

1 *EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL*

2
3 January 18, 2022

4 9:00 A.M.

5 Anchorage, Alaska

6 TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

7 U.S. FOREST SERVICE: Mr. David Schmid
8 AK DEPT OF FISH & GAME: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang
9 AK DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Commissioner Jason Brune
10 AK DEPT OF LAW: Attorney General Treg Taylor
11 U.S. DEPT OF THE INTERIOR: Ms. Sara Taylor
12 NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION: Mr. Craig O'Connor

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1 ALSO PRESENT, EVOSTC STAFF:

2 Dr. Shiway Wang, Executive Director and Science Director

3 Joy Maglaqui, Executive Assistant

4 Lauri Adams, Habitat Director

5 Austin Quinn-Davidson, Program Officer

6 ALSO PRESENT, PARTICIPANTS:

7 Scott Pegau, Prince William Sound Science Center

8 John Durban, North Gulf Oceanic Society

9 Craig Matkin, North Gulf Oceanic Society

10 Dr. Mary Anne Bishop, Prince William Sound Science Center

11 Heather Coletti, National Park Service

12 Laurie Daniel, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Community

13 Advisory Council

14 Paul Twardock, Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation

15 Kris Holderied, Project Oceanographic Monitoring in Cook Inlet/Kachemak

16 Bay

17 Willow Hetrick, Chugach Regional Resources Commission

18 Stanley "Jeep" Rice, NOAA (retired)

19 Ladonna Lindley, Accu-Type Depositions

20 Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA

21 Jon Shepherd, Port Graham Corporation

22 Dr. Tara Riemer, Alaska SeaLife Center

23 Dr. Wei Ying Wong, Alaska SeaLife Center

24 William Marley

25 Dr. Philip Johnson, U.S. Department of the Interior

1 Brenda Konar, University of Alaska Fairbanks
2 Donna Aderhold, Prince William Sound Science Center
3 Ellen Kazary, Great Land Trust
4 Jeep Rice, Retired from NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory
5 Marla Carter, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
6 Anne Schaefer, Prince William Sound Science Center
7 Katrin Iken, University of Alaska Fairbanks
8 Rys Miranda, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
9 Gary Fandrei, EVOSTC Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
10 Carol Hoover, Eyak Preservation Council
11 Shane Carson, Alaska Department of Revenue, Alaska Retirement Management
12 Board
13 Aaron Poe, Alaska Conservation Foundation
14 Maile Branson, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute
15 Rob Campbell, Prince William Sound Science Center
16 Kyle Graham, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17 Raina Thiele, U.S. Department of the Interior
18 Ginny Eckert, Alaska Sea Grant Program, University of Alaska
19 Katrina Hoffman, Prince William Sound Science Center
20 Elizabeth Labunski, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird
21 Management, Alaska Region
22 Rob Suryan, NOAA Alaska Fishery Science Center
23 Lauren Bien, Prince William Sound Science Center
24 Annette Jarosz, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute
25 Ron Britton, USDA Forest Service

1 Iris Gannon, Native Conservancy
2 Dan Hull
3 Jennifer McVey Thomas, U.S. Department of Agriculture
4 Erika Wells, U.S. Department of Justice
5 Robb Kaler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6 Branden Bornemann, Kenai Watershed Forum Executive Director
7 David Irons, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Retired)
8 Tuula Hollmen, Alaska SeaLife Center and University of Alaska Fairbanks
9 Sherri Dressel Alaska Department of Fish and Game
10 Buell (Russ) Russell, Native Village of Chenega
11 David Mitchell, Great Land Trust
12 Jess Johnson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 Signe Fritsch, Prince William Sound Science Center
14 Elizabeth Gobeski, Alaska Regional Solicitor
15 Grace Cochon, U.S. Department of the Interior
16 Wyatt Rhea-Fournier, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 Veronica Varela, U.S. Department of the Interior
18 Alysha Cypher, Prince William Sound Science Center
19 Steve Baird, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
20 April Counciller, Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository
21 Caitlin McKinstry, Prince William Sound Science Center
22 Emma Kramer (Emma), Alaska Grant Writing Services
23 Erika Ammann, NOAA
24 Maya Groner, Prince William Sound Science Center
25 Matt Piche, Native Village of Eyak

1 Amanda Kelley, University of Alaska Fairbanks
2 Tesia Bobrycki, Native Conservancy
3 Beth Trowbridge, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
4 Clare Ostle, Marine Biological Association
5 Ron McClain, USDA
6 Kathy Kuletz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

CHAIR BRUNE: All right, thank you very much. We will call the January 18th, 2022 meeting of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to order. Agenda Item number -- well, first, we have some changes to the agenda that are going to be made. Trustee O'Connor.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, what.....

CHAIR BRUNE: Did we want to switch agenda Items 7. And 6.?

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

CHAIR BRUNE: Okay.

MR. O'CONNOR: We'll have an executive session to talk about legal matters.

COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I make the motion that we move agenda Item 7. Before agenda Item 6, and break into executive session before the results of the October 13, 2021 meeting and fiscal impacts.

CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee Vincent-Lang. Is there a second?

MR. O'CONNOR: I second that, Mr. O'Connor.

CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee O'Connor. Is there any discussion?

(No audible response).

CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

(No audible response).

CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the agenda for the public to know has been changed so that Public Comment will follow the Financial Update, and then following the Public Comment, we will be breaking into Executive Session.

So Consent Agenda, Trustee Vincent-Lang.

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, I move we approve the January 18,
2 2022 meeting -- I'm sorry, I move we approve the December 31, 2022 (sic)
3 draft of the October 13, 2021 Trustee Council meeting notes.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

5 MR. O'CONNOR: I second that. This is O'Connor.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee O'Connor with the second. Is there any
7 discussion?

8 (No audible response).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there any opposition?

10 (No audible response).

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

12 I believe we also need.....

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: We talked about -- the other one is
14 the.....

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, you got it, sorry. Agenda Item 3. Resolution 21-
16 11, Trustee O'Connor.

17 MR. O'CONNOR: I'm somewhat limited because my computer is not
18 working. So I'm assuming at the one of the (indiscernible - speaking
19 simultaneously).....

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, Doug can do it. Trustee Vincent-Lang will take
21 it.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we appoint Shiway Wang as Executive
23 Director of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council effective October
24 13, 2021. However, I would like to amend the resolution that is provided
25 to us in our record where it basically has four Whereas. It adds the

1 statement, "Therefore, the EVOS Trustee Council appoints Dr. Shiway Wang as
2 Executive Director through January 2023."

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

4 A.G. TAYLOR: Second.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there discussion?

6 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, this is O'Connor. If we -- we've discussed
7 before, Shiway is now a NOAA employee and as such, we, of course, will be
8 paying attention to her activities. We're very supportive of her work thus
9 far with the executive -- or with the Trustee Council, as Executive
10 Director.

11 Along the way, I want to be sure that we're coordinating with her and
12 coordinating among ourselves making sure that we're providing her with
13 appropriate guidance as we move forward and in that process, then NOAA will
14 be looking at her performance as "federal employee." Mine's looked at
15 every day. It's sometimes good. It's sometimes bad, but in the end, I
16 want to be sure that we have a good communication between the members --
17 among the members of the Trustee Council and the Executive Director so that
18 we all -- we know we're all going in the same direction, and evaluating
19 this at the end of the year, I think is appropriate.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee O'Connor. Any other comments?

21 (No audible response).

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

23 (No audible response).

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, congratulations Dr. Wang. Great to have
25 you officially on board.

1 MR. O'CONNOR: Or condolences, given your point -- depending on how
2 things go, but anyways, welcome, Shiway. You're doing a great job, thank
3 you.

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Thank you, Shiway.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Great. Agenda Item 4, Resolution 21-12 in recognition
7 of Linda.

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve Resolution 21-12 (sic)
9 in recognition of Linda Kilbourne's long outstanding service and many
10 contributions to the administrative management of the Council and its
11 mission. I want to -- I think we all on the Council sincerely thank Linda
12 and wish her well in her retirement.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Absolutely. Is there a second?

14 MR. O'CONNOR: I second that.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee O'Connor, thank you. I'll speak to this one and
16 say that Linda's has done an amazing job and we're so incredibly fortunate
17 to have had all of her counsel over the years and she's definitely going to
18 be missed significantly. So thank you, Linda, for all of your efforts.

19 MR. O'CONNOR: And I echo those comments very much. I'm very, very
20 pleased with the work that she's done and very, very helpful to us. So
21 thank you, Linda, and good luck and congratulations on breaking free.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: And Linda, I want to thank you too. You
23 answered questions that I've had all throughout the process, so thank you.

1 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, this is Dave Schmid. Thanks so much, Linda, and
2 best wishes in retirement. Your contributions have been truly significant
3 here over the years.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: All right, is there any opposition to this motion?
5 (No audible response).

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the resolution passes.
7 Agenda Item 5. Financial Update, Shiway.

8 DR. WANG: Hi everyone, good morning. The update for the subaccounts
9 as of December 31, 2021, the agenda item is slightly incorrect. It is
10 \$96,797.....

11 CHAIR BRUNE: \$96 million?

12 DR. WANG: Yeah, sorry, \$96 million, right, \$96,797,774. The Habitat
13 unencumbered is correct at \$66,305,810. The unencumbered (sic) should be
14 corrected to \$36,619,010.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: So just for the public to -- I just want to make sure I
16 have this correct; for the Research unencumbered -- should be \$96,791,774,
17 is that correct?

18 DR. WANG: \$797.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: I'm sorry. And then for the encumbered, \$36,619,010?

20 DR. WANG: Correct.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So can I ask a question on this?

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So where did the half a million dollars go
24 in the Research unencumbered? Was it just (indiscernible - speaking
25 simultaneously)?

1 DR. WANG: That -- no, that was -- that was the matching funds for the
2 SeaLife Center that was not added to the encumbered previously.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, thank you.

