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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

October 11, 2019  
10:00 A.M.

Anchorage, Alaska

TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- U.S. FOREST SERVICE: Mr. David Schmid
- AK DEPT OF FISH & GAME: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang
- AK DEPT OF ENVIRON CONSERVATION: Commissioner Jason Brune
- AK DEPT OF LAW: Emma Pokon
- U.S. DEPT OF THE INTERIOR: Mr. Steve Wackowski
- NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Dr. James Balsiger

Proceedings electronically recorded, then transcribed by:  
Accu-Type Depositions, 310 "K" Street,  
Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 - 907-276-0544

1 ALSO PRESENT:  
2 Elise Hsieh, Executive Director, EVOSTC  
3 Lauri Adams, Habitat Director, EVOSTC  
4 Shiway Wang, Science Coordinator, EVOSTC  
5 Cherri Womac, Associate Coordinator, EVOSTC  
6 Linda Kilbourne, Administrative Manager, EVOSTC  
7 Robert Kaler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
8 Liz Labunski, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
9 Veronica Varela, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
10 David Irons, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Retired  
11 Ron Britton, U.S. Forest Service  
12 Phillip Johnson, U.S. Department of Interior  
13 Ricky Gease, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
14 Rys Miranda, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
15 Shawna Popovici, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
16 Pete Hagen, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin  
17 Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA Auke Bay Laboratories  
18 Sherri Dressel, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
19 Carol Janzen, Alaska Ocean Observing System  
20 Caryn Fosnaugh, Alaska SeaLife Center  
21 Tuula Hollmen, Alaska SeaLife Center  
22 Jeff Hetrick, Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery  
23 Josie Hickel, Chugach Alaska Corp.  
24 Vanessa Norman, Chugach Alaska Corp.  
25 Jessi Thornton, Cook Inlet Keeper

1 ALSO PRESENT (CONTINUED):  
2 Chris Little, The Conservation Fund  
3 Skye Steritz, Eyak Preservation Council  
4 Ellen Kazary, Great Land Trust  
5 David Mitchell, Great Land Trust  
6 Branden Bornemann, Kenai Watershed Forum  
7 Robin Corcoran, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
8 Dune Lankard, Native Conservancy  
9 John Sturgeon, Ouzinkie Native Corp.  
10 Elmer Moonin, Port Graham Corp.  
11 Jon Shepherd, Port Graham Corp.  
12 Steve Colligon, Port Graham  
13 W. Scott Pegau, Prince William Sound Science Center  
14 Katrina Hoffman, Prince William Sound Science Center  
15 Jeff Baird, Rasmuson Foundation  
16 Stan Rice, NOAA retired  
17 Tim Richardson, Wildlife Forever  
18 Mark Cummings  
19 Austin Quinn-Davidson  
20 Rick Steiner

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ATTENDING TELEPHONICALLY:  
Sylvia Kreel, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Bob Mitchell, Alaska Department of Revenue  
Carol Hoover, Eyak Preservation Council  
Erika Ammann, NOAA  
Craig O'Connor, NOAA  
Liz Gobeski, USDOJ  
Jennifer Thomas, USDOA  
Erica Wells, USDOJ

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1 CHAIR BRUNE: We can't hear you. If you could.....

2 MS. HSIEH: Lauri, I'm not sure that worked. What do you  
3 need? She has one. I don't think it's working.

4 MS. ADAMS: My name's Lauri Adams. I'm on the EVOSTC  
5 staff as Habitat Director.

6 MS. WANG: Shiwang Wang, I'm the Science Coordinator for  
7 the Trustee Council.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Good morning, and welcome to everyone  
9 that's in the audience. Thank you for being here today. We'll  
10 go to the agenda Item 2., and if I could please ask for a  
11 motion to approve the agenda?

12 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So moved.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

14 MR. WACKOWSKI: Second.

15 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, second, who?

16 MR. WACKOWSKI: Seconded it.

17 MS. HSIEH: Second was Steve Wackowski.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: The second was Steve Wackowski. The motion  
19 was Doug Vincent-Lang. Are there any additions or corrections  
20 to the agenda?

21 (No audible response)

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there any opposition to the approval of  
23 the agenda?

24 (No audible response)

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the agenda is approved.

1           We'll now go to the approval of the October 17, 2018  
2 meeting notes.

3           MR. WACKOWSKI: Motion to approve.

4           CHAIR BRUNE: There's a motion by Steve Wackowski.

5           MR. SCHMID: I'm not going to do it. I wasn't here.

6           CHAIR BRUNE: I think there might be some concern, given  
7 that three of us were not here at this meeting. So I haven't  
8 heard a second yet. So are we.....

9           MS. POKON: I'll second.

10          CHAIR BRUNE: We have a second by.....

11          MS. HSIEH: Emma Pokon.

12          CHAIR BRUNE: .....Emma Pokon. Is there any discussion  
13 about these minutes, our meeting notes, again recognizing, I  
14 think for the record, that many of us were not at that meeting  
15 and cannot speak to that?

16          (No audible response)

17          CHAIR BRUNE: Is there any opposition to approval of  
18 those meeting notes?

19          COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I'm going to rely on the two  
20 Trustees that were here to guide this discussion, so.....

21          MR. WACKOWSKI: It is accurate. They are accurate.

22          CHAIR BRUNE: Jim, did you have something you wanted to  
23 add?

24          DR. BALSIGER: I had a similar comment. I find no errors  
25 in them.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, is there any opposition?

2 (No audible response)

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the meeting notes are  
4 approved.

5 We will now go to the agenda Item 3. 2018-2020 PAC  
6 Nominations and Charter Renewal. Dr. Phillip Johnson, if you  
7 could bring forward -- bring yourself forward and put yourself  
8 on the record?

9 MR. WACKOWSKI: Mr. Chair, if I may real quick, before  
10 Phil starts, I would like to apologize. So the Department of  
11 Interior is -- has a responsibility to nominate PAC members.  
12 We did not get our members nominated to form a quorum for the  
13 PAC until about two weeks ago.

14 We had done three successive.....

15 (Interference with electronic audio system)

16 MR. WACKOWSKI: We had done three successive calls for  
17 nominations and the last one.....

18 (Interference with electronic audio system)

19 MR. WACKOWSKI: The last one ending in February of last  
20 year, and it, quite frankly, just took us eight months to get  
21 moved through our internal processes to get the (indiscernible)  
22 committee nominated, so.....

23 (Interference with electronic audio system)

24 MS. HSIEH: That one's off? Do we know which one's  
25 causing it?

1 (Interference with electronic audio system)

2 MS. HSIEH: Is it yours, Jason?

3 CHAIR BRUNE: No, this one's off too.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I turned that one off.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm going to -- how do you turn it  
6 off?

7 (Pause - technical issues)

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: So Phil did do a good job of harassing me  
9 throughout the year to get these moving and it just took a long  
10 time to get through our process. So unfortunately, we did not  
11 have a quorum. The PAC was not able to meet before this  
12 meeting, and I'm going to go ahead and take responsibility for  
13 that. So thanks, Phil, didn't mean to steal your thunder.

14 DR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Steve. Can people hear me or.....

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just speak loudly.

16 DR. JOHNSON: Let me just try this a little closer and  
17 see if that helps, but otherwise, I'll just speak loudly. So  
18 as Steve just mentioned, on October 4<sup>th</sup> of this year, the  
19 Secretary of the Interior appointed seven members to the Public  
20 Advisory Committee for the Trustee Council to a two-year term.  
21 So their terms will start, you know, effective with a signature  
22 date of those letters, and so those original signed letters  
23 have gone out from the Department of Interior in Washington,  
24 D.C. to the appointees and also, the Trustee Council staff has  
25 started reaching out to some of those members, just to let them

1 know, you know, it was really tight timing before this meeting,  
2 but you know, there was some outreach by the Trustee Council  
3 staff to alert them to this meeting, in case they were  
4 interested in calling in or attending.

5         So with these appointments finalized, the next step is  
6 going to be -- we have three vacancies. So there's 10 slots on  
7 the Public Advisory Committee. Three of those were not filled  
8 during this approval process. So we still have vacancies for  
9 three positions. One's the sport hunting and fishing. Another  
10 one is the science and technology, and the third one is  
11 conservation and environmental interests.

12         So our office will prepare a federal registry notice and  
13 send that through D.C., et cetera, and hopefully, get some --  
14 those last three positions appointed. So I think that's all I  
15 had on the PAC and kind of where we stand with that process.

16         The other thing I was asked to report on was the status  
17 of the charter. So the current charter was according to FACA  
18 regulations. All the charters expire after two years. So they  
19 have to be renewed every two years. So the last time we did a  
20 charter renewal was in September 2018, and that's when it was  
21 signed and it was actually filed in early October, on October  
22 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

23         So in 2020, this coming year, we'll be working on  
24 reviewing the charter to see if any changes need to be made and  
25 then getting that signed and approved again by the DOI

1 Secretary. So any questions?

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Dr. Johnson.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I assume that since you  
4 haven't been a full PAC, you haven't had a chance to review the  
5 science proposals or proposals that are in front of this  
6 Trustee Council for this meeting?

7 DR. JOHNSON: Yeah, so my role is more just to kind of be  
8 the record keeper and the, you know, kind of the person that  
9 helps -- works with the Trustee Council staff. They set up the  
10 meetings, the PAC meetings and things, so -- so I'm actually  
11 not -- my role is more as a kind of -- making sure the backup  
12 process works well and make sure that the notes are done, and I  
13 work with Trustee Council staff on that, and you know, so when  
14 we do get a PAC seated, they will actually elect a chair and  
15 then that chair will be kind of running those meetings, but I  
16 need to be present at the meetings for the meetings to be kind  
17 of official, and we need a quorum. So that's -- so with only  
18 seven people, you know, that makes it a little tighter on  
19 getting a quorum. So -- so that's where we stand.

20 MS. HSIEH: Doug, I think your question was: Has the PAC  
21 body looked at these proposals?

22 DR. JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.

23 MS. HSIEH: We are in what, this is the upcoming fourth  
24 year of these long-term proposals, so a PAC has looked at all  
25 the prior years, but this year, we did not have a PAC seated.

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.

2 MS. HSIEH: Thank you.

3 DR. JOHNSON: Sorry if I didn't understand your question.

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Are there other questions?

6 (No audible response)

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Johnson, I was a long-standing member

8 of the PAC back in the day.

9 DR. JOHNSON: Right.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: So I understand the importance of the PAC

11 and I think that Commissioner Vince-Lang's question about the

12 PAC meeting, I think is going to weigh in on a lot of our

13 discussions today, and I think it's important for them to meet

14 and deliberate on a number of the things we're going to be

15 discussing today.

16 DR. JOHNSON: Okay.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there other questions from Trustee

18 Council members?

19 (No audible response)

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Dr. Johnson.

21 DR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: We're now going to open it up to public

23 comment. If you're interested in -- is there anyone online, as

24 well?

25 MS. HSIEH: We typically just ask for anyone online, and

1 I'm sorry about that fan. We've been asking if we can turn it  
2 off. Shiway, do you want to come up close to the  
3 teleconference unit and check to see if there's anyone online?

4 MS. WANG: Sure.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: I think what I'd like to do, Shiway, is  
6 let's first go to those online to see if there's anyone  
7 interested in providing public comment online and then we'll go  
8 into the room.

9 MS. WANG: Sounds good. Hello, is there anybody on the  
10 phone?

11 MS. KREEL: (Indiscernible) I'm online.

12 MS. WANG: Okay, we have Sylvia Kreel online. Anybody  
13 else?

14 MS. AMMAN: Erika Ammann (indiscernible - speaking  
15 simultaneously).

16 MR. O'CONNOR: Craig O'Connor from -- from NOAA's office  
17 and (indiscernible), Craig O'Connor.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Craig O'Connor.

19 MS. WANG: Erika Ammann, and Craig O'Connor. Anyone  
20 else?

21 MS. GOBESKI: Liz Sobeski, US DOI Solicitor's Office.

22 MS. WANG: Okay, Liz Gobeski. Anyone else?

23 MR. MITCHELL: Bob Mitchell, Department of Revenue.

24 MS. WANG: Okay, Bob Mitchell is here. Anyone else?

25 MS. WELLS: It's Erika Wells, Department of -- US

1 Department of Justice.

2 MS. WANG: Hi, Erika. Erika Wells is online. Anyone  
3 else?

4 MS. THOMAS: Jennifer Thomas from the US Department of  
5 Agriculture, USC Office of General Counsel.

6 MS. WANG: Okay, Jennifer Thomas. Anyone else?

7 (No audible response)

8 MS. WANG: All right, and is there anybody on the phone  
9 that would like to make a public comment?

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Shiway, I believe I heard all government  
12 officials online. I don't know if I heard anyone from the  
13 public.

14 MS. WANG: I think you're correct, yeah.

15 MS. HOOVER: I'm Carol -- I'm Carol Hoover. I'm with the  
16 Eyak Preservation Council in Cordova.

17 MS. WANG: Hi, Carol.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Hey, Carol, were you interested in giving a  
19 public comment today?

20 MS. HOOVER: No, but I'm very pleased that I can hear you  
21 all so well and I'm just here to share, thank you.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Fantastic, well, thank you for calling in  
23 today, Carol, and thank you to everyone else that called in  
24 from the different agencies.

25 With that, we'll open the public comment up to the room.

1 If you're interested in coming forward, please take a seat,  
2 introduce yourself for the record, your name and your  
3 affiliation and you will have three minutes for your public  
4 testimony.

5 MS. HICKEL: Good morning.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.

7 MS. HICKEL: I don't know if this is working. I'll just  
8 try to talk loud. So thank you for the opportunity to comment  
9 today. My name is Josie Hickel. I'm the Executive Vice-  
10 President of Lands and Resources for the Chugach Alaska  
11 Corporation. I'm also a shareholder of the Chugach Alaska  
12 Corporation.

13 As most of you know, our region is the one that extends  
14 from the lower tip of the Kenai Peninsula all throughout Prince  
15 William Sound and down the Gulf of Alaska to Icy Bay. Our  
16 communities in our region are Seward, Valdez, Cordova,  
17 Whittier, Villages of Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tatitlek and  
18 Chenega.

19 These are the communities and the Chugach people that  
20 were devastated by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill 30 years ago. I  
21 was actually living in Seward at that time and I'm very  
22 familiar with the events of that time.

23 As you know, we're still dealing with the impacts of the  
24 spill and the damage that it brought to the environment, the  
25 resources and the people of our region. Over the course of the

1 last 30 years, the Trustee Council has expended hundreds of  
2 millions of dollars on habitat acquisition, scientific  
3 research, restoration efforts, capital projects, education,  
4 data management, and other programs with the intended purpose  
5 of restoring, replacing, enhancing, rehabilitating and  
6 acquiring natural resource injured as a result of the spill,  
7 and the reduced or lost services provided by such resources.

8 While we do commend the Trustee Council for many of these  
9 excellent programs that have taken place and provided  
10 significant enhancement and knowledge to these valuable  
11 resources. We also want to note that we, Chugach, and our  
12 region, have been negatively impacted, as well, by some of  
13 these actions, in particular, the result of *Exxon Valdez* oil  
14 spill acquiring 242,000 acres of surface estate where Chugach  
15 Alaska Corporation holds the subsurface and putting  
16 conservation easements on those lands.

17 We are now getting some traction to potentially do some  
18 land exchange to help to ease that issue that we've struggled  
19 with for all of these years and we're hopeful that can help us  
20 actually meet the intent of ANCSA with respect to ability to  
21 have economic development from our lands.

22 The MOU between the state and the federal government  
23 requires the Trustee Council to establish procedures for  
24 meaningful public participation. However, we don't believe  
25 that the way the Trustee Council is currently organized and

1 managed meets the intent of this directive.

2           There's much that can be done to improve public  
3 participation, as well as the process, by which EVOSTC  
4 operates. There should be a fair and transparent process, in  
5 terms of how proposals are reviewed and addressed by the  
6 Council.

7           Currently, much of the process is handled under a veil of  
8 secrecy with only proposals in which the EVOSTC staff has  
9 solicited or support -- are brought to advancement by the  
10 Council. No process exists to allow those who have a proposal  
11 to speak or present, unless invited to do so, including on the  
12 meeting agenda, which is managed by staff.

13           The Public Advisory Council, as noted, has been vacant  
14 for 10 months, which is another challenge in that. There's no  
15 path that exists to review and comment on the proposals that  
16 are public commentary.

17           We just learned of this meeting September 16<sup>th</sup>. We  
18 learned of it second-hand. We were not included on any kind of  
19 email. I understand that may be difficult for staff, but there  
20 are many other agencies that have ways of reaching out to  
21 public, including Alaska Native corporations and tribal  
22 organizations who have opportunity to provide consultation,  
23 which is required for Alaska Native organizations.

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Ms. Hickel, I'm sorry, if I could ask you  
25 to please wrap up the best way (indiscernible - speaking

1 simultaneously).....

2 MS. HICKEL: I just want to say that I would appreciate  
3 the Council taking the opportunity to review the process of the  
4 EVOS Trustee Council and look for a better way to proceed in  
5 the future. Thank you.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Are there any questions for Ms.  
7 Hickel?

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: I do. I have one. Ms. Hickel, thank you  
9 for your testimony and I have a question for you, some of the  
10 concerns you raised about our notification and our transparency  
11 bother me, quite frankly, and I would charge Chugach Alaska,  
12 any Native corporation or Tribe to please help us find a way to  
13 better get public notice out there.

14 I know we have a website. Sometimes we struggle to get  
15 that updated and up-to-date, but as far as like the last email  
16 list, you guys should have been on our notification list. You  
17 are the region that is in the impacted spill area and why you  
18 weren't on that notification list, quite frankly, blows my  
19 mind.

20 So we would be willing to entertain some suggestions from  
21 you on how we can better communicate, you know, our meeting and  
22 our deadlines. Thank you.

23 MS. HICKEL: Thank you.

24 MS. HSIEH: Trustee Wackowski, before your mind is blown,  
25 we can discuss an email blast and the Trustees can let us know

1 who should be on that. We actually have met with Chugach  
2 several times over this year and I believe actually emailed  
3 Josie and I believe Sheri, as well, in June, and asked them if  
4 they had something which they wanted to submit, which is  
5 actually unusual for us.

6 All proposals that come in the door, solicited or  
7 otherwise, are always forwarded to the Trustees. It is up to  
8 the Trustees to notify the staff of what they would like on the  
9 agenda. The agenda includes ongoing projects that the Trustees  
10 have approved for multiple years. Everything else is approved  
11 by the Trustees.

12 The staff does not create the agenda, nor would we,  
13 because we wouldn't be able to make those decisions. So I just  
14 wanted to clarify what the current process was before we launch  
15 on some sort of other task. So we should be clear about what  
16 the current process is. Everything that comes in the Trustee  
17 Council door, email or physically, is always sent to the  
18 Trustees and they may direct us to put it on the agenda at any  
19 time.

20 A blast email, we do not have. We do update the website.  
21 That can be discussed. That is something that could be added  
22 if the Trustees would like to create a list. The staff here  
23 would not be deciding who would be on that list.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: I appreciate your comments, Ms. Hickel, and  
25 I think that the best thing we can do is try to be as

1 transparent and communicative as we possibly can. So we will  
2 absolutely take that into consideration. We appreciate your  
3 comments.

4 MS. HICKEL: Thank you.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: I now have the official list in front of  
6 me. We can either have.....

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold on.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Go ahead, sorry, Dr. Balsiger.

9 DR. BALSIGER: If I could, I was going to make a comment,  
10 as well, along those lines, Trustee Wackowski took the blame  
11 for perhaps, if that's the word, for not filling out the PAC.  
12 So the staff works for the Trustees. So any shortcomings that  
13 you find are not the staff's fault.

14 We all -- we have new Trustees. I'm an old one. That's  
15 why I'm taking the blame for this. If there was a failure in  
16 transparency, it's on the Trustees. It's not on the staff, so  
17 just for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. I have a list in front of me.  
19 If we want to go in order or if we want to just come up  
20 randomly, whatever. We have the next person up, but then I'll  
21 go in the order, so you can go ahead.

22 MS. NORMAN: Can I go?

23 CHAIR BRUNE: And then we'll have Rick Steiner following  
24 that and then.....

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could we have a mic for the

1 commenters? If there's one mic that works, can we.....

2 MS. HSIEH: They're welcome to take mine.

3 MS. NORMAN: Hello. Yeah, it doesn't work.

4 MS. HSIEH: If this doesn't screech.....

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think that would be.....

6 MS. HSIEH: We can try this one.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: And then following Rick will be John

8 Sturgeon.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think it's on. Tap it.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Try it.

11 MS. NORMAN: Hello.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Maybe (indiscernible).....

13 MS. NORMAN: I couldn't hear it.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: And again, we have three minutes, and I

15 will -- you'll hear my alarm go off at three minutes. So when

16 you hear that alarm, if you could.....

17 MS. NORMAN: Hello.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: .....wrap it up at that point, I would

19 appreciate it. Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, it's controlled by the wall

21 there.

22 MS. NORMAN: I don't know if you can hear me.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just speak as loud as you can.

24 MS. NORMAN: (Indiscernible - speaking

25 simultaneously).....

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - speaking  
2 simultaneously).....

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you have to talk really  
4 close.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Really close to the microphone.

6 MS. NORMAN: My name is Vanessa Norman. I'm an attorney.  
7 I'm here on behalf of Chugach Alaska Corporation, but I'm also a  
8 member -- I'm from Port Graham, Alaska, which is in the spill-  
9 affected area. I'm a member of the federally recognized Tribe  
10 Port Graham, and I am a shareholder of Chugach Alaska  
11 Corporation, as well.

12 I don't want to duplicate what Josie said earlier, but I  
13 wanted to raise a couple of issues that I saw that I just wanted  
14 to raise to the Trustees today.

15 So the notice for this meeting was given on about  
16 September 16<sup>th</sup>, which is about 20 days. Your policies require  
17 reasonable public notice. Whether 25 days is reasonable is up  
18 for you to decide, but I think if you want to encourage public -  
19 - increase public participation, which is required by the MOU  
20 and MOA, I encourage you to extend that period and as well as  
21 allow for a period to post those materials for -- sorry  
22 (indiscernible) -- for the meeting ahead of time.

23 I believe they were posted five days -- so they were  
24 posted on Monday for the meeting today. So that's when the  
25 agenda was posted, and that doesn't give enough time for people

1 to really raise comment about what's on the agenda and really  
2 prepare for this meeting. So I would like to encourage you to  
3 get those materials out sooner so we can have meaningful public  
4 participation in that process.

5           Josie also read -- said this, but there's no clear grant  
6 application or way to get a proposal on your agenda. Right now,  
7 it's really unclear. It's about knowing -- it sounds like it's  
8 about knowing a Trustee and being able to connect with you to  
9 ask to get that on the agenda. That's not an easy process and  
10 that's not -- I think it's an inherently difficult process and  
11 probably a little burdensome on everybody.

12           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just take the mic out.

13           MS. NORMAN: It would be great if there was -- I'll hold  
14 this -- clear grant application -- a clear grant application and  
15 clear requirements so that all proposals we know are being  
16 evaluated equally, and so we know a way to get these proposals  
17 on the agenda.

18           Without this, I think it -- so we've also been told that  
19 they need to go to the Public Advisory process, but we know that  
20 there's items on the agenda today that have not gone through  
21 that process. So I think it's great to hear that that's been  
22 discussed and being considered today. I think -- I really just  
23 want to stress that there's probably -- there is a better way of  
24 doing this to increase public participation in this process,  
25 especially within the spill-affected region and we'd like to

1 participate in that process. So please reach out if we can be  
2 of any help. Thanks.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Ms. Norman. Are there any  
4 questions for Ms. Norman?

5 MS. HSIEH: I think it's important to note, besides also  
6 meeting with you several times this year, that our website has  
7 on the very front web page, it says if you'd like to solicit or  
8 rather submit anything to the Trustee Council, please contact  
9 our office. We have an email and a phone number.

10 We have, I think, three different types of proposal  
11 forms, depending on the type. There's habitat, science, and  
12 habitat enhancement. Often people don't know which it falls  
13 into. When people email or call our office, within 24 hours,  
14 our staff is working with them to get them the correct proposal  
15 form.

16 We actually just created those proposal forms over the  
17 last year-and-a-half. The Trustee Council in the past didn't  
18 have those. We felt we should have some more standardization.  
19 There was one for the science program, but not across the board.  
20 So that's actually what we've instituted this year.

21 I think that it would be great to have the agenda placed  
22 earlier. Twenty days is okay, but it's often not realistic  
23 because we have to ask the Trustees to approve every single item  
24 on the agenda. Often, someone may even submit something two  
25 days or three days before a meeting. All that goes to the

1 Trustees and the agenda is draft, and if they would like to add  
2 something at any time, including at the meeting, currently under  
3 our processes, the Trustees are allowed to do that.

4 So we take our cues from the Trustees. Everything that  
5 comes in our door and our website states plainly that we're  
6 happy to submit anything and we're also happy to work with you  
7 as we have with Chugach. I think we've met three times this  
8 year, and so.....

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, and in the spirit of what Dr.  
10 Balsiger said, I think obviously, we have three new state  
11 Trustees here, as well, and we are committing today to be more  
12 transparent and open, and your points are well said, Ms. Norman.  
13 Thank you for your comments.

14 MS. NORMAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Up next is Rick Steiner, followed by John  
16 Sturgeon, followed by Stan Rice.

17 MR. STEINER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me  
18 okay?

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect, thank you.

20 MR. STEINER: Okay, good. Sorry we're having a little  
21 audio problem here, but we'll plow through it. I submitted  
22 written comments, just a summary, yesterday, which I believe you  
23 all have. So just to touch on the three elements there; 1) we  
24 understand there's discussion amongst the Trustees and the  
25 agencies of cashing out the remaining restoration funds and

1 ending the process, and I just wanted to state that I and many  
2 people would oppose that.

3 I think it would violate the consent decree. It would  
4 violate the underlying statutes from which the decree derived.  
5 It would betray public trust in the process and mostly, the job  
6 is not done.

