to our potential for gaining stock from upstream. So
9 we can always hope that Prince William Sound can
10 benefit from the rumors, talking with fisherman from
11 Yakutat that say there's a lot of herring around
12 Yakutat these days. So for me it's always encouraging.

13 Recruitment is something that we've looked at.
14 I was the one that probably walked into here and said I
15 really anticipate a large recruitment in 2015. And
16 then it didn't happen or at least the population level
17 did not jump up as I was anticipating. You know, and
18 then I had to do a lot of explaining. And my
19 explaining here is much less than my explaining on the
20 docks in Cordova where I have to explain to all the
21 fishermen what I'm seeing. We're seeing large spikes
22 in recruitment so plotted in the upper left is the
23 number of age one schools that we're observing and so
24 you -- the big peak is 2013, that's fish that I
25 expected in 2015. We saw a lot of fish this past

1 summer as well and so we're picking up some of that
2 stuff.

3 One of the issues that happened we had a huge
4 crash in 2015 right as I was expecting a huge
5 recruitment event to occur. And that leads me to those
6 evil disease people. Well, it's not Paul is evil, but
7 he studies things that are evil. Lot of people like to
8 blame whales, I'm down in the microorganisms these
9 days.

10 So one of the biggest issues that we've had
11 dealing with disease is we have been looking at
12 prevalence for the last, you know, 25 years. And
13 prevalence is basically saying how many fish are sick
14 on that day. VHS is one of those diseases that can run
15 through the population in two weeks and kill between 70
16 and 90 percent of the fish that get infected. And so
17 it's easy to have a outbreak of this infection sweep
18 through the population without us being able to detect
19 it. But one of the big breakthroughs this past fall
20 was the ability to look not at how many fish are sick,
21 but how many fish have been sick. So we're looking at
22 the antibodies now in the blood of the fish. And so
23 what's plotted here is the percent zero positive which
24 are basically those -- the percent of the fish that had
25 antibodies detected with blue being Prince William

1 Sound and red being Sitka. And so what you're seeing
2 is that we are seeing somewhere between 15 and it
3 jumped up in 2015 to 35 percent. Now remember I just
4 said that this disease kills 70 to 90 percent of the
5 fish that are getting infected. And so if you just do
6 a back of the envelope calculation that meant in 2015
7 there was likely to be between 15 and 27,000 tons of
8 fish died from this disease right as I was expecting us
9 to move up off of the 22,000 tons that we were at.

10 And so -- and then you look at Sitka and
11 Sitka's -- instead of being at this 15 to 20 percent is
12 running 1 and a half to 2 percent for the most part.
13 So Sitka is quite often our comparable population and
14 so we're seeing that there's a huge difference in
15 disease that we are now able to start taking account
16 of.

17 So products from the first five years, 28
18 publications and I will fess up, Paul Hershberger is an
19 amazing publication machine so three-quarters of those
20 belong to Paul Hershberger. One master's degree,
21 numerous presentations, my normal job is with the Oil
22 Spill Recovery Institute so I get a lot of phone calls
23 related to the Exxon Valdez so, I mean, you mentioned
24 being out when Deep Water Horizon occurred, first four
25 hours of every day was spent on Deep Water Horizon.

1 And they generally asked three things, lingering oil,
2 herring and killer whales. And so we have done a lot
3 of outreach related to what we are learning about
4 herring and its impacts on the ecosystem.

5 So we talk to scientific groups, fishing groups
6 and general audiences, you'll find things in
7 newspapers, magazines, radio. Our target really is
8 Department of Fish and Game because they are the
9 primary manager of that resource. Although as a forage
10 fish, like I say 90 percent of the forage fish in
11 Prince William Sound have been herring, it shows up as
12 prime connection into the Gulf Watch Alaska and into
13 other types of audiences.

14 We also work with former herring fishermen. So
15 Cordova District Fishermen United has a herring group
16 and I go to present to them on a regular basis because
17 they really want the information about why aren't the
18 fish recovering.

19 So at this point the primary.....

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: What do you -- what do you tell
21 them?

22 MR. PEGAU: Huh?

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: What do you tell them, we don't
24 know?

25 MR. PEGAU: Why they aren't recovering?

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yes.

2 MR. PEGAU: We have not found the right set of
3 conditions although now that we see this disease result
4 that is changing the discussion because in the past the
5 fishermen love to blame the whales because they're
6 easier to see and they eat a lot of fish. Now that we
7 see what the disease is doing and you can run numbers
8 about the impact of that disease, we're having a lot
9 more discussion about the role of disease and what that
10 is doing. And that's why with Paul Hershberger's
11 request for additional funds is to try to narrow when
12 that's occurring, is it before the fish recruit into
13 the population so is it young fish coming into the
14 population that are carrying the disease in or is it
15 older fish that have the disease that then took out or
16 are taking out the younger fish as they come in without
17 the exposure. And so I think in that sense that's
18 where we're learning the most.

19 We are also looking at the food related issues
20 that the two kind of big things between the most recent
21 crash and the crash that occurred in the early '90s is
22 it occurred right after a warm spell that had a
23 demonstrated nutritional stress on the fish. So if you
24 look at the fish now they are smaller and lighter than
25 they have been and that occurred also right before they

1 crashed. And so it looks like there may be a
2 nutritional stress that's taking them down, setting
3 them up for the disease.

4 Although this data that's being collected is
5 the data that would be able to be used for the agency
6 to determine if a fishery could reopen and also is the
7 data that's necessary to determine if recovery has
8 existed according to your Integrated Herring
9 Restoration Plan.

10 MR. HARTIG: Say, Scott.....

11 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

12 MR. HARTIG:a couple questions. When
13 would you -- and I'll give you both questions because
14 they're related. When would you have what you consider
15 reliable numbers on the population, you know, given
16 this apparent drop and how far can you go down before
17 you think that the population just wouldn't be able to
18 recover.

19 MR. PEGAU: So as far as the reliable numbers,
20 I think that we have the reliable numbers and we
21 generate them on an annual basis. The reasons why I
22 didn't use the Fish and Game ASA model is we shifted
23 from the Fish and Game ASA model to the UW ASA model
24 which has been part of this process. And I really want
25 to talk to Trevor Branch before I fully use that one to

1 show. And I will actually show it and I'll show you
2 why I have questions. Models don't like crashes in
3 populations that they can't explain. And so I want to
4 make sure that we are addressing if there was a crash.
5 If you look at all the observations, all the
6 observations say the population is down. And now it's
7 just getting a model to make that agreement.

8 Can they recover, yes, there is historical
9 evidence that this population has been down at very low
10 levels. So if you go back into the early '70s they
11 were running around the 15 to 16,000 tons is the
12 estimate. And they were able to build up to the
13 120,000 tons. The great thing about herring is they're
14 a boom or a bust fish, they can have amazing large
15 recruitment from very small populations.

16 So some of the results over the past few months
17 that we've been underway, modeling has looked at this
18 boom or, you know, the crashes globally and have found
19 that Prince William Sound is highly unusual in both the
20 depth and the duration of the crash.

21 The aerial and age surveys that are conducted
22 by Fish and Game, so this year is they're out doing
23 this, this is a primary input for the age structured
24 analysis model. Little spawn was observed which is the
25 indication that we don't have much of a spawning

1 population left. Almost all the fish that we found are
2 ages three to five which means that we lost a large
3 chunk of old fish that would normally be part of that
4 population. Again this reflects a disease -- most
5 likely reflects a disease. And the fish are smaller at
6 age which means that it's an indication that they're
7 likely to be nutritionally stressed.