4 DR. WANG: Yes

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Any questions from Trustees?

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, I guess I'll ask the question then,
7 how come there's another half a million dollars encumbered in the Habitat
8 piece? The encumbered.....

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Shiway, the question is; why did -- why did it go from
10 \$36 million, why did it go up to \$619,000 (sic)?

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: We encumbered another half a million
12 dollars. What did we do?

13 DR. WANG: That's for the SeaLife Center. That's for the SeaLife
14 Center matching funds.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, so then for the Research unencumbered, the change
16 in that, is that -- was that just a transfer of \$500,000 from the
17 (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

18 DR. WANG: That was probably growth. That was probably growth.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: No, I'm sorry, the number went down.

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, the number went down.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: The number went down from \$97 million to \$96,797,000.

22 So I'm assuming if it was \$500,000.....

23 DR. WANG: Yes, yes, yes.

24 CHAIR BRUNE:we just moved it from.....

25 DR. WANG: Yes.

1 CHAIR BRUNE:Research unencumbered to encumbered?

2 DR. WANG: Yes, that's correct.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, thank you very much.

5 DR. WANG: Yes, sorry for the confusion.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, hearing -- do we have any other questions from
7 Trustees?

8 (No audible response).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we'll move onto the new agenda Item 6,
10 which is Public Comment. We will be allowing for two minutes per person,
11 three minutes total per organization. I have a list of speakers. Before I
12 go to the list of speakers, Shiway, is there language that I'm supposed to
13 read? I didn't receive that today. If I did -- I have the list of
14 speakers. I don't have the language that I'm supposed to read.

15 DR. WANG: Yes, give me one moment. Would you like me to just go
16 ahead and read it?

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes, please.

18 DR. WANG: Okay, so as a reminder, this meeting is being recorded. We
19 are asking that all participants, other than Trustees, Council staff, and
20 presenters or those giving public comment, when called upon, to turn their
21 videos off to preserve bandwidth and allow all of us to focus our attention
22 on the speakers.

23 We also ask that you keep yourself muted, unless you are speaking. We
24 will be taking public comment during the meeting as indicated on the
25 agenda. If you have already reached out to Council staff in advance to

1 indicate that you would like to provide public comment, we should have you
2 on our existing public comment list. After moving through the list, we
3 will do a final call for public comment to make sure we've heard from
4 everyone who is interested in providing testimony.

5 If you need technical assistance during the meeting, please contact
6 Joy Maglaqui at joy -- j-o-y.m-a-g-l-a-q-u-i@alaska.gov.

7 Jason, would you like Austin to keep track of time?

8 CHAIR BRUNE: No, I've got it. I.....

9 DR. WANG: Okay.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: And so we have eight individuals that are on the list.
11 If your name is not on the following list that I'm going to read in the
12 order that it will be, you need to get in touch with Joy. Right now, on
13 the list, and it'll be in this order, start with Scott Pegau, then John
14 Durban, Craig Matkin, Mary Anne Bishop, Heather Coletti, Laurie Daniel,
15 Paul Twardock, and Kris Holderied. So with that, we're going to start with
16 Scott Pegau, and Scott, the two minutes for individuals, three minutes for
17 organizations. Please introduce yourself for the record, and the floor is
18 yours.

19 MR. PEGAU: So my name's Scott Pegau. I'm with the Oil Spill Recovery
20 Institute here in Cordova, Alaska. I've been the coordinator for the
21 herring research and monitoring program for the last 10 years and I just
22 wanted to address a couple of large holes that were put into the herring
23 program in the previous decisions and kind of advocate for their
24 reconsideration.

25 So you did actually fund the most important projects for allowing us

1 to know whether or not the herring recovery in the future, but there are
2 some aspects that were hit up. One was a post-doctoral researcher who is
3 doing analysis on the project that was funded for the salmon interaction
4 and it was shared with larval growth. We can fill that gap if the post-
5 docs in the program management team proposal are funded.

6 The other one I wanted to draw to your attention was the aerial
7 surveys of forage fish Project 22220111-K, and the reason, that you know, I
8 want to bring this one to your attention is this was really designed around
9 community involvement. It had paid internships to be able to bring on
10 people so that they can learn about what's going on. The funding was
11 primarily for a contract with a spotter pilot. You know, this was -- it
12 does leave a hole in our ability to work with more than just the
13 researchers. So I wanted to bring that to your attention.

14 So a quick summary, I request that you fund the post-doctoral
15 researchers in the program management budget to allow us to cover the needs
16 for analysis in the salmon interaction program, and I ask that you
17 reconsider at least funding the first five years of the aerial surveys that
18 cost about \$248,750 that provide internships and community involvement.
19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you for your testimony. Are there any questions
21 for Scott?

22 (No audible response).

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much for testifying today.

24 Next up is John Durban, followed by Craig Matkin.

25 DR. DURBAN: Thank you, yes, I'm John Durban. I'm representing the

1 North Gulf Oceanic Society. We propose continuation of our long-term
2 killer whale monitoring project as part of the Gulf Watch Long-Term
3 Research and Monitoring Program, and as you're aware, this killer whale
4 project was initiated in 1984, and represents one of the few times series
5 with pre-spill data for an injured resource.

6 Our proposal was well-received by the Public Advisory Committee, the
7 Science Review Panel, and the Executive Director of the Trustee Council,
8 and recommended for funding. This recommendation has not been adopted by
9 the Trustee Council.

10 As a background, we documented the spill to have clear, long-term and,
11 importantly, continuing impacts on the killer whales that were exposed.
12 The AB pod of Alaska resident fish-eating killer whales has not recovered
13 and the AT1 population of transients, the mammal eaters, is heading toward
14 extinction with no breeding success.

15 The AB pod was on a trajectory to recovery since the spill with 30
16 years of monitoring, but apparently, it suffered a major setback in recent
17 years after the marine heatwave, and this demonstrates that we need to
18 continue to monitor them to, not only assess their recovery, potential for
19 recovery, but also to understand the interacting effect to environmental
20 drivers.

21 During the review process, the Science Panel provided very
22 constructive comments to us on how valuable 37-year datasets could be more
23 fully used in mechanistic analysis to facilitate a broader ecosystem
24 understanding. In response, we proposed new field and analytical methods,
25 brought on new staff, I am one of those, to build on the science to better

1 integrate our data into ecosystem methods.

2 This will allow us to understand the mechanisms and population change
3 in the long-term by linking to new data on body condition, growth of
4 individuals, diet, and distribution to provide shorter-term responses. We
5 propose to facilitate the reporting frequency to facilitate integration
6 with other Gulf Watch projects, and as top marine predators, the individual
7 and population health of killer whales can indicate the status of ecosystem
8 that supports them and as such, we believe our project is an important
9 component of long-term monitoring.

10 We're, naturally, disappointed that the Trustee Council has not
11 adopted the recommendations to continue funding our project, and we would
12 respectfully request that the decision be reviewed to follow the
13 recommendations of the Public Advisory Committee, the Science Panel, and
14 the Executive Director, in addition to the numerous public comments made on
15 behalf of this project that can be seen on the letters on the event page
16 here. Thank you for the opportunity.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much, Mr. Durban. We do have a question
18 from Trustee Vincent-Lang.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So Mr. Durban, I guess what I'm hearing
20 you say is that we've been doing this work for a long time and it's
21 necessary to continue it because it's a long-term dataset. So let's say we
22 funded this for an additional five years or three years, what's your plan
23 after that? It seems that you just want to have a long-term database to do
24 this, we're -- when the money's out of *Exxon Valdez*, what's your plan to
25 move forward with this work and seek funding? Where are you going to look

1 because, you know, there's a lot of projects that were in the same
2 situation that had long-term databases that we simply had to prioritize
3 making decisions at some point in time, and there's going to have to be,
4 you know, some kind of an adjustment after EVOSTC goes away. What's the
5 plan?

6 DR. DURBAN: Thank you for the opportunity. Yeah, good question. I
7 believe the significant difference in our proposal for the next 10 years is
8 trying to integrate more effectively with these other ecosystem studies so
9 we can understand these changes and make hypotheses for how we monitor
10 them, particularly understand these changes moving forward.

11 So I think we're moving from a stage of monitoring, which is still
12 very, very important, you know, these killer whales are still not
13 recovered, so we believe we have an obligation to monitor, and but beyond
14 that monitoring, the next 10 years is specifically proposed to give us a
15 more full understanding of why these changes are occurring, which will
16 allow us to both address hypotheses and determine what elements of our
17 study and the Ecosystem Study is sensitive moving forward.

18 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, again, what's the -- what's the --
19 we could end it today or we could end it five years from now. What's the -
20 - it appears that you want this long-term study to continue. What's your
21 plans for seeking long-term funding sources for this kind of work?

22 DR. DURBAN: Well, I think that with our new methods, what we're
23 identifying, we want to identify increased power and increased insight into
24 what's happening in the ecosystem, which will allow us to develop those
25 proposals with -- in an integration, not just as killer whale scientists,

1 but studying this as part of the Gulf Watch Program.

2 So I think that, you know, in many ways, we need more information and
3 we've adapted our methods to get that information. We'll decide how to
4 move forward and much of it, of course, will depend on whether these whales
5 have recovered. They have not currently recovered.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, thank you.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Other questions for Mr. Durban?

8 (No audible response).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: I have one. You indicated that we have an obligation to
10 monitor them. Is that a legal obligation or a personal obligation, in
11 light of the fact they're not recovered?

12 DR. DURBAN: Yeah, perhaps that was the wrong use of the word, but I
13 would direct it to those with more legal knowledge than I do, but you know,
14 I believe the process here is to facilitate recovery of this resource,
15 which has not happened. So I will defer that to someone with more
16 expertise, but it was certainly referring to the need, perhaps I should
17 say, to monitor recovery and recovery potential, and to understand why
18 that's not happened.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, thank you. Any other questions?

20 (No audible response).