7 Your status of injured resources and services list,  
8 something like 13 of them, is not fully recovered, four not  
9 recovering at all. So clearly, the job's not done. You still  
10 have \$130-plus million. You still have a restoration plan that  
11 provides context for you to do all sorts of things to assist in  
12 the recovery of the system. So take a deep breath and plow on,  
13 we would say.

14 Secondly, a couple of things that could be considered for  
15 projects to use these residual funds are; 1) our old proposal  
16 for a herring fishery buyback in Prince William Sound, such that  
17 if and when, and if is a big question, the herring population  
18 recovers, all of the biomass remains in the system for the many  
19 species that rely on herring as a prey fish.

20 I would suggest that the Department of Fish and Game and  
21 the National Marine Fishery Service explore that option as the  
22 two agencies most responsible for fisheries management in  
23 Alaska, so -- and then lastly, the habitat program, there's all  
24 sorts of habitat projects left to be done that are still undone,  
25 including public habitat within the region, which is 90% of the

1 ecosystem.

2           The Trustee Council has a restoration plan that directs  
3 ecosystem management -- ecosystem context for restoration  
4 options. The fact that 90% of the injured ecosystem, the public  
5 lands and waters, has essentially been ignored, is a gaping hole  
6 in the process.

7           On the private habitat protection options, there's  
8 several that need to be explored further, and one would be the  
9 Port Graham negotiations that the Council is engaged in in Kenai  
10 Fjords. Another would be South Kodiak and Karluk and certainly,  
11 perhaps if CAC would be willing to entertain discussions of an  
12 easement in Knight Island, Bay of Isles, right in the center of  
13 the oil spill region, and then finally, of course, Bering River,  
14 the subsurface estate there, which we have brought up for years,  
15 over 20 years to the Trustee Council, and it would be nice if  
16 that residual threat in this incredible ecosystem that would  
17 replace a number of injured resources, subsistence, tourism and  
18 recreation, passive use value, commercial fishing, wilderness  
19 and things like that, could be retired, and I believe the owner,  
20 KADCO Alaska Development Corporation, is still a willing seller,  
21 but we need to get with that, if it's possible.

22           So anyway, thank you very much and I'd be willing to  
23 entertain any questions if there are any.

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Steiner. Are there any  
25 questions? Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

1           COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So Rick, you said that some  
2 Council members are considering recommending the remaining  
3 restoration funds be cashed out?

4           MR. STEINER: Yeah.

5           COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: That's a proposal I've heard  
6 about, but I want to assure you that that's not a decision that  
7 I have made as a Trustee and they'll be ample opportunity to  
8 discuss that, but it's -- as with any proposal, we're open to  
9 consideration of it, but no decision has been made yet.

10          MR. STEINER: I really appreciate that, Commissioner,  
11 thank you.

12          CHAIR BRUNE: And Mr. Steiner, I guess I'll just add to  
13 what Commissioner Vincent-Lange said that I think your public  
14 statements about transparency last year were well heard by us  
15 and I think all of us are committed to a transparent process,  
16 whatever it is, not a process behind closed doors.

17          MR. STEINER: Thank you.

18          CHAIR BRUNE: Are there other comments or questions for  
19 Mr. Steiner?

20                (No audible response)

21          CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your testimony.

22          MR. STEINER: Thank you.

23          CHAIR BRUNE: Next up is John Sturgeon, followed by Stan  
24 Rice and then, wow, that's some handwriting, Elmer Moon, I'm  
25 sorry, I'm.....

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Port Graham.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect, thank you. Mr. Sturgeon.

3 MR. STURGEON: Good morning, my name is Sturgeon, S-t-u-  
4 r-g-e-o-n. I'm here today representing Ouzinkie Native  
5 Corporation. Contrary to what many people think, I've done  
6 something in my life besides go to Supreme Court. I'm a proud  
7 employee of Ouzinkie Native Corporation. I've worked with them  
8 for the last 36 years.

9 I'm here today to talk about the North Kodiak land sale.  
10 That's something that the Ouzinkie Native Corporation supports.  
11 It's something that we would like to sell and the Board would  
12 like to take that money and put it into a settlement trust.

13 For those who aren't familiar with settlement trusts,  
14 it's a mechanism where you put in funds basically one way. You  
15 can't take them out. Once they're in the settlement trust, they  
16 have to be invested conservatively and the benefit to the  
17 corporation is that they go in there at a 10% tax rate and you  
18 pay a 10% tax rate when you earn money of any investments in  
19 that settlement trust, and what's most important to our  
20 shareholders is that we can make distributions that they don't  
21 have to pay any taxes on.

22 It's a big thing. So one of our goals of our Board of  
23 Directors is to try to build up that settlement trust to be able  
24 to make all of our distributions out of that settlement trust  
25 eventually. Right now, it's a combination of settlement trust

1 and out of our profits.

2           So the land sale is something that would be very  
3 important to the shareholders and the Board Directors of  
4 Ouzinkie Native Corporation. It's an area that's pretty close  
5 to the community of Kodiak. It gets a lot of recreational use  
6 right now. There's quite a bit of trespass. There's a shooting  
7 range there, for example. There's trails that aren't  
8 authorized, and for our Native corporation, it's kind of remote  
9 land for us because Ouzinkie is actually on Spruce Island, which  
10 is some ways away from the community of Kodiak to enforce the  
11 trespass.

12           The security work there is expensive and pretty difficult  
13 for a small Native corporation. So we'd like to let you know  
14 that Ouzinkie Native Corporation does support the North Kodiak  
15 land sale. I guess it's going to be deferred for a while and so  
16 I will probably be back and like to have an opportunity to brief  
17 the Trustees what our position is on it, and we appreciate the  
18 opportunity to comment today.

19           CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Sturgeon. Are there any  
20 questions for Mr. Sturgeon?

21           (No audible response)

22           CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your testimony and thank you  
23 for your efforts.....

24           MR. STURGEON: Thank you, Commissioner Brune.

25           CHAIR BRUNE: .....on the Supreme Court. Next up is Stan

1 Rice, followed by the individual from Port Graham and then Dune  
2 Lankard. Mr. Rice.

3 MR. RICE: Thank you. My name is Stan Rice. I'm a  
4 longtime researcher from the Auke Bay fisheries lab in Juneau  
5 where we had a lot of experience in researching and  
6 participating in the EVOSTC process from the very beginning, and  
7 so I've seen the evolution of the science. I only speak to  
8 science, not politics or any of those other issues, but the  
9 science has progressed, I think, very, very well over this  
10 period of time.

11 It's evolved from single species where the agencies were  
12 targeted at looking at injured species, that was their mandate,  
13 to longer-term studies, looking for the recovery or the lack of  
14 it to -- ultimately, to a more ecosystem oriented type studies,  
15 which is where we're at now with the Gulf Watch and Herring  
16 program.

17 I retired after 40-plus years and since then, I've been  
18 on the Science Review Panel for both Gulf Watch and Herring.  
19 Prior to that, I was actually -- participated in establishing  
20 those two groups to respond, some eight, nine, 10 years ago,  
21 when we met to discuss how are we going to go into the future,  
22 and we all felt that we needed long-term data sets to start  
23 with.

24 Over my career, I've seen -- I really didn't care about  
25 long-term data sets way back when, but as I've matured, I

1 certainly have seen both the legal and the scientific value of  
2 those long-term data sets. They are just -- they are just  
3 extremely valuable. They're also extremely difficult to fund  
4 out of normal agency funds, whether it's state or federal. It's  
5 just about impossible to fund those sorts of things via that  
6 process. So this process is -- gives us a very unique and  
7 potential to do that.

8           As the Science Review Panel, we, of course, were very  
9 cognizant of the changes, the environment is always changing and  
10 the data that we continue to see up through the current time  
11 periods certainly backs that up.

12           I had a couple of -- well, we just had meetings with PIs,  
13 reviewing their status and that sort of thing. You'll hear more  
14 about that a little bit later, but a couple of things impressed  
15 me; 1) the quality of science continues to be very, very good.  
16 The group is producing quite well, but from a science  
17 perspective, I was really amazed, you might say, at the long-  
18 term data sets coming out of the university (indiscernible).

19           They're running the oceanography type studies. Those  
20 data sets go back to literally 1900, so literally more than 100  
21 years of data there, and these years between 2014 to '16, where  
22 there's unusual warming, that gets your attention when the  
23 summer temperatures are high, but what impressed me more was the  
24 back-to-back-to-back years of warming, but also in the winter,  
25 the temperatures, of course, are low in the winter, but they are

1 warmer than normal, and that has a significant impact.

2           It's also geographically, it's widespread through the  
3 north and northeastern gulf, but also at depth, and so we had  
4 this huge multiple environment, you might say, that endured this  
5 unusual warming event, and there's lots of domino effects that  
6 trickle down from that, (indiscernible) die-offs, whale  
7 distributions are quite different, and then in the herring  
8 studies, you'll see the depression, mild days of spawn is very  
9 good evidence of that. They're really depressed since '17 and  
10 '18, they continue to be depressed and a little pick up in '19,  
11 but we're at all-time record lows for that biomass of herring,  
12 and that then has consequences on whales, for example, eating of  
13 birds.

14           That's the big -- the big energy transfer group to the  
15 upper species, fish, birds, mammals, so.....

16           CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Rice, if I could please ask you to  
17 conclude your testimony?

18           MR. RICE: Okay, I will. Thank you. I could go on for  
19 an hour, but I understand. My point is that we made a really  
20 good decision eight years ago, nine, 10 years ago when we  
21 initiated these studies. The studies are performing very well.  
22 They're much more integrated and I would highly recommend that  
23 they continue in the future.

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your comments (indiscernible)  
25 and for your longstanding service and history to the Trustee

1 Council. There is a question, Mr. Wackowski?

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah. Are you on the Science Panel or  
3 are you one of the (indiscernible) for some of that?

4 MR. RICE: No, there's the Science Panel that reports to  
5 Elise and that group and I don't know their technical name, and  
6 then there's science -- there's another layer of reviewers that  
7 are imbedded, both in the Gulf Watch and the Herring programs.  
8 Sherri Dressel, for example, is on the Herring and I'm on the  
9 Gulf Watch and Herring, and so we are reporting directly to the  
10 PIs and the group leaders, as a group.

11 MR. WACKOWSKI: So when the Science Panel reviews some of  
12 your either new proposals or enduring proposals, they'll engage  
13 in an iterative process with you, both email and phone calls, to  
14 get feedback or how does that usually work?

15 MR. RICE: Well, the way it works is that the programs  
16 will propose or draft reports, et cetera. At our level, we  
17 would be reviewing them and commenting, and we attend meetings  
18 and -- but we're reporting directly to the PIs and to the leads  
19 for that.

20 Then there's another set of -- if those go forward,  
21 there's another set of reviews that are at a higher level and  
22 they're reporting directly to the Trustee Council. So they are  
23 your Scientific Review. We're the PI's reviewer.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: Understood. My question is on our  
25 process for our Scientific Advisory Panel. So will they then

1 call PIs, and if they've got further questions, they'll engage  
2 in an iterative process? I guess maybe Shiway is a good person  
3 to answer that.

4 MR. RICE: Yeah, let her.

5 MS. WANG: So every year, the Science Panel meets to  
6 review all of the proposals that have been submitted, and then  
7 during that meeting, if there are any questions that we have,  
8 the Science Panel has, for the PIs, we actually have a phone  
9 call session with the programs to answer any questions, and then  
10 further after that, we summarize all of the questions that we  
11 have and comments into the draft work plan, which you guys have  
12 seen, and so these are forwarded to the program leads as soon as  
13 I summarize them, get them back to the office, et cetera, et  
14 cetera, and then the PIs have an opportunity to respond and then  
15 I put them back into the work plan for everybody to.....

16 MR. WACKOWSKI: Which is this, yeah.

17 MS. WANG: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

18 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay, got it. Thank you, just one of  
19 those process questions.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Shiway. Are there other  
21 questions for Dr. Rice?

22 (No audible response)

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you again.

24 MR. RICE: Thank you.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: I don't know what the.....

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could we get a good mic to the  
2 spot, the table? Her mic works.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, and I'm happy to switch. This one  
4 seems to be working. So if you want me to move this one.

5 MS. HSIEH: And you should talk right into the mic.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have to right.....

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, yeah.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I think that one works,  
9 yeah.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like a rock star.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like you're kissing it.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I've got to put some Lysol  
13 on this thing.

14 MR. MOONIN: Hello, okay. Yeah, my name is Elmer Moonin.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: And I'm sorry I couldn't read your name,  
16 your handwriting. My apologies.

17 MR. MOONIN: No worries (indiscernible - speaking  
18 simultaneously).....

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Welcome, and thank you for giving your  
20 testimony.

21 MS. HSIEH: Will you spell your name for the.....

22 MR. MOONIN: Yeah, it's E-l-m-e-r M-o-o-n-i-n.

23 MR. SHEPHERD: My name is Jon Shepherd.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got to talk right into it.

25 MR. SHEPHERD: J-o-n S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we don't have to -- so we don't  
2 have to share.

3 MR. SHEPHERD: And we are here on behalf of Port Graham  
4 Corporation.

5 MR. MOONIN: So we just wanted to take this opportunity  
6 to introduce ourselves. We haven't really participated in the  
7 EVOS Trustee Council programs and we thought we have some  
8 projects that we have in mind that we want to present, but we're  
9 really unsure on how to do that. So we figured we'd take this  
10 opportunity to introduce ourselves.

11 So we're from Port Graham. It's on the very tip of the  
12 Kenai Peninsula. It's right next to Seldovia, the next bay  
13 over. We own 106,000 acres of land. Forty thousand of those  
14 acres are in the Kenai National Fjords and we're the second  
15 largest private landowner affected by the oil spill, I think  
16 behind Chenega. I think Chenega was number one because of the  
17 way the spill kind of went counterclockwise and our lands are on  
18 the lower part of the Kenai Peninsula.

19 So some of the projects we wanted to talk about and --  
20 are some habitat restoration projects for some bridges. We have  
21 some salmon bridges, bridges over anadromous streams that we  
22 need to get repaired. We have a dock that we wanted to get  
23 looked at. You know, we -- it's hard for us to monitor and work  
24 on our lands without that basic piece of community  
25 infrastructure.

1           We also wanted to look at projects on mapping out our  
2 lands more clear. I think we've been able to patch together  
3 stuff from the Kenai Peninsula Borough website, but we don't --  
4 we don't even own a GIS computer, right, so I mean we want to  
5 get some of the basic things together so we could map out and  
6 monitor our own habitat, our own lands.

7           MR. SHEPHERD: Because Port Graham never sold land into  
8 the EVOS Trust, we've been a little underfunded for quite a  
9 while, and we're working through that and trying to get caught  
10 up. We have -- we still know that there are damaged areas  
11 within our property and in the lands we have. Subsistence use  
12 is still down and has not recovered. So we're trying to do some  
13 studies to see how far the effects of the spill are still  
14 remaining on the land Port Graham owns.

15           So we're in kind of an assessment period now and we're a  
16 little bit behind the curve on some of the other entities, but  
17 because we were so severely harmed by the spill, we would like  
18 to get some applications in and work with the Trustee Council to  
19 see if we can get some funding to help get caught up.

20           MS. HSIEH: It may be of interest to you, the Trustee  
21 Council has funded two fairly broad surveys in the spill area  
22 for subsistence through Department of Fish and Game, Dr. Jim  
23 Fall, the most recent of which I believe was two years ago. So  
24 you're welcome to contact us or look on our website for that  
25 material, which may assist you in your assessment. Our

1 website.....

2 MR. MOONIN: Thank you very much.

3 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, our website also has -- so if you just  
4 click on it, it goes directly -- there's three of us, it goes  
5 directly to an email. You can be as rough or loose as you like.  
6 We always tell people this, and then we try and figure out what  
7 type of project you're suggesting. We send you back a form to  
8 fill out that has general information with regard to where it is  
9 in the spill area? Are you the owner? Are you the scientist?  
10 What are you proposing, and some general information, and we  
11 move from there. So those are available, just click on the  
12 front web page where it says, "Do you want to submit something,"  
13 or something like that, to the Trustee Council, so.....

14 MR. SHEPHERD: Okay, thank you.

15 MS. HSIEH: Also, all of our staff is on there. You're  
16 welcome to email any of us. We are, as we've been labeled by  
17 the GAO, "highly responsive."

18 MR. SHEPHERD: Okay, we appreciate that.

19 MS. HSIEH: Thank you.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: So because there are two of you, you have  
21 three minutes left still if you have other comments you'd like  
22 to make.

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: I have a question, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, go ahead.

25 MR. WACKOWSKI: So Elmer, thanks for your testimony, and

1 you know, the last meeting, we had someone come up from one of  
2 the villages that EVOS had bought up all the land from the  
3 Village, and it's fascinating to me that you're the second  
4 largest land owner and that we haven't directly tried to fund  
5 habitat projects to you. I think it's something we really need  
6 to look at, but is there any way you can tell us the decision on  
7 why your elders or why your Board members decided not -- I mean,  
8 I'm told back in the '90s, we had a huge pot of money that we  
9 just kind of threw out to scoop up land throughout Prince  
10 William Sound and Kodiak, again, that's a (indiscernible) thing  
11 to hear from some folks. I don't know if you can just give us a  
12 little bit of history on why the elders decided not to sell.

13 MR. MOONIN: Yeah, I'd like to go into that. There's a  
14 quick quote that Jon wants to read before we go into that,  
15 please.

16 MR. SHEPHERD: I'd like to read a quote that's actually  
17 from the EVOS website from Walter Meganack, Sr., who was one of  
18 the early leaders in Port Graham, and his son, Walter Meganack,  
19 Jr., is now our Chairman of the Board. He starts by saying,  
20 "The roots of our lives grow deep into the water and the land.  
21 This is who we are. We are like our brothers, the bear and the  
22 deer. We live on the land and our food is mostly from the  
23 water, berry, fish, (indiscernible) eat seaweed. Natives eat  
24 all the life in the water. The land and the water are our  
25 sources of life."

1           And there's an extremely strong tie between the elders of  
2 Port Graham Village and the land where their ancestors came  
3 from, and they do not want to sell the land, and so because of  
4 that, they've been underfunded and on top of that, the  
5 subsistence lifestyle still has not been able to get back on  
6 step.

7           MR. MOONIN: So just to quickly tie into -- Walter  
8 Meganack, Jr., his grandfather was actually born in some of the  
9 lands in the Kenai Fjords Park. So our family ties are really,  
10 really tied into the lands. You know, I think over the last 50,  
11 75 years, there's been kind of a migration for economic reasons  
12 to where we are now.....

13           MR. SHEPHERD: And the Russians.

14           MR. MOONIN: But our -- yeah.....

15           MS. HSIEH: I'm sorry, I think that the people on the  
16 phone, if they could mute their phones? People who have called  
17 in to the Trustee Council meeting, if you would mute your phone  
18 on your end?

19           CHAIR BRUNE: Please continue.

20           MS. HSIEH: Sorry about that.

21           MR. MOONIN: No worries, no worries. So I was just tying  
22 our Chairman Walter Meganack, Jr., his grandfather was born in  
23 Yalik Bay, which is one of our lands selected. My father-in-law  
24 was one of the folks in the early '70s, where he went out and  
25 talked to the elders and they wanted to identify their ancestral

1 lands. So all of those lands in the Kenai Fjords Park and in  
2 Windy and Rocky Bay is where our families are from, and it's not  
3 far in our memory, you know, it's very, very close. So the big  
4 pot of money wasn't big enough, right.

5 MR. SHEPHERD: Well, no amount of money.

6 MR. MOONIN: No.

7 MR. SHEPHERD: They will never sell the land. It  
8 belonged to their ancestors and will be handed down to the  
9 generations to all of their kids, grandkids forever.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, are there any other questions for Mr.  
11 Shepherd or Mr. Moonin?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you both for your testimony today.

14 MR. SHEPHERD: Thank you.

15 MR. MOONIN: Thank you. We appreciate the opportunity.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Next up is Dune Lankard.

17 MR. LANKARD: Hi, I've asked Skye to give you each a  
18 small packet. Can you hear me okay?

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfectly, thank you. Please state your  
20 name and affiliation on the record.

21 MR. LANKARD: Sure, Dune Lankard, D-u-n-e, Lankard, L-a-  
22 n-k-a-r-d, and I'm representing the Eyak Preservation Council  
23 and the Native Conservancy based out of Cordova.

24 LaXiishuh, hello to you all. Is that you? My name is  
25 Dune Lankard. I am from Cordova, Alaska. My Eyak name is

1 Jumachakih. I'm an Eagle Clan member of the Eyak Athabaskan  
2 Tribe who has thrived and depended for the last 3,500 years on  
3 the absolute bounty and beauty of Prince William Sound and the  
4 Copper River Delta, and along 300 miles of the Gulf of Alaska  
5 coastline, all the way to Yakutat.

6 It is nice to see familiar faces and have an opportunity  
7 to meet the new State Trustees who now oversee restoration and  
8 mitigation of our ancestral homelands and oceans. I'm sharing  
9 with you today an image of our coastal homelands and our Eyak  
10 place names map. The photo of the Bering River region should  
11 also give you some idea of the magnificence of this intact  
12 world-class wetland habitat that is home to our wild Copper  
13 River salmon, wildlife, sealife, and millions of birds that  
14 return annually along the Pacific flyway.

15 I turned 60 this year and now this spill is 30. That's  
16 half my life. This preventable oil spill has had a continuing  
17 negative presence for me, my family, our Exxon spill zone  
18 communities and the Gulf of Alaska.

19 Last year, it was shocking to only see 44,000 sockeye  
20 salmon come back home to the Copper River Delta. This year, it  
21 was even more upsetting to see our oceans in Prince William  
22 Sound and other Alaska salmon ecosystems heat up to as much as  
23 76 degrees for over three weeks.

24 This heat wave negatively impacts every form of life in  
25 the ocean, which seems to be the new normal, and it is getting

1 hotter and happening longer every year. This summer, millions  
2 of wild mussels, krill, salmon, birds and other sealife died in  
3 our Alaska waters.

4           These heat waves negatively impact our Native culture,  
5 fishing communities and our subsistence and fishing way of life.  
6 There was little to no fresh water in our wild streams this  
7 summer. Our wild salmon had to spawn in the ocean intertidal  
8 zone where there are more predators with minimal protection from  
9 fall storms.

10           Meanwhile, glaciers in the region are melting at  
11 unprecedented rates. Warmer water means more parasites, less  
12 oxygen, less salmon, and more death to life in our ocean.  
13 Warmer air means drier land. Two-point-five million acres of  
14 forest burned this year and the absurdly poor air quality hurts  
15 everyone and every form of life.

16           I know that none of you think you can do much about this,  
17 do you? Can you do anything at all? That's the big question.  
18 I believe that you can do something. It takes courage and a  
19 conviction to help us find real solutions to these issues.

20           First off, if there's anything that we've learned in the  
21 last 30 years is that the key to restoration of any kind is  
22 preservation of what you still have, whether it's wild salmon  
23 runs, endangered habitat, impacted species, or revitalizing  
24 Native languages or Native cultures.

25           Doing your part as a Trustee for our ailing oceans and

1 endangered habitat is what is at stake right now. Your voice  
2 and action to preserve the Bering River region will help our  
3 Native communities impacted by the spill, and a once robust  
4 commercial fishing community that you each represent, that you  
5 are supposed to do your best to protect.

6 Do you really think that paying for more studies or more  
7 monitoring in the spill zone is going to help the region restore  
8 or recover from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill compared to  
9 protecting the best of what's left forever?

10 Preserving the Lower Copper River Delta and this world  
11 class wetland habitat will pay more dividends and provide more  
12 benefits for the impacted Native and fishing communities,  
13 including wildlife and sealife, than any studies you could fund  
14 at this point, and the benefits will be felt way past your  
15 existence, including ours.

16 So you all know, Exxon did not remotely make us whole  
17 again like they promised, and that is why I have closely  
18 followed and often participated in these spill zone restoration  
19 meetings to see that you follow through with your mission.  
20 You're the best hope we have to make us whole again, by keeping  
21 the habitat whole and intact. As long as the land is intact,  
22 our dreams as Eyak people will remain intact.

23 So it is with your solemn duty in mind that I strongly  
24 urge the Trustee Council to contribute a small part of the  
25 remaining restoration habitat funds to protect the Copper River

1 Delta in its intact wild state for all people for all time.

2 It is my belief that your affirmative support for the  
3 delta will be one of the most treasured accomplishments you will  
4 ever make in your personal careers. Your visionary actions will  
5 help protect vast intact hunting, fishing, and recreation of  
6 wilderness area second to none on the planet, and I'm almost  
7 done.

8 As a life-long subsistence and commercial fisherman of  
9 this irreplaceable Cooper River Delta in the Prince William  
10 Sound region and as an ancestral Eyak person, ANCSA shareholder,  
11 land owner of both the Eyak Corporation and Chugach Alaska  
12 Corporation, I ask that you do this for the land, for the  
13 people, for our salmon, and for our wild salmon way of life.

14 Many think that our two intrinsically connected  
15 ecosystems of the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound  
16 are not related. Yet they are. One of the biggest recipients  
17 of EVOSTC money to-date, the Prince William Sound Science  
18 Center, calls their newsletter "Delta Sound Connections." Why  
19 do you think that is? It is because they are sister watersheds  
20 that depend on each other to be healthy, pristine, intact,  
21 thriving ecosystems.

22 Glacial silt from the Copper River flows into Prince  
23 William Sound. The salmon, sealife, wildlife, including 15  
24 species of whales flow from watershed to watershed and back.  
25 Together, they are one magnificent ecosystem of rare importance

1 in and for the world, and they deserve to be permanently  
2 protected for all life. Any questions? Awa'ahdah, thank you.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Lankard. Are there  
4 questions?

5 MR. SCHMID: Apparently my mic's not going on, but can  
6 you hear me?

7 MR. LANKARD: Yes.

8 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, and I am -- just maybe a comment  
9 and a bit of a question here, to reintroduce myself to some of  
10 the folks here, while this is my first meeting sitting as a  
11 Trustee, I'm not unfamiliar with the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. I  
12 worked as a biologist in Prince William Sound before, during,  
13 and 10 years after the oil spill. So I'm familiar with the  
14 process and with the program and with the proposal, and while I  
15 haven't been here for the last several years in discussion with  
16 the KADCO and Bering River Coal Fields, that part of the world,  
17 I have to agree with, is important.

