

DRAFT Meeting Summary

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

B. DATE: October 13, 2020

C. LOCATION: This virtual meeting was held using the Zoom video conferencing platform. PAC members and others participated by computer or phone.

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Gary Fandrei	Aquaculture/Mariculture, PAC Chair
RJ Kopchak	Commercial Fishing, PAC Vice-chair
Patience Andersen Faulkner	Subsistence
Stacey Simmons	Commercial Tourism
George Skladal	Public at Large

E. NOT PRESENT:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
David Totemoff, Sr.	Native Landownership
Chris Saal	Recreation
VACANT	Sport Hunting/Fishing
VACANT	Science/Technical
VACANT	Conservation/Environmental

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Elise Hsieh	EVOS Trustee Council Executive Director
Philip Johnson	U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Shiway Wang	EVOS Trustee Council Science Director
Lauri Adams	EVOS Trustee Council Habitat Program Director
Cherri Womac	EVOS Trustee Council Associate Coordinator
Linda Kilbourne	EVOS Trustee Council Administrative Manager
Austin Quinn-Davidson	EVOS Trustee Council Habitat Program Coordinator
Shawna Popovici	Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) – State Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Rys Miranda	ADNR – State Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Sylvia Kreeel	ADNR – Habitat
Mandy Lindeberg	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Long-Term Monitoring Program Lead
Rob Suryan	NOAA

Katrina Hoffman	Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC)
Scott Pegau	PWSSC/Oil Spill Recovery Institute and Herring Research and Monitoring Lead
Margaret Stock	PWSSC
Veronica Varela	DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Eileen Kazary	Great Land Trust (GLT)
David Mitchell	GLT
Jon Shepard	Port Graham Corporation (PGC)
Elmer Moonin	PGC
Vanessa Norman	PGC
Diane Selanoff	PGC
April Counciller	Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository
Patricia Relay	Valdez Museum and Historical Archive
Ron Britton	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Sheri Buretta	Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC)
Josie Hickel	CAC
Maile Branson	Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Tara Riemer	Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC)
Chip Arnold	ASLC
Walter Young	ASLC
Diane Kaplan	Rasmuson Foundation
Jeff Baird	Rasmuson Foundation
Mead Treadwell	Think Tank member
Rachel Kallander	Kallander and Associates, Think Tank consultant
Dan Hull	Think Tank proposal supporter
Norman Regis	City of Seward Harbormaster

H. SUMMARY:

Welcome and Roll Call

At 9:05 a.m., Philip Johnson, DFO, called the meeting to order and took roll call of PAC members. Five of the seven members were present, establishing a quorum. The DFO also requested that other participants in the meeting introduce themselves.

The DFO noted the rescheduling of the September 30, 2020, PAC meeting due to miscommunications within DOI (and with the Office of the Federal Register), which resulted in missing the filing deadline to publish the meeting notice in the Federal Register. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires Federal Register meeting notices to be published 15 days prior to the meeting to ensure adequate public notice. After apologizing on DOI's behalf, the DFO recognized the PAC Chair, Gary Fandrei, who presided over the meeting.

February 2020 Meeting Summary

The PAC passed a motion to approve the February 25, 2020, meeting summary following correction of one minor edit that was recommended by Chair Fandrei.

PAC discussion – A question was raised regarding missing text and/or punctuation in a sentence in the education and outreach session that should be reviewed. Trustee Council staff and the DFO will review, recommend edit(s), and report back to the Chair.

Items for discussion

“Think Tank” Proposal

Steve Mulder, Alaska Department of Law, was scheduled to discuss whether EVOS trust funds may be given to a private endowment, “The Think Tank New Vision.” Trustee Council Executive Director, Elise Hsieh, provided a brief synopsis of the issue as Mr. Mulder was unavailable. She advised the PAC to review a memo in the meeting materials regarding legal requirements applicable to potential use of EVOS restoration funds. This proposal would commit all remaining EVOS trust funds to a non-profit organization for management and disbursement. The Think Tank is a group of Alaskan individuals and organizations, including the executives of two Alaska Native regional corporations that have proposed an alternative structure for future management of the remaining EVOS trust funds. The proposal will be discussed during the upcoming Trustee Council meeting.

Changing Annual Meeting Reporting Requirements

The Executive Director summarized a proposed resolution to amend the 1994 Restoration Plan and related documents to eliminate the annual Trustee Council meeting requirement and annual project proposal requirements to allow for multi-year council funding authorizations.