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much for your testimony.

22 Next up is Craig Matkin, followed by Mary Anne Bishop.

23 MR. MATKIN: Good morning. I just wanted to follow-up on Doug's
24 question about the funding, future funding situation, we are pursuing other
25 modes of funding. In fact, we've started putting that into a faster gear

1 because of the situation here, but it won't happen all tomorrow, but tour
2 boat industries already stepped up to some extent. There's a lot of other
3 activity within the visitor community associations and also with the NPRB
4 and other sources of funding. So believe me, we aren't going to stand
5 still as far as not trying to keep this going. This is just a little bit
6 of a quick and difficult thing to respond to immediately.

7 So I just want to thank Dr. Durban. I've been working with the
8 Trustee Council since it was created. Dr. Durban is the heart of the
9 changes we try to make, which I think are really important that he was
10 talking to, that changes the direction of the project, which will make it
11 much more fundable in the future by other agencies or other sources.

12 He's pioneered these innovative field techniques and he's an
13 analytical powerhouse and he can do the kind of synthesis work that's been
14 needed with this project. So I welcome him aboard. The one thing I'd like
15 to do is thank the tour boat industry and Prince William Sound and Kenai
16 Fjords for their support and letters, and we've worked together with them
17 from the early parts of the project.

18 The value of our collaboration goes far beyond the scientific work and
19 helps connect well over 100,000 visitors each year with killer whales
20 through direct experience and direct connection with the science. Killer
21 whales have helped the industry flourish. They're the number one on the
22 agenda of most of the clients that step onboard the boats. These animals
23 are much more than victims of the oil spill. Although, they are that, as
24 well, and I hope they'll be treated accordingly by continuing this research
25 project and particularly until we can put other sources of funding in

1 place, which is going to take a little more time than -- yeah, immediately.

2 So finally, I'd like to thank the Trustee Council for all of their
3 support over the years. It's been really an incredible thing and I
4 appreciate it and I think it's been a great thing for the animals and also
5 for the tour boat industry.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much, Craig. Are there questions for
7 Craig?

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So maybe I could ask a question.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes, Trustee Vincent-Lang.

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So Craig, you say you're out looking for
11 money for replacing the EVOSTC money. What's your timeline to get that
12 replacement funding? Something less than 10 years or five years or is it
13 one year? Is it.....

14 MR. MATKIN: Yeah, well, you know, we're -- you know, I can't really
15 answer that, Doug, because we're just starting.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah.

17 MR. MATKIN: I mean, we just -- it's like -- yeah, a switch has been
18 flipped, and we've had the extra -- we have funding already beyond this.
19 If we didn't, we wouldn't be able to do the project. So we have some other
20 base funding. We're not completely dependent on the Trustee Council, but
21 this is a huge chunk of it, but we're, you know, we're looking at hiring
22 people who, for one thing, know how to raise money from the public, and
23 this is something we have not followed up on as much as some other
24 organizations, where you know, public funding is sort of the direction a
25 lot of things are going, and this requires a whole system of -- on all of

1 these different platforms, from Twitter to whatever. Don't look at me, I'm
2 ignorant with this, but we've got some people that we're going to be
3 interviewing to start this other type of process, and I totally understand
4 what you're getting at, and I think we've been put on pretty strong alert
5 that we need to be putting this together, and I assure you, we will be.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Thanks, Craig.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Craig.

8 Next up, Mary Anne Bishop, followed by Heather Coletti.

9 DR. BISHOP: Good morning. My name is Dr. Mary Anne Bishop and I'm
10 with the Prince William Sound Science Center. Since 2007, I've been the
11 principal investigator of the project, Long-Term Monitoring of Marine Birds
12 in Prince William Sound During the fall and winter. Our project has been
13 part of the Gulf Watch, their pelagic component since the 2012 beginning
14 and was recommended for full funding in the Draft EVOSTC Work Plan.
15 However, for reasons that are not clear, it was not approved by the
16 Trustees in October, and I'm here to respectfully ask the Trustees to
17 reconsider their decision.

18 The 1989 spill took place in the Sound during winter and more than 1/3
19 of the overwintering marine bird species were identified as injured by the
20 oil spill. The number of bird species in abundance are different in winter
21 versus summer, and this is the only project that's studying marine birds
22 during the fall and winter in the Sound. The loss of this survey will
23 result in the discontinuation of a 15-year dataset monitoring overwintering
24 injured bird resources, including three species, the Kittlitz's murrelet,
25 the marbled murrelet, and pigeon guillemot, that have still not yet

1 recovered from the spill.

2 Five years ago, at the request of the Science Panel, our fall survey
3 was designed to sample seabirds simultaneously with humpback whale and
4 forage fish surveys to better understand predator/prey relationships. The
5 loss of our marine bird component removes key predator data from that
6 survey and reduces our understanding of how whales and marine birds impact
7 prey populations, particularly herring that still remains unrecovered from
8 the spill.

9 Our project was also designed to provide data for the new and recently
10 approved Mariculture Recon Project. Kelp farming, which is expanding
11 dramatically in Prince William Sound, takes place during fall and winter
12 months, and without our marine bird surveys during fall and winter, we will
13 be unable to fully evaluate marine bird response to mariculture development
14 and expansion, including direct interactions which could be detrimental to
15 both the birds and industry operations.

16 So in conclusion, I respectfully ask the Trustees to reconsider their
17 initial decision, and at this meeting, to entertain a motion to approve
18 funding for the Gulf Watch Alaska Prince William Sound Seabird Monitoring
19 in fall and winter, and I thank you very much for this opportunity.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much for your testimony. Any questions for
21 her?

22 (No audible response).

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, thank you so much for your testimony.

24 DR. BISHOP: Thank you.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Next up is Heather Coletti, followed by Laurie Daniel.

1 MS. COLETTI: Hi, thank you. My name is Heather Coletti and I'm a
2 marine ecologist for the National Park Service and the nearshore component
3 lead of the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program. I
4 wanted to comment in support of the GWA-LTRM Integrated Program Management
5 proposal.

6 Overall, the IPM provides many key fiscal, coordination, logistical,
7 and scientific functions. Lack of funding for the IPM would erode those
8 important roles significantly and would absolutely reduce the value of the
9 program as a whole. The value of a coordinated program far exceeds that of
10 a collection of independent projects; for example, the IPM provides
11 logistical administrative support, such as NOAA grant administration for
12 our non-Trustee agencies and organizations.

13 It plays a huge role in program coordination, facilitates outreach,
14 including the website, and leads engagement with spill-affected Native and
15 local communities, organizes Science Review Panel activities and supports
16 their travel, and leverages much in-kind support; for example, the salaries
17 for the program and science leads are provided by NOAA.

18 And the IPM also plays a critical role in advancing the scientific
19 importance of the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring
20 Program. The program as a whole has been very productive scientifically
21 and the data become more valuable with each additional year.

22 The program includes heavy investment as in-kind by agencies due to
23 the strong contributions of the program to agency missions. The program
24 has contributed significantly to management of lands and Trust species, and
25 societal value of this work is high. Data are used to forward science and

1 manage land and species. Data are also used as material for public
2 education and outreach and to provide opportunities for students, early
3 career scientists and spill-affected or underserved communities.

4 All of this is possible because of the role of the IPM in coordinating
5 and managing Gulf Watch Alaska. I thank you for your time.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Heather. Are there questions for Heather?
7 (No audible response).

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, (indiscernible) public testimony.

9 Next up is Laurie Daniel, followed by Paul Twardock, Kris Holderied,
10 and then we have two additions, Willow Hetrick and Jeep Rice. If there are
11 others that are interested in adding their names to the list, they need to
12 get in contact with Joy.

13 So I guess that means it's Laurie that's up.

14 MS. DANIEL: Thank you. This is -- excuse me, good morning, Trustee
15 Council members. My name is Laurie Daniel and I'm here representing the
16 Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Community Council.

17 The Community Council was established to support the Reserve's
18 research, training and education programs. We provide a structure for
19 meaningful dialog and facilitate recommendations from all stakeholders.
20 The Community Council wants to express its shock and dismay with the EVOS
21 Trustee Council decision to discontinue funding for the Oceanographic
22 Monitoring in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay Project. That's number 22120114-
23 J.

24 This is especially troubling after the project received positive
25 recommendations from the Science Panel, the Public Advisory Committee and

1 the Executive Director as being an important part of the integrated
2 ecosystem monitoring of Gulf Watch Alaska.

3 Discontinuing this 10-year time series of oceanography and biological
4 monitoring means we lose critical information about coast food webs. This
5 is vitally important data at a time when increasing climate variability in
6 the north Pacific is adversely affecting our marine resources, including
7 many EVOS affected species, some of which have not yet recovered.

8 Changing ocean conditions also affects salmon and shellfish that are
9 so important to our local economy and communities, including oyster
10 mariculture, which is of interest to the Trustee Council. In addition,
11 this project collects data, long-term data on ocean acidification and
12 harmful algal blooms. The Trustees specifically mentioned the need for
13 more OA monitoring during their last meeting.

14 The project data also directly support nearshore monitoring efforts
15 that were approved for funding by the Trustee Council. Those efforts will
16 lose key information on changing ocean conditions. Further, the data
17 collected were integrated with other Trustee Council funded datasets to
18 understand changes across spill-affected regions.

19 Consequently, we will lose connected information on ocean conditions
20 between nearshore and ocean environments. KBNERR and NOAA Kasitsna Bay
21 Laboratory have always contributed as much in-kind support for
22 oceanographic monitoring work as they have received from the Trustee
23 Council, enabling much more to be accomplished by leveraging joint efforts.

24 Without continued Trustee Council funding, we will lose biological
25 data collection in Cook Inlet, as well as data analysis and syntheses

1 efforts with both nearshore and marine components of Gulf Watch Alaska
2 disrupting this vital, long-term ecosystem dataset. We respectfully ask
3 that you reconsider and restore funding to the Monitoring in Cook
4 Inlet/Kachemak Bay Project. It more than deserves a second look. Thank
5 you for your time and the opportunity to speak with you today.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much, Laurie. Are there any questions for
7 Laurie?