18 The ecosystem is important. Again, I lived and worked in  
19 that same ecosystem, and it's not on our agenda today to move  
20 forward, but I just wanted to assure you and Mr. Steiner, who  
21 also commented on this, that I'm committed to trying to protect  
22 that into the future and will continue to work with my fellow  
23 Trustees or outside of the Trustees to bring protections to the  
24 area.

25 MR. LANKARD: Thank you. It's one of the last best

1 places that we have a chance to get something right.

2 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

3 MR. LANKARD: Thank you.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there other questions for Mr. Lankard?

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your testimony. I have one  
7 other maybe on here and that's Jeff Baird. Did Jeff want to  
8 testify or is -- maybe yes or is it maybe no?

9 MR. BAIRD: Yes.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Baird. Please come forward  
11 and put yourself on the record. Thank you.

12 MR. BAIRD: Hello. Hi, thank you for the opportunity to  
13 speak. My name is Jeff Baird. I am with the Rasmuson  
14 Foundation and our CEO Diane Kaplan was part of a group of  
15 Alaskans who participated in just a revisioning of what the EVOS  
16 Trust could be, and that was a proposal that we worked on for  
17 the last couple of years and there's been a lot of talk about  
18 that proposal, and all we are asking for is just to have it  
19 fairly considered and to go before the PAC. I -- and have it  
20 heard, and that's -- that is where we're at right now.

21 We're not asking for anything more than just to have a  
22 process and an avenue to at least have it considered by the  
23 Trustees and the people appointed to review that. So I wanted  
24 to make sure that's on the record.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Baird. Are there questions

1 for Mr. Baird?

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: Sir, we were made aware in an email at  
3 our last meeting, we had asked our staff to get with you to give  
4 you some, I believe -- I don't know if it was accounting data.  
5 Have we been responsive to your requests for data and could you  
6 expound on that?

7 MR. BAIRD: So I think at the last meeting, there --  
8 which is presumably is recorded, there were some requests that  
9 some information be provided to the Think Tank and the members  
10 of the Think Tank, and we've had no -- and essentially, it was  
11 the information that we were provided -- that we provided was  
12 refuted and we weren't allowed to respond to that, and Trustee  
13 Wackowski, you had asked that some information be shared with us  
14 and that information was not shared with us.

15 MS. WANG: May I speak to that?

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, go ahead.

17 MS. WANG: We provided all those documents, Excel  
18 spreadsheets, all of our calculations. They've been available  
19 on the web for almost a year, since the last Trustee Council.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Obviously, there's a difference  
21 of opinion here. We have a new Administration here with  
22 Dunleavy and Trustees. So we've heard that request today and we  
23 will commit to reaching out and having further discussion.

24 MR. BAIRD: Thank you.

25 MS. HSIEH: I believe they're still on the website as

1 well, as the information, and actually, at the meeting, we said  
2 we'd post it right after the meeting, and I think it's been up  
3 this whole time. Shiway, are all those documents still on the  
4 web?

5 MS. WANG: They're all on the web, yep.

6 MS. HSIEH: Okay.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: Tell you what, I'll commit to do; I work  
8 on the third floor. They're on the second floor. Both of us  
9 will go down and we'll make sure you get the data that you need.

10 MR. BAIRD: Thank you, appreciate it.

11 MS. HSIEH: Also, Mr. Baird, I believe I met with you  
12 three weeks or so after the meeting, as well as Diane Kaplan and  
13 Mead Treadwell. I answered all of your questions. You guys had  
14 a lot of ideas, which I won't repeat here, and there was no  
15 request for further information, except for a document that the  
16 Trustees were working on. You guys requested it as "members of  
17 the public to assist the public to review the document" before  
18 it went public, which I did not, at that time -- that is  
19 correct, I did not give you that document, which was being  
20 worked on by Trustees and was not public at that time. So that  
21 is correct.

22 MR. BAIRD: Difference of opinion, so thank you.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: We appreciate the feedback and we will  
24 absolutely take note of it.

25 MR. BAIRD: Appreciate it.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your testimony today. So  
2 that is all that I have on the list. There are a number of you  
3 out there that may have reconsidered when you wrote the word no  
4 on there. If there's anyone interested in coming forward and  
5 having your three minutes of fame, we can invite you on up.

6 (No audible response)

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Seeing none, can we also go back online one  
8 more time to see if anyone new has joined us online and if  
9 there's any interest in folks online giving testimony?

10 MS. HSIEH: And Shiway, will you remind them that we can  
11 hear them moving and that's why you had to turn the sound down?

12 MS. WANG: Okay, so first, I would like to tell everybody  
13 on the phone that if you're not speaking, please mute your  
14 phone. We can hear everything that you do, and if there's  
15 anybody else online that just joined us that hasn't announced  
16 themselves, please do so now.

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, I guess then.....

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Public comment's closed.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: We will have closed public comments. Thank  
21 you.

22 We would like to now go to Investments, Agenda Item 5.,  
23 Annual Asset Allocation. We have both Elise and Mr. Mitchell  
24 from the Department of Revenue online today. So the floor is  
25 yours.

1 MS. HSIEH: Thank you. I'll give a brief overview and  
2 Bob Mitchell, the Chief Investment Officer for the State of  
3 Alaska, is online to answer questions. Bob, can you hear me?

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Do we have a tab on here  
5 we're looking at?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Here's the microphone.

8 MS. HSIEH: It is -- the tab is Investments, Annual Asset  
9 Allocation, right after the PAC Update tab. Doug, did you  
10 locate it?

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Got it.

12 MS. HSIEH: The EVOSTC Investment Working Group meets  
13 annually to review an asset allocation presentation by the  
14 Alaska Department of Revenue and to determine an asset  
15 allocation recommendation for the next EVOSTC fiscal year.

16 The Investment Working Group currently consists of Bob  
17 Mitchell from Department of Revenue, Steve Mulder, now Emma  
18 Pokon, the Department of Law, Liz Gobeski, the Department of  
19 Interior Solicitor's Office, myself, and Lauri Adams at EVOSTC.

20 The Investment Working Group is assembled in the spring  
21 and any Trustees may join or participate. Over the years, the  
22 investment funds have been invested fairly aggressively,  
23 yielding substantial earnings growth for the Council and also  
24 having weathered the severe downturn in 2008.

25 As the funds wind down to an anticipated end in the

1 coming years, the asset allocation is tailored to reflect  
2 anticipated time horizons and spending patterns. Thus, the  
3 asset allocation recommended by the group for FY19 reflected a  
4 slightly more conservative posture than in the past, while still  
5 pursuing a growth and risk-oriented mix.

6 The group reviewed the performance of the Research and  
7 Habitat sub-accounts and discussed the asset allocation of each  
8 account. The discussion centered around the risk level of each  
9 fund in light of anticipated outflows from each, which are  
10 believed to be higher going forward.

11 In light of the higher cash outflows from the funds, the  
12 group recommends the Council adopt the asset allocation Mix 4  
13 and 3 for Research and Habitat respectively, and as detailed on  
14 page five of the May 2019 EVOSTC presentation, which is included  
15 behind that tab that Doug and I were just discussing.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, do you want to repeat  
17 that recommendation again, a little slower?

18 MS. HSIEH: The recommendation is -- the recommendation  
19 is asset allocation Mix 4 and 3 for Research and Habitat  
20 respectively, as detailed on page five of this May 9<sup>th</sup>  
21 presentation. It's behind the tab for Investments. Is everyone  
22 here on the same page?

23 DR. BALSIGER: So it's not the shaded one?

24 MS. HSIEH: It's not the shaded one. It is -- I believe  
25 five is where we were in the past for FY19, and similar -- and

1 now, we're closer to three and four. So on page five, the page  
2 looks like this.

3 DR. BALSIGER: Sure.

4 MS. HSIEH: So at this -- because we have so many new  
5 Trustees, I just wanted to make a footnote. You know, people  
6 have mentioned EVOSTC and the large amounts of dollars, et  
7 cetera, et cetera. I started in 2008. I came from the  
8 Department of Law as one of the attorneys for the Trust.

9 We were, as folks may remember, suffering about a 38%  
10 downturn in the market. We quickly assembled the Investment  
11 Working Group, which had lay fallow for several years, and Bob  
12 Mitchell was part of that group at the time, and we appreciate  
13 his longstanding service and being very responsive to the  
14 Trustee Council.

15 We decided to recommend at that time to the Trustees,  
16 which they also accepted, to stay high in equities. It was at  
17 least 70%, to ride out the storm. We decreased the  
18 administrative budget. We slashed 12 of our staff. We  
19 remodeled and made our offices smaller and cut the programs.

20 Again, in 2015, we had another downturn and again, we cut  
21 the EVOSTC programming so that we could remain in our asset  
22 allocation posture and not lose funds.

23 It's very unusual, and it's actually taken me many, many  
24 years of discussing with investment advisors who are used to  
25 institutional investors, EVOSTC is very unusual. We're less

1 unusual now because we're taking on a more conservative posture,  
2 but the fact is that you guys and women only approve funds for a  
3 12 to 18-month period. Some of them are somewhat longer, just  
4 by the nature of the projects, but because of that, we've been  
5 able to invest very aggressively, which I have pushed, and I  
6 feel has been successful up until this point.

7           So I just wanted to make that footnote, because I think  
8 it's an important part of the history here. The Trustees  
9 understood what they were able to do and in some ways, this  
10 entity has acted very unlike most government entities, because  
11 we've been able to mix employees, private contractors, and also,  
12 to be honest with you, play the market. It's been very  
13 successful the last 10 years. I've enjoyed it, and I hope the  
14 agencies and the public and nonprofits and science programs that  
15 have been funded through it have also reaped the benefits in the  
16 spill area, which was damaged. So I just wanted to make that  
17 point.

18           CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

19           COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So why the difference between  
20 the asset allocation for Research and Habitat?

21           MS. HSIEH: This is the first year that's been a  
22 recommendation because Habitat account is starting to dwindle.  
23 I think the unencumbered funds -- actually, if you guys were,  
24 which you're not going to, but if you were to approve everything  
25 on the agenda today, then actually, the end of this meeting, I

1 would actually have revisited this and put it into cash.

2 We're reaching the end of the Habitat account in the  
3 amounts that I would want to remain aggressively invested in  
4 equities. So that -- it has a lower balance, unencumbered, than  
5 the Research account. So that's why.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Are we losing any  
7 opportunities to maximize the return by not investing both funds  
8 the same?

9 MS. HSIEH: You are. Like with any investment, and Bob  
10 Mitchell can speak to this, we're losing opportunities of  
11 potential income and you're also losing the dangers of risk. So  
12 the Trustee Council, for example, could decide that it wanted to  
13 keep pushing with the equities and maintain a higher mix, and  
14 then just stay at its current balance and then carefully  
15 consider each time they allocate funds, because of course, every  
16 time you approve funds, we sort of set that aside as encumbered.

17 Often, the Habitat deals may not reach the end. The  
18 Trustee Council's decision is often the first decision. They'll  
19 approve funds for habitat protection and then the negotiation  
20 will start and sometimes, it doesn't end up coming to fruition.  
21 So the Habitat account, you may see fluctuate as well, but of  
22 course, like with any investment, it's a judgement, so.....

23 DR. BALSIGER: Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, Dr. Balsiger.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just yell.

1 DR. BALSIGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there's a  
2 good reason I'm not on the finance committee, so up front, but  
3 it's always surprising to me, because whenever we talk about the  
4 account is dwindling, but there's no place here that says how  
5 much money we have, and of course, being not a financial kind of  
6 guy, that's the only thing I look at in my checking book, if  
7 it's going away, so.....

8 MS. HSIEH: Sure, we can discuss that.

9 DR. BALSIGER: So what's up?

10 MS. HSIEH: The.....

11 DR. BALSIGER: Unless there's a reason not to have that  
12 public (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

13 MS. HSIEH: No, no, not at all, in fact, Mr. Steiner,  
14 I've given it -- him the figure twice this week because it was  
15 updated two days ago. The investment accounts, there's two of  
16 them, there's Research and Habitat. There are two sub-accounts  
17 held. The custodian is Department of Revenue, which is also our  
18 investment advisor.

19 Any monies that come out of them come through a court  
20 notice, which is approved by Department of Law and Department of  
21 Justice. Backing up from that, the two accounts, because we are  
22 so heavily invested really in equities still, even with this  
23 more conservative mix, they change month-to-month, but  
24 currently, as of 10/9, the sub-account balances -- I'm sorry,  
25 this is not of 10/9. This document is of 10/9. This was as of

1 August 31<sup>st</sup>, the unencumbered funds for Research are about 85  
2 million, and the unencumbered funds for Habitat are about 48,  
3 for a total of about 134 million, as of the end of August.

4 The tallies run -- there's a delay for the numbers that  
5 we get, and you'll see when -- we've actually had huge market  
6 swings, as everyone experiences with their different portfolios.  
7 So you'll see these number jump up and down.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: So with respect to the -- you said -- what  
9 I'm looking at in the packet, obviously, the numbers have gone  
10 down, the unencumbered amounts.

11 MS. HSIEH: The unencumbered amounts.....

12 CHAIR BRUNE: So it's around, it looks like \$37 million  
13 dollars. What is the process of those going from unencumbered  
14 to final?

15 MS. HSIEH: Right. It depends for each dollar, because  
16 some of them are encumbered because it's a science project that  
17 we try to hang onto the funds in our investment accounts to the  
18 bitter end. So after the Trustee Council approves, for example,  
19 a habitat enhancement project, we actually -- I would say we  
20 sort of manage the project from a 36,000-foot level.

21 We stay in touch with the entities that are constructing  
22 the project and we release funds as they move through and  
23 develop their project and can give us assurances that things are  
24 running on time and on budget. So we hang onto those funds  
25 until the bitter end.

1           For habitat protection, same thing, the Trustee Council  
2 will approve an amount and then the negotiating will start and  
3 we don't release the funds literally until it closes. So we  
4 keep it in our investment accounts and then when it's ready --  
5 when a project is ready, whether it's science, habitat  
6 enhancement, or habitat protection, then we write a memo to the  
7 Department of Law and Department of Justice requesting a court  
8 notice, noticing the release of the funds.

9           They also contact Department of Revenue. I give  
10 Department of Revenue a heads up and those funds are then  
11 released to the particular entities that then have the  
12 contracting ability to pay for those contracts, but we actually  
13 oversee that until the last dollar.

14           CHAIR BRUNE: Mr. Wackowski.

15           MR. WACKOWSKI: Elise, how are DNR -- how much do we --  
16 sorry, DOR, big difference.....

17           MS. HSIEH: Department of Revenue?

18           MR. WACKOWSKI: Department of Revenue, I can go onto  
19 PFD's website at any time and see how much is in the Permanent  
20 Fund and where they're allocated. How often do we reconcile our  
21 accounts?

22           MS. HSIEH: I don't know what you mean by reconcile, but  
23 on our website also is a performance -- where you can go and  
24 it's -- let's see, we just received these, so there's about --  
25 the sub-account balances are posted -- it takes like a month-

1 and-a-half or two months, if that's what you're asking. If  
2 there's actually a -- there's like a click on our website, as  
3 well, to look at those unencumbered balances, and also, I think  
4 you've, in the past, asked for the fees.

5 The fees are .025% of the current balance for Department  
6 of Revenue to invest those funds.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: So let me ask this question in a  
8 different way to.....

9 MS. HSIEH: Okay.

10 MR. WACKOWSKI: .....Trustee Balsiger's point; is there  
11 an easy place on the website where we can go check -- the public  
12 can go look at the checkbook balance?

13 MS. HSIEH: You can, yes. There's actually a web link  
14 that says investment funds on our website, where you can check  
15 the unencumbered funds. For encumbered, we have to keep track  
16 of that, because we're always releasing funds and so people can  
17 just shoot us an email, like Rick Steiner did. He asked me  
18 maybe a week ago or so, I gave him the number. I asked them to  
19 re-tally it. We had the latest numbers. The latest numbers  
20 came in three days later. I actually updated that for Mr.  
21 Steiner.

22 MR. WACKOWSKI: How hard would that be to just do a  
23 monthly update of the unencumbered?

24 MS. HSIEH: We can do that, too. It won't be -- of  
25 course, it'll only be accurate to that month. Like, we just had

1 a \$4 million change this last week, which I indicated to Mr.  
2 Steiner that -- so I just want people to understand that just  
3 because you see the number, it might not be exactly correct, but  
4 if you email us, we can give you the latest of what we know.

5 I can add that to my -- I have like a -- I have a list  
6 here. The blast email, the agendas going out as quickly as  
7 possible, which is kind of dependent of Trustees looking at the  
8 agenda, and also I can add, if you want, we can add a monthly  
9 rough estimate of unencumbered funds.

10 DR. BALSIGER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I promise to learn how  
11 to look at it on the website if it's already available. So I  
12 appreciate Trustee Wackowski shaping it up for me.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: And I guess I would like to add, just from  
14 a habitat acquisition perspective, a sub-note -- footnote on  
15 that of encumbered funds, just so that there's an understanding  
16 of -- because right now, the number I have, 83.3 million versus  
17 the 48 million, there's obviously a difference there, and what  
18 are we waiting on for those?

19 MS. HSIEH: So the latest numbers, which just came out a  
20 couple of days ago is now about 81 in Habitat and the encumbered  
21 number is 48.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Right.

23 MS. HSIEH: And so what we need to do -- I don't know,  
24 Lauri, if you can speak to that generally, but we'd need to make  
25 you a spread sheet of each of the approved projects. That

1 includes habitat enhancement projects. I think Rys Miranda is  
2 here from Parks as well, because I know we do have -- and Erika  
3 Ammann, because I know, Erika, you -- you're probably familiar -  
4 - we have some monies, as well, for some of these construction  
5 projects that are year-to-year that are ongoing that we don't  
6 release the funds until the end.

7 So we probably need to make you like a spreadsheet,  
8 because each project is different and is at a different stage.  
9 Would you like.....

10 CHAIR BRUNE: So once they've been -- what I'm wondering,  
11 is once they've been approved, since we're brand new, do they  
12 come back to us?

13 MS. HSIEH: They do. So with regard to habitat  
14 protection, which is parcels, if a property -- excuse me, if a  
15 purchase and sale agreement is not signed within 18 months,  
16 it'll come back to you and you could just reject it.

17 There is also habitat enhancement. There is actually  
18 something on the agenda today that is a reauthorization. It  
19 means that the Trustee Council authorized the entire amount,  
20 understanding that it was a construction project that would take  
21 two or three years.

22 Those reauthorizations, the Trustee Council has never  
23 rejected, because they're typically already in play. Erika  
24 Amman is here, I believe with the Copper River Watershed  
25 Project, which is a habitat enhancement project, which is in its

1 final stages. So you have a reauthorization because it takes  
2 more than 18 months to complete these construction -- habitat  
3 enhancements, stream bank, culvert work.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Other questions for Elise? Commissioner  
5 Vincent-Lang.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So what is -- are we audited?  
7 Do -- you know.....

8 MS. HSIEH: We're audited.....

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I'm on -- I'm on a couple of  
10 other trust fund boards and we're routinely audited. Is  
11 the.....

12 MS. HSIEH: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: When's the last audit?

14 MS. HSIEH: We're audited annually by a third-party  
15 auditor, Max Mertz, and so you'll receive a report. I believe  
16 his reports come out -- Linda, do you know when they're.....

17 MS. KILBOURNE: Any time now, yeah.

18 MS. HSIEH: Any time now, so those will be forwarded to  
19 you. We've actually -- when I arrived, the audit reports were  
20 longer and more expensive and always had a problem.

21 Coming from the Department of Law, we redid all of the  
22 documents of the Trustee Council, including the fiscal year,  
23 which was shifted and all of our financial documents and  
24 transparency was also revisited. Since then, we have had  
25 actually audits with no recommendations, which is a good thing,

1 and we also were audited in a way, with the Deep Water Horizon  
2 over this last year. Steve Wackowski put us in touch.....

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: I sat through a GAO review of EVOSTC.

4 MS. HSIEH: Yes.

5 MR. WACKOWSKI: So we had a very comprehensive -- and  
6 they did more than audit. They looked at processes and books  
7 and -- sorry, and essentially, what they were trying to do was  
8 duplicate some of the success of EVOSTC for the Gulf -- what  
9 it's called.....

10 MS. HSIEH: Deep Water.....

11 MR. WACKOWSKI: Deep Water Horizon trustee -- and you  
12 think our job is hard.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, I know. I've gone  
14 through a couple myself.

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah.

16 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, the GAO auditors did not have any  
17 recommendations for our entity. They did have recommendations  
18 for a different entity that does spill research coordination.  
19 So we were pleased and enjoyed working with them. They flew  
20 here and we organized them -- for them to visit different  
21 projects that the Trustee Council has funded, and we also worked  
22 with them intensively for their documentation for the audit.

23 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Jason, one more question.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I'm still confused why we

1 would complicate life to have two different asset allocations.  
2 I'm leaning toward one asset allocation to both the Habitat and  
3 the Research projects.

4 MS. HSIEH: Well.....

5 CHAIR BRUNE: So to that end, do we want to ask Mr.  
6 Mitchell from the Department of Revenue?

7 MS. HSIEH: Yes, I think -- yes, I think that would be a  
8 good idea.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Mr. Mitchell.

10 MS. HSIEH: Bob, are you online?

11 MR. MITCHELL: I am, and good morning. I'm happy to  
12 address that. Generally speaking, the asset allocation, I think  
13 the constraint that applies to both of these funds is -- a  
14 significant consideration is the amount of expected outflows  
15 from the funds in the near-terms, and you know, near-term can be  
16 defined loosely, but we were looking at an impact to -- when we  
17 met in May, that was the topic of conversation and one thing  
18 that came out of that conversation was there seemed to be a  
19 higher -- in terms of the percent of the portfolio, a higher  
20 proportion of the portfolio that was anticipated to be spent out  
21 of the Habitat Fund, relative to the Research Fund, and that was  
22 the reason why ultimately the Committee, I believe, opted to  
23 adopt two different asset allocations, just reflecting the  
24 difference in the magnitude of the outflows that were expected.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mr. Mitchell. Commissioner, you

1 still have an inquisitive look on your face.

2 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: It just doesn't make sense to  
3 have that much of a -- they're not that different, and it just  
4 seems like you could optimize by having a single asset  
5 allocation between the two funds. I'm not (indiscernible -  
6 speaking simultaneously).....

7 MS. HSIEH: We.....

8 MR. MITCHELL: It might be helpful, if I may, it might be  
9 helpful just to make the observation that at one point, these  
10 funds were roughly the same size, and that wasn't too long ago,  
11 and now, the Habitat fund is, you know, 20% smaller.

12 So you know, to me, that would -- if that trend were to  
13 continue, all things being equal, I would envision that it would  
14 be -- if you were to have the same asset allocation, the impact  
15 on the Habitat Fund would potentially be more significant,  
16 because if there's a big outflow and it has a relatively high  
17 "equity allocation," then it would potentially experience a  
18 downturn in the markets, just when it's looking to spend money,  
19 and that could materially and permanently impact the size of the  
20 remaining balance, and you can use the other side of the  
21 argument for Research.

22 If it had an allocation that was lower -- had a lower  
23 allocation to equities than what you might otherwise consider  
24 appropriate, given the fact that it has lower expected outflows  
25 relative to the Habitat Fund. With all (indiscernible -

1 speaking simultaneously).....

2 CHAIR BRUNE: So Mr. Mitchell, as a follow-up thing, can  
3 I ask when we encumber funds, is that when the change occurs?

4 MS. HSIEH: No, this would be -- this is how these two  
5 sub-accounts, in their unencumbered form, because we leave the  
6 amounts in there, would be shifted starting February 1<sup>st</sup> -- would  
7 be pulled back out of equities that slight amount, for example.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there other thoughts by the Trustee  
9 Council?

10 MS. HSIEH: Also, in the spring, we will email you. We  
11 welcome all Trustees to participate in the Investment Working  
12 Group, where we spend a couple of hours with Bob and the rest of  
13 the members discussing these, as well.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: So just for clarification, what the  
15 recommendation is, is to -- I see plus or minus.

16 MS. HSIEH: That's -- the recommendations always have a  
17 plus or minus, because with these guidance, there's these bands,  
18 because the numbers flex within the accounts. Maybe -- Bob, did  
19 I describe that correctly?

20 MR. MITCHELL: I'm sorry, Elise, I didn't hear what you  
21 said.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: What she asked is the numbers that we have  
23 before us have a plus or minus, so that's -- that gives you the  
24 authority to change. So 32% plus or minus 7%, meaning you could  
25 go up to 39% and as low as 25% for domestic equities within the

1 Research Sub-account?

2 MR. MITCHELL: So that is correct. The Executive  
3 Director would have the authority to change the asset allocation  
4 anywhere in the range. As a matter of practice, those bands are  
5 put in place to recognize the fact that various types of assets  
6 that the funds invest in are likely to experience differences in  
7 return, and so there's a natural tendency for the allocation to  
8 drift over time, but it costs money in the form of, you know,  
9 transaction costs to rebalance to the target asset allocations,  
10 and so there's a balance, you know, between how frequently you  
11 rebalance to the target asset allocation and the cost associated  
12 with that and the benefit of getting back to exact target.

13 So those -- the ranges allow for, effectively, the  
14 portfolios to move around their target asset allocation and  
15 provide more flexibility for the Executive Director to make  
16 changes to the asset allocation.

17 Now, generally speaking, in fact in every instance I'm  
18 aware of, each time we've adjusted the asset allocation, it has  
19 been to move the portfolios toward the targets and not away from  
20 the target asset allocation.