Combining Habitat and Research Accounts

The Executive Director also discussed a proposed Trustee Council resolution to combine the Habitat and Research Accounts into a single account, subject to the use and purposes authorized by the consent decree.

Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. Comments are summarized below.

Dan Hull – Mr. Hull spoke in support of the Think Tank proposal. He also submitted written comments, which were included in the PAC meeting materials. Mr. Hull noted that he had previously served on the PAC and the board of the PWSSC; however, he submitted his comments as a private citizen. He expressed support for the Think Tank endowment because it would be maintained in perpetuity. He endorsed using the Ocean Research Fund (held by the Alaska Community Foundation) as the entity that would hold and invest the EVOS funding. Mr. Hull suggested that the Think Tank use a peer review model similar the one used by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB). He also expressed support for having the NPRB administer the proposal review process; however, he suggested this likely would require changes to the NPRB’s authorizing legislation.

Vanessa Norman – Ms. Norman noted that her grandfather, Walter Meganack, Sr., wrote a speech about EVOS, titled “The Day the Water Died.” She spoke in favor of the Think Tank and CAC proposals.

Mead Treadwell – Mr. Treadwell is a long-time Alaska resident and marine user of Prince William Sound (PWS). He served as Cordova’s Director of Oil Spill Response in the wake of the 1989 oil spill. Mr. Treadwell was Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and has served on both the Oil Spill Recovery Institute board and the PAC. He also helped create the NPRB and is a member of the Think Tank. Mr. Treadwell discussed the need for a perpetual endowment to support research needs in the PWS region, a locally controlled research fund, and peer-reviewed research program. He asked the Trustees to consider the Think Tank proposal. Mr. Treadwell also expressed interest in presenting information on the Think Tank to the PAC prior to the Trustee Council meeting.

The Executive Director noted that the Trustees are familiar with the Think Tank proposal, and it will be item #5 of their agenda. She said she expected a lively discussion at the Trustee Council meeting the following day.

The PAC Chair indicated that the committee could not take action on the proposal, at this time, without further direction from the Trustees.

Diane Kaplan – Ms. Kaplan is the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Rasmuson Foundation, a private foundation established in Alaska. Their foundation was approached by organizations in the PWS area that were concerned about the Trustee Council’s plan to spend down all of the EVOS settlement funding within a defined period. Her foundation then worked with various partners to develop the Think Tank proposal, and Ms. Kaplan is a Think Tank member.

Ms. Kaplan noted that their counsel offered an opinion, which suggested the Think Tank proposal and proposed path forward are legal.

She further noted that they asked to be put on the Trustee Council agenda two years ago, and she requested that the Think Tank proposal be added to the PAC agenda. Ms. Kaplan also asked that if their presentation couldn’t be accommodated at this PAC meeting, could a special meeting be scheduled where the PAC can consider the Think Tank proposal and make recommendations to the Trustee Council.

Patricia Relay – Ms. Relay is the Director of the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive. She submitted an unsolicited proposal for a capital proposal to address significant infrastructure issues. The museum is seeking funding to consolidate their two aging facilities into one new building on Main Street. The museum’s mission focuses on historical preservation and education. The City of Valdez has committed to matching of funds received from other sources, up to a total of \$19-22 million, and Ms. Relay noted that 97% of the community supports the project as it will help revitalize downtown Valdez.

Josie Hickel – Ms. Hickel is the CAC Executive Vice President of Lands and Resource Development and a corporation shareholder from Seward. Their corporation's lands were hit hard by the EVOS. She does not support spending down the EVOS settlement funds because oil still remains in some areas of PWS and impacts to resources continue. Ms. Hickel supports an approach that will ensure funding continues in perpetuity to help impacted communities with economies that did not recover from the spill.

April Counciller – Ms. Counciller is from Larson Bay and was a child when the EVOS occurred. She also is the Executive Director of the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, which recently observed its 25th year anniversary. The Kodiak Area Native Association received EVOS grant funding in 1993 that was used to help establish the building in which the museum is housed. They have greatly expanded our knowledge of archaeological sites in the Kodiak Archipelago, identifying hundreds of new sites. They also have considerable botanical and linguistic expertise, and a major mission of the museum focuses on education. Their facility is mentioned in the Think Tank proposal. They are experiencing rising facility costs and lack their own facility. The museum wants to submit a proposal to the Trustee Council that would fund construction of a facility and support an archaeological survey of the entire archipelago.