8 (No audible response).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we appreciate your testimony.

10 Next up is Paul Twardock and following that is Kris Holderied, and
11 Paul, good to see you again.

12 MR. TWARDOCK: Hi, Trustees. Thanks for having me and thanks for
13 taking our comments. I'm the Board President of the Prince William Sound
14 Stewardship Foundation, one of my many hats. We just want to say thank
15 you for your support of our proposals that our Prince William Sound
16 Natural History Symposium held in May and our Marine Debris Remediation
17 Project.

18 We also know that you have a lot of difficult choices and many, many
19 good projects to consider. We look forward to highlighting those projects
20 in the symposium and working with the Trustees and their staff to expand
21 the symposium to different communities in the Prince William Sound area.
22 So that's it. Thank you very much and I'm happy to take questions.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: That's exciting, Paul, thank you, and we're excited to
24 have it in different communities as well. I think that will be a huge
25 benefit for the public. Questions for Paul?

1 (No audible response).

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, thank you so much, Paul, for your
3 testimony today.

4 MR. TWARDOCK: Thanks.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Kris Holderied, and I'm sorry I'm butchering your name,
6 followed by Willow Hetrick and Jeep Rice. So Kris, the floor is yours.

7 MS. HOLDERIED: Thank you, good morning. You got it exactly right.
8 My name is Kris Holderied and I'm an oceanographer with NOAA Kasitsna Bay
9 Lab in Seldovia, Alaska. Since 2012, I've been one of the PIs, along with
10 researchers at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve of the Trustee Council
11 funded project Oceanographic Monitoring in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay.

12 Our project has been part of the Gulf Watch Alaska integrated
13 ecosystem monitoring program from the beginning and was recommended for
14 full funding by the Science Panel, the Public Advisory Committee, and the
15 Executive Director. It was not approved by the Trustees in October and
16 I'm here to respectfully ask the Trustees to reconsider that decision.

17 Our project provides the coastal oceanographic context for the Trustee
18 Council funded nearshore and sea otter monitoring project, as well as for
19 changes in spill-affected marine bird and whale populations in Cook Inlet,
20 and we collect data on plankton species at the base of the marine food
21 web, so the prey species that support fish, birds, and whale populations
22 that were affected by the spill.

23 One unique part of our project is that we collect data year-round,
24 conducting small boat surveys every month to monitor oceanographic
25 conditions in plankton communities, and this frequent sampling allows us

1 to determine changes in seasonal timing, as well as changes between
2 seasons and between years.

3 Collecting these data through the warm and cold climate shifts since
4 2012 in coordination with Gulf Watch Alaska, lets us better understand the
5 mechanisms for how climate conditions drive changes in marine populations,
6 and we also routinely monitor ocean acidification conditions and harmful
7 algal blooms, species that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in both
8 marine birds and mammals, and the Trustees have mentioned the need for
9 more of this type of information.

10 So discontinuing our decade-long Cook Inlet time series will mean
11 losing key monitoring of the base of the marine food web and this is at a
12 time when extreme changes in climate and marine species populations are
13 occurring in the spill-affected area. So I would like to thank the
14 Trustee Council for its support over the past decade. It's really made a
15 huge difference, but ask them to reconsider their initial funding decision
16 for our project and to entertain a motion at this meeting or in the future
17 to approve funding for oceanographic monitoring in Cook Inlet.

18 I'd also like to just quickly echo Heather Coletti's comments about
19 the value of the integrative program management under Gulf Watch Alaska,
20 and thank you for the opportunity to provide a comment.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Thanks so much Kris. Any questions for Kris?

22 (No audible response).

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we appreciate your testimony.

24 We have two final individuals before we make a last call, and again,
25 if you are interested in testifying, please let Joy know, and next one is

1 Willow Hetrick, followed by Jeep Rice.

2 Willow, the floor is yours.

3 MS. HETRICK: Good morning, Trustees. My name is Willow Hetrick. I'm
4 the Executive Director of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission. I
5 wanted to take a moment to first thank you for your support of CRRC and
6 our Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute's projects. We're happy to be funded
7 by EVOSTC and we're not going to let you down.

8 I have three key issues I wanted to discuss. First, in reading your
9 meeting packets, I couldn't help but notice a letter from your Science
10 Panel regarding Project #22220300. I'm not really sure why the Science
11 Panel weighed in on the mariculture projects in the first place, but
12 please, don't change your mind. Mariculture doesn't have to have
13 scientific rigor as the Science Panel suggests.

14 For mariculture to succeed, it's necessary to stop studying at the
15 beaker and lab levels, stop planning, and just implement. We know we can
16 grow kelp. We've proven that. Our farms are growing as we speak.

17 Second, I ask that you reconsider funding Project 22220400 for the
18 full 10-year timeframe. Work on this scale and geographic distribution
19 takes time to reach its full capacity and each year that it extends reaps
20 additional benefits, especially in the Alaska Native communities. It will
21 take several years for this group to gain trust in the communities and
22 nurture relationships of this large group.

23 Third, and last before you today, is a proposal for consideration. I
24 know it comes very late in the process, but very recently, we've been
25 presented with a unique opportunity that I know all of you can relate to,

1 based on your support of the Prince William Sound Science Center and the
2 Alaska SeaLife Center. As a reminder, the State of Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game constructed our mariculture technical center with EVOS
4 criminal settlement money.

5 We have the option to purchase the land and the mariculture technical
6 facility from the City of Seward. We have invested heavily into the
7 facility, maintaining the physical plant and continually upgrade and
8 improve this system, keeping it a state-of-the-art facility.

9 This is our first request to the Trustees for support. Ownership of
10 the land and the building make our organization better qualified for
11 funding opportunities, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fish Hatchery
12 Maintenance Program. With ownership, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute will
13 be uniquely positioned to increase our presence in the science and
14 mariculture field.

15 We also need to invest in improvements in our seawater delivery
16 system. As you've publicly acknowledged, you are trying to put as much
17 money into legacy facilities. We are your first legacy facility from the
18 oil spill, and we quietly celebrated our 30-year anniversary last year.
19 The Mariculture Technical Center is without question fundamental to our
20 efforts to assist the Chugach community in the recovery from the oil spill
21 through shellfish enhancement and water quality monitoring.

22 Recognizing that many of the services may never be recovered, CRRC
23 continues to innovate and address the development of replacement
24 facilities -- replacement species in a changing environment. We are
25 asking for a fraction of what the other facilities projects have requested

1 and ask that you treat us with similar regard. Thank you so much and
2 enjoy your day.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Willow. Are there any questions for Willow?

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I have a question, Willow. So you put
5 a lot of information out there about potential ownership of assets that
6 were built by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Council and wanting to
7 transfer/purchase some of those from the City of Seward. I guess this is
8 the first I'm hearing of this and I'm just curious as to what assets
9 you're looking to purchase and what funds would be used to purchase that.

10 MS. HETRICK: Okay, so the assets that we would be purchasing from the
11 City is the land, which is waterfront property that is owned by the City
12 of Seward, and also that is on the 1.03-acre parcel that we would purchase
13 is the Mariculture Technical Center that would be purchased as well. So
14 we would own the land and the building, taking the ownership from the City
15 of Alaska -- or City of Seward to our consortia, which is federally
16 recognized. Having that land under federal recognition really puts us
17 steps ahead when we are trying to go for funding. Did that answer your
18 questions, Trustee Vincent Lang?

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So is the.....

20 MS. HETRICK: We'd own the surface and the facility.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So how was the facility paid for?

22 MS. HETRICK: The facility was originally paid for by the *Exxon Valdez*
23 Oil Spill criminal settlement money from the Fish and Game. They built
24 the facility, transferred the ownership over to the City of Seward at no
25 cost, and the City has owned it ever since.

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: And then the -- so I presume -- I was just
2 reading that memorandum of understanding. I presume that approval would
3 require -- I think it requires Fish and Game approval to move forward?

4 MS. HETRICK: Yes, possibly and there's -- yeah, you're correct.

5 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: And then you also raised a series of
6 suggestions after that, that you're reliant on Seward SeaLife Center
7 facilities for water pumping and other things or -- I guess that's where I
8 start getting confused about the integration between your facility and the
9 existing infrastructure for the SeaLife Center.

10 MS. HETRICK: Yeah, we actually have no direct connection to the
11 SeaLife Center's water intake. It's the University of Alaska Fairbanks
12 Seward Marine Center. They are the waterfront property that blocks us
13 from direct access to the waterfront. So all of our incoming seawater, it
14 goes through that UAF facility first. They have very large plans to put
15 in a breakwater for the *Sikuliaq* and change things up a bit, and we are in
16 their large plans to have a seawater intake, but while they're in
17 construction, it's necessary to for us to have an additional intake as a
18 backup because we can only go 12 hours without having seawater, and their
19 construction period could last up to six months. So we need a secondary
20 duplicative seawater intake for that timeframe, and just in general, I
21 mean, if anything were to happen to the University's intake, you know, got
22 clogged or disengaged, it would be nice for us to be able to flip a switch
23 and go to a backup.

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, thank you.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Willow. Any other questions for Willow?

1 (No audible response).

2 MS. HETRICK: Thank you all.

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, thank you so much for your testimony, and
4 I believe that Jeep Rice is our last testifier, but we'll make a final call
5 after we hear from Jeep.

6 MR. RICE: Thank you. I just have about three points to make. I'm --
7 first, I'm a long-time researcher from the very beginning and have stayed
8 with the program after I retired in 2014 to be a reviewer for both the Gulf
9 Watch and the Herring Programs. So I'm kind of -- been pretty intimate
10 with both parts. I don't have any monetary interests anymore, of course,
11 but I do want to see the best science possible go forward.