21 MS. HSIEH: So the Department of Revenue and our office  
22 work together via email with regard to releases to constantly  
23 move toward target, but it wouldn't make sense to not have a  
24 band. This is typical for investments, because otherwise, you'd  
25 have to constantly do transactions to keep to a number. So we

1 let it drift and then we have a release or to balance it, we  
2 rebalance the asset allocations, which you also probably do if  
3 you're a State employee with your retirement account.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: So for the public's awareness, what is  
5 being considered right now is a difference between the Research  
6 Sub-account and the Habitat Sub-account. Right now, domestic  
7 equities comprise 32% for Research and it's proposed 29% for  
8 Habitat. International is 21% for the Research, 20% for  
9 Habitat. Fixed income is 47% for Research, 51% for Habitat. So  
10 it would be effectively moving 4% from -- 3% from domestic  
11 equities and 1% from international equities to fixed income  
12 within the Habitat Sub-account.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I've just got to say  
14 something here. So our Executive Director has the authority to  
15 move money around within these pluses or minuses within these  
16 asset allocations or Department of Revenue, as our investment  
17 manager, has that? That's what is confusing to me.

18 MS. HSIEH: This -- this is an investment policy, which  
19 allows for target allocation -- it's quite standard. It allows  
20 for a target number, plus a band of differentiation, which Bob  
21 just discussed.

22 I do not go in and move funds around. Bob will contact  
23 me and say, "We've had some drift. We'd like to rebalance.  
24 Will you please approve the rebalance so we move closer to our  
25 target?" He looks at the cost, the transactions, the timeline,

1 and he does it in the most efficient manner so we lose the  
2 smallest amount of money in the fund.

3 My goal and Bob's goal is to maintain as high a balance  
4 in both funds as possible. So I don't -- I've never actually  
5 contacted Bob and said, "Will you just go ahead and adjust  
6 this." It works off of trying to keep the highest balances and  
7 the smallest transaction costs for each account, but.....

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.....

9 MS. HSIEH: .....if you like -- if you like, I could  
10 actually have them work with you. I mean.....

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: No, no, I.....

12 MS. HSIEH: I mean, it doesn't have to rest with me.  
13 It's quite perfunctory, but I'm more than happy to share  
14 additional information. It's usually very time sensitive,  
15 because they're watching the markets, but if any Trustees would  
16 like to be involved, I'm extremely available typically, and  
17 happy to have that flow to more than myself. It has not been an  
18 issue. In the last 10 years, we've actually had record  
19 performance, and as everyone keeps telling you, a lot more money  
20 than anyone ever thought, which has been my goal.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commissioner.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: That range, obviously, allows the growth or  
23 loss and I mean, effectively, my read of it is that you're  
24 within the plus or minus, they are statistically equivalent.

25 BOB MITCHELL: They are.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: So if they were much bigger, I would  
2 understand the consideration of potential changes, but when you  
3 have plus or minus seven, plus or minus seven, and plus or minus  
4 five, that makes then effectively equivalent, depending on  
5 performance at that any given day.

6 MS. HSIEH: These numbers are actually chosen by the  
7 Department of Revenue probably based on the natural band and  
8 drift in these investment accounts and asset -- the assets into  
9 which we are purchased, so.....

10 CHAIR BRUNE: So this is a recommendation, obviously,  
11 that's coming from the Department of Revenue for the year  
12 beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I move that we recommend  
14 the -- that we approve the recommended asset allocations by  
15 Department of Revenue.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a motion by Commissioner Vincent-  
17 Lang. Is there a second?

18 MR. SCHMID: I second.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Second by Mr. Schmid. Is there  
20 any discussion?

21 (No audible response)

22 CHAIR BRUNE: I guess just for history, being that I'm  
23 new, is this -- do you do a roll call vote on these or are you  
24 happy to do a.....

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Voice vote?

1 CHAIR BRUNE: .....voice vote?

2 MS. HSIEH: Voice vote is fine, unless people are on the  
3 phone, if Trustees are on the phone.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: All those in favor say, "Aye."

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposed?

9 (No audible response)

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion passes  
11 unanimately.

12 What I'd like to do right now is take a 10-minute break  
13 and we will reconvene at 11:45.

14 11:35:24

15 (Off record)

16 (On record)

17 11:49:07

18 CHAIR BRUNE: During the break, a number of us received  
19 recommendations that we need to speak into the microphones more  
20 clearly. My apologies. We're doing our best, but thank you for  
21 those recommendations that we received and we will -- if you  
22 can't hear, call me out. Raise your hand, and we'll make it a  
23 point of making sure whoever is speaking is able to be heard,  
24 because we obviously want to make sure that they can be heard.

25 Next agenda item is Agenda Item 6., which is the FY 20

1 EVOSTC Annual Budget, and so that would be Elise and Linda, and  
2 we'll give the floor to you.

3 MS. HSIEH: Thank you. The.....

4 CHAIR BRUNE: And if you could talk into the microphone?

5 MS. HSIEH: Okay. The.....

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have to turn it on on the side  
7 there.

8 MS. KILBOURNE: Testing, testing.

9 MS. HSIEH: The FY20 annual budget is about \$219,000  
10 lower than the FY19 budget.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Elise, I'm sorry to interrupt.

12 MS. HSIEH: Yes.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Some of them are waving. If you could talk  
14 with the mic closely?

15 MS. HSIEH: Yes.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect.

17 MS. HSIEH: Hi. Is this better?

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. HSIEH: The FY20 EVOSTC annual budget is about  
20 \$219,000 lower than the FY19 budget. It actually funds  
21 additional activity this upcoming year, including the mid-cycle  
22 science synthesis workshop, which is in February 2020, the  
23 preparation of the FY22 through '26 invitation, major website  
24 overhaul and archiving of EVOSTC records.

25 The annual budget is otherwise similar to past years in

1 its components and allocated funding. It continues funding for  
2 digitization and indexing of EVOSTC documents in preparation for  
3 administrative end to EVOSTC.

4 As noted above, the EVOSTC intranet database and website  
5 are being updated and the website will also be modernized to  
6 allow products to be embedded in the Trust Agency's website in  
7 the future, because when we disappear, it'll likely be NOAA and  
8 Department of Fish and Game, where we live digitally.

9 As with the last five-year science program cycle, there's  
10 a science synthesis workshop during the fourth year of the FY17  
11 through '21 program held in February 2020. The programs present  
12 their work in progress to available Trustees, the Science Panel,  
13 and PAC members. The information from this workshop also feeds  
14 into the drafting of the next year five-year science program  
15 invitation, which is due to be issued December 2020, to solicit  
16 projects for the FY22 through '26, which may be perhaps the  
17 final cycle. It's up to you guys. We anticipate this third  
18 five-year program cycle will be the last, as the Council  
19 approaches its final phase.

20 I know there's a lot of discussion. We have a lot of new  
21 Trustees, a lot of new ideas. I would -- I came in in 2008,  
22 during the recession, and we made radical -- I made radical  
23 changes to the budget. I'll be taking cues from the Trustees as  
24 they become familiar with EVOSTC and start to identify work that  
25 they're interested in and solicit proposals or an invitational

1 cycle to see how that shapes up and the annual budget then is  
2 tailored to the work that is proposed and that the Trustees  
3 expect to see out of the Trustee Council office.

4 So what I would be doing is, once we advance down the  
5 road with the new Trustees and we start getting what their  
6 vision is, you'll see me proactively start to shift the budget  
7 and contact you about that, so.....

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'd like to make a quick comment. I just  
9 wrote a note for myself. One of the reasons why our budget is a  
10 little bit lower, I believe, is because we, the Bureau of Ocean  
11 Energy Management had some extra capacity with their NEPA  
12 practitioners and rather than let a contract out to do an  
13 environmental assessment for the Prince William Sound Science  
14 Center construction budget, BOEM, our agency went ahead and did  
15 it for them, and I think we saved about \$30,000.

16 MS. HSIEH: That was really helpful. It was up to  
17 60,000. It did not come from our annual budget, but it was  
18 good.

19 MR. WACKOWSKI: So I just want to publically thank -- and  
20 they're not here, but Jim Kendall (sp), Mark Storzer (sp), and  
21 the BOEM Environmental NEPA team for taking that up and saving  
22 our Trustee Council so we can spend that money on science.

23 MS. HSIEH: That was very helpful. Thank you.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve \$2,350,622,

1 which includes GA for funding the FY20 EVOST Council annual  
2 budget project 19190100 [20200100] budget dated September 9<sup>th</sup>,  
3 2019, for FY20, except where noted within the annual budget, to  
4 begin November 1, 2019.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

6 DR. BALSIGER: Second.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Balsiger seconded. Would you like to  
8 speak to your motion?

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I'm comfortable with  
10 moving this budget forward. As a new Trustee, however, I  
11 understand, based on discussions we've had, that we have an  
12 opportunity to review this throughout the year and if there's a  
13 need to change it based on budget direction over the 12-month  
14 period of time, we can do that.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: And I believe I heard our Executive  
16 Director say that, as well, so.....

17 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, once the new Trustees get up to speed  
18 and the Trustees start to have a feel for their priorities, then  
19 I'll be able to understand what capacity we need and we'll be  
20 able to respond to that.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Is there -- there's a motion on  
22 the floor. Is there any further discussion?

23 (No audible response)

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, all those in favor say,  
25 "Aye."

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Aye.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposed?

6 (No audible response)

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

8 We'll now go to Agenda Item 7., which is the long-term  
9 Trustee Council Science Programs. Shiway, the floor is yours

10 MS. WANG: Thank you.

11 MS. HSIEH: Shiway.

12 MS. WANG: Yeah, okay, hold on (indiscernible).

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Are we going to do these  
14 individually or as a group?

15 MS. WANG: The motion is for the program as a whole.  
16 However, you have some draft motions, which exclude certain  
17 projects which are at issue.

18 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, but the presentation  
19 will -- is for all of them?

20 CHAIR BRUNE: So the question was whether or not these  
21 will -- the presentation is going to be either for all of the  
22 programs, and then probably we will address them individually  
23 within our motions?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can do that.

25 MS. WANG: Yeah, so what'll happen is I will give a quick

1 summary. Okay, let's start.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Shiway. The floor is yours.

3 MS. WANG: All right, so again, I am the Science  
4 Coordinator for the Trustee Council. My back is toward you, so  
5 if you can't hear me, please tap me on the shoulder. What I'm  
6 going to do is scroll until I get to my page. I will refer to  
7 the draft work plan, which is in your meeting binder and it's  
8 going to be the ninth tab in your meeting binder. So I'll be  
9 referring to pages in that draft work plan, which contains the  
10 abstract of each of the FY20 proposals, the funding  
11 recommendations by the Science Panel, myself, Executive  
12 Director, and if the PAC had convened, there would be  
13 recommendations by the PAC.

14 As you know, the long-term programs are in the third year  
15 of the second five-year cycle, which spans fiscal years 2017  
16 through 2021. I will briefly summarize any requested changes  
17 within the programs and the funding recommendations, and the  
18 program leads are present and can answer any questions that you  
19 may have, and they will give their presentations after each  
20 program summary.

21 So we will start with the Gulf Watch Alaska Program  
22 Project, which is on page 78 of your draft work plan. Overall,  
23 there are no changes to the original proposals submitted in  
24 FY17, with the exception of two projects, and there are 13  
25 continuing projects up for review for FY20.

1           The first project requesting a change is on page 118 of  
2 the work plan. This is project 20120114-H Nearshore Ecosystems  
3 in the Gulf of Alaska. This project is requesting 24,000  
4 annually for each year for FY20 and FY21 to cover an  
5 unanticipated increase in operating expenses of a USGS vessel.

6           This vessel is one of the primary research platforms that  
7 supports Gulf Watch Alaska work, logging at least 50-plus days  
8 of use annually. Funding for the vessel has been largely cost-  
9 shared by USGS. However, all operating costs have increased,  
10 while the base contribution of USGS facilities funding has  
11 remained static.

12           Even with the rise in operating expenses, costs for the  
13 USGS vessel remain well below those of private charters and it  
14 is specifically outfitted to meet Gulf Watch Alaska Project  
15 field requirements.

16           The cost for charter boats for nearshore surveys have  
17 ranged from 3,600 to 5,000 per day. The requested additional  
18 funds, assuming that at least 50 survey days per year, comes out  
19 to less than \$500 per day for the USGS vessel.

20           Without additional funds to support the increase in  
21 operating costs, the number of field days will need to be  
22 reduced by as many as 19 days, which will decrease the field  
23 activities and data collected. The PIs have provided cost  
24 details in their response to comments and questions in the work  
25 plan starting on page 119.

1           The recommendation is a fund decision for this project,  
2 including the additional funding request for the increased  
3 operating costs for the USGS vessel. Are there any questions or  
4 comments?

5           CHAIR BRUNE: Are there questions of the Trustees?

6           (No audible response)

7           CHAIR BRUNE: I have a question. So the increase in cost  
8 is for a government-owned boat increase in cost, not a private  
9 sector boat?

10          MS. WANG: That is correct, the USGS vessel R/V Gyre.

11          CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, I -- I guess, as long-term budgets  
12 are put forward for a five-year plan, was cost of -- CPI  
13 adjustments or any of that, have they ever been considered,  
14 because you'd think a government entity of anything -- of anyone  
15 would have known to incorporate increase in costs to ship usage  
16 into a five-year plan?

17          MS. WANG: Mandy Lindeberg can correct me if I'm wrong,  
18 but I don't think costs were considered for this five-year plan,  
19 but we have been talking about it for the next five-year plan.

20          MS. HSIEH: And the prior five-year plan as well, we  
21 allowed for some inflation, but when things came up, we wanted  
22 to hear exactly the details behind them, and the Trustees then  
23 would approve or disapprove them on that basis, versus just  
24 giving them an up -- each year.

25          So we've kind of stayed in the weeds with the programs

1 with regard to anything off their budget, because we wanted to  
2 keep a tight look on that.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: And I guess, what -- what is the cost  
4 increase? Have fuel prices gone up? Have staff -- what is the  
5 -- since it is a government boat, it's not a private sector  
6 boat, I'm trying to figure out what is -- what has been the  
7 increase that wasn't anticipated?

8 MS. WANG: Sure. Yep, okay, so on page 119, if you guys  
9 responded to that question, at the bottom of the page it says,  
10 "The increase and overall operating costs reflect increases in  
11 nearly all of the specific costs of running the Alaska Gyre.

12 However, a sizeable proportion of the increased costs are  
13 associated with a few specific items, including personnel, such  
14 as Captain's salary and benefits, maintenance, such as shop  
15 rates and material costs are increasing and harbor fees. All of  
16 these costs are essential for safely and effectively operating  
17 the vessel.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Other questions on this  
19 specific project?

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So just to be clear, this is  
21 a part of the long-term monitoring program for the Gulf Watch?

22 CHAIR BRUNE: So the question, Shiway, was; is this one a  
23 part of the long-term monitoring for the Gulf Watch?

24 MS. WANG: Yes, it is.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So it's embedded into that

1 program?

2 MS. WANG: Yes, it's for this specific project, yeah, for  
3 Project H, within the Long-Term Monitoring Program Gulf Watch  
4 Alaska.

5 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So is the Council looking for  
6 a vote on each aspect of this one or the overall project?

7 MS. WANG: The Council is asking a vote for the  
8 additional request. Am I.....

9 MS. HSIEH: So the motions that you may have at the end  
10 of this discussion and presentation can, for example, approve  
11 the entire program, the program minus a particular survey that's  
12 an additional cost or minus the Gyre boat increase, for example.

13 I mean, you can motion however you like. You could make  
14 it more specific, but our draft motions for you present those  
15 three probable options.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, got it.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Elise.

18 MS. HSIEH: Thank you.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Any other questions for Shiway?

20 (No audible response)

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Continue, Shiway.

22 MS. WANG: Okay, thank you. I just wanted to make a  
23 point that Mandy mentioned that there was a 3% cost of increase  
24 built into the five-year programs for each year, but this  
25 exceeds that amount.

1 MS. HSIEH: The 3% was the inflationary costs, which was  
2 allowed, not.....

3 MS. WANG: Okay. So we will move onto the second project  
4 in the Gulf Watch Alaska Program that is requesting a change,  
5 and this is on page 142 of your work plan. This is project  
6 20120115-M Prince William Sound Marine Bird Population Trends.

7 This project is requesting an additional 25,800 annually  
8 for FY20 and FY21 to continue support for a seabird observer on  
9 the annual fall and spring line long-term ecological research  
10 surveys and an additional July survey.

11 Seabird surveys have been conducted twice a year in the  
12 spring and fall, as part of the Council-funded Seward line  
13 project 2012011-11 or L, sorry, started in 2006. In 2018, the  
14 National Science Foundation awarded the Seward line project PIs  
15 with a long-term ecological research grant, which was expanded  
16 to the Seward line survey and added eight more days at sea for  
17 both the spring and fall surveys, and an additional 18 days for  
18 the new July survey.

19 The extended surveys in 2018 and '19 were funded by the  
20 North Pacific Research Board, with contributions from National  
21 Science Foundation and NOAA. However, these leveraged funds are  
22 insufficient to continue the extended Seward line long-term  
23 ecological research seabird survey starting in FY20.

24 So the recommendation is a fund decision for this  
25 project, contingent on the removal of the new July surveys from

1 the proposal and budget.

2 I want to note that the concern with the July surveys is  
3 not with the science or the value of these surveys, but that the  
4 Council is being asked to fund scope of work that is part of the  
5 long-term ecological research program.

6 The long-term ecological research program PI did not  
7 include funding for the seabird surveys in the proposal, and  
8 this left the onus of obtaining for the seabird survey PIs, who  
9 are able to piece together funding for FY18 and FY19, but not  
10 for years after that.

11 July surveys cost 11,300 per year. Removing the new July  
12 surveys from the request would reduce the additional request to  
13 14,500 annually, for only the extra days on the fall and spring  
14 surveys. Comments or questions?

15 (No audible response)

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Questions for Shiway on that?

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Who are the PIs, the bird PIs on this?

19 MS. WANG: Kathy Kuletz and Robb Kaler, and Robb Kaler is  
20 present at the meeting.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Continue, Shiway.

22 MS. WANG: Okay, so the last requested change to the Gulf  
23 Watch Alaska Program is the addition of a new project, which is  
24 on page 162 of the work plan. This is project 20200114-P, the  
25 Lingering Oil Monitoring Project.

1           In 2015, the United States and State of Alaska  
2 governments advised the federal District Court that they would  
3 not be filing for additional damages based on the presence of  
4 lingering oil and the reopener claim. In their joint status  
5 report, the governments noted that, although the governments  
6 would not pursue the additional claim, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil  
7 Spill Trustee Council and its member agencies have discretion to  
8 consider and proceed with actions to reduce residual oil in the  
9 spill area.

10           In subsequent Council meetings, the Trustees noted their  
11 commitment to continuing lingering, oil monitoring to ensure  
12 that the oil is not bio-available or creating damage to the  
13 spill area habitat and its resources.

14           Subsequent Councils requested Council staff develop a  
15 lingering oil monitoring project to address targeted areas to  
16 effectively monitor the presence and condition of lingering  
17 EVOSTC oil. This project was developed in coordination with  
18 Council staff and proposes an effective low-cost presence and  
19 absence approach to monitoring that can be combined with  
20 previous Council funded modeling efforts to provide managers  
21 with up-to-date information on where oil is located and its  
22 potential to cause injury.

23           This project would fulfil the recommendations made by  
24 surveys conducted from 2003 through 2015, which were to continue  
25 monitoring these known sites periodically for a five-year cycle

1 to maintain the oil chemistry time series and evaluate any  
2 change in presence and weathering. The recommendation is a fund  
3 decision for this project. Any comments or questions?

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustees?

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Continue, Shiway.

7 MS. WANG: Okay, with that, Mandy Lindeberg, the program  
8 lead for the Gulf Watch Alaska Program, will give her  
9 presentation.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Shiway.

11 MS. HSIEH: Mandy Lindeberg, L-i-n-d.....

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

13 MS. HSIEH: Would you two like to come and take our seats  
14 here and be more comfortable? Lauri, would you mind if.....

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I can stand up.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can stand up.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can stand too.

18 MS. HSIEH: Here, let's give you our chair.

19 (Indiscernible - whispering)

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commissioner Vincent-Lang is  
21 standing tall for Alaskans.

22 MS. HSIEH: Come on over. Please, make yourself  
23 comfortable.

24 MS. WANG: And the screen over here (indiscernible).....

25 MS. HSIEH: There will be two of them, one for Mandy and

1 then one for the Herring Program.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You guys have a seat.

3 MS. LINDEBERG: Test, test.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Mandy. The floor is yours.

5 MS. LINDEBERG: Wow, I'm really close to that screen.  
6 Thank you for having me today. I just want to.....

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Get closer.

8 MS. LINDEBERG: Get closer to this mic, okay.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Real quickly, is everyone able to hear  
10 Mandy from the audience? Maybe you can talk a little into that  
11 just to make sure.

12 MS. LINDEBERG: Okay, test, test.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Is that good?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Good, perfect.

16 MS. LINDEBERG: All right, yeah, just give me a holler,  
17 whistle, whatever, if I stray away from the mic. Okay, so I am  
18 the program lead for Gulf Watch Alaska Program. I work for the  
19 Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Juneau at the Auke Bay  
20 Laboratories, and I'm going to give you just a quick overview of  
21 our program and some of the findings that we have in the last  
22 year. So we've got some new folks here, and don't hesitate to  
23 ask questions if I'm not clear about how we're organized.

24 The Gulf Watch Alaska program is meant to be a long-term  
25 monitoring program and the overall goal, excuse me, the overall

1 goal is to provide sound scientific data and products that  
2 inform management and agencies and the public about the oil  
3 spill affected regions in the Gulf of Alaska.

4 Our major objectives are to sustain and build upon long-  
5 term time series data in the affected region, monitor multiple  
6 ecosystem factors and their potential impacts to injured  
7 resources, make current and historical ecosystem data available  
8 to users and the public, develop syntheses that will help inform  
9 managers in making decisions about these resources, and also  
10 develop collaborations with regional partners.

11 So this is just a quick look at our Gulf Watch kind of  
12 org chart. We're designed to be an integrated ecosystem program  
13 where we have a management team, and internal science review  
14 panel, an outreach steering committee, a science coordinating  
15 committee, and then we have our three core ecosystems  
16 components; environmental drivers and the pelagic and the  
17 nearshore ecosystem.

18 So we cover monitoring at all tropic levels. We're  
19 looking in-shore and offshore. We're also looking at organisms  
20 that are microscopic from phytoplankton all the way up to marine  
21 mammals and whales.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Mandy, could you go back a slide, please?

23 MS. LINDEBERG: Sure.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Just for the newbies like me, the science  
25 review panel that you have there is different than the Science

1 Panel that we have with the Trustee Council?

2 MS. LINDEBERG: It's our own internal science review  
3 panel. We have gone out and asked scientists to be on that  
4 panel to guide us and make sure that we're on the right path and  
5 so they communicate directly, come to our meetings. Jeep Rice  
6 is one of them and we have several others who have expertise in  
7 the exact things that we're monitoring.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Cross-disciplinary?

9 MS. LINDEBERG: Yes, yeah.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, thank you.

11 MS. HSIEH: And Jason.....

12 MS. LINDEBERG: It is a little confusing.

13 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, it is.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: I just -- and how many do you have on that  
15 science review panel?

16 MS. LINDEBERG: Five.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Five. Okay, thank you. Sorry, Elise.

18 MS. HSIEH: And the structure, Jason, these structures of  
19 the long-term programs came about after a lot of chewing over  
20 how to do this so that we'd get good products. So by the time  
21 it came to Trustee Council, a lot of these things would be  
22 filtered out, versus having 60 to 90 diffuse projects around the  
23 2010/2012 era.

24 So a lot of the structure that you see was created by the  
25 Trustees, Trustee staff, the PAC and so, there you have it.

1 We're in the second cycle.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Go ahead, Mandy.

3 MS. LINDEBERG: But I really want to focus on our  
4 ecosystem components and the scientists that are involved in  
5 actually going out, doing the monitoring, collecting the data,  
6 and I'd just like to say there is a small army of principal  
7 investigators under this program. We have 28, and we also have  
8 the associated technicians, lab and field, all the other folks  
9 associated with these projects. So it's -- we just had our  
10 annual meeting and we had over 40 people attend that meeting.  
11 So it's a big group.

12 We have various projects under each component focusing on  
13 different aspects of that component and we have multiple  
14 agencies that are helping sponsor these projects, and so it's  
15 a very diverse, large group. That's the message.

16 As a program, we're always looking to -- for  
17 opportunities to leverage funds. Because we have this dual role  
18 of multiple agencies involved and we're helping to run some of  
19 these projects, we have a lot of matching funds on an annual  
20 basis that go with what the Trustees are providing, and because  
21 we have this, we have this -- what I call monitoring footprint,  
22 this is a map of where we're doing all of our sampling.

23 We've got transects everywhere. We've got stations and  
24 buoys. You can even see this kind of red pinwheel with wiggly  
25 lines. That's out on Middleton Island. It's a seabird colony,

1 and these are events showing where the birds are going to  
2 forage. They're going on the shelf, the shelf break, and into  
3 Prince William Sound and the coastal areas, and so there's a lot  
4 going on here, but because we have this footprint, the principal  
5 investigators have been able to go out and get other sources of  
6 funding to match this and add on to our footprint.

7           So one good example of this is probably the biggest one  
8 is, and this was mentioned a little earlier, was the  
9 oceanographers were able to go to NSF and get an additional \$1.2  
10 million to add to our monitoring footprint. Everything in  
11 yellow here is what's been added. We've extended these  
12 transects. We've added transects. There's lots of yellow dots  
13 and more sampling going on, and actually, quite a huge area.

14           So our footprint looks messy. That's a good thing.  
15 Messy is good. It means we're covering a lot of area and we're  
16 collecting a lot of data.

17           So I'm not going to go over all of our datasets, unless  
18 you want to have another workshop for a couple of days, but I  
19 want to highlight just a few examples, and some of the more  
20 important resources that we've been monitoring. Killer whales  
21 in Prince Williams Sound, as you know, we've had some prespill  
22 data before the spill.