Rachel Kallander – Ms. Kallander grew up in Cordova in a multi-generational commercial fishing family. She is also the daughter of plaintiffs in the EVOS litigation. Ms. Kallander expressed frustration with the Trustee Council processes, noting a decrease in PAC and Trustee Council meetings over the years, with no PAC meeting last year and typically only 1-2 meetings per year. She suggested that a new process is needed for spending the remaining \$188 million and ensuring that the funds are available in perpetuity. Ms. Kallander plans on continuing to raise these issues with the PAC and Trustee Council.

Sheri Buretta – Ms. Buretta is the chair of the CAC and is a Think Tank member. She participated in the PAC meeting to speak on behalf of the Think Tank proposal. The CAC was very impacted by the EVOS, including injuries to their archaeological resources, and the area experienced economic devastation. The communities within their region have not directly benefitted from the settlement funds. Lands purchased by the Trustee Council habitat program have resulted in them not being available for future economic benefit. It has been 30 years since the spill and communities are still impacted. Ms. Buretta is from Tatitlek, and she served on the PAC in the early 1990s. She expressed frustration with the EVOS public process and with the Trustees.

Norman Regis – Mr. Regis is the City of Seward Harbormaster. He submitted a proposal on behalf of the city to construct a vessel washdown facility. This proposal was included in the PAC meeting materials.

Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2031 Draft Invitation

The Trustee Council Science Director, Shiway Wang, presented information on the FY22-31 Invitation (Invitation), which is anticipated to be issued in December 2020, in advance of a fall 2021 council review of a proposed 10-year term of funding. The draft Invitation contains three

focus areas: a long-term monitoring and research program, development of mariculture (excluding finfish farming), and education and outreach. As requested by the Trustees, the funds are to be allocated at a 50:25:25 ratio for each focus area, respectively. Annual amounts in the Invitation include:

- Long-term monitoring program – “up to \$5,000,000 annually (not including GA)”
- Mariculture and education and outreach – each “up to \$2,500,000 annually (not including GA)”

Language regarding the project review and reporting schedule was edited to address Trustee interest in a 10-year Invitation without annual proposal review. Please see the modified annual review and reporting policy language in the draft bracketed in red font. This includes annual reporting submitted to the Science Director to allow for review of project and program progress toward meeting their goals and objectives as well as those of the Trustee Council. These annual reports would also be forwarded to the Trustees for informal review.

Science Panel comments to Trustee Council regarding annual review and reporting

The Science Panel reviewed the FY22-31 Draft Invitation and provided feedback that was emailed to Trustees previously on 9.22.20, which the Science Director summarized for the PAC. Due to past performance of Principal Investigators (PIs), current improved productivity after streamlining the annual proposal review process and reporting guidelines, and the addition of science synthesis workshops, the Science Panel respectfully requests that the Trustee Council consider, at a minimum:

1. A review of projects by the Science Director and Science Panel every two years,
2. Continue annual reporting to track project progress, and
3. Science synthesis workshops every five years, which have resulted in high-quality, informative, and integrated products that otherwise would not have occurred.

PAC Discussion – Kopchak noted he was glad to see education and mariculture included in the Invitation.

The PAC voted to approve the FY22-31 Draft Invitation as written and to forward it on for Trustee Council consideration.

Unsolicited Proposals

**Not an action item*

Lauri Adams, Trustee Council Habitat Program Director, led this discussion.

Facilities

City of Seward Small Boat Harbor Vessel Washdown Facility

The City of Seward Harbormaster requested \$655,736 (includes GA) in funding for construction of a vessel wash-down pad at the Seward Small Boat Harbor. The wash-down will allow for the collection of wash water and marine biofouling and loose hull material, including bottom paint, often released in vessel cleaning and maintenance activities. This collection pad would reduce

pollution in Resurrection Bay. The facility would benefit the City of Seward, several privately-owned boat storage yards, and the large number of privately-owned boat owners using the Seward Small Boat Harbor. In 2012 and 2013, the Trustee Council funded construction of a similar, but larger capacity, vessel wash-down and wastewater recycling facility at the request of the City of Seward, which was constructed across Resurrection Bay from downtown Seward at the Seward Marine Industrial Center. The center provides upland boat storage and repair capability for larger vessels, servicing the local fishing fleet, cruise ships, large tour and recreational boat operators, private yachts, cargo ships, tugs, and vessels operated by the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Marine Highway, and NOAA. The new wash-down facility would serve the smaller boats that typically use the Seward Small Boat Harbor and would reduce the volume of pollution entering Resurrection Bay.