8 Acoustic surveys are initial estimates that,
9 you know, there's slightly more fish than there were
10 last year, that last year might have been our low.
11 Disease research, you know, really wanted to try to
12 tease out when these fish are being exposed to the --
13 particularly the viral hemorrhagic septicemia although
14 we are working actually with three different diseases.
15 The VHS is just the biggest of the three.

16 Reproductive maturity. Had lots of fish that
17 we processed this spring. We've had difficulty finding
18 fish in the summer and fall. We're continuing to go
19 out, refine techniques, so that we can ensure that we
20 can make these collections. Age at maturity is one of
21 the components that are in the age structure analysis
22 model that shifts from the spawning stock to the total
23 stock.

24 Herring migration. Fifty-eight of the 125 fish
25 that we tagged this year have been observed at the

1 entrances. We went out and got a chance to pull up
2 data early, we didn't plan to get data until February,
3 but we have some. We also managed to recover nine old
4 receivers that had been sitting on the sea floor from a
5 previous project, get them back to life and we will be
6 putting those out so that we can supplement the array
7 that the Trustees have provided.

8 And coordination. Other than me going crazy,
9 I'm trying to -- you know, I will be hiring the one
10 post-doctor -- I have hired the one post-doc, you know,
11 and hopefully able to work with the second.

12 Fortunately I have a very good crew of scientists to
13 work with so even if I go crazy they know what to do.

14 So where are we going. Additional effort
15 incorporating new disease information and model going
16 away from the prevalence and looking at the antibodies,
17 connecting recruitment and the environment or -- and
18 conditions -- environmental conditions. We had that
19 unusually warm conditions beginning in 2014, we had the
20 crash in 2015, is there a relationship and how does it
21 develop. We want to develop an understanding of the
22 collapse since 2014.

23 And so here is the current age structured
24 analysis model. And one thing that you'll notice in
25 the recent years because the population is down, all

1 the indications is pulling this end of the model down
2 which is pulling down parts of the last few years. And
3 I think that when we shift from a disease prevalence to
4 a disease antibody what we're going to do is we're
5 going to get back to the original Fish and Game model
6 that I presented and then show the crash that's
7 occurred over the last couple years.

8 And with that, any questions?

9 Oh, I should have pointed to Sherri because
10 Sherri is to a large extent my main audience. And
11 fortunately Sherri and I are able to communicate on a
12 semi-regular basis and keep track of things.

13 MS. HSIEH: Sherri, did you want to come up and
14 say something? Sherri is from the Department of Fish
15 and Game.

16 MS. DRESSEL: Bit of context.

17 MS. HSIEH: Oh, sure. She's the Department of
18 Fish and Game herring biologist. And I think -- oh, go
19 ahead.

20 MS. DRESSEL: Yeah, I work for Fish and Game.
21 I am the statewide herring fishery scientist. I'm also
22 -- I serve on the Oversight Committee for the Herring
23 Research and Monitoring and so I work closely with
24 Scott and we've been writing a bunch this fall. I also
25 serve on the Scientist Statistical Committee for the

1 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

2 And so one of the comments, so Scott mentioned
3 his surveys in 2012 and that you had to explain why
4 they didn't necessarily come to fruition in 2015. And
5 one of your questions earlier on was how you put the
6 information from EVOS into context. And that finding
7 although in 2015 the fish didn't come back for Prince
8 William Sound, I think was an extremely finding because
9 as you heard the blob came through and it was hot water
10 that was actually all the way through all depths in the
11 Northern Gulf. It did not go to all depths in
12 Southeast Alaska. So in 2015 we saw a huge recruit
13 class in all stocks in Southeast Alaska. It did not
14 show up in Prince William Sound where it was warm all
15 the way down. It did not show up in Kodiak, we don't
16 have numbers, but the condition of fish was poor and it
17 was hot there as well. And so while it didn't
18 necessarily come through in 2015 for Prince William
19 Sound it does appear that that was a good recruit year
20 in general.

21 This fall I wrote to Scott because as one of
22 the things you'll hear from the North Pacific Council
23 is that the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod has taken a big
24 nosedive. And they had done some young surveys and
25 they found a great recruit class in 2012, but these

1 fish did not survive and make it to 2015. And so it
2 was -- it paralleled what Scott had -- what Scott
3 mentioned. And when you had asked if the information
4 was getting through to management agencies or
5 management councils, I actually brought up the EVOS
6 finding and the trend for Prince William Sound because
7 it paralleled what we're seeing for Pacific cod. And
8 so it was valuable information even though it was
9 difficult to explain for one area. And I just wanted
10 to share that so you had a little bit more context.

11 MR. MULDER: Thank you. So, Scott, has there
12 been along the way a look back as to the circumstances
13 that drove the peak, 120,000, what the -- I know this
14 is probably.....

15 MR. PEGAU: Historically.....

16 MR. MULDER:historical look?

17 MR. PEGAU: Yeah, there have been. You know,
18 we have not been doing that in the last five years,
19 that was -- there have been analyses done previously
20 that kind of looked at that. I say it's not unusual
21 for these populations to build up very rapidly. And so
22 when you look at it it was 1976 and 1977, both had
23 unusually high recruitment and when you have two really
24 strong recruit years together that was able to bring
25 your population up to where we think it was no longer

1 predator controlled and then it could just build, you
2 know. And it's when it drops below a level then we
3 don't know exactly where that level is it seems to
4 shift to a -- essentially a controlled population that
5 then can't build itself back out until it has a large
6 recruitment event. And as Sherri mentioned, you know,
7 when I was predicting the large recruitment for 2015 I
8 could say, you know, that there's a good likelihood
9 that Sitka will see this because historically every
10 time Prince William Sound has seen a large recruitment
11 event Sitka has seen a large recruitment event, you
12 know. And so it's a very large scale event that leads
13 to these peak recruitment.

14 MR. MULDER: And is there a correlation between
15 the temperature and the disease, has that been
16 established or.....

17 MR. PEGAU: No, that's just -- you know, it --
18 this disease information basically came out -- it came
19 out after the original proposal so it was probably
20 April, May that I first started hearing about it. And
21 so that's why we're kind of scrambling to actually see
22 if there is a relationship between the water
23 temperature or the condition of the fish and these
24 disease outbreaks.

25 MS. HSIEH: As a note of history, the Trustee

1 Council spent a long time discussing, you know, if
2 herring weren't on the injured species list, but it
3 became very clear that herring were absolutely
4 important for sea birds and everyone else. And so it's
5 a keystone species for those who've sat here for a long
6 time on the Council. So of course it -- we do focus
7 on, you know, will it get higher, what's the next
8 recruitment, but actually just studying herring and
9 what's going on with them dovetails into all the other
10 species that are studied as well.

11 Depend -- I think the disease work was also
12 used maybe internationally as well. I think Paul
13 Hershberger's work is -- the reason why he's so -- he's
14 prolific.....

15 MR. MULDER: Prolific.

16 MS. HSIEH:but he's also -- I think he's
17 providing and churning out a lot of information other
18 fisheries biologists are interested in.

19 MR. PEGAU: So these diseases are definitely
20 not restricted to herring.....

21 MR. MULDER: Right.

22 MR. PEGAU:you know, and they show up in
23 a lot of the other fish.

24 MR. MULDER: Thank you, Scott.

25 MS. WANG: All right. Thanks, Scott.

1 MR. MULDER: Shiway.

2 MS. WANG: We're going to move on to the Data
3 Management Program. So quickly the Science Panel
4 recommend we fund for the data project. Coordination
5 between this project and the Long Term Monitoring
6 Project has greatly improved. PIs are doing a good job
7 of getting the data published and available to the
8 public. I've also requested the link to the Gulf of
9 Alaska data portal to be posted on our EVOS website.