23           We knew about the pods that are utilizing the Sound and  
24 we have two different ecotypes of orcas in the Sound, resident  
25 AB pod, these are fish eaters, and the transient AT1, these prey

1 on marine mammals, so different strategies of how they used the  
2 Sound, and you can see, after the spill, they were both  
3 impacted, but they're responding and recovering differently.

4 So the AB pod, the fish-eating salmon is their favorite,  
5 they are slowly recovering. These are long-lived species,  
6 probably some might outlive some of the scientists, but it's  
7 taken a while for those to recover.

8 The transients, they did not recover as well. They've  
9 kind of flatlined in the last couple of decades and we'll see,  
10 they could be headed toward an extinction. So an example of  
11 some of our long-term data sets, what we're seeing, how  
12 population is responding.

13 MR. WACKOWSKI: Can you qualify the term extinction? I  
14 mean, orca whales aren't going extinct, are they? Is this  
15 genetically extinct?

16 MS. LINDBERG: This is this particular pod of AT1 and  
17 and the reason they're going to probably be extinct is because  
18 they lost the matriline and that's the females that will  
19 produce calves for that pod. They're very social animals. They  
20 have these tight-knit groups and so they probably will not get  
21 anymore recruitment into that pod, and so the individuals, the  
22 adults that are there will live out their lives and there will  
23 be no replacement.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: So are these pods a specific species  
25 stock that are of MPA or -- I'm just confused about the term

1 extinction, that to me, is an ESA term.

2 MS. LINDBERG: Yeah.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: I don't know what you mean.

4 MS. LINDBERG: For that particular group and they are --  
5 I don't know the full genetics, I'm sorry. There is some  
6 genetic distinction, but if you're talking about the whole  
7 pacific, that's another level of question for this  
8 (indiscernible), but for these ones that utilize Prince William  
9 Sound, for that particular pod, they're transients, that group  
10 has declined and not increased and they're dying of old age.

11 MR. WACKOWSKI: And I'm sorry, there's no opportunity for  
12 recruitment within say the AB pod or anything of that sort?

13 MS. LINDBERG: We will have to see. That could happen,  
14 and we've never seen it happen before, crossover, but never say  
15 never. So that's why we say they're headed that way, but maybe  
16 something will change. We need to continue monitoring them to  
17 see, maybe they'll bring in some other transients into their  
18 group, but again, it's a long, long story, as these animals live  
19 a long time. So we still haven't seen any change to this point.  
20 It's been over 30 years.

21 MR. WACKOWSKI: So I'm sorry, are you -- if I'm not  
22 asking the right questions, you're not a -- are you whale  
23 biologist?

24 MS. LINDBERG: No.

25 MR. WACKOWSKI: This isn't your -- okay.

1 MS. LINDEBERG: This isn't my project.

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: So I'd be -- I'd be curious to talk to  
3 the project lead. You know, orca whales have been described to  
4 me as like the wolves of the ocean, that they run in packs, and  
5 one area that they -- we should be looking at is will this AB  
6 pod or another pod, once the transients, if they do die out,  
7 will like another pod roll in into the territorial zone? It's  
8 just pretty fascinating to me, so.....

9 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah, we can definitely have that  
10 conversation. It's Craig Matkin, who has been leading that  
11 project and since 1984. He's one of the most knowledgeable  
12 persons out there on these.....

13 MS. HSIEH: Shiway, can you get Craig Matkin to share an  
14 email with Steve Wackowski regarding the AB and AT1 populations  
15 and potential, when the AT1 population, if it does, that pod, go  
16 extinct, if there would be a different transient group that  
17 could migrate in.

18 MR. WACKOWSKI: So the reason why I ask is.....

19 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: .....we had a pretty pointed discussion  
21 in one of our meetings a month ago about, you know, what species  
22 are never going to recover and this pod was brought up, and I  
23 think that's a pretty strong statement for a lot of reasons, but  
24 it would be good to understand is there is that -- and the  
25 ecosystem has room, will another pod roll in or will another

1 species fill -- I mean, I know that's your job as -- what it is  
2 you do, and I'd just be curious as to the thought to that.

3 MS. LINDEBERG: I think we all are, to that answer, yeah.  
4 Okay, so that's just one example. Another one I have here is  
5 some of the marine -- historic marine bird data and really, the  
6 message here is, you know, depending on the species  
7 (indiscernible) strategy. We've seen different trends. Some  
8 populations are increasing and recovering and doing better,  
9 others are declining.

10 Some were declining before the spill. Others declined  
11 after the spill and are still on a downward trend. Those  
12 populations have not recovered to pre-spill levels, but we do  
13 know that a lot of the pelagic species are declining more than  
14 some of the benthic species, but again, you can't just look at  
15 one species. There's a lot of different reactions. So we're  
16 monitoring all of these and the trends of these populations,  
17 because they all react a little differently to change.

18 So those are just some of the examples of some of our  
19 core type data. I'm giving here an example of another type of  
20 data that we produce, was tailored for management agencies.  
21 This is our ecosystem status report contributions, all of our  
22 various projects and components, including the herring and  
23 research monitoring program, developed these ecosystem  
24 indicators and their annual timeline series showing the average  
25 trend of these indicators, and one of the things are above

1 average or below average.

2           We have 22. I'm not going to go through all of them,  
3 don't worry. It's another day-long conversation, but I am  
4 highlighting here one of my favorites, which is the GAK line  
5 temperature anomaly. This one shows temperatures at 200 to 250  
6 meters outside of Seward, the Seward line, the shelf, and it's  
7 one of the longest time series we have, and this year is its 50<sup>th</sup>  
8 anniversary, and I try and slip this slide into almost every  
9 single talk I give, because I think it's that important.

10           The main information we all look at is an environmental  
11 driver and what's going on with the ecosystem. I recommend  
12 everybody look it up every year and see what it's doing, because  
13 the rest of the ecosystem is going to respond to this right  
14 here.

15           I thought I'd just quickly tell you what we're seeing  
16 this year, and we're just reporting these to the Council,  
17 indicators for this year, and some of our researchers have just  
18 gotten off surveys two weeks ago, and I asked them, "What are we  
19 seeing," and it looks -- they're all saying, "Well, it's looking  
20 a lot like some of the patterns that we saw on the onset of the  
21 2014 marine heat wave. So that means temperatures at depth are  
22 warm, a lot of key prey populations like capelin, sand lance  
23 herring, these populations are all remaining low.

24           Predators in these areas are behaving differently. The  
25 offshore species are moving to the inshore. We normally don't

1 see them there. They're seeing fin whales in nearshore waters  
2 and the inside waters, and normally, they're out on the shelf.  
3 They don't come in.

4 An example, I'm back to the pinwheel on Middleton Island  
5 station, and you can see that the foraging events of these  
6 marine birds is going inshore, into Prince William Sound, into  
7 the coastal areas. They're not out on the shelf or the shelf  
8 break.

9 So we also had a report in the Sound just a couple of  
10 weeks ago, young sablefish are all over in Prince William Sound.  
11 They're chowing down on juvenile herring. So that's also being  
12 seen down in Southeast. So lots of voracious, hungry sablefish  
13 are in the Sound going after the herring. Sorry, Scott.

14 MR. PEGAU: Yeah, I know.

15 MS. LINDEBERG: And this was also, you know, similar  
16 patterns were seen in 2014. The nearshore ecosystem has had  
17 some populations that are being impacted by the warm event.  
18 Others are actually benefitting from it. So you may have heard  
19 in the news about seastar wasting disease. That hit a lot of  
20 the populations in the coastal areas very hard, up and down the  
21 coast.

22 Kachemak Bay still has not recovered from that outbreak.  
23 They're still monitoring that, and then other things like prey  
24 (indiscernible) like mussels, this is a really important  
25 bivalve, as a prey item for lots of different species, even

1 throughout the winter. They're doing well. Their densities and  
2 numbers are increasing. They're growing to larger sizes. So  
3 they are doing well under a warm condition.

4           So that's just kind of a quick spot check on the state of  
5 things and what we've seen right now, right off the report, and  
6 then we also have, as I have mentioned, lots of data, and I have  
7 to say one of the best aspects of the Trustees is the fact that  
8 they have a data management program.

9           We cannot live without that program. They help us get  
10 our data into useable formats, get them out to the public in a  
11 timely form and we have through Axiom and A00S, a research  
12 workspace that the scientists can share their data and get it  
13 ready. They then can easily, just with a flip of a switch, get  
14 it into the Gulf of Alaska data portal to the public and we do  
15 this every year, and we also have the advantage of using some of  
16 the data visualization tools that they have on that platform.  
17 It becomes very powerful.

18           I would say they've even gone to the added effort with  
19 data to actually publish it and archive it on Data 1, not a lot  
20 of programs go to that extra level, but this ensures that it's  
21 there in cyber space forever and it's discoverable on a global  
22 scale. Gulf Watch Alaska currently has 45 datasets that are  
23 published and archived there and we continue to update it.

24           Some of the collaborations, I just wanted to point out  
25 that our program is involved in, and some of the user groups,

1 and this is just a random list from the last couple of years. I  
2 have gone over the Ecosystem Status Report information, but also  
3 sea otter data for the Fish and Wildlife Service -- uses this  
4 data to update their stock assessments.

5 We have black oystercatcher data that the Forest Service  
6 uses and puts for their surveys on managed lands, and so they  
7 use that information. We have lots of PIs out on that  
8 monitoring footprint. They're all over the Gulf, eyes and ears.  
9 So we make a point of networking with other groups like the  
10 Regional Stranding Network for Marine Mammals and the Coast  
11 Program for coastal observations of seabirds, and we can alert  
12 them and tell them, "Hey, we see this going on out here," and  
13 call them up right away.

14 We also have collaborations with AOOs on some of their  
15 programs monitoring ocean acidification and harmful algae  
16 blooms. We contribute to those. The National Park Service,  
17 they have a huge interpretive program. We meet with them every  
18 year and we give them an update on ecosystem status. They had a  
19 huge audience with all the tourists, especially in Seward, and  
20 they asked all these questions, and this is the way to educate  
21 the rangers so they have the right information, telling the  
22 public the good facts about what's going on and with the  
23 ecosystem.

24 We also have, just recently, an interest in some of the  
25 oceanography that's going on in Cook Inlet helping look at the

1 different data water level profiles and helping fishermen in  
2 Cook Inlet, the drift net folks and the sport fish folks, they  
3 want to know where the fish are hiding out, what depth are they  
4 at. What are the layers that they like to hang out as they're  
5 coming in? So they talk to our scientists on a regular basis  
6 and the agencies are also looking at this water column  
7 information, temperature and salinity, trying to get at some of  
8 the changes they're seeing with salmon run timing.

9           Ecotourism is another one. That actually benefits both  
10 parties. The ecotourism, they want to know where the whales  
11 are. They contact our scientists often. Where are they at?  
12 Where can we take our clients to have a good viewing experience?  
13 And those scientists can't be everywhere. The marine mammals  
14 are all over the place. So they have lots of boats and lots of  
15 people with cameras and so they can get photos of whales and  
16 then verify their IDs and get even more information about where  
17 these individuals are going and feeding. So it works for both  
18 groups.

19           Also, another group that we've been helping is with the -  
20 - recently, just last year, the razor clams at (indiscernible)  
21 coast. It's a remote area. We helped collect those for  
22 analysis and looking at disease and genetics and helping out the  
23 agencies managing the shellfish population, and I just heard  
24 good news, no diseases for those. So a clean bill of health,  
25 one less thing to worry about.

1           Our program also does a lot of outreach. Our main  
2 outreach tool is our website. We have tons of information up  
3 there, but we also like to do community engagement. We've done  
4 some of that in Kachemak Bay the last couple of years. I've  
5 gone in and had two-way conversations face-to-face, scientists  
6 with the villagers and the elders, talking about what's going on  
7 with the environment. They can ask questions about the science.  
8 We can ask them about what they're seeing. These have been very  
9 fruitful exchanges.

10           We also have a program newsletter, Quarterly Currents.  
11 I'd mentioned earlier, we do a lot of contributions to the Delta  
12 Sound Connections explaining science to the public. That has a  
13 lot of distribution.

14           I just want to point out this photo in the lower right.  
15 That's one of our whale researchers that went in. They had  
16 weather. They couldn't be out sampling. It was too stormy, and  
17 so they ran in to ask if they could maybe do some outreach with  
18 the students at the Chenega School, and they told the kids about  
19 what they're doing. They brought in samples that they just  
20 crawled up with all of these critters they've never seen before.  
21 It was very popular. So our scientists, whenever they get the  
22 opportunity, they're going and trying to do lots of outreach.

23           We also, as a program, do a lot of mentoring for science  
24 students. I hadn't actually calculated this number, but in  
25 2019, I did this just this week, and we had over 25 students

1 that are involved with our various projects, and they range from  
2 PhD's, post-docs, Master's, undergraduates, and from lots of  
3 different universities in state and out of state, and we have a  
4 lot of internships, in particular, we have one ANSEP, the Alaska  
5 Native Science and Engineering Program, and also just this  
6 summer and fall, we had an intern with the Partnership and  
7 Education Program, PEP, which is for Native and rural students,  
8 sponsored by the University and NOAA, and that's an example here  
9 of one of -- that intern giving a presentation at our NOAA  
10 regional office to protected resources staff on some pretty  
11 technical information on the -- some biochemistry with the  
12 whales and their feedback was that it was some of the best  
13 science communication they'd seen from a student. It was really  
14 high level, a very good presentation. So they really  
15 appreciated that and I really like the fact that all of our PIs  
16 spend time and training for our next generation of scientists.

17         This is just a quick, what have we've done, where are we  
18 at in this last year, what's our productivity? We've been busy  
19 bees. We have annual reports, work plans, five-year review  
20 papers, 15 manuscripts that are in prep, the indicators, we have  
21 19 of those for our program specifically that go into the ESI  
22 Report, and our PIs are out there talking to the public, talking  
23 to their peers and going to conferences. We did about 40 of  
24 those this year, news articles, outreach events, planning and  
25 helping with things like the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, however we can

1 help out on those types of things, and also updating our  
2 published datasets on DataOne, so that's a lot.

3           So in the future, just looking forward in FY20, we're  
4 going to continue to do all of our monitoring, but in addition  
5 to that, we have the Science Synthesis Report that we will be  
6 giving to the Trustees and the workshop and that will entail  
7 four highlight synthesis publications looking at the conditions  
8 before and after this warm event and hopefully -- thank you,  
9 hopefully, these will really help us understand what were the  
10 impacts of that perturbation at different trophic levels,  
11 different aspects of what we're monitoring and how the ecosystem  
12 is responding.

13           Just stepping back here to 30,000-foot level, I just have  
14 this tie line that starts back in the '70's, you can see the  
15 water temperature data started then, but there wasn't a lot out  
16 there. It was kind of a data poor situation. This spill  
17 happened and the Trustees helped sponsor a lot of research and  
18 start up some of these decade old data sets, and over the years,  
19 you can see that they've experienced changes from El Ninos, La  
20 Ninas, the Pacific decadal oscillation, and now, we're into our  
21 monitoring programs and we're dealing with these marine heat  
22 waves, and so it really gives us a better picture at a larger  
23 scale of how these metrics are going to react to all of these  
24 changes, and it'll be very interesting to see over the next five  
25 years, the next 10 years, where these populations, where these

1 indicators are going to go with these changes.

2 I also look at this timeline and I'm beginning to feel a  
3 little old. It's a long time, but there's really nothing out  
4 there like this and so we really do appreciate these data sets,  
5 and I just wanted to close here with circling back to kind of  
6 what I think the value of these long-term programs are, and have  
7 we met our objectives?

8 These programs are able to preserve an incredible amount  
9 of information, go out and gather it, analyze it, synthesize it,  
10 make it available to other user groups. We're able to identify  
11 the health of some of these marine resources that were injured  
12 in really a world-class ecosystem, and we also have, through  
13 collaborations, been able to transfer all of this needed data to  
14 the federal agencies and state agencies responsible for these  
15 resource management in the spill area, and have done a good job  
16 of that, and also, ultimately, really you want to inform the  
17 stakeholders.

18 I gave you some examples of that earlier, the commercial  
19 and sport fishing industry, tourism, subsistence, recreational  
20 users. They come to us. They're like what's going on with  
21 these resources? How are they doing? Are they going to be  
22 there next year? What's the long-term outlook for these? Can I  
23 be fishing? Can I be doing what I'm doing or is it changing?  
24 Is it going to go away? We can help get at those answers.

25 So that's really, you know, the bottom line for me, is

1 how do we get this information and inform them to make good  
2 decisions about what they're going to be doing with these  
3 resources. So with that, there we go.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Mandy, thank you very much for your  
5 presentations. Are there questions from Trustee Council  
6 members?

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: I have a quick question. Since you had a  
8 picture of a humpback on your prior slide, I wanted to ask is  
9 the humpback whale critical habitat? Does an issue going to  
10 affect our ability to conduct science in the Prince William  
11 Sound?

12 MS. LINDEBERG: No, I don't think so. You mean the  
13 listing of them? There's -- maybe I didn't quite answer your  
14 question.

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: I think -- aren't we listing or haven't  
16 we listed a bunch of critical habitat at Prince William Sound  
17 for humpback whales?

18 MS. LINDEBERG: Yes. I don't know the full details.  
19 Maybe Balsiger can answer that better.

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: That's okay. I was just curious if you  
21 had, you know, done any outreach.....

22 MS. LINDEBERG: I've done.....

23 MR. WACKOWSKI: .....with the critical habitat team to  
24 talk about (indiscernible).

25 MS. LINDEBERG: We do. So the lead PI on the humpback

1 project is working and collaborating with protected resources  
2 folks and is advising them on recommendations and also for the  
3 whole Pacific. So they're definitely involved in that decision  
4 process and providing information to them, for sure.

5 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Other questions?

7 (No audible response)

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Mandy, I have one for you.

9 MS. LINDEBERG: Sure.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: On your very first slide, you said 2032 is  
11 your end date. Why was that date picked and where is the  
12 funding coming from for the timeline between now and then?

13 MS. HSIEH: I can answer that. So the Trustees.....

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Could you speak to the microphone so the  
15 audience can hear you?

16 MS. HSIEH: Yes. I don't know if this one worked. Thank  
17 you. It's summarized on our website. On our website, you'll  
18 find summarize around -- well, it really started in 2008/2009  
19 intensively through 2011, the Trustees had, I believe it was 16  
20 spill-area meetings and Trustee Council meetings and briefings  
21 to talk about the remaining funds.

22 There were a number of Trustees who had been involved for  
23 20 years at that time and had watched what worked, what didn't  
24 work, what was a hang-up. Trustees were pretty unhappy. The  
25 Science Panel was unhappy. The Science Panel wanted

1 integration, collaboration, leveraging. The Trustees wanted  
2 more of the same. They didn't like getting, as I mentioned  
3 earlier, 60 to 90 individual projects all stacked up and kind of  
4 a mess and having to go through them. It was a much more  
5 intensive process for Trustees and scientifically not that  
6 desirable either.

7           So there was a two or three-year period, the public  
8 meetings were discussing, you know, what to do with the funds.  
9 There was fairly strong support and convergence, I actually  
10 reviewed some of the notes the other day, to have long-term  
11 programs and long-term monitoring and also herring.

12           There had been some shorter programs in herring and  
13 science, and the datasets, as you see here that are historic,  
14 were brought into these programs. At the time, the Trustee  
15 Council, the PAC, and the public during that two or three-year  
16 process came up with like a 20-year timeline for spend down with  
17 five-year increments. We're in the second -- we're nearing the  
18 end of the second five-year and the third five-year program  
19 would be coming up.

20           I keep hearing people being very sort of disgruntled  
21 about the funds. I actually had a long-time Trustee and  
22 architect of the settlement tell me to not invest so well  
23 because it would only cause problems. I didn't heed that, but  
24 I've heard a lot of grumbling and somehow some sort of  
25 negativism about having these funds to spend in the spill area.

1           So judging on that, I am saying on that this last five-  
2 year or three-year or whatever the Trustees would like to do,  
3 can be the last, if the Trustees would like to go to the  
4 intended 20-year term, we can also plan for that, as well.

5           Every year, we also let everyone know that the funding  
6 and the Trustee Council's trajectory, even if it is a priority,  
7 is based upon the stock market. We saw that. We did have to  
8 pull back a couple of years to sustain the funding because of  
9 our heavy equities allocation, which has, in the big picture,  
10 served us well, but makes us sensitive to the fluctuations in  
11 the market. So that was.....

12           CHAIR BRUNE: So just as a follow-up to that.....

13           MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

14           CHAIR BRUNE: I guess, my question was not -- I mean, I  
15 appreciate the collaboration because I was on the PAC when we  
16 were reviewing 137 of these proposals. So I appreciate the  
17 work. It was a great presentation. When I saw 2032 as the end  
18 year, though, I was told that we were funding five-year programs  
19 and that's (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

20           MS. HSIEH: That's right, but 2032 was the date that  
21 originally the plans were -- it was supposed to be a 20-year  
22 program and the end of the Trustee Council. So that would have  
23 been 2032. From 2012, 20 years is 2032.

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, so but -- but again, what we're  
25 committed for is an annual funding of a five-year plan. We are

1 not committed, effectively, to 2032. We are.....

2 MS. HSIEH: That's correct.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: .....committed for a -- I mean, at any  
4 year, we can stop, but we, effectively, the Trustees have  
5 committed for five-year plans, of which they have allocations on  
6 an annual basis that we can choose to stop at any point?

7 MS. HSIEH: That's correct.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: And your PIs understand that, as well?

9 MS. LINDEBERG: Yes, and we proposed a five-year package.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure.

11 MS. LINDEBERG: And we propose every year in that five  
12 years.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect. All I was doing was, again,  
14 because I saw on the first slide, 2032 end date, I was.....

15 MS. LINDEBERG: Yeah.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: I was just making sure as a newbie that I  
17 am understanding what commitments were made. Commissioner  
18 Vincent-Lang.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Are we done with the  
20 presentations here on this topic?

21 MS. HSIEH: This was the long-term monitoring  
22 presentation. There is, I think a brief, fairly brief herring  
23 presentation and then we're done.

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, let's get this one  
25 done, so.....

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay. Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

2 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve funding of  
3 \$2,778,400, which is the recommendation from the Science Panel  
4 and the Science Coordinator, which includes GA for funding FY20  
5 funding for the Long-Term Monitoring of Marine Conditions and  
6 Injured Resources and Service projects 20120114, proposal dated  
7 August 16, 2019, excluding the new July survey component and  
8 project 20120114-M.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

10 MR. SCHMID: I second.

11 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, who?

12 CHAIR BRUNE: The motion was made by Doug Vincent-Lang.  
13 The second was Dave Schmid.

14 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So if I can speak to my  
15 motion, I think having.....

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: .....long-term datasets  
18 running forward is something that we should all be doing. I  
19 think it's going to be informative in making our decisions  
20 proceeding in terms of a wide range of activities from fisheries  
21 management to ecosystem knowledge and it will prepare us for the  
22 future, more than anything else we could do. So I support the  
23 long-term monitoring program.

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'm sorry, before we vote, can we just  
25 have clarification on our motion package? So we are going to

1 exclude project 0114-M?

2 MS. HSIEH: Do you want to have Shiway.....

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: Why? Why are we doing that?

4 MS. WANG: We're not excluding the entire project. I  
5 think the motion was for excluding the July surveys that.....

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: The new July piece of it.

7 MS. WANG: That's the recommendation and (indiscernible -  
8 speaking simultaneously).....

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: That didn't have science  
10 support.

11 MS. HSIEH: But you can fund it all. It's totally up to  
12 the Trustees.

13 MR. WACKOWSKI: All right, thanks.

14 MS. WANG: And again, we're not questioning the value of  
15 the science. It's just we're getting -- you guys are getting  
16 asked to fund something that is not in the scope of work.

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah, and (indiscernible).

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Is that (indiscernible)?

19 MR. WACKOWSKI: No, no, let's go.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there other items for discussion by  
21 Trustee Council members?

22 (No audible response)

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Seeing none, we'll call the question.  
24 Those in favor say, "Aye."

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Anyone opposed?

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

7 Shiway, the floor is yours.

8 MS. WANG: Okay, great. We will move onto the next long-  
9 term monitoring program, the Herring Research and Monitoring  
10 Program project, which starts on page eight of your draft work  
11 plan.

12 There are eight continuing projects up for review for  
13 FY20. Overall, there are no changes to the original proposals  
14 submitted in FY17, with the exception of two projects in the  
15 Herring Program. The first is on page 16 of the work plan, and  
16 this is project 20120111-A, Program Coordination.

17 Our office noted last year that reports, products and  
18 information that had additional review by a scientific  
19 administrator were of high quality and also standardized, and so  
20 the Trustee Council Office Coordinator and Science Panel  
21 therefore supports the continuing additional review of the  
22 required documents for the last two years of the program, FY20  
23 and FY21. The cost is 14,100 annually to continue these  
24 services. Any comments or questions?

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Council members? Commissioner

1 Vincent-Lang.

2 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Can you -- are you going to  
3 explain the project 2017011-D?

4 MS. WANG: Yes, we will get there.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Continue.

6 MS. WANG: Okay, no questions about that project. We are  
7 going to move onto the second Herring Project requesting a  
8 change, which is on page 24 of the work plan. This is project  
9 20170111-B, the Annual Herring Migration Cycle or Herring  
10 Tagging and Movement Project.

11 Last year, the Science Panel recommended increasing the  
12 sample sizes of tagged fish by another 200 fish to improve the  
13 accuracy of these data and inferences. The PI explained that  
14 tagging 400 fish in one year is likely not realistic, but  
15 suggested adding an additional year of tagging 210 fish to  
16 address the Science Panel's concerns.

17 The Panel discussed at length the utility of an  
18 additional year of 210 tagged fish in FY20, and concluded that  
19 this add-on is worthwhile to examine inter-annual variability  
20 and the results should strengthen project findings and  
21 conclusions.

22 The PI is requesting an increase of 129,000 for an  
23 additional year of tagging of 210 fish in FY20, and 272,800 for  
24 subsequent analysis in FY21. Any comments or questions?

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Council members?

1 (No audible response)

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Seeing none, continue Shiway.