Alaska SeaLife Center Maintenance and Improvements

The Trustee Council partially funded construction of the original ASLC in 1994 for \$25 million. Last fall, the ASLC submitted a draft proposal for facility maintenance and other improvements, totaling \$4.469 million (does not include GA). The proposal includes improvements to research infrastructure (a new vessel, repairs to the research portal, research space expansion), critical water systems (replacement of support systems for research animals), building infrastructure with a research focus (repairs to animal habitats and installation of a new fire suppression system), and other building infrastructure (roof replacement, window repairs, door replacements, sidewalk repairs).

Some components of the proposal that directly relate to research include research infrastructure and critical water systems that support research animals for a total of \$2,567,750. There is also an animal habitat restoration portion of the project for \$518,000. The Trustee Council currently does not have any funded projects at the ASLC (i.e., captive studies) and has not since 2015. Project 21210128 status and trends of EVOS-injured seabirds (Hollmen, ASLC), which was approved for funding at the February 28, 2020, meeting, would benefit from a new vessel for day surveys and would also leverage the existing remote video monitoring infrastructure at the ASLC. Additionally, ASLC provides a venue where EVOS-funded projects, such as Gulf Watch Alaska, can be showcased, which brings public awareness and exposure to these projects.

Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository New Facility

No specific proposal has been submitted yet. A request for EVOS funding is estimated at \$18-20 million. The Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak has been in informal discussions with the Trustee Council Office on a potential proposal for a new museum facility in Kodiak since 2018. The museum is working with the City of Kodiak, USFWS, and various local Alaska Native and other partners to identify a site and develop the new museum concept in detail. The Trustee Council helped fund construction of the museum's current facility in the 1990s, but it has outgrown that building. While there is no official proposal before the Trustee Council at this time, they are developing a proposal, and if the council decides to consider other proposals for new archaeological facilities in the spill area as a potential area of interest, staff would recommend that the council invite proposals from all interested parties before taking action, including the Alutiiq Museum. The museum is also seeking funding for an archaeological survey of the Kodiak region.

Chugach Alaska Corporation Anchorage/Valdez Archaeological Museum New Facility and Funding for Village Repositories

CAC requested \$11.44 million (includes GA). CAC submitted a proposal for infrastructure projects to the Trustee Council in September 2019 and an updated proposal in 2020, which has three separate components and estimated costs:

- Renewal and updating of archaeological repository facilities in villages throughout the Chugach Region—\$1.5 million (Multiple village repositories were originally funded by the Trustee Council in the 1990s.)
- Spill Response Education Center in Valdez—\$3 million
- Museum (in Anchorage or Valdez) focused on scientific research related to natural resources impacted by the spill—\$6 million

The Trustee Council heard public comment on the proposal at its meeting in October 2019, but no action was taken. CAC resubmitted the proposal in February 2020, requesting that it be included on the agenda for the council's 2020 meeting.

Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Facility

The Valdez Museum approached Trustees and the Trustee Council office with regard to EVOS funding of a new consolidated 20,000-square-foot museum & historical archive in the City of Valdez. A detailed cost estimate has not yet been provided; however, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$19-22 million. According to the Valdez Museum, the City of Valdez has committed 50% support (matching funds) for a new facility, and a downtown site has been selected that local businesses support. The local community also supports the potential new museum facility. The consolidation and a new facility would enable the museum to expand its humanities educational programs, create a community gathering space, and enhance its exhibit exhibition space for cultural, historical, and current exhibits. Past Trustee Council support to the Valdez Museum includes a \$200,000 contribution in 2005 for the Valdez Museum's Local Display Facility/Native Gallery.

Port Graham

This proposal includes a number of projects with a total cost of \$24.5 million. Proposed infrastructure improvements include a new dock, office, small boat harbor, and modular waste incinerator are being proposed. Bulk fuel tank improvements are also proposed, and funding would support a land management information system used to map data sets.

Alaska Sea Life Center Request for Sustainable Science Funding

The ASLC has requested funding of \$50 million (without GA) for 20+ years for operational support of its Science Program. (This request is separate from its request, above, for infrastructure funding). Specifically, this new proposal would allow them to:

- Hire a Science Director and other staff to enhance and further the research capabilities of the ASLC,
- Maintain funding for ASLC's long-term research program,
- Support remote video monitoring of the Chiswell sea lion rookery,
- Provide salary for the existing PI for the Chiswell sea lion program,
- Fund predator/prey research dynamics in the Gulf of Alaska, and

- Fund fish genetic research throughout the spill affected area.

