

Meeting Summary

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

B. DATE: June 29, 2015

C. LOCATION: EVOS Trustee Council Conference Room, Grace Hall, 4230 University Drive, Anchorage, AK

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Amanda Bauer (T)	Commercial Tourism
Kurt Eilo (T)	Sport Hunting/Fishing, PAC Chair
Gary Fandrei (T)	Aquaculture/Mariculture
John French (T)	Science/Technical, PAC Vice-chair
Kate McLaughlin (T)	Conservation/Environmental
Angela Totemoff (T)	Public at Large

E. NOT PRESENT:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
David Totemoff, Sr.	Native Landowner
Steven Aberle	Commercial Fishing
Patience Andersen Faulkner	Subsistence
Stacy Studebaker	Recreational Users

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Elise Hsieh	Executive Director, Trustee Council (EVOSTC)
Philip Johnson	Designated Federal Officer, Department of the Interior
Cherri Womac	Trustee Council Staff
Linda Kilbourne	Trustee Council Staff
Catherine Boerner (T)	Trustee Council Science Coordinator
Katelyn Heflin	Summer Intern, Department of the Interior
Peter Hagen	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Scott Pegau	Prince William Sound Science Center
Tammy Neher	NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab
Kris Holderied	NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab
Barat LaPorte	Oles Morrison

H. SUMMARY:

At 1:40 p.m. the Designated Federal Officer (Philip Johnson) opened the meeting and took roll call of PAC members. Six members participated, establishing a quorum.

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

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Elise Hsieh provided an overview of the Draft FY 2017-2021 Invitation for Proposals (Draft Invitation).

EVOSTC staff, in consultation with the Science Panel, developed the initial draft. This draft is under review by the Invitation Working Group. They are scheduled to complete their review within 10 days to two weeks.

The PAC will have an opportunity to review the Draft Invitation at their September 22, 2015 meeting. The Trustee Council (TC) will then consider the Draft Invitation at their November 12, 2015 meeting.

Draft FY 2017-2021 Invitation for Proposals:

Catherine Boerner provided a briefing on the Draft Invitation.

The Science Panel met in April to discuss the Draft Invitation.

Focus areas include:

Herring – A program for continued monitoring of this species, which has not yet recovered. A new aspect of this program is funding a post-doctoral position. While this is designed as a five-year program, funding will be approved on an annual basis.

Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) of Marine Conditions and Injured Resources – A monitoring program that collects physical and biological information. This is also a five-year program with funding approved on an annual basis.

Data Management – Formerly much of this work was housed in LTM. The Science Panel recommended that this work merited a specific focus area, ensuring equal access by all focus areas including LTM and Herring.

Cross-Program Publication Groups – The goal of this focus area is to publish information in a new or novel way, to take a fresh look at existing data, and to synthesize information from the other focus areas.

Lingering Oil – Lingering oil (LO) proposals should identify data gaps and identify areas for further study. Collaborative research is desired. These LO proposals can be reviewed and funded off-cycle if warranted.

The Trustees continue to ask about the value of the science and monitoring being funded by the Council.

PAC discussion:

Reporting and Publication: John French asked about the status of recent LO reports. French recommended that a primary focus of the TC should be providing information to the public. In response it was noted that a recent final report on bioremediation is available on the EVOSTC website.

French noted that (retired) librarian Carrie Holba was instrumental in bringing investigators into compliance with publication requirements by assisting with finalizing of reports. Dede Bohn (U.S. Geological Survey) also played an instrumental role in this process. Hsieh reported that Holba recently retired and a new librarian has been hired.

It was noted that the EVOSTC website averages 1,700 hits per day, and that both the TC office staff and ARLIS are very responsive to information requests.

Public interest in the EVOSTC increased during and after the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) spill in the Gulf of Mexico, subsequent pipeline spills in various parts of the country, the 25th Anniversary of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and during the DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment process.

EVOS Reopener: Kate McLaughlin raised the importance of the EVOSTC website and LO studies relative to the Reopener process. McLaughlin noted that this was a very important issue with national implications.

Executive Director Elise Hsieh noted that the TC is not a party to this litigation. That said, she noted the TC has funded scientific studies that may help inform this process. She also noted that the EVOSTC website plays an important role in disseminating information to the public, and that the website had recently been updated.

French asked about what would happen to the LO work if the reopener was approved. Hsieh reiterated that the TC can fund LO studies at any time, independent of any legal action associated with the reopener.

Draft Invitation: With regard to the long-term program outreach, Hsieh reported that the TC is seeking outreach information that the agencies can use within their existing outreach efforts, and that the need for outreach that can be transmitted to the agencies was captured in the Draft Invitation. One (older) example of TC office outreach is the Restoration Notebook. The Executive Director noted that approving outreach products that are disseminated by the long-term programs would entail a multi-stage process that takes time including TC staff review, agency review and legal review.

It may be more efficient for Trustee agencies to prepare their own outreach products for work they are associated with.

In general, for the new Draft Invitation, returning investigators need to describe how they met stated goals, describe what value was added, and explain why they should be funded for an additional five years.

Hsieh noted that the TC was taking public comments on the Draft Invitation until August 14, and that PAC members could also provide individual comments during that process.

PAC Motions:

French noted a general concern that the focus areas are managed separately and there is a lack of integration between projects conducted within Prince William Sound (PWS) and work conducted in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA).

Motion: French introduced a motion that priority should be given to approaches that integrate between PWS and the GOA. Seconded by McLaughlin. **Motion carried.**

Motion: French moved to approve the February 4, 2015 meeting summary. Seconded by McLaughlin. **Motion carried.**

Closing Remarks:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 pm

I. FOLLOW-UP:

1. The next meeting of the PAC will take place telephonically at 9:30 a.m. on September 22, 2015 in Anchorage.

J. NEXT MEETINGS:

PAC Meeting (Anchorage on September 22, 2015)
Trustee Council Meeting (Anchorage on November 12, 2015)

K. ATTACHMENTS (provided to PAC members prior to the meeting):

1. February 04, 2015 *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS) Public Advisory Committee (PAC) draft meeting notes.
2. 6/17/2015 - *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council Invitation for Proposals, Fiscal Year 2017.

L. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson

Date