12 Point one I want to make is that this has been very much a world-class
13 program over the years, and it's certainly evolved over time. It has a
14 long track record of great publications, both in quantity and quality, and
15 they've served -- stood the test of time, so to speak, within the science
16 literature and they've also stood tall in court.

17 And much of this is dependent upon the management of the current
18 program. In the last 10 years, we've become much more of an integrative
19 program, not just in logistics, but in management, and most importantly, in
20 the syntheses across various studies that have united oceanography, for
21 example, with other species and how they've gone up and down.

22 Management agencies typically do a very good job of tracking species,
23 the trends, and then they fail every 10, 15 years because they aren't --
24 are not able to predict the sudden and dramatic declines or increases, for
25 that matter, and so it takes an ecosystem type of program to try and figure

1 out why these deflections from the trends occur, and this program that we
2 have in place now for the last 10 years is, I think, the best shot at
3 trying to give the managers a better shot at figuring out those things.
4 We're now halfway through the 20-year vision that we originally took a stab
5 at creating 10 years ago, but the net result of the last 10 years that
6 would be continued, the world-class studies, that literally date back three
7 and four decades with data, through good years, bad years, cold years, warm
8 years, so it's really a very unique and powerful dataset that should keep
9 going as intact as possible.

10 My second point is about program management. It is key to the
11 enhanced success of this, not just in integration or getting platforms and
12 logistics, but getting across the syntheses of the various programs. This
13 is the big scientific payoff for Alaska that is needed, and I think that we
14 should -- well, 1) you should fund the program management, but also let the
15 program managers there make the tough decisions of how to finish the
16 program off over the next 10-year period.

17 Cutting off some of the studies abruptly without a close-out year, for
18 example, is not the right thing to do if you want to get the maximum
19 science out of it, the maximum benefit for data you've already paid for,
20 but you're not going to get the publications, the closeout, et cetera.

21 An example of that would be, for example, the killer whale program,
22 one of the best studies ever, both from a legal perspective, it's very
23 solid and in terms of being a damage assessment study, but also
24 scientifically, being able to estimate the population down to the
25 individual level. So that's a program that should be continued, I think.

1 Another example is the herring genetics work that was started in about
2 five or six years ago, at most, and it's produced a ton of data, but if you
3 close it out abruptly, stop it now, you won't get the analysis of the data
4 that's in-hand. You won't get the analysis of the data that's in-hand.
5 You won't get the publications and most importantly, you're not going to
6 get the syntheses across various studies. So I really encourage the
7 continuation of various projects specifically, but it's -- really comes
8 down to the program management. That's very, very critical and I would let
9 them figure out how to end this program. It's very complex. The
10 ecosystem's complex. The science is going to be very complex. Let them
11 figure out which studies -- maybe some studies should end at year nine or
12 something, so that there can be a closeout of studies, so we're stopped
13 there and that.....

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Jeep. You've gone over your time. So if you
15 could conclude, please?

16 MR. RICE: That's it. I just think that just -- I just urge the
17 Trustees to reconsider those decisions and put more of the responsibility
18 on how to close out the program onto the management team.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Jeep. I have a question for you, Jeep.
20 First of all, thank you for your years of work for the Trustee Council and
21 your expertise has been so appreciated and I've learned a ton from you. My
22 question about the comment you just made though, I'm a little concerned
23 about, and that is when we fund a PI, when we fund a study, regardless if
24 we continue to fund it or not, there is a responsibility for publishing and
25 going forth with the data based on the term of the study, not going forth

1 with the data, but going forth with public publication of that. That's a
2 responsibility of the funding of the project, and so for the term that it
3 was funded for. So I guess I'm kind of perplexed by the insinuation that
4 we won't get publication for the studies that we've already funded and the
5 terms that we've already funded.

6 MR. RICE: Well, the way it works in reality is that when you do a
7 project, you actually plan for the ending of it in a way that some of these
8 projects are planned is that they -- well, they all had plans to go
9 forward. So in some cases, how do you support, you know, usually the PI,
10 for example, may have some funding support through the University, for
11 example, but the post-docs, et cetera, that were continuing, they're done
12 without the continuing funding.

13 So the processing of the data is going to make sudden stop when you
14 suddenly stop the funding. So yeah, you paid for a study, but you need a
15 closeout year in order to finish them off in a logical, proper way, I
16 guess, in a finished, complete way. I -- you know, a study might produce
17 five publications if it goes through closeout. It may only produce one or
18 possibly two if it doesn't go through the closeout period.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I have to follow-up on that. So I
21 guess I am mightily confused. What you're saying is that we fund a grant
22 project, and we have a responsibility after that grant is completed to
23 actually do a subsidy -- a secondary grant to ensure that data's going to
24 get published? I guess that's where I'm having trouble with it.

25 MR. RICE: Well.....

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: When I fund a project, I'm presuming that
2 it's funding the project and the reporting, and I don't have an obligation
3 to come back after they completed the project to do further work. That
4 gets mixed in with everything else that we're going to do the research, and
5 what I'm hearing you say is that I -- we have an obligation to fund the
6 science collection and then fund later the reporting of that work and the
7 continuation of that work, and that, to me, is a separate question.

8 MR. RICE: I understand where you're coming from. What I'm saying is
9 the sudden abrupt non-funding when things were more or less assumed that
10 they would go forward. The COVID year really has hit a couple of the
11 projects pretty hard. It stopped the field year, for example. It stopped
12 the hiring of some post-docs, for example, so several of them are
13 discombobulated, I guess would be the simple way to put it.

14 The funding wouldn't have to be full, you know, a full amount, for
15 example, but I just think that the management team would be best able to
16 hear the -- hear those that have complaints or hear those that are stressed
17 and make the appropriate decisions to get them finished as best they can,
18 with the most scientific publications and synthesis out.

19 It was a surprise when some of the projects were cut off from the
20 second 10-year period, especially after they had gotten good reviews from
21 all levels. In the case of the Killer Whale Study, it's received excellent
22 reviews from the very beginning for the last -- since 1989 or so. So you
23 know, it's just kind of odd, or you know, it's stressful that it got
24 suddenly stopped.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Jeep, appreciate your testimony. Any other

1 questions for Jeep?

2 (No audible response).

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, thank you so much for testifying today.

4 Joy or Shiway, do we have anyone else that's contacted you to be added
5 to the list?

6 DR. WANG: I do not. Joy?

7 MS. MAGLAQUI: No, Jeep is the last one on our list.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay. Any others out there?

9 (No audible response).

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, that will close public testimony.

11 For the sake of the public's knowledge, we are going to have a motion
12 soon to move into executive session. I will make a commitment that we will
13 be back by 11:00, and so that the public, you can take a 45, 43-minute
14 break, and we will be back on the record, or we will let you know if it's
15 going to be extended at 11:00, but we will not have any public business
16 until 11:00. So with that, I'll entertain a motion to move into executive
17 session.

18 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we move into executive session to
19 discuss fiscal issues.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

21 MR. O'CONNOR: O'Connor seconds.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Second from O'Connor. Is there any discussion?

23 (No audible response).

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, any opposition to moving into executive
25 session?

1 (No audible response).

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, we will move into executive session. Each of you,
3 Trustees, should have received a link for the executive session meeting and
4 we will be back to the public at 11:00. Thank you.

5 10:17:49

6 (Off record)

7 (On record)

8 11:21:04

9 CHAIR BRUNE: We are out of executive session, and Shiway, we are
10 going to go to you for the FY22 -- or the FY -- the operating budget,
11 Agenda Item 8.

12 DR. WANG: Okay, thank you, just give me one second.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: For the public's knowledge, I've asked Shiway to give a
14 detailed overview of the budget proposal and so she's preparing, and when
15 you're ready, Shiway, the floor is yours.

16 DR. WANG: Thank you. Let me share my screen.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: So Shiway.....

18 DR. WANG: Yes.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Real quickly before you start, just to signal you, we
20 are -- we only want you to address the upcoming one-year budget, not all --
21 not the nine additional years, just for this upcoming fiscal year.

22 DR. WANG: Okay, so I'll just try to just talk about this year. I've
23 prepared a presentation for the entire.....

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Feel free -- feel free to chime in, but that's the core
25 focus of our efforts. That's -- my apologies, but that's -- you don't

1 have to -- you can still talk about all 10 years, but you don't have to go
2 into the detail you may have for years two through 10.

3 DR. WANG: Okay. Okay, sounds good. All right, I am going to turn
4 off my video, so I don't have to watch myself. Let's see, can you all see
5 my PowerPoint?

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfectly, thank you.

7 DR. WANG: Okay, great. All right, so I apologize, I didn't get a
8 chance to make, you know, lots of pretty pictures and stuff. So it's going
9 to be a lot of text and a lot of me speaking. The Trustee Council is
10 supported by -- how come it's not working? There we go, okay -- by the
11 Council staff and Agency liaisons and Trust Agency staff and also this
12 third-party management team that includes a Science Program Management Team
13 and a separate Fiscal and Outreach Management Team, and as you can see by
14 these lines, there's a lot of coordination that goes on between staff and
15 support personnel, and several changes have occurred since 2009 to get to
16 this efficient infrastructure that exists today, and so the budget for our
17 Council staff and this third-party management team is up for review at this
18 meeting.

19 So in order to better understand why this structure exists, I think
20 it's important to explain how we got here in the first place, especially
21 because there may be people in the audience, the public that aren't
22 familiar with the Council's administrative history.

23 So we're going to rewind just a little bit, so bear with me. We're
24 going to go back to 2009, the 20th anniversary of the spill, and the Council
25 discussed during that time ways to -- how best to manage the remaining

1 funds that were left in both subaccounts, and what they came up with was a
2 deliberate move to strategically transition the Restoration Program at that
3 time to a modest and a better organized and collaborative and integrated
4 Restoration Program, which would focus the remaining funds on a few
5 specific programs, which included at the time, the Gulf Watch Alaska and
6 Herring Programs, which would produce information to support the future
7 management and natural restoration of injured resources, which is
8 consistent with the long-term restoration rules.