10 So now Carol's going to give you a brief
11 presentation on the program.

12 MS. HSIEH: I think five minutes or something
13 if we could.

14 MS. JANZEN: Five?

15 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, it's quarter to 12:00 so I'd
16 like to move up.

17 MS. JANZEN: I'll keep it short, I won't read
18 my slide.

19 Just a quick introduction. I'm Carol Janzen
20 and I work for the Alaska Ocean Observing System over
21 in downtown Anchorage. I'm relatively new to this
22 program, but just a little background on me. I've
23 spent my early career working on the North Slope doing
24 a large scale multi-disciplinary monitoring program for
25 Endicott. And a year after that project completed for

1 me is when the Exxon spill occurred. And at that time
2 I had taken a position running a statewide monitoring
3 program for marine waters in Washington state. So we
4 were following the response to that spill very closely
5 in Washington because we have a very similar situation
6 in Puget Sound as you did in Prince William Sound.

7 So definitely nice to see this program in
8 place. It is a very unique data set. Having -- being
9 the data manager for the state of Alaska, the Alaska
10 Ocean Observing System serves the whole state. And I
11 can tell you this program is highly unique in terms of
12 its longevity and its long term development of an
13 ecosystem based, multi-disciplinary research program.
14 There are similar things trying to be established up in
15 the Arctic, but that's less of a focused effort. So if
16 you ever want to talk more about that you can give me a
17 call.

18 Okay. So that's -- so I am in case you don't
19 know me.....

20 (Off record comments)

21 MS. JANZEN: So just to give you a quick update
22 on the data management program, our main goal is really
23 just to provide critical data management support for
24 the program for both the Gulf Watch and the Herring
25 Research Monitoring Program. The main priority is data

1 preservation and making those data accessible to the
2 scientific and resource management communities. So
3 we've been doing this for several years now and going
4 forward we are working towards making that data more
5 easy -- easier to discover and to enable users to find
6 data that they're looking for by specific search
7 parameters, like space and time, taxonomy, different
8 types of oceanographic parameters. So we'll continue
9 to be working on those.

10 The big highlights for 2017 was the launch of
11 the research workspace which is just a more
12 sophisticated version of what we were working with
13 before, the ocean research workspace. And this was
14 launched to the Gulf Watch Program and the Herring
15 Research Program and new features include improved
16 meta-data editor and adding what is called a cloud
17 based numerical workflow or what we're referring to as
18 Jupyter Notebooks, this was new to me, which allows PIs
19 to write scripts and leverage other uploaded data sets
20 in the research workspace. So this is hopefully going
21 to help with doing large scale synthesis type
22 activities of the data and also comparing time series
23 and monitoring data over the long run.

24 This new workspace group was opened for the
25 next five year program also in the last year and that

1 was all shared with the Trustee Council as well as the
2 Science Panel. So you should all have access to that
3 research workspace.

4 Main highlights was as Mandy mentioned the
5 DataONE member node became official in July of 2017.
6 PIs can now automatically transfer their data and meta-
7 data to the DataONE network for long term preservation.
8 And it also provides this digital object identifier
9 which basically means that if you ever go looking for
10 the data and where you thought it was if that URL goes
11 down, if you have the DOI number you can find it, go
12 back to its original source and find out where the data
13 are.

14 It also provides data to a much wider user
15 group. So groups like the National Center for
16 Environmental Information for example which is the
17 national depository for environmental data and
18 oceanographic data and other types of environmental
19 data, they will become a member node for DataONE and so
20 going forward they'll be able to access whatever data
21 sets they want to archive in their system directly. So
22 they don't have to go to the individual PI or to us as
23 an organization to get those data. So there's a lot of
24 advantages to having that. Most of those data are now
25 publicly available on both the A's Gulf Portal and the

1 DataONE. Mandy mentioned 45 data sets, currently
2 there's 42 loaded. On the DataONE there's a few more
3 that have lab results that are still being finalized.
4 So those data sets should be up and loaded on the
5 DataONE system by February. So there's why you're
6 seeing 42 data sets here.

7 Since July of 2017, 237 downloads have occurred
8 from the DataONE catalog. So that's on average between
9 16 and 80 downloads a month. So you can -- I don't
10 have records of who those people are or what they're
11 doing, but you can see that there's definitely a big
12 interest in those data sets. So this is very good.

13 2018 activities. We're initiating the data
14 management services for this year. We, in fact, are
15 leaving today for our PI meeting in Cordova. And the
16 data managers from Axiom Data Science are already there
17 working with people. We'll be facilitating and
18 evaluating regular data submissions as we've done in
19 the past and submitting any remaining 2012/2016 data to
20 the DataONE repository. We are also providing
21 supplemental data and meta-data quality control as we
22 did in the last five year program.

23 We'll be providing and maintaining the
24 technical infrastructure for the program and also
25 publishing and promoting the Herring Research

1 Monitoring Data and the Gulf Watch Program data to
2 allow them to be available to as many people as
3 possible. So we'll continue working with the Gulf of
4 Alaska data portal and featuring those data sets there.

5 We've been having very good response from the
6 PIs with this program, everyone's on schedule. I
7 haven't had -- we haven't had any issues with people
8 submitting their data so we think everything's working
9 well. And we're continuing to get feedback from the
10 PIs directly as well as from the projects leads. So
11 I'm planning on meeting with the project leads on a
12 regular basis and as needed going forward.

13 So that's pretty much the summary there. Sorry
14 no pretty pictures, but I said if there's any
15 questions.

16 MR. MULDER: Thank you, Carol.

17 MS. JANZEN: Thank you.

18 MS. HSIEH: Thank you, Carol.

19 MS. JANZEN: And thank you for having me today.
20 It was really nice to meet everybody.

21 MS. HSIEH: The Trustees should each have a
22 draft motion sheet. You just heard presentations for
23 the Gulf Watch Alaska, agenda item seven, also Prince
24 William Sound Herring Research and Long Term Data or
25 Long Term Project are all there under seven. You have

1 -- under the herring you have a couple alternates with
2 regard to Gorman. The recommended motion is the first
3 one, full funding for all. Herring projects with
4 Gorman is on contingency.

5 MS. MARCERON: Okay. I move we approve funding
6 of 2,574,860 which includes GA for fiscal year '18
7 funding of the Long Term Monitoring of Marine
8 Conditions and Injured Resources and Services, Project
9 18120114. Proposal dated August 23, 2017. That's
10 (indiscernible) with the Gulf Watch Program.

11 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I'll second it.

12 MR. MULDER: David.

13 MR. ROGERS: Sorry, I'm -- yes.

14 MR. MULDER: Are you in favor?

15 MR. ROGERS: Yes, in favor. Aye.

16 MR. MULDER: Anyone opposed?

17 (No opposing votes)

18 MR. MULDER: Seeing none, the motion passes.

19 So that brings us to the.....

20 MS. HSIEH: Herring.

21 MR. MULDER:Herring Research Monitoring
22 Program and you say the first is the recommended?

23 MS. HSIEH: Correct.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: Recommended by whom?

25 MS. HSIEH: It's in your work plan.

1 Recommended by the Science Coordinator, the Science
2 Panel, the Executive Director.

3 MS. ADAMS: And Pat.

4 MS. HSIEH: And Pat. Excuse me.

5 MR. WACKOWSKI: Why do we have two other
6 options?

7 MS. HSIEH: Just some -- I try and not premake
8 decisions for you.....

9 MR. WACKOWSKI: Gotcha.

10 MS. HSIEH:just in case there was some
11 other discussion or some information that came around
12 that shifted the discussion.