Additionally, funds might support potential projects in collaboration with the Mariculture Task Force, such as defining optimum conditions for placement of oyster seed into ocean beds to ensure success of oyster farming production, examining the effects of lingering oil on mussels, and investigating ocean acidification, climate change effects, and adaptations for shellfish and algae.

Habitat

Bering River Coal Fields--11,000 Acres of Subsurface Coal Interests

Eyak Preservation Council (Eyak), on behalf of the coal rights owner, the Korea Alaska Development Corporation (KADCO), has submitted an unsolicited proposal for the purchase of 11,000 acres of coal rights in the Bering River Coal fields. There is no mineral appraisal or specific asking price for the mineral rights (the asking price was \$15 million previously). For over 20 years, the KADCO has indicated its interest in selling its subsurface coal rights in 11,000 acres in the mountains near the headwaters of the Bering River. The location is approximately 50 air miles outside the boundary of the EVOS spill area (to the east of the Copper River Delta), and no habitat project has ever been undertaken outside of those boundaries. CAC owns the surface estate overlying and surrounding the KADCO coal rights as an inholding within the Chugach National Forest boundaries, and it opposes a Trustee Council purchase of the coal rights. Trustee Council legal counsel have previously advised that purchasing interests in land outside of the spill area requires meeting stringent tests not applicable within the spill area, which has been an obstacle to the council's prior considerations of KADCO's offer.

Alternatives to EVOS Trust

EVOS Restoration Foundation

At the time of the Think Tank's initial proposal in 2018, the Trustees also received a counterproposal for a new alternative structure from Rick Steiner, retired University of Alaska Anchorage professor. Dr. Steiner's proposal is to transfer remaining EVOS trust funds to a new private non-profit "EVOS Restoration Foundation," the governing members of which would be appointed by the U.S. District Court that is currently overseeing the fund's expenditures. The goal of this alternative structure would be to remove federal and state agencies from a decisional role on expenditures (in order to avoid conflicts within agencies that also currently compete to receive EVOS funds) and to refocus the remaining expenditures from the trust funds strictly on ecosystem recovery. While he did not participate in the PAC meeting, Dr. Steiner's proposal can be reviewed at:

<https://evostc.state.ak.us/media/4229/evosrestorationfoundationproposal.pdf>

PAC discussion

PAC Chair Fandrei asked the PAC members how they wanted to proceed regarding discussion of the unsolicited proposals.

Kopchak asked a process question. While each of the proposals have some degree of merit, he was unsure how they fit within the legal bounds of the settlement. He also asked how those approaches would fit in with the current approach to injured resources.

Kopchak had previously submitted his own proposal for restructuring the Trustee Council process years ago.

The PAC discussed the potential need to hold a meeting on the process for considering unsolicited proposals. Currently, there is no information loop and “reach back.” Because the PAC represents the public, there was also discussion of convening the PAC more often.

Kopchak indicated he was neutral regarding the proposals. If the Trustee Council wants to consider reorganization, it should be put on the PAC agenda.

FY 2021 EVOS Science Programs and Projects

The Science Director initiated the discussion of the EVOS science programs and non-program science projects.

Long-Term Science Programs

The EVOS Long-Term Programs will commence their tenth year (the fifth year of the second 5-year cycle, FY17-21) in FY 2021. Some projects have been affected by pandemic-related restrictions, requiring program leads and PIs to creatively develop solutions to continue data collection and lab work. Programs are making progress on addressing Science Panel comments and suggestions on synthesis reports that were presented at the science workshop in February. Program leads also will give a short 10-minute presentation at the Trustee Council meeting.

Long-Term Monitoring Program (Gulf Watch Alaska-GWA)

Mandy Lindeberg with NOAA presented information on the long-term monitoring program and GWA. The 14 existing long-term projects submitted proposals for continuation in FY21. The GWA program includes 10 projects which started before 2012 and several with long-term data sets extending over 30 years and prior to the Spill. Creative measures were taken to accomplish field work and surveys during the pandemic; however, some projects still experienced COVID-19 related issues such as field and lab work delays or cancellations, and we received requests for reallocation of some unused FY20 funds for FY21.

The Science Panel and Science Director deemed that the allocation requests were justified (but also requested additional information for some of the projects). The Science Panel and Science Director recommended to fund the GWA program and all projects. The PAC approved a motion to concur with the reallocation requests and to recommend the Trustee Council provide funding.