3 MS. WANG: Okay, the recommendation for the Herring  
4 Program is a fund decision for all projects, including the  
5 additional funding requests for two projects, with the exception  
6 of one project, and this is the project on page 39 of the work  
7 plan.

8 This is project 20170111-D, Studies of Reproductive  
9 Maturity Among Age Cohorts of Pacific Herring in Prince William  
10 Sound. The goal of this project is to provide the age-  
11 structured assessment model with age and maturity data to  
12 improve model predictions.

13 This project, now in its third year, has not presented  
14 any evidence that herring scales can be used to evaluate or  
15 monitor age specific maturation of herring. As a result, we  
16 conclude that this project is highly unlikely to successfully  
17 complete project objectives, and the recommendation is a do not  
18 fund decision. Comments and questions?

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Council members?

20 (No audible response)

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Please continue, Shiway.

22 MS. WANG: Okay, Scott Pegau, the program lead for the  
23 Herring Research and Monitoring Program, will give his  
24 presentation now.

25 MR. PEGAU: So thank you for allowing me to present to

1 you today. I'm going to try to do this as quickly as possible,  
2 because I, too, am hungry. Just to start off, this is a picture  
3 of herring spawn, as captured by satellite imagery from this  
4 year.

5 We had beautiful, nice, clear weather, so we took  
6 advantage of using satellites to try and help us figure out  
7 where spawning was occurring. So why herring? To some degree,  
8 Elise has already told about the development of the integrative  
9 projects. In all those meetings, one of the things that came  
10 out was a desire for a better understanding of herring and the  
11 development of the integrated herring research plan that the  
12 Trustees put together, you know, it mainly comes down to it's an  
13 unrecovered species.

14 There's an economic basis behind it. That's why the  
15 communities were in strong support when programs were being  
16 developed. There's an ecological benefit to it, because pretty  
17 much everything eats herring. At one point or another, it's  
18 amazing how -- yeah, at least sablefish tastes nice, so if  
19 they're going to eat it, you know, there's an advantage to that  
20 one, and you know, it's the one forage fish out there that we  
21 have a very good long-term record for, because it was a managed  
22 fisheries for so long.

23 So I'm going to just quickly go through the eight  
24 different projects and try to give a few highlights. One is  
25 from the spawn surveys. So when Alaska Department of Fish and

1 Game was no longer able to fund the Prince William Sound Herring  
2 spawn surveys and age-sex-length surveys, we picked them up  
3 inside the program because we recognized how critical they were  
4 for understanding the recovery.

5         What you'll see is here in 2018, we were at a record low  
6 for the mile-day spawn and in the last year, it popped up a  
7 little bit. So it was up some, which was great, because we were  
8 not very optimistic in 2018. The total jump up in magnitude of  
9 fish is not that great, but at least it's heading in the right  
10 direction, and it does appear to be due to a larger recruitment  
11 of age-3 fish coming in.

12         So one of our concerns was we had missed fish the  
13 previous two years for one reason or another and that does not  
14 appear to be the case, and as I said, this program provides the  
15 data that we need to understand recovery and if the species does  
16 recover.

17         We use a modeling project that takes the data from the  
18 survey program. The acoustic survey program and others to try  
19 to integrate all the different research streams. One of the  
20 things that we noticed was that the model estimates were a  
21 little overly optimistic as to what the populations levels were,  
22 and so we did a lot of work to try to figure out exactly what  
23 was driving the model in that direction and so we're using that  
24 model -- we're figuring out where poor assumptions may be in the  
25 model, but we're also using that model to then turn around and

1 try to understand how all the different parts are connected and  
2 how it connects the environmental variables, such as temperature  
3 or whale populations. So what are the driving factors that lead  
4 to these populations?

5 One of the big problems, and the reason the model was  
6 overly optimistic was it didn't know how many new fish it was  
7 going to see in any given year and so it was using, essentially,  
8 a median value from the last several years, which was overly  
9 optimistic.

10 One of the things that we're doing outside of the EVOSTC  
11 program now is we are doing aerial surveys of the age-1 schools.  
12 This is actually funded through the Prince William Sound  
13 Regional Citizens Advisory Council, but it's this information  
14 that we're anticipating being able to use to help us refine the  
15 recruitment estimates to that model.

16 One of the big programs that we have revolves around  
17 disease, whether or not -- what the role of disease was in the  
18 collapse that occurred in the '90s. We'll probably not know the  
19 nice -- the advantage of our current programs, the recent  
20 decline that we saw in about the 2015 timeframe, we think that  
21 we have the data that will give us a much better chance of being  
22 able to answer why that decline occurred, and disease is one of  
23 those factors.

24 We look at three different diseases, and I'm not a  
25 biologist and I don't like words over three syllables long, so

1 that's why it says VHS, ichthyophonus, and VEN are the three  
2 diseases. VHS is a one that we think has strong impacts to the  
3 population.

4 We, traditionally, have been looking at prevalence, which  
5 is how many fish are sick that day. That wasn't telling us  
6 hardly anything, because they weren't sick the day that we were  
7 looking at them, but one of the new tools that has been  
8 developed under this program is the ability to look at the  
9 antibody presence for VHS, which is allowing us to look at, were  
10 those fish exposed to disease in the past year or so, and sure  
11 enough, we see a strong increase in the antibody presence in  
12 2015, which suggested there had been a disease episodic going  
13 through, and so now we're working with the modelers to figure  
14 out how to incorporate this new information into the models.

15 The other big one that we're looking at is ichthyophonus,  
16 that white blob that's behind the herring head is the heart.  
17 It's just so infected that it's not a red organ, it's a white  
18 organ, and so we're trying to figure out what are the mechanisms  
19 of transmission and when does it become lethal to the fish, and  
20 so there's experiments underway, and we also sought outside  
21 funding to examine that samples that have been collected under  
22 the EVOSTC program to get a better feel for the impact of that  
23 disease.

24 A project that we incorporated into the Herring Program  
25 in this last year was the lingering oil project. One of the

1 things that -- first questions was if a fish was exposed to oil,  
2 is it more susceptible to disease? So we exposed embryos of  
3 herring to oil and found that it did not matter if the embryos  
4 had been exposed to oil. They were -- had the same  
5 susceptibility to the disease when challenged later.

6 Movement, this is the tagging project where there are  
7 several questions we're trying to answer. Does body condition  
8 and age influence migration, is one. We've been tagging fish  
9 for several years. We find about 48 to 67% of those fish tagged  
10 pass out or through the entrances each year, and we're finding  
11 that the smaller fish tend to stay in Prince William Sound, and  
12 this project also has external support from the Offshore  
13 Tracking Network and the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

14 Maturity, you know, why we're interested in maturity is  
15 that there is a certain amount of fish that we don't see when we  
16 do our spawning stock surveys and if we want to understand what  
17 the total population is, we need to understand why, you know,  
18 what the maturity of the fish are, so we know when they're going  
19 to be joining the spawning stock.

20 We've been using both direct measures and scales to try  
21 to get a feel for this. The scales are the only way that we  
22 have to know that we've seen the entire population. So that's  
23 where we're headed. We're geared up to complete our scale  
24 analysis with the existing funding and hopefully, we will have a  
25 strong enough set of products based on what we have been able to

1 do to-date.

2           We're also doing work with Gulf Watch Alaska pulling in  
3 their environmental data. We're looking at things such as the  
4 space and temporal changes in spawning in herring, and we're  
5 comparing these to other regions so that we understand how  
6 what's happening in Prince William Sound might be happening in  
7 Sitka or in Cook Inlet.

8           We took advantage of having an intern in my office this  
9 year to update an earlier project of the EVOSTC Trustees, which  
10 was imaging the scales and measuring the growth of the herring.  
11 From that time period, we were able to add the last three years  
12 of data and what's plotted here is the growth rate from age  
13 three to age four, and what we see is that recent warming that  
14 we've seen in the ocean appears to be having a strong negative  
15 impact on the growth of these herring.

16           Outreach, Sherri Dressel of Alaska Department of Fish and  
17 Game is one of the members of our Scientific Review Panel. So  
18 we are in constant communication with her about what the  
19 projects are trying to do, what our status is, getting her  
20 feedback, trying to find ways that what we are learning may be  
21 applied elsewhere.

22           We also, as Mandy pointed out, contribute to ecosystem  
23 status reports that are contributed to the NOAA fisheries stock.  
24 For more general type things, we work hard on trying to keep our  
25 website up-to-date, bringing in new results constantly, project

1 profiles, which are things that we can hand to people, and we  
2 also contribute to the Delta Sound Connection paper, which is  
3 distributed widely throughout Prince William Sound.

4           So in conclusion, you know, our current population is  
5 extremely depressed. The recent decline may provide a better  
6 understanding of declines and recovery that have occurred in the  
7 past because we have had a strong program during that time of  
8 decline.

9           The program is developing tools to better understand  
10 changes in the herring populations and we're trying to show  
11 which tools work and which ones don't, and so with that, I'd  
12 like to thank you for your time and for the funding that you  
13 have provided to the Herring Program.

14           CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your presentation. Are there  
15 any questions from Trustee Council members?

16           (No audible response)

17           CHAIR BRUNE: I have one. What does recovery mean?

18           MR. PEGAU: Recovery was defined in the EVOS Trustee  
19 Council's integrated herring research plan and it is, you know,  
20 I don't remember the numbers. It's somewhere around 40,000  
21 tons, with recruitment twice in the last -- in a five-year  
22 period, you know, it is defined in one of your documents, and so  
23 that's we use for recovery.

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Could you bring that slide up that showed  
25 the current -- the whatever, the 30-year trend in population?

1 Okay, there it is. It's the third slide.

2 MR. PEGAU: Yeah, this is actually the mile-day milt  
3 spawn, so it's.....

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Sorry.

5 MR. PEGAU: But basically.....

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Is that correlated to the actual.....

7 MR. PEGAU: Yes, it is, and so.....

8 CHAIR BRUNE: So obviously, there was a big decline,  
9 debate, obviously, as to whether the spill or there were already  
10 issues going on.....

11 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: .....before 1989, but if you look at the  
13 error bars that you had on some of your items further down, the  
14 population is statistically similar from '92 to today, with  
15 those error bars.

16 MR. PEGAU: Correct.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: So I guess, what -- where in that range,  
18 once -- does it need to be -- because if you look at that, if  
19 the statistical significance of all of those, if you go back to  
20 1980, some of that could be, depending on what the error bars  
21 were (indiscernible), could be.....

22 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: .....statistically similar today. So I'd  
24 just be intrigued as to what is the -- what is -- and I guess I  
25 have to look at what has been done before, but what is deemed

1 recovery for this population.

2 MR. PEGAU: And like I said, it's approximately, I  
3 believe 40,000 tons, which is kind of just -- it's not pre-  
4 collapse biomass levels. It actually looks more at what was --  
5 existed in the '70s and early '80s.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: From that slide, correct me if I'm wrong,  
7 is it fair to say was the old -- 40,000 tons, I mean it looks  
8 like that number was achieved in -- with the error bars in 2005  
9 through 2014?

10 MR. PEGAU: That -- you are on the far end of the error  
11 bars.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: No, no, I know. I just want to make sure  
13 that.....

14 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: .....you don't have error bars if you're  
16 not going to use them.

17 MR. PEGAU: Right, and.....

18 CHAIR BRUNE: So.....

19 MR. PEGAU: And so one of the products that we do produce  
20 is what's a probability that we're over 20,000 tons, which is  
21 the fisheries limit, and so the black line is where we think it  
22 is. The darkish set of error bars is what's the 90% chance  
23 that.....

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Ninety percent.

25 MR. PEGAU: And then the lightest is at 66% chance of

1 having been at that level.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: So I guess from an injured resource  
3 perspective, when was this number set, because I see the grey.

4 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: And that was definitely over 40, and so at  
6 what point do you say it's recovered, and then it's unrecovered,  
7 and what link does it have to the oil spill and our continued  
8 funding for this type of research?

9 MS. HSIEH: There.....

10 MR. PEGAU: So your document has more than one metric.  
11 The 40,000 tons is the first metric.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay.

13 MR. PEGAU: Recruitment is the second metric, and we've  
14 never met that second metric.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: And recruitment meaning coming in from  
16 other areas or.....

17 MR. PEGAU: No, that we have year classes that join the  
18 population that are above a certain level.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: I see, okay. Thank you.

20 MR. PEGAU: Yeah.

21 MS. HSIEH: Also, herring, at the time that it was  
22 brought on as a long-term program for EVOSTC, the.....

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Could you talk into the mic, just so  
24 everyone can hear, sorry.

25 MS. HSIEH: Yes. The consensus was for herring that it's

1 a -- whether it was caused by the spill or not, that it's such  
2 an important.....

3 CHAIR BRUNE: For sure.

4 MS. HSIEH: .....species that everything else rests on  
5 it. So that's been its focus, as well, so.....

6 CHAIR BRUNE: I understand. I just -- I want to make  
7 sure that, you know, something that was potentially deemed  
8 recovered, then is not recovered, and I guess I need to do my  
9 own research on the previous efforts that identify what recovery  
10 means. Thank you. Other questions?

11 (No audible response)

12 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you very much, great presentation.

13 MR. PEGAU: Thank you.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Shiway.

15 MS. WANG: We'd be thrilled to see huge biomass year-  
16 after-year.

17 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Are we done with herring now?

18 MS. HSIEH: Shiway.

19 MS. WANG: Yes.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve funding of  
22 \$1,817,200, which includes GA for funding FY20 funding for the  
23 Herring Research and Monitoring Project 20120111 proposal, dated  
24 August 23, 2019, excluding Project 2017011-D.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Is there a second?

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: And I -- and I'll add that  
2 those are the recommended funding levels from the Science Panel  
3 and the.....

4 CHAIR BRUNE: And the Science Director. Is there a  
5 second?

6 DR. BALSIGER: Second.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a second from -- I saw Dr.  
8 Balsiger's hand up first, sorry. Would you like to talk to your  
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Herring is clearly one of the  
11 injured resources that hasn't yet recovered and this is a long-  
12 term database and I support the continuation of it.

13 MR. WACKOWSKI: One -- one clarification question; is  
14 Gorman in the room?

15 MS. WANG: She is not, but (indiscernible - speaking  
16 simultaneously).....

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Why do we leave their -- again, just  
18 curious why we left them out or why you recommended leaving them  
19 out?

20 MS. WANG: Okay, so to go back, this is not the first  
21 time we've had issues with this PI. In detail, the PI responded  
22 that -- this hasn't been included in your draft work plan yet.  
23 This is going to be updated after this meeting.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, go ahead with your  
25 (indiscernible).....

1 MS. WANG: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Hold on, so maybe I can  
3 answer that, what I had heard and the reason I excluded it was  
4 the science wasn't proving out after two or three years and we  
5 weren't having a path forward with this. So based on the  
6 Science Panel's decision that this wasn't playing out, in terms  
7 of a valid method for moving forward, I excluded it from further  
8 analysis.

9 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay, I'm good with a vote then. We  
10 don't need to rehash.

11 MS. WANG: Can I add just one thing? It's not -- we  
12 still believe that project has value, it's that the timeframe is  
13 -- it's not being accomplished in a timely manner. So the data  
14 still has value. Does that make sense?

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Any other discussion?

16 (No audible response)

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, all those in favor say,  
18 "Aye."

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposed?

24 (No audible response)

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Motion passes.

1 MS. HSIEH: Before we break, Jason, if people want a  
2 break, I -- a piece of housekeeping that I relayed to.....

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Could you speak into the microphone,  
4 please?

5 MS. HSIEH: Sorry. A piece of housekeeping that I  
6 relayed to the Court Reporter, the motion for the annual budget,  
7 the correct project number is 20200100. I assume that's fine  
8 with you. That's what's listed on your budget.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there any objections to that?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, okay. We have.....

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's do this last one.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Let's do this last one and then we'll --  
14 okay.

15 MS. WANG: Yeah, it will take two minutes. So we move  
16 onto the data management for programs and projects, which starts  
17 on page 167 of your work plan, and the program lead is here,  
18 Carol Janzen. The data management team continues to provide  
19 support to the Trustee Council long-term programs for seamless  
20 uploading and sharing of data with PIs, and also making data  
21 publically available.

22 The PI data submission compliance is high. One hundred  
23 percent of FY17 data is shared internally among projects on  
24 research workspace. Ninety-three percent of the FY17 data is  
25 published through the Gulf of Alaska portal, which is hosted by

1 the Alaska Ocean Observing System and available to the public.

2 Eighty-seven percent of the FY18 data is shared  
3 internally on research workspace and the PIs have until December  
4 1 of this year to submit FY18 data. In order to provide data  
5 services for all Council-funded science projects for FY20,  
6 including non-program projects, and to ensure that all current  
7 Council data is standardized, program costs for FY20 will range  
8 between 218,000 and 290,100, depending on the number of projects  
9 approved by the Council for FY20. Questions or comments?

10 MR. WACKOWSKI: Who has the contract for that? Who has  
11 the contract for data management?

12 MS. WANG: It is Alaska Ocean Observing System, and Axiom  
13 Data Science.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Shiway, that was only one minute that you  
15 took. You have 48 second left (indiscernible).....

16 MS. WANG: You really don't want to hear me sing.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: I actually put a watch on you because you  
18 said two minutes.

19 MS. WANG: I talked really fast that time.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Any questions? Go ahead, Dr. Balsiger.

21 DR. BALSIGER: I'll just mention that I think there are  
22 several subcontractors under that, depending on what the  
23 interest was there. That's all.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve funding of

1 up to \$290,100, which includes GA for the FY20 funding of the  
2 delta -- I mean the data management for programs and projects,  
3 Project 20120113 proposal, dated September 27, 2019. This  
4 amount may be reduced as appropriate for the number of projects  
5 to be included in the data program and as determined by the EVOS  
6 Trustee Council Science Coordinator.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

8 MS. POKON: (Indiscernible).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon seconded.

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So clearly having our data  
11 put into a long-term repository is important as we move forward.  
12 We can't lose this data. Others will be simply repeating  
13 history.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there any other discussion?

15 (No audible response)

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, I'll call the question. All  
17 those in favor say, "Aye."

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

22 (No audible response)

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

24 I know that there is a desire, one of us needs to leave  
25 early today for a (indiscernible) presentation, but I also know

1 that a number of you are hungry.

2 MS. HSIEH: We can keep going, if you want.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Do we want to take -- how long -- do we  
4 need, 15 minutes, 20 minutes?

5 MS. HSIEH: Well, food for Trustees is all the way across  
6 the street. Do you -- I'm wondering, do you want to take a 10-  
7 minute break and then just go through the rest of the meeting?  
8 It seems like you guys are fairly.....

9 CHAIR BRUNE: The time is 1:13. Let's recess until 1:30.

10 MS. HSIEH: Okay.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Does that sound good?

12 MS. HSIEH: And then, Jason, Trustees will eat lunch  
13 after they're done with the agenda?

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Or Steve will run across, get it for us.

15 MS. HSIEH: Get it for us, yeah.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's such a cool hunter/carrier or  
17 gatherer.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: We'll adjourn -- or we'll recess until  
19 1:30. Thank you.

20 1:13:19

21 (Off record)

22 (On record)

23 1:35:59

24 CHAIR BRUNE: So we are now onto agenda Item 8., the Non-  
25 Program Science Projects, and Shiway, the floor is yours, and I

1 guess we'll start -- and we're going to address these item-by-  
2 item, like we did with the last (indiscernible).

3 MS. WANG: That is correct.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect.

5 MS. WANG: So agenda Item 8. Non-Program Science  
6 Projects, these are projects that are not in the Gulf Watch  
7 Alaska or Herring Research and Monitoring Programs. These  
8 proposals start on page 176 of the work plan.

9 There is one continuing project and four new science  
10 projects proposed for FY20. The proposers are present either in  
11 person or on the phone to answer any questions that you may  
12 have.

13 The continuing project up for review is on page 177 of  
14 the work plan. The PIs are Kathy Kuletz, Robb Kaler, and David  
15 Irons, Project 20110853, the pigeon guillemot restoration  
16 research in Prince William Sound. The PIs will submit a paper  
17 regarding guillemot recovery to-date in January 2020. The PIs  
18 have described the value of this project in detail with their  
19 response to comments in the work plan, starting on page 178,  
20 which I will summarize now.

21 As the Trustees may be aware, this has been a very  
22 successful active restoration project with an exponential  
23 increase in the population of pigeon guillemot on the Naked  
24 Island group from 69 birds in 2014 to 183 birds in 2019.

25 This number is still far below the estimated pre-spill

1 population of more than 2,000 nesting guillemots at the Naked  
2 Island group, and pigeon guillemots are still listed as not  
3 recovered in the spill area.

4           The PIs propose continuing this project for the next four  
5 years to allow monitoring of populations of pigeon guillemots in  
6 the absence of mink predation. If the guillemot population  
7 fluctuates, there is the opportunity to analyze what factors may  
8 be affecting their recovery.

9           This project has broader implications for resources  
10 beyond guillemot. Other bird species are also beginning to  
11 benefit from the lack of mink predation at the Naked Island  
12 group. For example, dusky Canadian geese, which declined on the  
13 Copper River Delta after the 1964 earthquake and are a species  
14 of concern for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US  
15 Forest Service, were at the highest level recorded in 2019.

16           Tufted and horned puffins and parakeet auklet species  
17 that are valued by tourism activities are also increasing in  
18 numbers.

19           This project also continues the breeding black-legged  
20 kittiwakes with a time series data, which spans 36 years in  
21 Prince William Sound and includes population trends and  
22 reproductive success, which is used to track the availability of  
23 juvenile herring. The black-legged kittiwake time series are  
24 incorporated into one of the Council-funded Gulf Watch Alaska  
25 programs, synthesis manuscript, which expands understanding of

1 ecosystem-wide impacts from depressed herring populations to the  
2 multi-year marine heat wave in the Gulf of Alaska.

3 The recommendation is a fund decision for this project.

4 Any comments or questions?

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Council members, any questions or  
6 comments? Dr. Balsiger.

7 DR. BALSIGER: Just quickly, why is this non-program?  
8 What's the definition that makes it non-program?

9 MS. WANG: It just means that it was not included in the  
10 Gulf Watch Alaska program proposal at the start of the -- or the  
11 Herring Research and Monitoring program at the start of the  
12 five-year programs.

13 MS. HSIEH: There is an invitation that is drafted and  
14 issued by the Trustee Council every five years. It's an  
15 invitation drafting of this year and the invitation last time,  
16 the last two times is for the five-year programs, but there's  
17 also different components. I believe pigeon guillemot came in  
18 under like an active restoration component. I'd have to look  
19 back. I haven't -- I haven't. Also, some non-program projects  
20 come in as unsolicited proposals and then are circulated to the  
21 Trustees. They have an interest and they end up getting placed  
22 in here, as well, but the invitation can have both the long-term  
23 programs and any components that the Trustees are interested in,  
24 such as long-term monitoring used to be separate. It's not been  
25 -- this year, it's been tucked into the long-term monitoring

1 program because it helps in that area to be integrated, but in  
2 the past, it was its own separate component. So it was a non-  
3 program project.

4 I'm trying to think of other non-program components, but  
5 I think you get the idea, so.....

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, Dr. Balsiger, I'm glad you asked that  
7 question because I was wondering myself, how -- what it takes to  
8 be one of the cool kids and get in with the long-term  
9 programs.....

10 MS. HSIEH: Right.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: .....and if you have to be one of the cool  
12 kids to -- and have relationships with the cool kids in order to  
13 become one of the cool kids?

14 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Or what's the -- how does that work?

16 MS. WANG: And I -- can I.....

17 MS. HSIEH: It's actually just the subject matter and  
18 then if it goes on -- we've also had like herring genetics that  
19 came in as an unsolicited proposal. Everyone was very excited  
20 about that project and it was put into the Herring Program after  
21 a year. So things may come up as unsolicited or through a  
22 component, written into the invitation, and then maybe get  
23 placed due to subject matter.

24 The pigeon guillemot is active restoration. I'm not sure  
25 it would actually fit that well in the long-term monitoring

1 programs.

2 MS. WANG: And David Irons just brought a good point up,  
3 that this project started before the long-term programs started.

4 MS. HSIEH: That's true. This was early, so.....

5 DR. BALSIGER: Well, I remembered it was long-term and  
6 that's why I was trying to recall (indiscernible - speaking  
7 simultaneously).....

8 MS. HSIEH: Right, these can be long-term and can be  
9 multi-year, as well.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: So but it's long-term, but it's not long-  
11 term?

12 MS. HSIEH: It's not monitoring or herring.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

14 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, the State is one to  
15 support predator control on our population until we get them  
16 back up to restorative levels, so with that, I will move that we  
17 -- that we move to approve funding of \$69,514, which includes GA  
18 for FY20 funding of the pigeon guillemot restoration research in  
19 Prince William Sound, Project 20110853, proposal dated August  
20 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: We have a motion. Is there a second?

22 DR. BALSIGER: I'll second.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Balsiger has seconded. Is there a  
24 discussion?

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, we started this

1 project, we ought to monitor its success and see if it has  
2 feasibility in other areas of the state.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: I will note that it does have endorsement  
4 or recommendations from both the Science Panel and the Science  
5 Coordinator.

6 I do want to know what that extra \$14 is for, because  
7 what I have is 29,500 -- and I'm kidding.

8 MS. WANG: Lunch.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Any other discussion?

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR BRUNE: I'll call the question. All those in favor  
12 say, "Aye."

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

20 And we will now go next to Ocean Acidification Sampling  
21 Project 20200127.

22 MS. WANG: And that is on page 193 of your work plan.  
23 The principal investigators are Jeff Hetrick, Rob Campbell,  
24 Steve Baird, and Wiley Evans. This project proposes to  
25 incorporate ocean acidification sampling at existing sampling

1 sites that are part of the Council-funded Gulf Watch Alaska  
2 program.

3           These data would offer a broader understanding of ocean  
4 acidification in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet, and  
5 document any changes over time. Ocean acidification has  
6 potentially detrimental effects on shellfish populations, which  
7 has an impact on subsistence communities.

8           The project was previously funded by two years -- for two  
9 years by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and carried out by the  
10 Chugach Regional Resources Commission. The BIA funding was for  
11 a landscape conservation grant, which was only a two-year grant.