9 So the vision was a 20-year investment for these programs, concluding
10 in FY31, and during that time, Council staff had primarily managed the
11 Restoration Program, and so there was a proposal to dramatically reduce
12 administrative budget and staff and office space over the next two years to
13 make funds available to further support these programs, and so over two
14 years, 20 staff were reduced to about seven staff, and not all full-time,
15 and then also, our office space was also downsized during this time, and
16 then a third-party management approach was initiated with direct
17 collaboration with Council staff.

18 So there was a two-year public process prior to the release of the
19 first five-year invitation. The administrative change included a
20 significant reduction, again, in Council staff and capacity to fund these
21 programs, these long-term programs and some of the administrative program
22 support was purposefully farmed out to the programs for management,
23 including consolidating fiscal administration.

24 So in order to understand the importance of the third-party fiscal
25 administration, we also need to understand how Council funds are moved

1 around and so we're going to do a little quick EVOSTC funds 101 for
2 everybody. So Council staff cannot administer funds to projects directly.
3 So funds have to go through a sponsoring agency. The funds are -- the
4 subaccounts are held and invested in the Alaska Department of Revenue, and
5 once a court notice is released (sic), and court notices are signed and
6 sent to the courts and approved, the funds can be released to either the
7 State of Alaska IRIS account or the Federal National Resources Damages
8 Assessment and Restoration account.

9 And then these funds have to go through -- are routed through a State
10 or Federal agency, and then that's where the PIs get funded. So the
11 sponsored State or Federal agency then transfers the funds directly to the
12 PIs, and so a State or Federal agency needs to transfer funds also to a
13 non-Trustee entity, such as a university or organization, such as Alutiiq
14 Pride Marine Institute.

15 Prior to 2012, many individual contracts were issued by State and
16 Federal agencies, and this is really inefficient and expensive and some
17 agencies are not authorized to contract, such as Fish and Wildlife Service,
18 and some agencies do not have the capacity to administer a large volume of
19 contracts, as it involves significant administrative staff time, and so our
20 understanding is that back then, back in 2009/2010, the State did not want
21 to take on this role moving forward into 2012.

22 So the Council decided to take advantage of the fiscal infrastructure
23 at NOAA. NOAA already has a grant officer. A five-year grant is a much
24 more efficient way to distribute funds and NOAA was also already doing
25 multiple contracts, and so by doing this one grant, it even significantly

1 reduced the time and staff for just even NOAA.

2 And so the way funding has been dispersed for the programs has evolved
3 to be more efficient over the past 10 years, as we've figured out what
4 works and what doesn't, and so this grant process provides an efficient
5 means to have a single point of contact for management, administration,
6 reporting and contracting of many projects.

7 So trying to connect some of those pieces of program management,
8 Prince William Sound Science Center serves as the fiscal agent for this
9 NOAA grant, and it administers the subawards to all of the non-Trustee
10 entities. This is a competitive process to be a fiscal agent for NOAA and
11 it requires going out to bid, and the past two times, the award has gone to
12 Prince William Sound Science Center, which has the expertise and the
13 administrative structure to provide this service.

14 The fiscal agent for NOAA can only charge -- sorry, 30% indirect on
15 the first \$25,000 of the grant, no matter how large it is. So that's only
16 \$7,000. So for, you know, a multi-million-dollar grant, they have \$100
17 million, they can only charge \$7,000 for indirect services. This is really
18 cheap for the services that are provided and also impossible to operate on
19 a \$7,000 indirect. So that's why there's a budget here for the Prince
20 William Sound Science Center fiscal administration staff to help cover
21 costs for these services.

22 So these adjustments to the fiscal process were achieved through a
23 lengthy process with numerous public and Council meetings in 2010 and 2011,
24 and in order for the Council to effectively reduce the administrative
25 costs, we had to adopt the management practice using a third-party lead

1 outside of Council staff to coordinate with the Herring and Gulf Watch
2 Alaska Programs.

3 So now that we have some of this background information, I'm going to
4 review -- first review the Council's Operating Budget and followed by the
5 Program Management Budget. So the budget I will be presenting can be found
6 in the meeting materials titled "EVOSTC FY22-33 General Operating Budget,
7 Revised 12.2.21."

8 The GOB, as we like to call it, is made up of six components; first,
9 the Program Management and Operations, then IT and Website Support, the
10 Science Program, the Public Advisory Committee, the Habitat Program, and
11 then Trust Agency Project Management. So each component is further broken
12 down into class types that include personnel, travel, contractual,
13 commodities, and equipment.

14 So before I go into details for each component, I'm going to show you
15 the annual budget for the last three years, FY19, FY20, FY21, and the
16 expected budget for the next 12 years. The Council's budget has
17 experienced significant declines since FY19, which included the elimination
18 of the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services Librarian
19 position.

20 The annual budget has decreased since FY19 by a proposed 42% for FY22.
21 The document posted incorrectly states this as 25%. It's actually a 42%
22 decrease. The proposed general operating budget for the first five-year
23 cycle is about \$7.5 million. The second five-year cycle is \$7.1 million,
24 and then the two-year closeout period after the end of all programs, for
25 about \$3 million, and so the total proposed is \$17.7 million for 12 years.

1 The variations that you see here include a 2.5% cost of living
2 increase and then also adjustments during biennial review years and Council
3 meeting years. So those would be FY24, you'll see an uptick in activity
4 and therefore, the budget, and then a Council meeting year and another
5 biennial review year, FY26, and the same thing here with FY29 and FY31.

6 So some of the significant decrease in budget for the next 12 years is
7 a reflection of downsizing of staff. As you all know, I've been Acting ED
8 and Science Director since March '21, and Joy, our new Executive -- awesome
9 Executive Assistant has taken over Linda's and Cherri's responsibilities
10 and we also have a part-time Habitat Director, Lauri Adams, and part-time
11 Program Officer, Austin Quinn-Davidson, and they will both be finishing out
12 managing the existing and new Habitat projects, which are expected to be
13 completed by the end of FY26.

14 Lauri will be phasing out over the next five years, while Austin will
15 be taking on more of the Habitat Director duties and also continue to
16 assist the ED and the Executive Assistant with general program operations.

17 So now I am going to review each budget and component, and I'm sorry,
18 I didn't get the message that it was only FY22, so here we are, all 12
19 years. The personnel cost for Program Management and Operations includes
20 funds for my position, Executive Director position, which is sponsored by
21 NOAA. It's a 12-month cost that includes benefits and applicable merit
22 step increases.

23 So overall, briefly, I will provide leadership, direction, and
24 coordination for all Council activities and supervise Council staff. This
25 funding also provides -- supports a Federal Budget Officer to process

1 investment fund federal account transfers and requests. So travel here is
2 the next line item. Travel funds are included to support any possible
3 meetings or trainings, and contractual costs include nine contracts, and
4 these include program support and coordination for two part-time
5 contractors, the Habitat Director and the Program Officer, to continue to
6 undertake additional programmatic and operational tasks to help manage the
7 Council's programs to completion. I'm not going to go into the tasks in
8 detail. We can do that later if you want.

9 The next contract is for Administrative Program Support for the
10 Executive Assistant who will provide in-house administrative support for
11 the Council office. We also have a part-time contractor who is -- who will
12 continue to help the Council office review historical and more recent
13 documents for disposition and potential incorporation into the Council's
14 official record and to also make sure that all these documents are properly
15 archived in the right places.

16 This contract also includes office space. We -- our office is
17 administered through a Memorandum of Agreement with USGS of the DOI.
18 Office space has been reduced as operations and personnel have been
19 consolidated, including most recently during this fiscal year. The
20 contract also includes the Agreed-Upon Services and Auditor. These funds
21 support a contract with Max Mertz, CPA and Advisor, for the review of
22 targeted financial transactions of the Trustee Office and agencies
23 receiving Council funds, and any ad hoc financial analysis in response to
24 GAO audits and budget comparison inquiries by agencies for governments.

25 The contract also includes office services for expenditures such as

1 telecommunications, increased bandwidth, teleconferencing meetings, now
2 video-conferencing meetings, postage and courier services, if we need to
3 mail anything, and shredding services in response to the U.S. District
4 Court's vacating of the Retention Order.

5 This contractual line item also includes a contract for Council
6 Meeting Services. These funds are for advertising the Council public
7 meetings and workshops in newspapers in the spill-affected areas. These
8 funds also include the transcription service contract to record and
9 preserve Trustee Council meetings, and these are costs only included in
10 FY24, FY26, FY29, FY31 for PAC meeting years, and then public notices and
11 transcription services for every five years for the anticipated Council
12 meeting years.

13 Then we have two more contracts in this line item; ADEC RSA Services,
14 these funds are for the Trustee Office's share of the Reimbursable Service
15 Agreement costs relating to services paid by all Department of
16 Environmental Conservation divisions. We also have a contract for Alaska
17 Department of Law legal services. These funds support legal services
18 provided by ADOL to assist habitat protection with parcel purchases and
19 other legal support.

20 The Commodities cost types include office supplies for miscellaneous
21 office supplies, including paper, toner, meeting materials, and any
22 supplies that we need to complete the official record, archiving work.
23 Trustee Council meetings in anticipated meeting years, every five years,
24 these also include unanticipated operation costs. These funds are for
25 unanticipated expenses and allow some flexibility for unforeseen need that

1 may arise during the fiscal year.

2 USGS Supplies, these are funds for the Trustee Office's share of USGS
3 costs including supplies, postage use, office equipment usage, and the
4 Glenn Olds Hall receptionists, and there are no equipment costs for this
5 budget component.

6 So moving onto the second budget component, which is IT and Website
7 Support, and I guess I forgot to reference that if you want more details,
8 this component starts on page 10 of the budget proposal. So there are no
9 costs for personnel and travel for this component. Contractual services
10 include minor equipment maintenance and repairs and IT support provided by
11 Resource Data, Inc. of the recently updated public website and the
12 application of the updated internal portal to publish documents to the
13 public website.