Herring Research and Monitoring Program (HRM)Seven existing long-term projects submitted proposals for continuation in FY21. Overall, the program is completing tasks on time. The pandemic caused some travel and work restrictions, but Scott Pegau (PWSSC/Oil Spill Recovery Institute) was able to coordinate with other field programs and the local community to collect samples for projects that were not able to conduct their regular sampling due to pandemic-related restrictions. There are no additional budget requests except for project A, which is on page 17 of the work plan.

This project is requesting an additional \$56.9K (includes 9% GA) for one of the existing post-docs to support further modeling of the impacts of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and *Ichthyophonus* on the herring population. The post-doc proposes to quantify age-dependent rates of disease transmission in Pacific herring in PWS. Existing time-series data on diseases in Pacific herring would be leveraged to estimate transmission of these two common diseases hypothesized to be contributing to declining populations. Transmission estimates from this project could be used in future epidemiological models, providing inference as to when epidemics are most likely to occur.

The Science Panel and Science Director recommended to fund the HRM program and projects, including the request for an additional \$56,900 for the continuation of the existing post-doctorate project. The PAC approved a motion to recommend the Trustee Council approve these changes and approve funding for the HRM program.

Data Management Program

The Science Director presented information on the Data Management Program, which continues to provide support to the EVOS long-term programs (GWA and HRM) for seamless uploading and sharing of data with PIs and also making data publicly available. Last year, this program began providing data services for all Trustee Council-funded science projects, including non-program projects, to ensure that all current EVOS data is standardized. Data management oversight of all Trustee Council-funded projects will ensure that science project data are consistently maintained, archived, and made publicly available through Alaska Ocean Observing System and DataOne data portals. This will also help facilitate integration between all Trustee Council-funded program and non-program projects. The Data Management Program proposed to continue their efficient and necessary high-quality data and metadata management services for all Trustee Council-funded science programs and projects for FY21. The FY21 program budget includes an additional \$17,440 (includes GA) for data management services for project 21210128 (Status and trends of EVOS-injured seabirds in the Kenai Peninsula coast and Kachemak Bay), which was approved by the Trustee Council at the February 28, 2020, meeting. FY21 funding requested is \$235,300 (includes GA).

The Science Panel and Science Director recommended full funding for the Data Management Program. The PAC passed a motion recommending the Trustee Council support this request.

Non-Program (Individual) Science Projects

Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Project (Irons and Kaler, USFWS), Project 21110853

This on-going direct-restoration project, whereby mink were culled in a pigeon guillemot breeding area, proposes to continue to search for evidence of mink in guillemot breeding areas, monitor the recovery of pigeon guillemots, and monitor relative food availability using black-legged kittiwakes as indicators. Numbers of pigeon guillemots in 2020 are up 10% from last year, suggesting the culling of mink continues to contribute to the recovery of this injured species. The PIs requested changes to the budget; the FY21 budget request decreased by \$1,000 because the PIs will be able to combine the Pigeon Guillemot May/June survey and retrieving of mink cameras into one trip instead of two, and flexibility in being able to select a period of optimal weather will also reduce the number of days necessary to complete the surveys. The FY22 and FY23 budget requests increased because of the additional survey time needed for the

relative food availability study to ensure data are comparable with the 35 years of historical data and to include an additional 3% for increased annual costs (such as fuel), which were not included in the original project proposal. The roughly 3% adjustment results in the budget increase of \$1,000 in FY 22 and FY23. The total requested increase for the FY22 budget is \$9,600. The total requested increase for the FY23 budget is \$10,800. The FY21 funding request is \$68,500 (includes GA)

The Science Panel and Science Director recommended to fund this project; however, the Science Panel requested some additional information from the PIs. The PAC concurred with this recommendation and passed a motion to recommend approval by the Trustee Council.

Ocean Acidification Sampling (Hetrick, Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery), Project 21200127

This project proposes to continue ocean acidification sampling in the Gulf of Alaska and PWS and incorporate sampling into the Trustee Council-funded GWA Program. Data from this project adds to the existing data sets from these sites and will offer a broader understanding of ocean acidification in the spill area. The FY21 funding request is \$34,300 (includes GA).

The Science Panel recommended to fund with reservation and the Science Director recommended to fund this project. The Science Panel was not impressed with the quality of the renewing proposal, and on close inspection, some additional concerns were raised about the lack of clear articulation of chemical analytical methods and justification of these methods based on established, peer reviewed science (the appendix provided was insufficient). Despite these issues, the Science Panel remained supportive of the rationale for this project. The PAC passed a motion to recommend approval of this proposal to the Trustee Council along with the Science Panel's comments.