12           CRRC is requesting funds to continue sampling in areas  
13 previously funded by BIA for three years, starting in FY20.  
14 This would enable CRRC to continue with the original goal of a  
15 region-wide sampling program, providing a link from open ocean  
16 sampling to near-shore and intertidal areas.

17           This project would leverage existing Gulf Watch Alaska  
18 sampling sites. Data from this project will also be used by  
19 Prince William Sound Science Center researchers who are  
20 investigating the dynamics of plankton populations near the  
21 sampling site.

22           If this project is funded, the PIs will work with the  
23 data management team to submit data according to Council  
24 timelines and the PIs are aware of the Council reporting  
25 requirements.

1           The recommendation is a fund decision for this project.  
2   Comments or questions?

3           CHAIR BRUNE:  Trustee Council -- hello, there it is.  
4   Trustee Council members, any comments or questions?

5           COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:  Could we get Mr. Hetrick up  
6   here to give his perspective on this?

7           CHAIR BRUNE:  And just for the record, if you could say  
8   your name and.....

9           MR. HETRICK:  Yeah, my name -- my name is Jeff Hetrick.  
10  I'm the Director of Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery and the  
11  Ocean Acidification Lab in Seward.  We started monitoring ocean  
12  acidification in Resurrection Bay about seven years ago.  We're  
13  the longest long-term monitoring program in Alaska, and we found  
14  some levels that are curious in Seward, and then we applied for  
15  a grant, received funding to look at ocean acidification around  
16  Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet with our communities,  
17  which we've continued since then.

18           Those include Valdez, Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Eyak,  
19  Qutekcak, and Seward, Seldovia, Nanwalek, and Port Graham, and  
20  we've actually done some stuff in Homer, and so those are  
21  discrete samples that we -- we have (indiscernible) collected  
22  those samples, send them into our lab.  We process them and have  
23  a pretty extensive dataset developed so far.

24           Under that funding from BIA, we approached both the  
25  Prince William Sound Science Center and the Kachemak Bay

1 Estuarine Research Reserve and said, "Hey, we'll process these  
2 samples for you if you collect them," and they did, and so we  
3 have a couple of years of data. We did a couple more years, and  
4 so this funding would allow us to continue to utilize the Gulf  
5 Watch program to collect samples for us.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So how critical is an  
8 understanding of acidification to the shellfish industry?

9 MR. HETRICK: Well, it's very, very critical. We monitor  
10 that in the Shellfish Institute itself so we can adjust our  
11 chemistry using soda ash and things like that, but in a broader  
12 sense, you know, the lack of shellfish, all kinds of shellfish,  
13 hard -- hard shell clams and crustaceans, the stocks are  
14 devastated. We don't know why. We're not necessarily claiming  
15 ocean acidification is the cause, but this sure lends some  
16 evidence as to what's going on with the marine environment.

17 So we recently expanded our program to look at the beach.  
18 It's called pore sampling and the result of that today, even  
19 though it's just a year old, it's pretty alarming. We're  
20 finding really, really poor water quality in the beach  
21 substrates. So there might be some evidence there.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Further questions? Commissioner Vincent-  
24 Lang.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve funding of

1 \$34,300, which includes GA for FY20 funding of the Ocean  
2 Acidification Sampling Project 20200127, proposal dated August  
3 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a motion on the floor. Is there a  
5 second?

6 MS. POKON: (Indiscernible).

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon with the second. Commissioner  
8 Vincent-Lang.

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I think understanding the  
10 effects of ocean acidification on shellfish in the spill  
11 affected area is critical and also, in understanding that it's  
12 going to be critical toward understanding (indiscernible)  
13 opportunities in these areas.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Further discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I also note that it's a  
16 project that approved by both the Science Panel and the Science  
17 Coordinator.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Any other discussion?

19 (No audible response)

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we'll call the question.  
21 Those in favor say, "Aye."

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

2 (No audible response)

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

4 The next items -- items on the list, there was some  
5 discussion -- just in full disclosure, I know that some of the  
6 PIs are in the room and we do want to hear from them. However,  
7 the full proposals have not been -- the revised proposal for the  
8 next one has not been reviewed by the Science Panel. So that is  
9 something that I believe we're going to want to have occur  
10 before we move forward on this.

11 I talked to a number of the Trustees about that, so --  
12 but because Tuula is here, I want to give that opportunity to  
13 have that discussion and if we have further questions, then  
14 we'll be likely remanding that, or whatever the word is, back to  
15 the Science Panel for discussion.

16 Shiway, to you.

17 MS. WANG: Okay, great. Thank you, Chairman. The last  
18 three non-program projects start on page 195 of the program or  
19 the work plan. These are the three marine bird projects that  
20 propose to update information on the status and trends of the  
21 injured seabird species that have not recovered from the spill.  
22 These are the marbled murrelet, Kittlitz's murrelets and pigeon  
23 guillemots.

24 So the initial recommendation for all three projects of  
25 the original proposal is a do not fund for FY20. This is based

1 on the suggestion that the monitoring of murrelets and pigeon  
2 guillemots to provide an updated recovery status on these  
3 species may be better served with a submission of a more  
4 tailored and integrated proposal at a future date.

5           However, there was individual Trustee interest to review  
6 a revised proposal for one of these projects, which I will now  
7 discuss. Starting on page 195 of the work plan is Revised  
8 Project 20200128, Status and Trends of Marbled Murrelets,  
9 Kittlitz's Murrelets, and Pigeon Guillemot in a Changing  
10 Northern Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem.

11           The proposal was viewed as the strongest out of the three  
12 marine bird studies submitted. The study.....

13           MR. WACKOWSKI: (Indiscernible).....

14           CHAIR BRUNE: Mr. Wackowski.

15           MR. WACKOWSKI: Before we go in and discuss the merits of  
16 the next three proposals, I do want to raise a couple of issues  
17 that I have in particular with process and as far as the Science  
18 Panel goes. Overall, my recommendation to the Trustees is going  
19 to be to defer these to review of the Science Panel and I'm sure  
20 we'll talk about this at the end of the meeting, but you know,  
21 with the possibility of us reconvening early next year or so, we  
22 may be able to get some work done in calendar year 2020, but I  
23 do -- it was raised to me -- so I've gotten support staff from  
24 our Solicitor's Office, our lawyers, and the Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service that helps inform me on all these projects, but in

1 particular, in working with ADF&G, Trustee Lang and I had talked  
2 through kind of the need and the requirements for this, and it  
3 was brought to my attention that we may not feel like we got a  
4 fair shake from the Science Panel on this for a couple of  
5 reasons.

6 One -- and I asked a question early on in public comment,  
7 if we call project proponents or PIs to get feedback from the  
8 Science Committee. None of my people were afforded the  
9 opportunity -- sorry, none of the Fish and Wildlife Service PIs  
10 were afforded the opportunity to do a phone call and talk  
11 through their issues. Again, this is what they claimed to me.

12 We also have concerns -- they walked me through an  
13 analysis of kind of bird biology versus fish biology and they  
14 felt that fish projects get different treatment than bird  
15 biology projects.

16 They didn't assign any motives for that, but they did  
17 say, "Hey, the Science Panel doesn't have any avian biologists  
18 on it. It is just purely fish biologists. So maybe they  
19 understand more about the proposals. We don't think we're  
20 getting a fair shake," and then the other issue of -- actually,  
21 those are the two main issues I had.

22 I also wanted to ask, this follow-up information, PI  
23 response, is this public yet?

24 MS. WANG: No, but it will be.

25 MR. WACKOWSKI: Great.

1 MS. WANG: It will be updated in the draft work plan.

2 MR. WACKOWSKI: So I want to make sure that's public,  
3 because I want our people to get feedback, but I do want you to,  
4 you know, if, in fact, we do not have an avian biologist on the  
5 Science Panel, I did talk to Commissioner Schmid and they've got  
6 plenty, I would ask that we get an avian biologist onto our  
7 Science Panel to review said -- I guess I should ask the  
8 question first; Do we have an avian biologist on the Science  
9 Panel?

10 MS. WANG: We don't, but I am a long-term seabird  
11 biologist before I started this position, so.....

12 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay.

13 MS. HSIEH: So Shiway has a Master's, I believe, in  
14 seabird.....

15 MS. WANG: I have a Master's in Marine Biology that  
16 focused on foraging ecology of seabirds in the Gulf of Alaska  
17 and Bering Sea.

18 MR. WACKOWSKI: Great.

19 MS. HSIEH: And we -- and you also have a Ph.D.

20 MS. WANG: And I have a Ph.D. in Marine Biology in  
21 ecosystem foraging (indiscernible - speaking  
22 simultaneously).....

23 MS. HSIEH: Then we.....

24 MR. WACKOWSKI: Right, well, again, but back to the  
25 point, my scientists, who are all pretty dedicated public

1 servants,.....

2 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: .....didn't feel like they got a fair  
4 shake. I'm willing to chalk that up to communication errors and  
5 shortfalls. It was raised, the point that they didn't get a  
6 chance to do any phone calls with the Science Panel to talk  
7 through some of their issues.

8 So I would just encourage us to, A) make sure we get an  
9 avian biologist on the Science -- so are you part of the Review  
10 Panel or are you just the overseer?

11 MS. WANG: No, I am part of -- I mean, I have.....

12 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay.

13 MS. WANG: I give you guys the funding recommendations.

14 MR. WACKOWSKI: Just help me understand who builds  
15 that.....

16 MS. HSIEH: So.....

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: .....Science Panel? Hold on, Elise. Who  
18 builds that Science Panel?

19 MS. WANG: Our office does. Is that correct?

20 MS. HSIEH: That's correct. So we actually wouldn't take  
21 an on-staff agency scientist and put them on the Science Panel  
22 to review their own agency's proposals. However, we do often  
23 have retired agency biologists. We try and have a broad spread.  
24 We're more than happy to add. We actually have one of our  
25 members who is an ecologist, I believe retiring. So I'm happy

1 to hear of some names of retired or currently not serving in a  
2 trust agency position.

3 MR. WACKOWSKI: Well.....

4 MS. HSIEH: And also, we don't call all of the project  
5 PIs. We only call -- we have three brief calls with the head of  
6 the programs to just run through any sort of (indiscernible)  
7 because they're in charge of so many projects. We'll call and  
8 ask very brief questions, but elongated discussions about the  
9 merits of the project are done in the document that you see  
10 there, which will be in the work plan for any project.

11 MR. WACKOWSKI: Okay, so the fundamental problem still  
12 lies. There's been a question in our process. I would like us  
13 to take a second look. The reason why Commissioner Schmid had  
14 said he's got some available, because I don't believe the Forest  
15 Service has any PIs on this.

16 We can -- we can talk. I would like to understand the  
17 process of the Science Panel, as well. So it would be good to  
18 at least communicate that to us on who we're looking at and how  
19 that's constituted, and with that, I want to save you some time.  
20 The next three projects, 128, 129, and 130, if the Trustees are  
21 okay with it, I'd move that we defer making any motions on  
22 funding those projects until the Science Panel -- and then  
23 hopefully, the PAC will have a chance to review those as well,  
24 to defer those to a time for our next meeting.

25 MS. HSIEH: And just for clarification, Shiway's

1 recommendation is to fund the first project in its revised form,  
2 even though the Science Project hasn't seen it, they have  
3 acknowledged that it was the strongest of the three, and also  
4 had acknowledged the science was excellent. They were very  
5 interested in it, but thought that some of the budgets were  
6 large and suggested tailoring down to what may produce the data,  
7 whereas cutting some of the fat off the projects, but of course,  
8 the Trustees can fund all three, as is.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: So right now, we have a motion on the  
10 floor. Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I second it.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: So the motion and the second to defer  
13 funding for those three -- Mr. Wackowski, would you like to  
14 speak to your motion further?

15 MR. WACKOWSKI: No, I understand we may discuss  
16 reconvening, you know, early on next year and so defer it until  
17 the first available public meeting that we have.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So we have some bird experts,  
20 too, in Fish and Game, and we're not involved in these projects  
21 and we would be glad to offer some expertise. I think, as long  
22 as the recommendation is deferral and it goes back to the  
23 Science Committee that's going to be expanded to include some  
24 additional avian experts and bring it back to us at our next  
25 meeting, would be great. I support that.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Further discussion on the motion that's on  
2 the floor?

3 MR. SCHMID: As do I, similar to Commissioner Vincent-  
4 Lang.

5 MS. HSIEH: We also have a process that has happened with  
6 a lot of technological projects where we have had agency staff  
7 also review projects and in fact, you can ask your staff to at  
8 any time, and then they submit written comments for us that we  
9 can also add in the work plan and circulate to the other  
10 Trustees.

11 So with regard to these projects, Trustee Vincent-Lang  
12 and Trustee Schmid, if you would go ahead and communicate with  
13 Shiway Wang or give the names of your staff to Shiway. She can  
14 send them the proposals and all of the comments from the Science  
15 Panel and PIs, and we're more than happy to have their written  
16 comments back.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Wackowski.

18 MR. WACKOWSKI: I just don't want to argue in a public  
19 forum, but that's expressly why I'm having this conversation,  
20 because I had my agency staff analyze, not only ours and the  
21 fish based proposals, and she laid it out for me pretty clear,  
22 you know, but maybe we'll take another hack at it and I'll make  
23 sure it's public record, but that's fine, and I want to make  
24 sure we coordinate, but again, can we take a vote on my motion,  
25 so we can move on?

1 CHAIR BRUNE: There is still discussion occurring.  
2 Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: No, I just want the authors  
4 of these things to realize they're deferred. We're not voting  
5 no on them. So at the end of the day, you know, these bird  
6 species are a species that have been impacted by the oil spill,  
7 and we're interested in trying to find a path forward here.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: And I guess I would add then, as a follow-  
9 up to that, that I know some of them are in the crowd and so if  
10 they wanted the opportunity to speak to that, I think we should  
11 afford them that opportunity, but we do -- let's all do that  
12 after we take the vote on the motion.

13 If there's no further discussion, the motion is to defer  
14 these three projects for future review by the Science Panel,  
15 which is likely to be update, is what I've heard, and for us to  
16 consider at a future meeting. Go ahead, Dr. Balsiger.

17 DR. BALSIGER: Well, first, I'm wondering what happens if  
18 we vote against it, because if it's unanimous, so that would  
19 fail, where are we? No, that's a joke, but I really want -- but  
20 it does interests me and others, but what I wanted to confirm is  
21 that -- excuse me, what I wanted to confirm that any -- this  
22 deferred meeting is intended to happen in time that the 2020  
23 work could be done.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, correct.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 DR. BALSIGER: Okay, thank you.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: I believe that our hope is that we can have  
3 a February meeting, and I don't know if that's sufficient  
4 timing. I guess I would like input from the PIs, because  
5 obviously, I know they have to get boats,.....

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Contracts.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: .....contracts, those types of things. Is  
8 February sufficient time for a decision?

9 MS. WANG: Tuula's saying yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We don't usually get our funds  
11 until February anyway. So well.....

12 COURT REPORTER: Please get to a mic.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was just thinking out loud.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: The statement was that they don't usually  
15 get their funds until February anyway, but obviously, often  
16 times, contractors know there's a fill-up and they have to  
17 reserve those in advance. So we did ask one PI, and February  
18 would work for them. I think in the absence of hearing any --  
19 nothing different, that's -- that appears that, Dr. Balsiger,  
20 they -- that would be sufficient.

21 Okay, any other discussion?

22 (No audible response)

23 CHAIR BRUNE: All those in favor say, "Aye."

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

4 (No audible response)

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the three projects are  
6 deferred.

7 I guess then, I would like to, as I suggested, offer the  
8 opportunity to have Tuula or any other PIs, if they have things  
9 that they wanted to share with the Trustees? Not to put you on  
10 the spot, but if you wanted to, knowing that it has been  
11 deferred.

12 MS. HOLLMEN: Thank you for the opportunity to speak and  
13 be here to answer questions, and I think at this point, I don't  
14 have anything to add, but I'm happy to provide answers at any  
15 stage of the process, as needed. Thank you.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Tuula. Any questions for her?

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIR BRUNE: I guess I'll ask the will of the Trustees;  
19 do we want to go into detail on any of these or do we want to  
20 put these out forward to a future meeting? I mean, do we want  
21 to hear anything about them, even though, given that we've  
22 deferred it, do we want to hear discussion about them?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I've read the proposals and  
25 I'm comfortable with the recommendation to defer them and move

1 forward.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, good. Well, we will then, I guess go  
3 onto -- that finishes agenda Item 8., I believe, and we will go  
4 onto Habitat Enhancement Projects, agenda Item 9., Lauri Adams.

5 MS. ADAMS: All right, I'm hoping it's on. Can you hear  
6 me? Perfect. Okay, so on the habitat portion of the Council's  
7 agenda, there are basically two types of projects and -- closer,  
8 okay, and the first are the Habitat Enhancement Projects, which  
9 are under agenda Item 9., and second, would be the Habitat  
10 Protection Parcels, which are under agenda Item 10., and all of  
11 these, they're in the detailed materials in order that they  
12 appear in the agenda, and I will just give a very quick intro to  
13 each project and then see if there's questions or more detail  
14 that the Council wants.

15 So I'm going to start with the habitat enhancement  
16 projects, and the first one on the agenda is a reauthorization  
17 of a previously approved funding for the Copper River Watershed  
18 Enhancement Project, and I think Elise mentioned that a little  
19 bit earlier.

20 This was one that was approved in 2018 for a total of a  
21 little over \$8 million. The majority of the funds have already  
22 been released. Work is actively proceeding, removing and  
23 replacing non-functioning culverts along the Copper River  
24 Highway in the Copper River Delta that have been identified as  
25 having the most significant impacts impeding passage of fish and

1 nutrients to upstream spawning and rearing habitat for  
2 anadromous fish.

3 The project is proceeding on time and on schedule and the  
4 budget hasn't changed from the original proposal. The  
5 reauthorization request is for \$3.8 million of the original  
6 amount, and that's a routine reauthorization request under the  
7 Council's procedures in order to complete the project. Are  
8 there any questions on that one?

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, Lauri, so that -- just to be sure,  
10 4.2 million has been spent and there's -- if it was eight  
11 million, 3.8 remaining, and we're reauthorizing that total  
12 amount?

13 MS. ADAMS: We don't -- the majority has been released  
14 already, so the.....

15 CHAIR BRUNE: When you say.....

16 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.....

17 CHAIR BRUNE: .....the majority, is that 4.2 million,  
18 because if it was an \$8 million project, and we're.....

19 MS. ADAMS: I see what you're saying, yes.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: .....reauthorizing 3.8, when you say the  
21 majority, that.....

22 MS. ADAMS: Can I do that addition? Is that right, 4.2?

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, 4.2 plus 3.8 is eight. So I'm just  
24 wanted to make sure.

25 MS. HSIEH: Yeah, there's been -- there's been two

1 amounts released, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 released \$831,398 and the Court  
2 Notice 71, dated December 26, 2018 released \$3,520,235. The  
3 amount of the reauthorization remaining is \$3,800,437.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay.

5 MS. ADAMS: The answer to your question is yes.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes, thank you.

7 MS. ADAMS: I did the math while she was doing that.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you.

9 MS. ADAMS: So the reauthorization is for 3.800 -- you  
10 know, it's the number that you have in your materials, 3.8  
11 million.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Trustee Schmid.

13 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, just a comment, I had the -- been --  
14 had the ability to actually go out and look at these projects on  
15 the ground and really just want to make sure we fully support  
16 these projects. They've made a big difference in fish passage  
17 along the Copper River Delta and I think have been implemented  
18 on a good investment.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Was that a motion?

20 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I would move to reauthorize or  
21 authorize the continued funding for this project.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got to use the words.

23 MR. SCHMID: I have to -- I've got to use these words.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got to use the words.

25 Right there.

1 MR. SCHMID: Sorry. Thank you. I move we reauthorize  
2 \$3,800,437, which includes GA for the Copper River Watershed  
3 Enhancement Project 18180120, proposal updated June 2019.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a motion. Is there a second?

5 DR. BALSIGER: Second.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Balsiger seconds it. Would you like to  
7 further speak to your motion, Trustee Schmid?

8 MR. SCHMID: I have nothing more to add than I support  
9 the project.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I'll note that this project  
12 was approved or recommended for consideration by the Science  
13 Panel and Science Coordinator.

14 MS. HSIEH: I don't think the Science Panel actually.....

15 CHAIR BRUNE: I don't think so. I'm looking at it.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: No?

17 MS. HSIEH: This isn't the type of project the Science  
18 Panel reviews, but.....

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

20 MS. HSIEH: But I would say that.....

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I must have looked at the  
22 wrong one.

23 MS. HSIEH: Sorry, that's okay. I'm sure they would if  
24 they could. These water.....

25 CHAIR BRUNE: That comment will be stricken from the

1 record.

2 MS. ADAMS: This project was developed with the expertise  
3 of multiple agencies, including, I think, ADOT/PF, along with  
4 Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, somebody else  
5 (indiscernible).....

6 MS. HSIEH: These, actually, I believe these culverts --  
7 and Erika is here.

8 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, (indiscernible - speaking  
9 simultaneously). Erika is here.

10 MS. HSIEH: We're on a priority list for years and years,  
11 and had language without any funding to.....

12 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: If I'm correct, if I remember  
13 right, reading through all this stuff here, that it was  
14 originally reviewed. The project was originally reviewed by the  
15 Science Committee.

16 MS. HSIEH: Shiway, do you want to look at the work plan?  
17 I don't think so. It's in the work plan, but I don't think it  
18 was reviewed by them.

19 MS. WANT: Yeah, I don't think it was.

20 MS. HSIEH: At any rate, the PAC in past years and  
21 Trustees have resoundingly supported this project and we've  
22 received a lot of positive comment. Because a lot of these  
23 watershed culverts and fish passages would not be otherwise  
24 receiving funding.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Any further discussion from Trustee

1 Council? Dr. Balsiger.

2 DR. BALSIGER: I also visited them last summer and I  
3 agree it's (indiscernible) good work.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Any other comments?

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIR BRUNE: And we'll call the question. Those in  
7 favor of the motion say, "Aye."

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

13 (No audible response)

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

15 We will now go to the next continuing project.

16 MS. ADAMS: Okay, so there are two, what we call  
17 continuing habitat enhancement projects, and all that really  
18 means is that the same kind of work has been occurring, and so  
19 these proposals are coming in for money for FY20 for work that  
20 they have been doing in previous years, basically.

21 So the first one is the Alaska State Parks Outreach  
22 Project. It's a small project. Over the past few years, at the  
23 request of the Council, ADNR has produced numerous public  
24 outreach and educational products, including traveling,  
25 informational, and display panels and kiosks at venues in the

1 spill region and installations at recreational sites previously  
2 protected with EVOSTC funds, and the current proposal would  
3 continue this same work of producing educational interpretive  
4 displays for installation at additional state recreation sites  
5 to educate the public about the spill, its impacts, the  
6 Council's work to mitigate those impacts through restoration and  
7 enhancement projects benefitting injured species and services.

8 The requested funding for this one, for FY20 is 49,100,  
9 and specific tasks will be identified by the EVOSTC office.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Any questions? Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move that we defer this  
12 project for the next meeting.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

14 MS. POKON: I'll second.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon seconds. Is there any  
16 discussion?

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, we'll call the question. All those  
19 in favor of deferring this project until the next meeting say,  
20 "Aye."

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

1 (No audible response)

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the project is deferred until  
3 the next meeting.

4 Next agenda item is the Kenai Watershed Forum Stream  
5 Watch program.

6 MS. ADAMS: Yes, correct. So the Kenai Watershed Forum  
7 Stream Watch project is a three-year non-profit project to  
8 organize, train and deploy the efforts of the grassroots  
9 volunteer corp each summer to conduct habitat restoration and  
10 protection work on the Kenai Peninsula.

11 They complete debris cleanup projects and undertake  
12 public education efforts on the most heavily used rivers and  
13 stream mouths of the southern Kenai Peninsula.

14 The Kenai Watershed Forum is a well-established nonprofit  
15 organization with 24 years of volunteer operations on the Kenai  
16 Peninsula and it works in close cooperation with the state and  
17 federal resource agencies to carry out its restoration work,  
18 which includes things like installing and maintaining the  
19 stream-side protective fencing in the summer, restoring stream  
20 banks through banks revetment and re-planting projects, removal  
21 of debris and fishing line that causes barriers to fish passage  
22 or migratory bird entrapment, and by providing positive  
23 educational interaction with the public, encouraging good river  
24 stewardship.

25 The proposal for continuing the funding follows two

1 successful summers of their work on the Kasilof, Ninilchik, and  
2 Anchor Rivers, and Deep Creek, which were funded by the Council  
3 in 2017, and this year's funding request is for a total of  
4 \$102,906.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Questions on this project? Commissioner  
6 Vincent-Lang.

7 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move that we defer action  
8 on this proposal to our next meeting.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

10 MS. POKON: Second.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon with the second. Is there any  
12 discussion?

13 (No audible response)

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Those in favor of -- hearing none, those in  
15 favor of deferring action on the Kenai Watershed Forum proposal  
16 say, "Aye."

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

21 (No audible response)

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

23 The next project is.....

24 MS. ADAMS: The next project is a new enhancement project  
25 by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Parks

1 Division, but it's similar to work that they have carried out in  
2 the past using EVOSTC funds and other funds, and so Alaska State  
3 Parks has submitted three new habitat enhancement and  
4 recreational access improvement projects for FY20, which would  
5 be constructed at different State Park units on the Kenai  
6 Peninsula, and the agency, as I said, has successfully completed  
7 several of these in the past, which has resulted in protection  
8 of the river and a better management and funneling of human use  
9 to protect the resources of the river, but still allow public  
10 recreation and fishing, which is what we all like to do.

11 Detailed site plans for each of the new projects are in  
12 the meeting materials and I'll just very quickly tell you, the  
13 first one is at -- that is in their list for this year is the  
14 Diamond Creek State Recreation Site near Homer. It's a project  
15 to construct a 25-vehicle parking area, a trailhead, scenic  
16 viewpoint, where presently there's uncontrolled access and  
17 parking occurring along a rough entrance road and trail down to  
18 a beach to Kachemak Bay.