13 MR. MULDER: Yeah, this was -- Shiway, you
14 commented on the responsiveness of the Gorman, coming
15 back to you with the information?

16 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, we look.....

17 MR. MULDER: Yeah.

18 MS. HSIEH:forward to working with
19 her.....

20 MR. MULDER: Yeah.

21 MS. HSIEH:and are confident.....

22 MS. WANG: Yes.

23 MS. HSIEH:that we'll be able to.

24 MS. WANG: Yes.

25 MR. MULDER: Do I hear a motion.

1 MR. BALSIGER: Mr. Chairman, I would move that
2 we fund the Herring Project that -- full funding for
3 all herring projects. I move we approve funding of
4 \$1,578,800 which includes GA for fiscal year '18
5 funding of the Herring Research and Monitoring Project
6 18129111. The proposal date is September 11th, 2017.
7 This amount includes funding of 18120111-D Gorman;
8 proposal dated July 26, 2007, contingent upon
9 submission of a revised proposal by November 15, 2017
10 and approved by the Executive Director.

11 Having read that was it 2007, is that actually
12 the right year?

13 MS. HSIEH: I'm sorry, no, that's a typo. It
14 should be 2017.

15 MR. BALSIGER: So pretend I said 2017 where I
16 said.....

17 MS. HSIEH: Thank you, Jim.

18 MR. BALSIGER:2007.

19 MR. ROGERS: I second. David here.

20 MR. MULDER: All right. Any opposed.

21 (No opposing votes)

22 MR. MULDER: David?

23 MR. ROGERS: Not opposed.

24 MR. MULDER: All right. So the motion for the
25 Herring Project passes.

1 Next on the list is the motion regarding the
2 data for long term projects. Project ending in 113.
3 Is there a motion?

4 MR. HARTIG: I'll take my turn. I move we
5 approve funding of 218,000 which includes GA for fiscal
6 year '18 funding of the Data for Long Term Programs,
7 Project 18120113, proposal dated August 23, 2017.

8 MR. MULDER: Is there a second.

9 MS. MARCERON: Second.

10 MR. MULDER: David, how do you vote?

11 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

12 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

13 (No opposing votes)

14 MR. MULDER: Seeing none, that motion passes.

15 MS. HSIEH: Steve, before you move on to the
16 next agenda item may I just make a correction to the
17 prior discussion under agenda item number 6, annual
18 asset allocation. That number sounded odd to me, the
19 actual fee for Department of Revenue for FY '17 was
20 about \$37,000. That equates to less than two basis
21 points, .02 percent, on approximately \$200 million in
22 assets managed. I just wanted to.....

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: So that wasn't actually my
24 question. My question was how much did it cost us to
25 make that money so how much did Wall Street get paid to

1 make our profit. That was my question to put it more
2 plainly.

3 MS. HSIEH: How much did Wall Street.....

4 MR. WACKOWSKI: So like my IRA, I get charged
5 account fees, if.....

6 MS. HSIEH: Our account was \$37,000.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: Where did this \$700,000 number
8 come from?

9 MS. HSIEH: She -- that was a complete error.

10 MS. ADAMS: I added an extra zero.

11 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, she was -- sorry.

12 MR. WACKOWSKI: So we made how much in
13 investments approximately.

14 MS. HSIEH: During the year?

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah.

16 MS. ADAMS: The annual this year was really
17 high, it was like 16 percent. But, you know, with --
18 it depends a lot over -- you know.....

19 MR. WACKOWSKI: Right.

20 MS. ADAMS:over the years. So it.....

21 MR. MULDER: It varies.

22 MS. ADAMS:varies a lot.

23 MS. HSIEH: What I can tell you is that
24 that.....

25 MR. WACKOWSKI: I mean, that's an incredibly

1 good deal.

2 MS. HSIEH: That's right. That's correct.

3 Most -- and we knew that, most investment advisors are

4 -- I'm sure you're familiar with.....

5 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah.

6 MS. HSIEH:charge -- were your question

7 -- are you.....

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: That answers my question.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. HSIEH: Okay.

11 MR. MULDER: So that leads us to item -- agenda

12 item eight, lingering oil.

13 Shiway.

14 MS. WANG: Okay. This is the Immunological

15 Compromise of Fish Project conducted by Andrew

16 Whitehead. A quick reminder, the overall hypothesis is

17 that oil exposure in early life affects the genetics of

18 herring which makes herring more susceptible to disease

19 that's contributing to lack of recovery. This strongly

20 supported continuing project is progressing well, state

21 and federal agency researchers at ADF&G and NOAA are

22 collaborating well with project PIs. And the ADF&G

23 staff have been helpful and very responsive with

24 sending tissue collection which has contributed to the

25 goals of this project being achieved in a timely

1 manner. The analysis of samples have also been
2 conducted cost effectively which has allowed for
3 additional samples to be collected at other locations.
4 Activities proposed for FY '17 are underway including
5 sequencing of the reference genome for herring, early
6 life development and pathogen challenge experiments.

7 The FY '17 work is ahead of schedule and some
8 activities proposed for FY '18 are already underway and
9 ahead of schedule such as receiving samples from ADF&G.
10 And because the work is ahead of schedule the PI has
11 proposed shifting a portion of future years' funding
12 forward to FY '18 to hire a post-doc now instead of
13 later to accommodate the increase in data generated.
14 And the Science Panel, myself, the PAC and the
15 Executive Director supports this request.

16 And we have -- Andrew is on the line if you
17 guys have any questions.

18 MR. WHITEHEAD: Hello, everyone.

19 MR. MULDER: Hi, Andrew. Any questions.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: I move we approve \$429,750
21 [sic] which includes GA for fiscal year '18 funding of
22 the Lingering Oil Proposal Immunological Expressions of
23 PAH Exposure in Fish, Project 1817115 [sic], proposal
24 dated August 23rd, 2017.

25 MR. HARTIG: I'll second.

1 MR. MULDER: David, do you.....

2 MR. BALSIGER: Mr. Chairman, just.....

3 MR. MULDER: Go ahead. Discussion.

4 MR. BALSIGER:was that a move 492,750,
5 was that what I heard?

6 MR. MULDER: Correct. That's the number.

7 MR. BALSIGER: Okay.

8 MR. MULDER: David, do you favor?

9 MR. ROGERS: David, yes.

10 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

11 (No opposing votes)

12 MR. MULDER: Seeing none, the motion passes.

13 MS. HSIEH: Steve, can I also ask a favor of
14 the Trustees and I'm sorry, I have been a little
15 distracted this fall and I'm just -- I want to make
16 sure that a motion from the Trustees regarding the Gulf
17 Watch Alaska and Herring Projects include the shifts
18 around the Ph.D. post-doc funding that was discussed by
19 the Shiway. I believe they do, but I just wanted to
20 get that on the record in case someone has made an
21 error in one of these versions and I apologize for
22 that.

23 MR. HARTIG: That was my understanding.

24 MR. MULDER: That was my understanding.

25 MS. HSIEH: That was my understanding as well.

1 Thank you very much for that confirmation.

2 MR. MULDER: Now we have a scheduled break. Do
3 we -- I know we're under a time crunch.

4 MS. HSIEH: Are people willing to keep going or
5 would you like a break?

6 MR. ROGERS: I'm good to go.

7 MR. BALSIGER: I'm thinking we can work through
8 the entire agenda and have a break a little bit later.
9 I'm happy to go through the whole thing is that's what
10 you're asking.