Habitat Restoration

Lauri Adams, Trustee Council Habitat Director, presented information on habitat restoration requests for reauthorization and a new project request.

Reauthorizations

Lower Kenai River/Bookey Parcel (KEN 4018)

The Trustee Council approved purchase of the Bookey parcel, a 34.76-acre undeveloped property located at mile 11.5 of the Lower Kenai River, at its fall 2019 meeting. Staff have made progress on advancing this project, but it also requires state legislative approval in the capital budget before it can proceed. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Alaska State Legislature did not adopt a regular capital budget, and this project, along with the recreational improvements that also were authorized by the Trustee Council in 2019, has not yet passed the legislature. It is anticipated that will happen in next year's capital budget (State FY22), but the Trustees' current funding authorization will expire before it happens. In these unusual circumstances, ADNR Division of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) has requested reauthorization of the funds previously approved by the Trustee Council. The funding amount to purchase the Bookey property is up to \$2,300,000, including due diligence and closing costs, and the recreational enhancements proposed by Alaska State Parks for the property (described further below), once purchased, total \$6,419,010.

Bookey Parcel Recreational Access Improvements Project (Project 20200135)

If the Bookey parcel is successfully purchased for management by Alaska State Parks, they propose to construct recreational and safety access improvements on the Bookey parcel. The proposal for recreational access improvements includes 65 additional parking spaces for vehicles using the adjacent Eagle Rock boat launch; a new access road to the Eagle Rock boat launch crossing the Bookey parcel from the Kenai Spur Road, thus reducing impacts on an adjacent subdivision from traffic during the fishing season; pedestrian stairs to the boat launch and to a series of floating docks along the riverside of the parcel; and an elevated walkway, outhouses, and visitor education panels or kiosks. The cost of all the recreational improvements is \$6,419,010, which is in addition to the cost of acquiring the Bookey parcel from the current landowner for up to \$2.3 million. Reauthorization approval is requested for both components of the Bookey project.

ADNR/DPOR Outreach (Popvici)

As with the Bookey project, the COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the Alaska State Legislature's capital budget approval of this State Parks Outreach project, which was approved by the Trustee Council at its fall 2019 meeting. Therefore, reauthorization is needed of the \$49,100 previously approved by the Trustee Council for this project, which continues current work to produce educational and interpretive panels on State Parks recreational sites to inform and educate the public about EVOS, its lasting impacts to the State of Alaska, and the Trustee Council's achievements to mitigate those impacts on spill-affected habitats, species, and services.

The PAC passed a motion recommending approval of both these reauthorization requests and moving them on to the Trustee Council for consideration.

New Project Proposed by DOI

Standardized, High-Resolution, Geospatial Wetlands and Hydrography Data Mapping Across the EVOS Region (Project No. 21210129)

Requested funding for this project was \$3.87 million over three years, including GA, with all funding requested in the first year, if allowed, in order to execute contracts for data creation. This proposed project would update and standardize existing National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Datasets (NHD) across the EVOS Region in digital formats that are consistent with current national NWI and NHD databases. Multiple federal agencies, including the USGS, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, NPS and USFS, along with the State of Alaska and Chugach Regional Resources Commission, have been engaged with this proposal. The creation of the new data sets would be completed by one or more contractors with expertise in this type of mapping. With the exception of some NHD data created in the past few years, existing NWI and NHD data in the EVOS region are outdated or incomplete. Much of the data dates back to the 1970s and was created in analog format. The new data sets would contain up to date information on the locations of wetlands, stream hydrology, and nearshore habitats and would be made available to researchers and the public upon completion. The data would also provide high-quality, standardized digital information for improved environmental

monitoring, agency decision-making related to coastal and intertidal land uses and development, and the management of injured species and their habitats.

PAC discussion – Fandrei asked how does this effort fit in with other Trustee Council-funded projects? Kopchak noted that integration with ShoreZone is important. The Habitat Director will follow up and provide information to the PAC.

The PAC passed a motion recommending that the Trustee Council approve funding for this highly important mapping project.