14 The improved website meets current commonly used standards and will be
15 transferable to a Trustee agency if they wish in the future. In FY27,
16 after the end of the Habitat Program, support for maintenance of the Alaska
17 Department of Natural Resources online Habitat catalog will be moved to
18 this component from the Habitat Program Component.

19 Commodities include purchases and upgrades to computer hardware,
20 software, software licenses, and any networking equipment necessary for our
21 office. Equipment funds are for replacing existing equipment and/or new
22 equipment purchases, if needed.

23 The next component is for the Science Program, and that starts on page
24 11 of the budget proposal, if you have the document open. There are no
25 personnel costs for the Science Program and the travel-- that's

1 interesting. Well, there was travel support in there. I think my slide is
2 incorrect. If we're -- any in-person biennial review -- any in-person
3 biennial reviews with the Science Panel. So those would be in FY24, 26,
4 29, and '31.

5 Contractual costs include contracts with the Science Panel. The
6 Science Panel provides advice and feedback to the Executive Director and
7 the Council. The work includes providing funding recommendations on
8 scientific proposals to the ED, assistance on special projects at the ED's
9 or Trustee Council's request, and participating in the periodic Science
10 Review Panel meetings.

11 Funds are reduced for the anticipated non-review years and will only
12 be used for contingency purposes as deemed necessary by the Council, and we
13 have also contractual funds to support the Alaska Marine Science Symposium,
14 and open access costs for Council-funded projects in various publications,
15 peer review contracts as deemed necessary to the scientific integrity of
16 findings and assist with the review of the Council's program. Then
17 commodities include funds for meals and supplies if we have any more in-
18 person Science Panel meetings.

19 Okay, next component, the fourth budget component is for the Public
20 Advisory Committee. Cost descriptions begin on page 12 of the budget
21 document. Personnel funds are provided for the designated federal officer,
22 the DFO, who is currently Phillip Johnson, assigned to the PAC as required
23 by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This individual coordinates with
24 EVOSTC staff in the scheduling of meetings, reviews the agenda, prepares
25 meeting minutes, and reports on outcomes to the Executive Director and the

1 Council.

2 The DFO also aids the PAC Chair and the Council Office as needed. We
3 are expecting that new member solicitations are going to occur every fiscal
4 year due to the timing of membership expirations. Right now, they're every
5 two years, but we have PAC members that started every other year. So we're
6 going to have some new PAC member solicitations.

7 Travel funds are for one teleconferenced and one in-person meeting for
8 up to 10 PAC members during a biennial review, and contractual funds are
9 for advertising PAC meetings in the spill-affected areas for anticipated
10 meeting years.

11 Commodity costs include funds for materials and incidentals for any
12 Zoom meetings or in-person PAC meetings for anticipated meeting years to
13 conduct biennial review of project progress, and there are no equipment
14 costs for the PAC budget component.

15 So the next budget component is the Habitat Program, which starts on
16 page 13 of the proposal document. This component will not be funded after
17 FY26 in anticipation of the completion of Habitat projects. No new Habitat
18 purchases were approved at the October 13th meeting.

19 For FY22-26, personnel costs are provided for Alaska Department of
20 Natural Resources designated manager and other personnel to coordinate and
21 process the existing Habitat Protection activities by the State, including
22 assistance with interagency reviews, transfers of funds, closings, and
23 other support to the Council.

24 ADNR also provides expertise and any needed determinations regarding
25 public use and management of Council-approved restoration lands. Funds are

1 also approved for DOI, the Fish and Wildlife Realty Services, and BLM to
2 assist with agency realty services related to habitat protection, such as
3 contractual and easement terms and conditions, inspections, and reviews and
4 reports to ensure compliance with all federal requirements. Personnel
5 costs are reduced annually in response to expected project completion
6 dates.

7 Travel funds support travel for staff and/or contractors related to
8 habitat projects as needed, and then we have contracts, which includes
9 funds for the part-time Program Officer to develop and implement Council-
10 approved habitat restoration and enhancement projects and to oversee and
11 facilitate any habitat protection projects as directed by the Council.

12 We also have contracts for ADNR and BLM Habitat Support. These are
13 provided for agency efforts assisting with the Council's habitat projects,
14 including completion of all agency-required reviews and approvals necessary
15 for Council-directed activities. In FY27, the support for maintenance of
16 the ADNR online Habitat catalog, which I mentioned before, will be moved to
17 the Program Management and Operations component contractals.

18 There is also a contract for Great Land Trust to complete previously
19 approved Trustee Council habitat projects. There are no commodities or
20 equipment costs for the Habitat Program component.

21 So the last component of the General Operating Budget is for Trust
22 Agency funding, and cost descriptions begin on page 15 of the budget
23 proposal. This component provides for Trustee Council staff support
24 funding at the request of the Trustees. Fifty percent is allocated to the
25 State Trustees and 50% to the Federal Trustees to decide amongst themselves

1 how to further use these funds. These funds have been used to support
2 agency liaisons and other agency staff positions, including the ADFG
3 Herring Coordinator position.

4 So just to summarize, the 12-year operating budget is tailored to the
5 decisions made at the October 13th meeting, which includes the Habitat
6 Program zeroed out by the end of FY26. The FY22 General Operating Budget
7 will be the lowest since anyone can remember, decreasing by 42% from FY19,
8 and then also, keep in mind that the Trustees are also funding a lot more
9 projects this year -- well, for next year, than they have in the last 10
10 years.

11 So then going back to the Council's administrative infrastructure, the
12 budget I have presented is for the Council staff operating budget, and so
13 the next budget that I will present is for the third-party management,
14 which is proposal 2222LTRM Integrated Program Management, so.....

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you very much, Shiway.

16 DR. WANG: Okay.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Vincent-Lang.

18 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve \$1,497,845, which
19 includes GA for funding the FY22 EVOSTC General Operating Budget, Project
20 22220100 Budget Document dated December 2, 2021, as recommended by the
21 Executive Director for only the FY22 funding cycle. The Executive Director
22 is authorized to make changes up to 10% in any general operating budget
23 component with written justification provided to the Council. The Council
24 also requests written quarterly updates on expenditures and balances to be
25 distributed to all Trustees.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

2 (No audible response).

3 CHAIR BRUNE: I will second it. Trustee Vincent-Lang.

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I think we need to fund our Trustee
5 Council to move forward. I think until we settle some issues that we've
6 been discussing and that I have in my mind, I think one year of funding is
7 sufficient to cover that until we get a plan moving forward on some issues,
8 and I support the work that Shiway's laid out for the next year.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee Vincent-Lang. Are there other
10 comments?

11 MR. O'CONNOR: This is O'Connor, just a quick question. That million-
12 four, I can't plow back through the slide here, that was the amount that
13 Shiway was suggesting was dated for FY22, right?

14 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yes, that comes from the document that's
15 called "FY22-FY33 General Operating Budget, February 1, 2022 through
16 January 31, 2034," and it's the number for FY22.

17 MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

18 CHAIR BRUNE: The State's -- or the Trustee Council's fiscal year is
19 from February 1st to January 31st, so that will be effective February 1st of
20 this year and again, Doug, just for clarification, Doug's budget is
21 directly from the proposal that Shiway just laid out for only the year
22 FY22. Trustee O'Connor, does that answer your question?

23 MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, thank you.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Are there any other comments or questions?

25 MS. SARA TAYLOR: Mr. Chair, I have just a clarification.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, Trustee Sara Taylor.

2 MS. SARA TAYLOR: I'd just like to clarify that in approving this or
3 in not objecting to this, we will be having budget conferences to meet and
4 decide on a more long-term situation for the Trustee Council staff?

5 CHAIR BRUNE: That's -- he laid it out with quarterly reports, but I
6 think, Sara, if you wanted to make that as a friendly amendment?

7 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: My understanding is that we'll be having
8 those discussions over the next six to eight months.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Is that sufficient for you, Trustee Sara Taylor, or.....

10 MS. SARA TAYLOR: That satisfies me, thank you.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay. Any other.....

12 MR. O'CONNOR: (Indiscernible - speaking simultaneously) question.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: I'm sorry.

14 MS. LINDLEY: If we could please not share the screen, so I can see
15 who is speaking? Thank you.

16 DR. WANG: Yes, sorry, hold on, standby.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: The previous comment, for the record, was from Trustee
18 Sara Taylor and prior to that was Trustee O'Connor. Trustee O'Connor, I
19 believe you were saying something?

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I think he called for the question.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, sorry.

22 MR. O'CONNOR: I called for the question, yeah.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, thank you. Is there any opposition to the motion?
24 (No audible response).

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, the budget for FY22 from February 1st

1 through January -- February 1st, 2022, through January 30th (sic), 2023 is
2 approved.

3 Shiway, I'm going to ask you now to retake the screen and go through
4 Agenda Item 9. LTRM Integrated Program Management Proposal.

5 DR. WANG: Okay, thank you, standby. All right, can you see it?

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes, perfectly.

7 DR. WANG: Okay, thank you. Okay, so I presented a ton of information
8 and there's a lot of info to keep track of. So as a reminder, the reason
9 why we have an Integrated Program Management proposal is because when the
10 first invitation was issued, there was a deliberate downsizing of Council
11 staff to provide funding for the vision of a 20-year long-term program and
12 some of the administrative duties were, including fiscal management, was
13 purposely farmed out to a third-party program.

14 So what services does the Integrated Project Management provide? The
15 Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program Management Team oversees 22
16 projects involving 36 PIs from five Federal and State agencies, five
17 universities, and eight nonprofit scientific organizations.