11 MS. HSIEH: We can keep going and take a break
12 whenever people need it.

13 MR. MULDER: Yeah, let's see if we can push
14 along.....

15 MS. HSIEH: Okay.

16 MR. MULDER:because we have one or more
17 Trustees have -- are under a time crunch this
18 afternoon. And I want to make sure we have enough
19 people here for any needed motions.

20 Shiway.

21 MS. WANG: All right. It is the time for the
22 Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Project. This coming
23 year, the FY '18, is the last year of the five year
24 project. No new mink were trapped in the 2017 field
25 season, but there was snow for the first time in four

1 years and mink tracks were actually seen. Counts of
2 Pigeon Guillemots at Peak, Naked and Story Islands have
3 doubled in two years. Numbers on control islands
4 didn't have a similar increase. Number of Pigeon
5 Guillemot nests quadrupled since 2014 and colonies are
6 starting to form with up to 10 nests in one area.
7 Productivity was high which indicates that adults were
8 able to find enough food for their chicks and the field
9 season and the trapping effort for FY '18 was
10 originally proposed to be reduced by 50 percent
11 compared to FY '15. However given that this is the
12 last year of the five year project the PIs want to
13 ensure that there are no mink in the Guillemot nesting
14 areas. So they propose a full trapping seasons for
15 this last coming up year and request an increase in the
16 budget to reflect this.

17 And I don't see David Irons in here, but,
18 David, are you on the phone?

19 MR. ROGERS: I am.

20 MS. WANG: Okay.

21 MR. ROGERS: Apologize, a different David.
22 Sorry.

23 MS. WANG: Oh, sorry. David Irons.

24 MR. ROGERS: David Rogers, David -- sorry.

25 MR. MULDER: Jim.

1 MR. BALSIGER: I just missed -- did you say
2 with the snow you saw tracks or saw no tracks?

3 MS. WANG: They saw tracks.

4 MR. MULDER: But they didn't trap anything?

5 MS. WANG: No new mink were trapped in the 2017
6 season.

7 MS. HSIEH: But they had a very successful
8 trapping year the year before and as you may recall
9 (indiscernible) provided a permit for culling, but not
10 eradication due to the questionable genetics of the
11 mink population. So I -- what we're seeing is fewer
12 mink because it's quite a depressed population we're
13 seeing the Pigeon Guillemot rebound, but there are
14 still some mink, they did see tracks and they're going
15 to have a full trapping season this.....

16 MS. WANG: Yeah, it's the last year.

17 MS. HSIEH:for the last year. That was
18 it in a nutshell.

19 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, that was going to be my
20 question is whether the mink population, you can have
21 some mink left, just assume that there was some
22 indigenous population at some point based on the
23 genetics, and the Pigeon Guillemot will still do fine
24 with some mink there.

25 MS. WANG: And I don't have an answer to that

1 question. I think that's something that the -- you
2 guys will have to think about monitoring or.....

3 MS. HSIEH: I think there was discussion and
4 information before because they have a baseline island,
5 I can't remember the island's name, but they do believe
6 that there can be a small population co-exist with the
7 Pigeon Guillemots if the Pigeon Guillemots are allowed
8 to increase their numbers. But we'll see.

9 MR. MULDER: Any questions, David Rogers?

10 MR. ROGERS: No questions.

11 MR. MULDER: All right. Do I hear a motion on
12 agenda item number 9.

13 MR. HARTIG: Yes. I move we approve funding of
14 \$173,438 which includes GA for fiscal year '18 funding
15 of the Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Research in Prince
16 William Sound, Alaska project 18100853, proposal dated
17 October 5, 2017.

18 MS. MARCERON: Second.

19 MR. MULDER: David Rogers, how do you vote.

20 MR. ROGERS: Yes. I'm -- yes.

21 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

22 (No opposing votes)

23 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, the motion passes.

24 That brings us to agenda item number 10, Executive
25 Director updates.

1 Elise.

2 MS. HSIEH: We have the reporting procedures,
3 there's a draft in your meeting notes, fairly
4 administrative updating, you'll see things are
5 highlighted, things were edited for clarification,
6 moving to more electronics transmission, a little
7 clarification with our peer review and the review
8 process.

9 Does anyone have any questions, it's fairly
10 bland? Questions about the reporting policy?

11 MR. MULDER: No, I looked through that. It
12 looked fine.

13 MR. BALSIGER: So the policy includes like the
14 comments that are on the side now, is that.....

15 MS. HSIEH: No, those are comments for you to
16 show you the areas that we have made changes. The
17 final will not include those.

18 MR. BALSIGER: Okay. Thank you.

19 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, I do expect that this policy
20 as well as the financial policy to come before you, we
21 tend to -- we're moving very quickly to try and stay
22 hand in glove with our programs and also Arliss and the
23 changing processes. So you'll see this -- I think the
24 last couple years we've seen edits here and you'll see
25 it again.

1 MR. MULDER: So the new reporting procedures
2 requires that.....

3 MS. HSIEH: Correct.

4 MR. MULDER:adoption by motion. Do I
5 hear a motion.

6 MS. MARCERON: Yeah, I move we adopt the
7 revised reporting procedures with the draft dated
8 October 9, 2017.

9 MR. BALSIGER: Second.

10 MR. MULDER: David.

11 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

12 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

13 (No opposing votes)

14 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, the motion passes.

15 MS. HSIEH: The annual -- the habitat update
16 catalog, I think that's just a notation that we're
17 working with the Department of Natural Resources. We
18 had a hard copy habitat catalog in the past and we're
19 moving toward the digital electronic catalog that I
20 think will be much more fluid to use and easier to
21 update.

22 The next item we will need Steve Wackowski
23 available. I guess we could start the discussion, but
24 we can't have a vote without him.

25 MR. MULDER: Oh, on the budget?

1 MS. HSIEH: The annual budgets. I think --
2 let's see, it's fairly similar. We've kept our budgets
3 fairly static. Item -- a couple things that I was
4 thinking about since our discussion about outreach and
5 it's fine with me either way, we could add to this
6 budget an up to number. You know, we have -- we have
7 discussed with State Parks and other entities in the
8 past and I think they have some excellent people there,
9 panels and kiosks, you know, to be added to some of our
10 past more recent projects. And I can start to
11 facilitate some of that and you're welcome -- if you
12 guys want to give me an up to budget now I can start to
13 work with that and maybe get some of that done or we
14 can just wait and I'll bring you back, you know, the
15 outline and these sorts of things later. I -- to me it
16 doesn't matter either way because I would be doing what
17 -- it would be sort of basic signage and kiosks as per
18 State Parks for example would recommend in those areas
19 and also your own agency folks and interpretative
20 designs. So it's up to you.

21 That's one thought I had. Also I know there's
22 some interest in adding back into the budget some money
23 for AMSS. AMSS was initially funded by the Trustee
24 Council and then during 2008/2009 when I first arrived
25 at the Trustee Council we went through the 38 percent

1 decrease in funding and we pulled way back and kept our
2 belt sort of tight and on a glide path to the stand
3 down of the Trustee Council. But I think given the
4 stock market and our belt tightening overall and
5 keeping our budget static we definitely could
6 contribute to AMSS is that's of interest to the Trustee
7 Council for example in the sum of \$10,000 and it would
8 be added to this budgetary number.

9 So I leave that to the Trustees, those two
10 items.

11 MR. MULDER: Any discussion.

12 MR. BALSIGER: Well, Mr. Chairman, on the AMSS
13 in particular, I don't know how many people have been
14 there, but it's a pretty astounding collection of every
15 scientist that works in Alaska on almost any marine
16 issue. It's pretty awesome. Unfortunately they
17 scheduled over another meeting I have in a different
18 part of the country now so I can no longer attend. But
19 I believe in -- also in the context of our talking
20 about outreach, that this is a communication and
21 coordination event that I think we shouldn't miss. So
22 I'm in -- I would be in favor of adding 10,000 to the
23 budget to support the AMSS.