FY 2021 Budget

The Executive Director updated the PAC on the budget. The FY21 Annual Budget is \$346,311 lower than the FY20 budget, reflecting reductions in the Habitat and Science Program budgets and Data Management. It funds additional activity for FY21, including review of proposals in response to the FY22-31 Invitation, completion of website updates and new in-house maintenance of the website, and continued archiving of Trustee Council records. The Annual Budget is otherwise similar to past years in its components and allocated funding. The Executive Director noted that the General Accountability Office (GAO) recently conducted an extensive audit of the Trustee Council. The GAO noted the solid results achieved by the program and did not provide the Trustee Council with any recommendations regarding necessary changes. She also noted that their annual audits have all come back clean.

The PAC passed a motion recommending Trustee Council approval of the budget.

PAC Motions and Votes

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 meeting summary, with one minor edit. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Andersen Faulkner introduced a motion to recommend Trustee Council approval of the draft *EVOS Oil Spill Trustee Council Invitation for Proposals: FY 2022 – 2031*. Second by Kopchak. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to concur with the Long-Term Monitoring Program request(s) to reallocate funds and recommend its funding to the Trustee Council. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to recommend the Trustee Council approve the Herring Research and Monitoring Program funding request. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to recommend the Trustee Council approve the Data Management Program funding request. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to concur with the Pigeon Guillemot funding request and recommend its approval to the Trustees. Second by Andersen Faulkner. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to recommend Trustee Council approval of the Ocean Acidification proposal along with Science Panel comments. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion recommending the Trustee Council authorize Habitat Program reauthorization of the Bookey and Outreach funding requests. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion recommending the Trustee Council approve the highly important High-Resolution Geospatial Project funding request. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion recommending the Trustee Council approve the FY 2021 budget. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Kopchak introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Simmons. **Motion carried.**

Closing Remarks

Fandrei noted that this was his first full meeting serving as the PAC Chair. He thanked the public for their interest and comments.

Andersen Faulkner thanked all the participants for their clear, factual remarks. It is clear that the participants had done their homework.

Kopchak reflected on Ms. Kallander's remarks regarding reorganization. He noted that the PAC is not supposed to be an activist organization, but he also recommended that the PAC should have a voice in looking at various reorganization proposals, including those submitted by the Think Tank, Dr. Steiner, and his past proposal. He suggested that the Trustees should open up the process and consider these alternatives. Simmons echoed Kopchak's recommendations.

Ms. Kaplan (Rasmuson Foundation) asked for the opportunity for final remarks. She appreciated the thoughtful discussion and asked if it would be possible to schedule a time with the PAC in the future to provide a more thorough briefing on the Think Tank proposal. Her understanding was that new proposals needed to be considered by the PAC before being shared with the Trustees; therefore, she requested that the PAC convene a special meeting or work session.

Chair Fandrei thanked Ms. Kaplan for her well-presented comments, and he recommended that the PAC consider all other existing reorganization ideas, perhaps by issuing a broad invitation?

Following a motion by the PAC, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Fandrei at 11:54 a.m.

I. FOLLOW-UP:

The DFO provided the Chair with a summary of PAC motions passed during the October 13

meeting prior to the Trustee Council meeting the next day. Chair Fandrei briefed the Trustees on the PAC meeting during their October 14, 2020, meeting. The PAC members were welcome to attend the Trustee Council meeting, which was held using the Zoom software platform.

The Chair, DFO, and Executive Director discussed the recommended minor edit to the February 25, 2020, meeting summary. This change was made prior to certification of the summary by the Chair. The final meeting summary was posted on the Trustee Council website.

J. NEXT MEETINGS:

Trustee Council Meeting – October 14, 2020 (Zoom platform)
PAC Meeting – January 8, 2020 (Zoom platform)
Trustee Council meeting – January 19, 2021 (Zoom platform)
PAC Meeting – Summer 2021 (potential meeting – subject to change)
PAC Meeting – Fall 2021
Trustee Council Meeting – Fall 2021

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

1. [PAC 10.13.20 Meeting Draft Agenda rev10.12.20](#) - 289 KB pdf
2. [Meeting Materials rev10.6.20](#) - 10,262 KB pdf
3. [FY21 Draft Work Plan rev10.9.20](#) - 2,771 KB pdf
4. [FY22-31 Draft Invitation](#) - 607 KB pdf
5. [FY21 Unsolicited Proposals](#) - 4,844 KB pdf
6. [Support Letter for Seward Harbor Project](#) - 225 KB pdf
7. [Port Graham Corp Habitat Enhancement Project Proposal](#) - 4,770 KB pdf
8. [Comment on Think Tank](#) - 122 KB pdf
9. Email to PAC from Associate Coordinator 10.6.20

L. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson

Date