19 The project also includes a vaulted toilet, an  
20 orientation kiosk, live interpretive panels, and a host cabin to  
21 facilitate proactive State Parks management at the site.

22 The concept plan for all the improvements is included in  
23 your meeting materials. The project is to be constructed on a  
24 parcel previously purchased with EVOSTC funds for habitat  
25 protection and public recreational opportunities.

1           The funding request for this project is 2,106,500, and  
2 there are three -- so if you give me two more minutes, I'll just  
3 hit the other two that are in this one proposal from State  
4 Parks.

5           So numbers two and three, the other two enhancement  
6 projects in the State Park's proposal are for the Izaak Walton  
7 and Slikok Creek State Recreation Sites, both of which are in  
8 the corridor of the Kenai River Special Management Area.

9           Both projects are riverbank protection projects involving  
10 restoration of impacted riverbanks, construction of new elevated  
11 light-penetrating walkways and sets of stairs to the river,  
12 which will help redirect people off the riverbank and enable  
13 better management of public use, while still allowing access in  
14 the future. Educational and informational panels at each site  
15 are also part of these proposals.

16           For Izaak Walton, the funding request is 436,000, and for  
17 Slikok Creek Project, the request is 654,000. The total for all  
18 three of the projects is 3,106,500, and the Chief Engineer from  
19 State Parks is available here, if anyone has questions about any  
20 of these.

21           CHAIR BRUNE: Are there questions from Trustee Council  
22 members?

23           (No audible response)

24           CHAIR BRUNE: Is one of these related to the Bookey  
25 parcel or is that a separate enhancement project?

1 MS. ADAMS: It's a separate project, but it would also  
2 come under the enhancement rubric, get separated out because it  
3 also requires a purchase of a parcel, in order to put the  
4 enhancement on it. So it's like two more down on your agenda.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: No, no, I get that. So I'm wondering -- is  
6 for the Bookey parcel that's listed, is the enhancement for the  
7 Bookey parcel included in this?

8 MS. ADAMS: No. No, that's separate.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: It's -- well, that -- okay, so that's  
10 separate from this one, okay.

11 MS. ADAMS: These three are at those sites, at -- that I  
12 mentioned.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: They're separate, separate from Bookey?

14 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you.

16 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Other questions by Trustee Council members?  
18 Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move that we defer action  
20 on this proposal to our next meeting.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a motion to defer. Is there a  
22 second?

23 MS. POKON: Second.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon with a second. Is there any  
25 discussion.

1           COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I have moved to defer  
2 action on these three proposals largely because as new State  
3 Trustees, and I think there's three of us as new State Trustees,  
4 we have not had an ample opportunity to kind of review where --  
5 the course of action that we want to go in the future, in terms  
6 of these types of projects. So we're simply deferring them and  
7 we're not making a decision at this point in time whether we're  
8 going to move forward with -- how we're going to move forward on  
9 these kinds of projects, but we're simply deferring them until  
10 we have that chance to talk.

11           MS. ADAMS: Okay.

12           CHAIR BRUNE: Any other discussion?

13           (No audible response)

14           CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we'll call the question. All  
15 those in favor say, "Aye."

16           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

17           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

18           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

19           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

20           CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

21           (No audible response)

22           CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion to defer carries.

23           We will now go to agenda Item 10., I believe, that's  
24 where we're at, Lauri?

25           MS. ADAMS: Yes, that was the end of.....

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Is that Habitat Protection Parcels.

2 MS. ADAMS: Yes.

3 MS. HSIEH: Do you want Lauri to do a full presentation  
4 of each item?

5 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

6 MS. HSIEH: I mean, if you guys have a sense that there's  
7 items on the agenda that you need more time with.....

8 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah, can I answer that?

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes.

10 MR. WACKOWSKI: So my understanding is that we may move  
11 to defer most of these. I do want to point out that the Kenai  
12 Bookey parcel -- I've been in contact with the Bureau of Indian  
13 Affairs, which fall under my department. There is a timing  
14 component that's critical to that because we've got -- it's a  
15 Native allotment. We've got realty services out to chime in, so  
16 I would ask that if we do defer all of these, at least we  
17 consider this Bookey parcel as there's a critical timing to put  
18 it with (indiscernible) all this.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee Wackowski.

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I move that we defer  
21 action on the Ouzinkie property, the Kenai Peninsula small  
22 parcels project.....

23 MS. ADAMS: There are three Kenai projects and two.....

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: And -- and -- yeah, those  
25 two.

1 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, yeah.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: I'm sorry, so what I'm seeing on my agenda,  
3 you've moved deferral of the Ouzinkie property.....

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: The Kenai Peninsula small  
5 parcels.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: And the Kenai Peninsula small parcels, that  
7 has three?

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yes.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, is there a second on that?

10 MR. SCHMID: (Indiscernible).

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Mr. Schmid with the second. Is there any  
12 discussion?

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Again, we're deferring action  
14 on these because I -- we haven't decided on a course of action  
15 as a state yet, how we want to proceed on habitat purchases into  
16 the future. So again, this isn't making a judgement on the  
17 value of these by deferring them. It's simply giving us an  
18 opportunity to talk about them regarding strategy.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Further discussion?

20 (No audible response)

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, those in favor of deferring  
22 those two projects say, "Aye."

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

3 (No audible response)

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, those two projects are  
5 deferred and now, if Lauri, you could discuss the Bookey parcel,  
6 please.

7 MS. ADAMS: Okay, so the final habitat program project is  
8 the Eagle Rock boat launch expansion and purchase of the Bookey  
9 parcel. The project has two parts. The first being the  
10 purchase of the property that is immediately adjacent to the  
11 existing Eagle Rock boat launch. The parcel is approximately  
12 34.8 acres fronting on the Kenai River and right next to the  
13 boat launch at about Mile 11.

14 It's owned by the Bookeys, and as Steve pointed out, it  
15 is also a Native allotment. So the purchase requires BIA's  
16 approval, as well as the landowners.

17 The funding request for the purchase of the Bookey parcel  
18 is 2.3 million. That's just for the purchase of the property.  
19 State Parks wishes to acquire the Bookey parcel in order to  
20 expand and improve access to the Eagle Rock boat launch, which  
21 is a State Park's run recreational boating facility.

22 A draft site plan, which is in the meeting materials,  
23 contemplates a new safer turnout and access road from the Kenai  
24 Spur Highway to the boat launch and also 65 new parking spaces  
25 on the Bookey parcel to supplement parking at the boat launch

1 itself, because there's a lot of overcrowding going on there.

2 The additional parking is intended to move the overflow  
3 parking that's occurring on the Spur Highway to the parcel, and  
4 it also includes toilets, educational and informational panels.

5 State Parks is actually interested in a future possible  
6 visitor center on the property, but that is not part of this  
7 funding proposal. The riverbank and wetlands adjacent to the  
8 riverbank would be protected from increased human impacts with  
9 elevated walkways and sets of stairs to control and manage human  
10 use, and also, I think floating docks that the boaters could tie  
11 up to, while they're waiting to use the boat launch that's right  
12 next door.

13 So the funding request for the proposed enhancements is  
14 6.4 million, and together, to purchase the property and  
15 accomplish the enhancements, the funding request is -- it's  
16 basically 8.7 million, the exact number is in your materials, so  
17 8.7 million for both pieces of it.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Are there any questions for Lauri?

19 (No audible response)

20 CHAIR BRUNE: I will add that we do have Parks Director  
21 Ricky Gease in the room if there are any specific questions from  
22 Trustee Council members.

23 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I do have a question. So  
24 my understanding is that if we were to defer on this, we  
25 potentially lose the ability to purchase this site?

1 MS. ADAMS: I think the issue, and Ricky may want to say  
2 something about this, I think the issue in the timing is more  
3 about what's going on on the Spur Highway, because I think it's  
4 DOT or DOT/PF, I guess, is making some significant changes to  
5 the highway this year and next year, and that will eliminate the  
6 ability of people that are now parking -- if you see the photos  
7 in the materials, that are now parking right on the highway to  
8 park there.

9 So it's going to become a really huge mess, and as Ricky  
10 points out, a safety concern. So I think the timing issue was  
11 to try to dovetail as much as possible with that, so that, you  
12 know, that this new off the highway area would be available  
13 sooner rather than later.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I guess I misunderstood  
16 what Steve was saying then earlier.

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yeah, so our realty folks, they have to  
18 do the series of concurrences, because I think theirs are now --  
19 the parcel's got descendants and so my understanding is that  
20 they've got kind of concurrences from all the descendants, but  
21 we've had a kind of a history of sometimes minds changing and  
22 so, you know, one getting the process started and the other  
23 concern is some of these transactions, the BA, it's taken them  
24 like decades. So we've got some motivated staff that can, I  
25 think, turn this transaction on our end quickly.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: I will just add to my friend from the  
2 Department of Interior, having worked at CIRI before, I can say  
3 there's an inherent racism to government having to say whether  
4 or not a Native allotment can be sold or not. I think that's  
5 something that maybe -- maybe can be changed, but that's not for  
6 this meeting.

7 Okay, Commissioner Vincent-Lang.

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: You're looking at me to make  
9 motions, aren't you?

10 CHAIR BRUNE: You have the script.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Commissioner -- Trustee Pokon.

12 MS. POKON: This is a long one, man. I move we approve  
13 funding as of November 1, 2019, for the purchase of the Bookey  
14 parcel KEN 4018, interest in land at fair market value,  
15 established by an approved appraisal, and the total cost of  
16 which, including due diligence and closing costs, not to exceed  
17 two-point -- 2,300,000.

18 The purchase is further conditioned upon, first, due  
19 diligence reports, which are acceptable to the Alaska Department  
20 of Natural Resources, US Department of Interior Solicitor's  
21 Office, and the Alaska Department of Law, and second, provided  
22 that the EVOS Trustee Council Executive Director, in  
23 consultation with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, US  
24 Department of Interior Solicitor's Office and Alaska Department  
25 of Law determines that it is in the interest of the Council to

1 move forward with the purchase of the interest in that parcel.

2 Authorization of funding for the purchase of interest in  
3 the parcel shall terminate if a purchase agreement is not  
4 executed by May 1, 2021.

5 MS. HSIEH: That's it.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: There is -- do we need two separate  
7 motions?

8 MS. HSIEH: You will need the second motion, which is  
9 included there. It's with regard to the improvement project of  
10 the Bookey.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Got it.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that.....

13 MS. HSIEH: I don't.....

14 CHAIR BRUNE: But there's a motion on the floor. Is  
15 there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Second.

17 COURT REPORTER: Who -- who seconded?

18 CHAIR BRUNE: There's a second. Would you like to -- the  
19 second was Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang.

20 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: So there was a second from Commissioner  
22 Vincent-Lang, for those of you on the phone.

23 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I think that.....

24 CHAIR BRUNE: (Indiscernible - speaking  
25 simultaneously).....

1 MR. SCHMID: .....answered my clarifying question, was  
2 this both the enhancement and the land acquisition, but we're on  
3 two different -- so we're voting just on the land acquisition.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Just on the land acquisition, yes. Are  
5 there any other discussion on this issue?

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, I'll call the question. All  
7 those in favor of the acquisition of the Bookey parcel say,  
8 "Aye."

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

14 (No audible response)

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries, and we  
16 now have second item for discussion, and that is the habitat  
17 enhancements. Trustee Wackowski.

18 MS. HSIEH: These are -- I think they might be  
19 termed.....

20 MR. WACKOWSKI: I move we approve.....

21 MS. HSIEH: .....recreational enhancements, so.....

22 MR. WACKOWSKI: I move we approve up to \$6,419,010, which  
23 includes GA for FY20 funding and the (indiscernible) of our  
24 State Parks Eagle Rock facility improvement project on the  
25 Bookey parcel, proposal dated August 16, 2019.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: We have a motion on the floor. Is there a  
2 second.

3 MS. POKON: Second.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Emma Pokon with the second. Is there any  
5 discussion.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I'm amazed at how easily we  
7 can get to \$10.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: I find that humorous myself. Any other  
9 snarky comments? Sorry.

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing no snarky or other comments, I'll  
12 call the question. All those in favor say, "Aye."

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposition?

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

20 And that brings us to the end of our habitat protection  
21 discussion. Again, just for those of you that are in the room  
22 and online, we have deferred a number of those projects for  
23 future discussion at a forthcoming meeting.

24 Now we move to agenda Item 11. Alaska SeaLife Center with  
25 Shiway and Elise.

1 MS. HSIEH: Again, if this is an item that the new  
2 Trustees would prefer to defer, perhaps that would just be more  
3 expeditious or if you'd like to hear -- Shiway is prepared to  
4 speak to the different levels of funding that could be  
5 considered by the Trustees.

6 MR. WACKOWSKI: I'm actually okay with, yeah, deferring  
7 the discussion. I don't think we need the briefing. I did want  
8 to chime in, though, you know, a couple of the items that we  
9 deferred funding for, for instance, public outreach in the prior  
10 two -- I'm not -- I haven't been on as long as Jim, but this is  
11 my third Trustee Council meeting, you know, part of my vision or  
12 what we had agreed to was kind of stepping into a phase where we  
13 can educate the next generation about the -- how bad the spill  
14 was and how we can prevent it.

15 I do view Prince William Sound Science Center and Alaska  
16 SeaLife Center as absolutely critical to our mission of  
17 fulfilling that and so, in general, I'm a large supporter of  
18 this. I know we need to talk a little bit about this project  
19 amongst the Trustees, but I just want to be on record saying  
20 that I do support this and the thought of trying to provide some  
21 funding in perpetuity to get legacy science built out so places  
22 like the SeaLife Center and the Prince Williams Sound Science  
23 Center can thrive.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Are there -- is there a motion  
25 then? Trustee Schmid.

1           MR. SCHMID: No, I was just going to echo, there are some  
2 other projects, obviously, that I think merit the -- they are  
3 just deferred, and one of those that I was looking at  
4 specifically was the Kenai Watershed Forum Watch program. We've  
5 got a very successful program on the Kenai. I think this  
6 expands a lot of that work.

7           It's not that it's not good work, but I think we need to  
8 be able to come together and have more discussion on that  
9 (indiscernible).

10          CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. I don't think we've taken  
11 action yet on agenda Item 11., though, so is there a motion?

12          COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we defer action on the  
13 proposal to do maintenance at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

14          CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

15          MR. WACKOWSKI: Second.

16          CHAIR BRUNE: Steve Wackowski with a second, Trustee  
17 Wackowski. Is there discussion?

18          (No audible response)

19          CHAIR BRUNE: I want to put on the record, just for full  
20 disclosure, that I did serve on the SeaLife Center Board for  
21 around 10 years. I think it's important to have that noted for  
22 the record. I'm no longer affiliated with that organization,  
23 but I just want to be fully transparent.

24          There is a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

25          MS. HSIEH: Just one piece of housekeeping.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, go ahead.

2 MS. HSIEH: With regard to the three bird proposals,  
3 again.....

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Actually, before we go there, we're in the  
5 middle of a motion here. We can come to that.....

6 MS. HSIEH: I'm sorry.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: So any other discussion on the SeaLife  
8 Center motion to defer?

9 (No audible response)

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, all those in favor say,  
11 "Aye."

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Any opposed?

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the motion carries.

19 And Elise has housekeeping.

20 MS. HSIEH: Really quickly, with regard to the three bird  
21 proposals, if Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Trustee Schmid could  
22 put their staff in contact with Shiway, then we'll move quickly  
23 to have them review it.

24 We will also start looking for additional members for our  
25 Science Panel, which we had discussed as well. So you've had a

1 couple of retirements. We will also look for bird expertise.  
2 That would not happen before our next meeting, because if we do  
3 locate someone, which happens in our office, we try and pick  
4 people who are either retired or out of state, because we try  
5 and pick a peer review level. We kind of want to try and get  
6 out of the fish bowl of Alaska, but if we do have a name, that  
7 would be advanced in a budgetary -- annual budget revision at  
8 the next Trustee Council meeting, because any contract has to be  
9 approved by name in our budget. So that's just a formality,  
10 just to be clear about the process for those proposals, and  
11 that's it.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: With that, there's two things additionally  
13 that I would like to do, and I guess since I got pushed into  
14 this role of Chair, I have the mic. One thing I always do after  
15 meetings is see if there is any further public comment that --  
16 with the results of today, if there's things that people might  
17 want to add or statements for us as we go forth.

18 I know one of our goals that the Trustees have discussed  
19 is to get together on kind of a retreat to talk about what our  
20 long-term goals are, and bring more clarity for the public  
21 process and transparency. So we will be doing that. Our goal  
22 is to have another meeting, likely in February.

23 We heard the comments loud and clear today that there --  
24 we will make sure we communicate that with sufficient notice to  
25 the public, as well as if and when we do make any future calls

1 for proposals, we will make sure those calls are broadcasted far  
2 and wide and with sufficient notice, as well.

3 So that having been said, is there a desire for any  
4 public comment?

5 DR. BALSIGER: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes.

7 DR. BALSIGER: Sorry, here. I think I will ask this and  
8 the public -- but relative to -- I think you referred to two  
9 meetings. One is a retreat of Trustees and one is a decision-  
10 making meeting. I'm just wondering whether we have guidance  
11 about or concern that the public should know -- might be able to  
12 express about the Trustees meeting in private, and what our  
13 guidelines are on that front?

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, it's a great question. I am -- and  
15 thank you for asking that. It was one when we were having our  
16 briefing meetings, I was told that the Trustees have had  
17 retreats before or where they've gotten together.

18 MS. HSIEH: We have.....

19 CHAIR BRUNE: I don't know if there's FACA or other  
20 requirements to go along with that, but thank you, Dr. Balsiger,  
21 for bringing that question up.

22 MS. HSIEH: We -- I believe Emma and I have both reviewed  
23 the open meeting requirements for the Trustee Council recently,  
24 and in the past, consistent with our understanding of the  
25 requirements of the Trustee Council, we have had -- we

1 facilitate informal briefings.

2           Sometimes we've had all six. Sometimes we've had fewer.  
3 We have multiple of them. We've had many over the last six  
4 months, actually you may recall, to allow for informal  
5 discussion. No decisions are made. It's typically, we want to  
6 know more about this. What is this like? How did that work in  
7 the past, and so we have those frequently, but then it comes to  
8 the agenda and then the Trustees have to make a decision and ask  
9 final questions or see where they're really at, so.....

10           CHAIR BRUNE: And I would add, provide full opportunity  
11 for public engagement, public comment, and questioning.

12           MS. HSIEH: So yeah -- so actually, so what you'll see is  
13 we'll start to email you guys next week, because we will be  
14 looking to have a PAC meeting. There's a three-week notice, but  
15 we'll look, I guess like around January 15<sup>th</sup> or something like  
16 that, followed by a Trustee Council meeting sometime in  
17 February, as well.

18           So you'll see us trying to poll you and get the packet  
19 together to accommodate these different proposals.

20           CHAIR BRUNE: Dr. Balsiger, does that satisfy your  
21 question?

22           DR. BALSIGER: Yes, thank you for that.

23           MS. HSIEH: I would also note that this is my -- I have  
24 done, I think, 32 Trustee Council meetings and probably more  
25 than that with regard to Trustee briefings that are informal,

1 and the Trustees are very professional in avoiding reaching that  
2 final stage of discussion or coming to any sort of voting or  
3 anything like that.

4 I come from the Department of Law. I'm aware of the Open  
5 Meetings Act and I can say that I've been impressed by their  
6 ability to discuss informally, but know when to move it out and  
7 have the final stage.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. So with that, again, anyone in  
9 the room wishing to give a final public comment?

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Anyone online?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anybody on the phone?

13 (No audible response)

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, I will then go around the  
15 room and allow Trustees for final comments.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Thank you. This is an  
17 interesting experience, my first one, and I promise that I'll  
18 keep an open mind as I move forward, and I know if there's some  
19 disappointment probably with some of our deferrals, but we just  
20 need some additional time to think about how we want to address  
21 some of these issues in the longer-term. So thank you for your  
22 patience.

23 MR. SCHMID: Yes, ditto, my first meeting, as well. I am  
24 all about transparency and sometimes and sometimes there's  
25 perceived lack of transparency, but anything I and the others

1 can bring to this process, I'm certainly committed to do that  
2 going into the future, and that's why I'm comfortable, I guess,  
3 with deferring some of our efforts here to make sure that we've  
4 got a public advisory group in place to review those and that  
5 they fully get vetted before they come before a vote, so thank  
6 you.

7 MR. WACKOWSKI: Again, thank you for staying with us and  
8 I just wanted to reiterate what I said at the beginning of the  
9 meeting. You have our apology on behalf of the Department for  
10 not getting the PAC constituted soon enough to meet ahead of  
11 this meeting. We have enough for a quorum. We still have three  
12 more members we need to full -- fill, and you guys, the public  
13 and my fellow Trustees have my commitment to try and do that  
14 rapidly.

15 Unlike the Forest Service, we can't post federal register  
16 notices without like 38 people in D.C. looking at it. It's  
17 something I'm trying to fix while I'm here and I would, you  
18 know, like to thank the staff. I know I was pretty hard on you  
19 guys today. I do know that you are dedicated professionals and  
20 trying to get a hold of us is like herding cats to get input on  
21 weighing in on the agenda and even to try to get us on the phone  
22 or -- it is a challenge and we've all got pretty high pressure  
23 day jobs.

24 So I just think that we need to really try to go the  
25 extra mile to be transparent and open. I would encourage any of

1 you, you PIs, folks interested in land acquisitions or habitat  
2 enhancement, I'm on the third floor of Grace Hall. They're on  
3 the second. If you ever want to come talk to me, I've never  
4 turned down a meeting so far yet in this job as the Secretary  
5 Senior Advisor. I'm pretty open and accessible. I think my  
6 email is probably out there and public, but it's  
7 [Steve.Wackowski@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Steve.Wackowski@ios.doi.gov). I'd be happy to meet. If we've  
8 got concerns, let's walk downstairs, talk to Elise, make sure  
9 they're there and get it addressed before we get, you know,  
10 frustrations and accusations laid out. So we -- I just want to  
11 -- I'm going to take another step to try to go leap forward into  
12 that transparency. Thank you.

13 MS. POKON: Thank you. This is my first meeting, as  
14 well. I have to say I'm grateful for a lot of the work that the  
15 EVOSTC staff has put into pulling the meeting together and the  
16 support that you provide to the Trustees and the Science Panel,  
17 the work they do and the input they provide, and I think that  
18 the input from the PAC will be really valuable, as well.

19 So I'll echo the sentiments from Trustee Vincent-Lang  
20 that I recognize that there may be some wish to get some  
21 decisions on the deferred matters and we'll work toward an  
22 agreement, and thank you for everybody's time and coming and  
23 caring about the work that the Trustee Council does.

24 DR. BALSIGER: Yes, thanks for showing up. I think that  
25 the -- to me, the best things about these meetings, recognizing

1 that we don't really do much work and all the work is in the  
2 Science Panel and the PAC and the PIs that get hired, an  
3 enthusiasm is there, but the meeting, the best part is the  
4 public comments at the very beginning and often at the end. So  
5 I think that's where we learn the most. Thanks for coming.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Staff, any additional comments you'd like  
7 to make.

8 MS. HSIEH: No, but Steve will be coming back to you to  
9 talk about the cycle of the PAC to see if we can adjust it  
10 somewhat, so it doesn't fall on that date in future years.

11 MR. WACKOWSKI: Yes, let's do that.

12 MS. HSIEH: Yeah.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: With that, I will say that I appreciated  
15 all of the input from today. Thanks for all the work, as well,  
16 with the staff, and we -- one request I would make of the  
17 public, and obviously, we're going to try to work on the  
18 process, the comments that we heard today, but I was inundated  
19 over the last two days with new information that the staff  
20 received this week, and so as we work on our process, try to  
21 meet the deadlines that they lay out, so that we're not having  
22 to make decisions at the last minute, because that's difficult  
23 for us as (indiscernible) with the other things that we have to  
24 deal with to try to make a decision at the last minute, so the  
25 more for advance notice, the better.

1 MS. HSIEH: Maybe we can also put on our website, because  
2 we've been doing this for so many years, that every year,  
3 there's a fall meeting. So if people want to -- even though  
4 they don't know if it's October 12<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>, if people want to  
5 submit anything, typically June is best for us, because we have  
6 these cycles that start flushing through.

7 We -- I think, Shiway, let's just put on our website, if  
8 you have something, it's best for us if you submit by June, but  
9 contact our office, we do -- we never say no to anything at any  
10 time, as you guys have seen this week, and those folks who all  
11 submitted this week, actually are familiar with our fall meeting  
12 and the processes and were given -- anyway, so -- but I think  
13 that might be helpful on the website, as well, so -- email is  
14 the best way to reach me.

15 Email me anytime, weekend, day or night. I'm happy to  
16 set up a time to discuss anything or provide more information  
17 about the Trustee Council.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: And the final thing I would like to say,  
19 other than thank you again to everyone, is just as we're  
20 thinking of the legacy of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and what  
21 happened in 1989, we want to -- we have the opportunity to use  
22 the funds that we have remaining to create a legacy going  
23 forward to make sure that something like this never happens  
24 again and so we'll be looking for the public's input and for the  
25 PIs input on how to ensure that there is a positive lasting

1 legacy from the results that we -- and the work that we do.

2 With that, thank you everyone, and this meeting is now  
3 adjourned. Do I need a motion for that? Do I need a motion for  
4 adjournment or.....

5 MR. WACKOWSKI: (Indiscernible).

6 MR. SCHMID: (Indiscernible).

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Steve Wackowski moved and Dave Schmid  
8 seconded. All in favor, "Aye."

9 2:43:52

10 (Off record)

11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA       )  
STATE OF ALASKA                    )

I, Lisa Nelson, CSR No. 5907, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Accu-Type Depositions, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 188 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Meeting recorded electronically by Accu-Type Depositions Court Reporter on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019 and thereafter transcribed under 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED TO BY:



Lisa N. Nelson  
Notary Public, State of Alaska

My Commissioner Expires: 02/06/20