24 Thanks for letting me say that. I don't know
25 how much discussion you want, but.....

1 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'd second Jim's motion, I
2 agree with his comments on the value of the Alaska
3 Marine Science Symposium.

4 MR. MULDER: Does somebody want to make that
5 motion with the.....

6 MS. HSIEH: Well, also did you guys want a
7 preforwarded outreach budget if I start working with
8 State Parks and somebody needs to get some signage and
9 kiosks going or at least to pay them for their design
10 and work with me to come up with some of these. I
11 don't know if the staff will need some funding.

12 MR. BALSIGER: I'd be happy to also offer an
13 amendment to suggest that we provide up to \$10,000 for
14 such an effort, to work with agencies.....

15 MS. HSIEH: Okay. Just staff budgets are
16 tight.

17 MR. MULDER: Anymore discussion on the signage
18 outreach.....

19 MS. HSIEH: And, Steve, if you want.....

20 MR. MULDER:amendment?

21 MS. HSIEH:I can do one of my off the
22 cuff motions that I'm famous for.

23 MR. MULDER: Nobody else is going to volunteer
24 to do a off the cuff amendment.

25 MR. HARTIG: I thought we had them both.

1 MS. MARCERON: Yeah, he made a motion to.....

2 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I took Jim's as a motion.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: Isn't Jim's still on the floor?

4 MR. MULDER: Yeah.

5 MR. HARTIG: And.....

6 MS. HSIEH: Right. But the.....

7 MS. ADAMS: But you'll have to amend the budget
8 I guess.

9 MS. HSIEH:for the -- I have to -- I have
10 to do a -- yes, that's fine. We -- the motion for the
11 budget will.....

12 MR. HARTIG: Why don't you recap it and we'll
13 start over.

14 MS. HSIEH: There we go. A potential motion
15 could be.....

16 MR. HARTIG: Just say here's the motion.

17 MR. MULDER: Here's the motion.

18 MS. HSIEH: Move to approve 2,261,585 which
19 includes GA for the funding of the FY '18 EVOS annual
20 budget, project 18180100, budget dated October 26th,
21 2017 with the addition of \$10,000 plus a GA, that
22 number did not include GA, for the funding of FY '18
23 AMSS. And with an expectation that the AMSS funding
24 would be then presented to you again in subsequent
25 years as well. And also up to \$10,000 which does not

1 include GA for the Executive Director to initiate
2 outreach activities for the public.

3 MR. BALSIGER: I thought that's what I said.

4 MS. ADAMS: Do you need to add GA to that.

5 MS. HSIEH: I already just said it doesn't
6 include GA so she'll have a total.....

7 MR. MULDER: Is that your motion?

8 MS. HSIEH:number later that's not
9 reflected in this motion. So the GA was not included
10 in those two \$10,000 portions.....

11 MS. ADAMS: Right.

12 MS. HSIEH:we will have a new number on
13 the budget which is not reflected here and won't be
14 calculated during this meeting.

15 There's one more issue. We do have some
16 previously disbursed and unencumbered end of year
17 administrative budget funds because we didn't have a
18 science premier for this year and we have been
19 requested to reallocate some of those to the Deep Sea
20 Research Journal, the publication costs of which I've
21 been in discussion with Pete Hagan from NOAA are higher
22 than expected. And we would like to support that as we
23 don't have to roll those funds back in and then pay
24 another 10 percent back out and we know the Deep Sea
25 Journal is including many of our PIs and they're a

1 great scientific outreach publication. So there's also
2 a motion there moving to authorize the Executive
3 Director to reallocate previously disbursed, but
4 unencumbered end of year administrative budget funds in
5 an amount to be determined by the Executive Director of
6 publication costs of scientific articles in the
7 journals including the Deep Sea Research Journal.

8 MS. ADAMS: That's a mouthful.

9 MS. HSIEH: That's why I do it.

10 MR. BALSIGER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would make
11 that motion. I would try to reiterate it, I could tell
12 it was important, but otherwise that would be my
13 motion.

14 MR. MULDER: I think we have it on the record
15 now. Is there a second.

16 MR. ROGERS: I'll second. This is David.

17 MR. MULDER: How do you vote, David.

18 MR. ROGERS: I vote yes.

19 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

20 (No opposing votes)

21 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, the motion passes.

22 MS. HSIEH: We have reauthorization of the
23 State Parks Kenai River Flats, Riverbank Protection
24 Project. You guys may remember this, last fall the
25 Council approved funding for six riverbank restoration

1 projects that addressed fish habitat restoration and
2 the protection of habitat to support numerous species
3 affected by EVOS. The primary goal of each project is
4 to restore fish habitat that has been adversely
5 impacted by human activity and to provide continuing
6 habitat protection into the future.

7 The Council funded up to approximately 2.214
8 million for the six projects. For one project, Kenai
9 River Special Management Area, Kenai River Flats
10 Riverbank Protection, the EVOS office recommended and
11 the Council funded up to \$327,000 of the 1.4 -- well,
12 it's 1,436,650 total as there was potential for federal
13 or other funds to complete the anticipated total
14 budget. We reference that as the project that's before
15 you today. We recommend reauthorization of this
16 previously approved \$327,000 for project 1, Kenai River
17 Flats as the timeline for Federal application for the
18 Alaska Transportational Alternative Program funds is
19 December, 2018. As many of you on the Council know
20 funds that you approve don't necessarily -- they're not
21 released from our investment account until things are
22 ripe to be funded and then they're released and of
23 course we always come back in a 12 month period or 18
24 months for habitat or habitat enhancement and ask for
25 reauthorization because many projects don't get done in

1 a 12 month or 18 month time span.

2 Now we have Rys Miranda here from State Parks
3 if there's any questions about this or any of the other
4 riverbank protection projects that you authorized last
5 year.

6 MR. MULDER: Any questions.

7 (No comments)

8 MR. MULDER: Do I hear a motion on agenda item
9 12.

10 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, you want me to handle this
11 one?

12 MR. MULDER: Sure.

13 MR. ROGERS: I move we approve reauthorization
14 of \$327,000 which includes GA for FY '18 funding of
15 ADNR/State Parks Kenai River Flats, Riverbank
16 Protection, Project 17170116 for the ADNR/State Parks
17 Kenai River Riverbank Protection, Project 17170116
18 dated August 31st, 2017.

19 MR. MULDER: Is there a second.

20 MS. MARCERON: I second.

21 MR. MULDER: How do you vote, David.

22 MR. ROGERS: I vote a big yes.

23 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

24 (No opposing votes)

25 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, the motion passes.

1 That brings us to agenda item 13.

2 Agenda item 13. Lauri, you're up on habitat
3 protection parcel.....

4 MS. ADAMS: Okay.

5 MR. MULDER:Meals Hill right before
6 lunch. Meals Hill. This is in the Port of Valdez.

7 MS. ADAMS: Okay. We have just one new small
8 parcel for your consideration. It's the Meals Hill
9 Project in Port Valdez in Prince William Sound. It
10 consists of two lots, adjacent lots, a total of 184
11 acres of coastal land and wetlands in the City of
12 Valdez. There is a description map and some photos of
13 the property in your materials. The property
14 encompasses coastal, wetland and upland habitat that
15 ranks in the highest priority category in the 2014 EVOS
16 prioritization for habitat protection including for
17 species of nearshore fishes, birds and marine mammals
18 injured in the spill. It provides a mile of forested
19 coastline immediately adjacent to subtitle communities
20 with continuous kelp beds along the entire one mile
21 stretch. It's also in close proximity to two previous
22 EVOS habitat purchases and a productive salmon stream
23 and this would build on prior EVOS investments and
24 habitat protection. In addition the property located
25 within boundaries of the community of Valdez and would

1 provide a unique, locally accessible recreational and
2 tourism resource in this spill community. It's located
3 within walking distance of the Valdez ferry terminal,
4 the small boat harbor and downtown Valdez.

5 The City of Valdez has been engaged and
6 recently passed a city council resolution unanimously
7 supporting the purchase. City leaders are enthusiastic
8 about securing the property for public access and use
9 and are considering entering into a management
10 agreement with the state to assume management or
11 possibly even accepting the property into city
12 ownership.

13 Those discussions are just starting between DNR
14 and the city and the benefits will -- report will be
15 updated to reflect the city's potential involvement as
16 well as to add the final appraised value because we
17 don't have a final appraisal quite yet. As with all
18 our habitat parcel project the Council's authorization
19 is an initial step in a complex negotiated transaction
20 between a willing seller and the purchasers which
21 requires quite a number of approval by state and
22 federal agencies and their attorneys along the way
23 including the negotiated purchase agreement and an
24 appraisal in accordance with EVOS standards, extensive
25 due diligence and approval by the state and federal

1 agency purchasers and the Executive Director of EVOS
2 before completing the purchase. Council funds are
3 authorized for an 18 month negotiation period for this
4 purchase.

5 And as I mentioned we don't have a final
6 appraisal yet so we're requesting the Council's
7 approval of an up to amount of 5.2 million for the
8 purchase of the Meals Hill property at its fair market
9 value based upon an approved appraisal including funds
10 for due diligence expenses, appropriate initial
11 enhancements for public use and closing costs.

12 Does anyone have questions or discussion?

13 MR. BALSIGER: Can you remind me when we
14 started working on this?

15 MS. HSIEH: Meals Hill?

16 MR. BALSIGER: Meal Hill, yeah.

17 MS. ADAMS: Oh, Great Land Trust, a year or
18 more ago.

19 MR. BALSIGER: Was it just that recent? I
20 thought it was surprisingly quick for.....

21 MS. HSIEH: Sometimes it takes a long time.

22 MR. BALSIGER: Thank you.

23 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, sometimes. And this is a
24 smaller parcel which is one of the reasons and it was
25 on the market and, you know, so that makes a

1 difference. You had a seller that was interested in
2 selling.

3 MR. HARTIG: This is Larry. Yeah, I think it's
4 great. I mean, I've walked those trails myself and
5 been down there and I think it's -- talking about
6 public outreach, I think there'd be a good opportunity
7 to -- for signage and interpretative material there.
8 And I didn't if initial enhancements for public use
9 would include that kind of thing.

10 MS. ADAMS: That's what we had in mind.....

11 MR. HARTIG: Okay. So that would include.....

12 MS. ADAMS:particularly because it's in
13 the community and also.....

14 MR. HARTIG:interpretive signs and that
15 sort of thing?

16 MS. ADAMS:also possibly a gate and maybe
17 a little bit of trail work, but, you know, that would
18 have to come in with the budget.....

19 MR. HARTIG: Right. And we'd have to notice
20 the.....

21 MS. ADAMS:as to what they would actually
22 want to do. But, yeah, that was the idea.

23 MR. HARTIG: Okay. And I -- as we -- the three
24 of us discussed I met with DNR and their concern with
25 their budget about if they take management of the

1 property not being able to handle that with their
2 current budget. And so as I understand the motion is
3 contingent upon a number of due diligence and other
4 things in place and that would include coming up with a
5 plan for long term management that satisfies DNR.

6 MS. ADAMS: That's correct.

7 MR. HARTIG: And we would go forward without
8 that.

9 MS. HSIEH: That's correct. Every parcel.

10 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I just want to verify on the
11 record so that -- I told them I would do that.

12 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, thank you.

13 MR. MULDER: Was this one of our parcels in the
14 catalog in the prior authorization by Great Land Trust
15 before or is this something new?

16 MS. HSIEH: Was it covered in the
17 prioritization, yes.

18 MS. ADAMS: Yes, it was.

19 MS. HSIEH: They weren't parcel by parcel. If
20 you remember they were land mass, we didn't call
21 out.....

22 MR. MULDER: Right.

23 MS. HSIEH:individual parcels for obvious
24 reasons. And there also are very close, not
25 connecting, not adjacent, but very close parcels that

1 EVOS had already purchased for habitat.

2 MR. MULDER: I saw that.

3 MS. HSIEH: Yeah. From the prior era.

4 MR. MULDER: Any other discussion.

5 MR. ROGERS: This is David. I just want to ask
6 you are very comfortable with this proposal is what I'm
7 hearing.....

8 MS. HSIEH: We -- I mean, we still have
9 the.....

10 MR. ROGERS:Larry?

11 MS. HSIEH: Oh, it's for Larry.

12 MR. HARTIG: Yeah, I am. I'm very comfortable
13 with it.

14 MR. ROGERS: No, no. Well, I'm sorry.
15 Actually no, I was asking Elise and Lauri if -- I
16 understand that you're very comfortable, Commissioner,
17 but just wanted to make sure staff is okay and there's
18 no footnotes.

19 MS. HSIEH: No, we think of this, it sounds
20 like it has a stand of trees and it is well used and
21 the ferry terminal's right there, I think it would be a
22 great opportunity for the Trustee Council. As usual
23 there's a lot of footnotes with these parcels because
24 as we go through due diligence if we find something
25 that makes us uncomfortable or the Department of

1 Interior Solicitor's Office or any of us uncomfortable
2 then -- you know, these things don't come to fruition.
3 But so far this is looking very promising and we're
4 excited about the opportunity.

5 MR. ROGERS: Thanks.

6 MS. ADAMS: And I'd agree. I think it's a good
7 project and haven't seen anything that gives me pause
8 yet. Obviously there's things that -- management that
9 has to be worked out and so on, but I think it has
10 great potential and the community is very enthusiastic
11 about it. So it would be a good one to do.

12 MR. MULDER: All right. Well, although there
13 are no footnotes to the proposed motion, it is the
14 lengthiest one of the day. Are there any volunteers?

15 MR. HARTIG: Can't we just refer to it?

16 MS. HSIEH: Yes. Would you like me to read it
17 out loud?

18 MR. HARTIG: No, I think that what we have on
19 the agenda as agenda item 13, habitat protection, as
20 it's written, that's my motion.

21 MS. HSIEH: Okay. I can give it to the -- I
22 can read it out loud if you would like. Often I do
23 that.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: Does it have to be read out
25 loud?

1 MS. HSIEH: No, I think I can -- can I give you
2 something to submit into the record? Okay. We'll do
3 that.

4 MR. HARTIG: Okay. Let's do that.

5 MR. MULDER: All right. So this is the motion
6 to approve funding for the protection of the Prince
7 William Sound, 4,009 Port Valdez Meals Hill parcel. Is
8 there a second.

9 MS. MARCERON: Second.

10 MR. MULDER: David, how do you vote.

11 MR. ROGERS: I vote yet.

12 MR. MULDER: Any opposed.

13 (No opposing votes)

14 MR. MULDER: Hearing none, the motion passes.

15 MS. HSIEH: Steve, if I may. I realize that
16 the State Parks Kenai Flats Riverbank Protection
17 Project under agenda item 12, the motion that the
18 Trustee will be amenable, typically that authorization
19 for funding for habitat enhancement projects and
20 habitat is effective for an 18 month period unless it
21 would be stated on the record for that motion that
22 authorization is effective through May 1st, 2019.

23 If no one has any objection to that with regard
24 to the Kenai Flats Riverbank Protection Projects.

25 MR. MULDER: This is agenda item 12?

1 MS. HSIEH: Correct. Also I wanted to ask Jim
2 Balsiger if you're interested in AMSS funding was for
3 FY '18, it may be wise to make that funding
4 authorization effective December 1st so that I can
5 transfer the funds for this upcoming AMSS that happens
6 I believe in mid January. So they would probably be
7 interested in those funds now versus March 1st which is
8 typical for all the motions that we don't mention a
9 specific date run on our fiscal year. So if you'd be
10 amenable to the -- authorizing that AMSS (indiscernible
11 - simultaneous speech).....

12 MR. BALSIGER: I am amenable. I thought I made
13 that clear when I made the motion.

14 MS. HSIEH: We have to actually state.....

15 MR. BALSIGER: I'm joking.

16 (Laughter)

17 MR. BALSIGER: I'm amenable, you're right.

18 MS. HSIEH: I think I would suggest the same
19 for the outreach budget because I will jump on this and
20 try and get the staff onboard quickly and move through
21 some of this as well if everyone's okay with that.....

22 MR. MULDER: Okay.

23 MS. HSIEH:to make the outreach funding
24 authorization effective December 1st, 2017.

25 MR. MULDER: Any objections to those changes.

1 (No comments)

2 MR. MULDER: David. Are you still with us,
3 David?

4 MR. ROGERS: Yes, got me again. No objection.

5 MR. MULDER: All right. Thank you. All right.
6 Well, since we kind of raced through there that we're
7 doing well on time to get the -- Commissioner Hartig
8 where he needs to go.

9 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

10 MR. MULDER: So that brings us to agenda item
11 14, Bering River Coal Fields, the KADCO Coal Interests.
12 That was the subject of the public comments earlier
13 today.

14 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'd be happy to take the ball
15 on that since.....

16 MS. ADAMS: I mean, I was.....

17 MR. WACKOWSKI:I asked for it to get
18 added.

19 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: Is that okay?

21 MS. ADAMS: No, no, go ahead.

22 MS. HSIEH: Sure.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: I had my office for the
24 audience print out a copy of the letter from Senator
25 Murkowski, the Energy Committee, you want to pass that

1 out or does anyone want to see it?

2 Senator Murkowski had -- actually the Senate
3 Energy Committee through Chairman Murkowski had sent us
4 a request three weeks ago to do a -- and what's the
5 terms of arm risk to injury analysis.

6 MS. HSIEH: It's actually not our term of art,
7 we're not sure where the language came from, but.....

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: So I had asked for it just to
9 be added for discussion point. I didn't see a harm in
10 doing a study. That was before I understood that it
11 would cost us money. So kind of a compromise that I
12 had discussed with Lauri and Elise last night was can
13 we use our own internal staff time to scope a study to
14 see what a study would cost us and then we can act at a
15 later date on funding the study. So I'm guessing that
16 would be my proposal. I know that there was an
17 objection from a member to discuss it just because it
18 hadn't been vetted through their agency. So my -- I
19 guess my recommendation would be to just have Lauri and
20 Elise scope what a study would cost and then we can
21 decide on whether or not we want to do the study. I
22 should be abundantly clear this does not mean that we
23 are endorsing or supporting the purchase of the rights,
24 it's just us looking at the study to see if it's a tool
25 in our toolkit.

1 MR. MULDER: Other.....

2 MS. HSIEH: We can do stuff.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: So do we need to a motion to
4 have you scope that?

5 MS. HSIEH: No.

6 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay.

7 MS. HSIEH: We'd be happy to do that for you.
8 We will send the information back email to all the
9 trustees and/or at the next Trustee Council meeting.

10 MR. MULDER: I assume, Elise, that to cover the
11 cost you'd have to come up with the scope?

12 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, I think we're going to have
13 to look at that. I think there's some information we
14 don't have for -- I think there might be fact finding
15 we're going to have to do.

16 MR. MULDER: That's what I'm wondering is.....

17 MS. ADAMS: Actually there's quite a lot,
18 it's.....

19 MS. HSIEH: There's quite a bit actually. So
20 we will start that process to find out more specifics.

21 MS. ADAMS: And that will -- that will partly
22 go into figuring out what the costs are, just figure,
23 okay, what do we need and then how much would that cost
24 and then we'll get back to you on it.

25 MR. BALSIGER: So what kind of timeline did you

1 have in mind for that scope?

2 MS. ADAMS: What do you think?

3 MS. HSIEH: I don't know because I'm not sure
4 how long it's going to take to get the information that
5 we need to find out.....

6 MS. ADAMS: Well, this isn't to do the study,
7 this is just for the scope.

8 MS. HSIEH: Right.

9 MS. ADAMS: I.....

10 MS. HSIEH: February.

11 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, I'm thinking a couple of
12 months, two to three months in that order and obviously
13 if we can do it faster we will do it, we'll get right
14 on, you know, communicating with the folks that have
15 the information.

16 MS. HSIEH: And maybe what we'll do is email
17 you what we find preliminary.....

18 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

19 MS. HSIEH:and then you guys can respond
20 back to us and let us know what next steps you feel
21 would be appropriate with the information that we have
22 at that juncture.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: I just have one final item.

24 Joe Darnell, could you stand up.

25 Joe is our regional solicitor here and I just

1 found out, were you a Trustee Council member for a
2 while?

3 MR. DARNELL: No.

4 MR. WACKOWSKI: No. He's retiring at the end
5 of the year. He is a national treasure. I've been
6 trying to convince him to stick around, but his wife
7 won't let him retire and I don't want to get -- I want
8 to stay on your Christmas card list. And I just wanted
9 to thank you publicly on behalf of DOI, but on the
10 entire EVOS for your 30 years of dedicated public
11 service. And you will be missed and we expect you to
12 maybe write a good book on ANILCA and be around to poke
13 us.

14 So thank you very much for your public service,
15 Joe.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. MULDER: I object. I went to law school
18 with Joe and how is it he gets to retire before me.

19 (Laughter)

20 MR. BALSIGER: Speaking of retirements.....

21 MS. HSIEH: No, no one's allowed to retire.

22 MR. BALSIGER: Well, I -- it's not me.

23 (Laughter)

24 MR. BALSIGER: I will never retire for reasons
25 you don't want to hear. But Phil Monday, Dr. Monday,

1 who worked in this for quite a long time is retiring I
2 think at the end of this year or maybe early next year.
3 So just information.....

4 MS. HSIEH: Oh.

5 MS. ADAMS: Wow. Change.

6 MS. HSIEH: We've relied on Joe a lot and Phil
7 is just part and parcel of what EVOS has been. So,
8 yeah, changes.

9 MR. MULDER: Okay. Any other final comments.

10 MS. HSIEH: We're done.

11 MR. MULDER: Anybody want to make a motion to
12 adjourn or we just adjourn.

13 MR. BALSIGER: Move to adjourn.

14 MS. MARCERON: Second.

15 MR. MULDER: Yeah.

16 (Off record)

17 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through contain a full, true and correct transcript of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Meeting recorded electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 14th day of November 2017 and thereafter transcribed under my direction and reduced to print:

THAT the Transcript has been prepared at the request of:

EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL
Anchorage, Alaska

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 30th day of November 2017.

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED TO BY:

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18