18 This is a two-part administration project. We have a Science
19 Administration component and a Fiscal and Outreach Administration
20 component. The Science Administration component includes five people.
21 There is a program lead who is responsible for the entire program and the
22 primary communicator with Trustee Council staff. This position is provided
23 in-kind by NOAA and so it does not cost the Trustee Council funds to
24 support this position.

25 We also have a Science Lead, who is responsible for the program

1 science and component lead for the synthesis and modeling component. This
2 position is also provided in-kind and at no cost to the Council by NOAA,
3 and then there is a full-time Science Coordinator, who is responsible for
4 coordinating and authoring datasets, reporting, and publications for all
5 synthesis and modeling products that cross components and other projects,
6 and then we have two syntheses and modeling component post-docs.

7 They are not part of the program management team, but a virtual
8 synthesis and modeling component, which doesn't have its own budget. So
9 they are placed under here within the Science Administration. The post-
10 docs are limited to three-years and 120K per year.

11 The Fiscal and Outreach Administration component includes three staff,
12 the Administrative Lead, which serves as a third-party fiscal agent for the
13 Council and oversees the fiscal administration of all non-Trustee agency
14 and organization projects under the NOAA five-year grant.

15 There is a part-time Coordinator, Program Coordinator, who is
16 responsible for coordinating all aspects of program activities and with
17 Council staff. This includes scheduling and hosting meetings, reviewing
18 and tracking program deliverables, responding to requests by Principle
19 Investigators and also Council staff, and then there's a part-time Outreach
20 Coordinator, who is responsible for all program outreach activities,
21 engaging scientists, agencies, Tribes, and local communities and other
22 Council-funded programs, and also maintains the web and social media
23 content.

24 So moving onto how much does this all cost? So the cost for the
25 Science Administration is for -- personnel includes the Science Coordinator

1 and two post-docs for three years and the Program Lead for half a month per
2 year and Science Lead, point-one month per year, and those are in-kind
3 again, at no cost to the Trustee Council.

4 Travel funds are requested for three NOAA staff and two post-docs to
5 attend annual PI meetings and the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Post-
6 docs to present at professional conferences and the Program Lead to attend
7 any in-person Council meetings.

8 There are no funds being requested for contractual services.
9 Commodities include funding to support post-docs with laptops, statistical
10 and modeling software and publication fees, and also general supplies.
11 There are no funds requested for equipment, and direct costs are not added
12 to the Science Administration component.

13 The Fiscal and Outreach Administration part includes personnel costs
14 for administrative leave for three-and-a-half months per year, a Program
15 Coordinator for nine months of the year and an Education and Outreach
16 Coordinator for three months, and also some support staff for a month-and-
17 a-half per year.

18 Travel costs are requested for three Prince William Sound Science
19 Center staff and Science Review Panel to travel to annual meetings for a
20 10-year period. Contractual funds are for services, such as phone, text,
21 internet, IT provider, webmaster, a portion of financial audits, non-
22 Trustee agency and organization publication fees, utilities, building
23 maintenance, insurance, rent, postage, and copy fees.

24 The Commodity requests are for computer hardware, software, and
25 general office supplies over a 10-year period. Equipment funds are

1 requested to replace a more than 20-year-old Council-funded copy machine
2 that is dying.

3 So the administration, the Science Administration makes up only 3.7%
4 of the total long-term research and monitoring program costs and the Fiscal
5 and Outreach Administration makes up only 11.4% of the total program cost,
6 and just to point out again that there are no indirect costs charged for
7 this proposal.

8 So maybe one of the most important aspects of this infrastructure is
9 the NOAA grant, which provides an efficient means to having a single point
10 of contact for management, administration, reporting and contracting of
11 many projects. Again, it's also cost efficient and will also be providing
12 services to the Mariculture Program.

13 There will be a second NOAA grant for all the Mariculture projects.
14 The Integrated Program Management provides the necessary services to create
15 a program out of many individual science projects with higher-level
16 synthesis products at only 3.7% of the total LTRM budget, and again,
17 there's no indirect charge on this program management, and that's why
18 there's a separate budget for this program management. The Council is
19 receiving a great deal on these services.

20 So if we don't have this piece of the fiscal administration, the --
21 there needs to be some other mechanism in place to be able to transfer
22 funds to the Science Projects and the Mariculture Projects and also, the
23 required outreach activities for all the projects won't be met, and then if
24 this Science Administration component of the Integrated Management Proposal
25 is not funded, there's going to be a lack of a program and integration and

1 then we'll just have individual projects.

2 So just to summarize, the Council's 12-year operating budget is
3 proposed to decrease from FY19 by 42%, starting in FY22. The Habitat
4 Program budget is expected to be zeroed out by the end of FY26 in
5 anticipation of the closing of the Habitat Program, and this administrative
6 infrastructure that we have going on now was deliberately designed over 10
7 years ago and continues to be cost-efficient and productive, and that's it.
8 That's all I have. Thanks for listening.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, thank you, Shiway, and are there questions from
10 Trustees?

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yes. So Shiway, this is Doug. So I'm
12 trying to piece together the budget for the Long-Term Research Monitoring
13 Program, and you handed out a couple of documents here. One is this big,
14 thick document I got, FY22 through FY31 Program Proposal Long-Term Research
15 and Monitoring Program, and on page two of this document, it says that the
16 FY22 request is in a red number. It says \$4.56871 million. So is that the
17 budget number that -- and a total for the 10 years of \$51,872,752, are
18 those the correct numbers for what the Long-Term Research and Monitoring
19 Program costs us, in terms of funding from EVOSTC?

20 DR. WANG: Stand by, I have like a bunch of documents open. Let me
21 find that document really quick.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: If I were to fund this for a year, the
23 Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program that you've proposed, what would
24 be the cost of that per year, and then I'm also trying to track down what
25 the cost of -- there's three components of that -- or there's two

1 components of that, but there's really three.

2 There's a science component. There is an administrative oversight of
3 the grants component and there's an outreach, and in the documents that I
4 see, the Science component is separate from the outreach and administrative
5 piece, which are combined, and I'm very interested to know what the
6 breakdown between the administrative oversight and the outreach is, so that
7 if I just wanted to fund one of those components -- if I didn't want to do
8 outreach, for instance, right now, what would be the administrative
9 oversight costs?

10 DR. WANG: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: But right now, I'm so confused, because I
12 also have a table in front of me that says, "GWA LTRM Science Synthesis and
13 Fiscal Breakdowns," which are different numbers.

14 DR. WANG: All right, okay, so the fiscal component without the
15 Outreach Coordinator for FY22 is \$2.77 million.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So how does -- okay, so help me, then.

17 DR. WANG: Yes, I know.

18 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: How come the 12/21/20 document that has
19 EVOS Trustee funding of \$4.56874 million, where did that number come from?

20 DR. WANG: I am still looking for it. I'm sorry. I have.....

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: It's on the -- it's -- I can't remember
22 the.....

23 DR. WANG: Is it a pdf or is it a Word document?

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I think it's a pdf. It was one of the
25 documents handed out.

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, it was one of the documents that you distributed
2 via (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

3 DR. WANG: Yes, okay, let's see, there's a lot of documents, right.
4 Okay, so is it the Fact Sheet or is it the.....

5 CHAIR BRUNE: At the very top, it says FY22 through '31 Program
6 Proposal.

7 DR. WANG: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program.

9 DR. WANG: Okay, do you remember what number it is?

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, hold on, I'll find it. I have it (indiscernible -
11 speaking simultaneously).....

12 DR. WANG: I'm sorry, so many documents.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, and what it does is it gives an
14 annual breakdown for that -- this program, I assume, annual costs and then
15 total costs from FY22 through FY31, and the numbers are considerably
16 different than what I'm hearing from other Trustees as to what this
17 actually costs.

18 DR. WANG: Okay, I see that, and so I have in front of me, the Program
19 Proposal and let's see, yeah, you're right. It says \$4.5 million for
20 the.....

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah.

22 DR. WANG: Yeah, yeah. Mandy, do you mind popping on quickly and
23 clarifying if the budget is different on the Program Proposal than it is in
24 the other documents that we've been sending?

25 (No audible response).

1 CHAIR BRUNE: By the way, just in answer to your question from before,
2 it's the Word document that you sent that is.....

3 DR. WANG: Okay.

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Nine.2222LTRM, and that second page of that is where the
5

6 DR. WANG: Roger.

7 CHAIR BRUNE:number 4.5 million is located, and there is -- I
8 think that's where the question is.....

9 DR. WANG: Sure.

10 CHAIR BRUNE:from Doug's first question. I think there's
11 subsequent questions that need to be answered that Doug asked, but I think
12 the first question we need to get answered is, what is the -- where is the
13 delta between the number that is in here and the number that's on the other
14 document that is the pdf, 9.FY22-31?

15 MS. LINDBERG: I can answer that, if you would like. This is Mandy.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Sure, go ahead, Mandy.

17 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah.

18 MS. LINDBERG: I can see the confusion. That's the overall program
19 proposal. So that's the cost for the whole program for one year. That is
20 not a breakout of the Program Management cost.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: I don't understand. What is the.....

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I don't understand. What does that mean?

23 CHAIR BRUNE:whole program mean?

1 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I presume that's the cost for the Long-
2 Term Research and Monitoring Program. Does that include the research that
3 we chose not to fund?

4 MS. LINDEBERG: No, that's the original proposal. So that was
5 submitted in September. That is not an adjusted version after the October
6 meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, where do I find the adjusted
8 numbers?

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Well, just as a -- well, just real quickly, let me ask
10 this question; that number is if we had funded everything. We didn't. So
11 we're only talking about the administration component. So the number,
12 \$4.5 million, is not what we're talking about today?

13 DR. WANG: That is correct.

14 MS. LINDEBERG: That is correct.

15 DR. WANG: Yes, this is Shiway, yeah. So quickly, the reason I sent
16 you guys that big proposal is because it included descriptions of the
17 Science Administration and the Fiscal Administration inside that proposal
18 too, in case you guys wanted it. Now.....

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So tell me, Shiway, what cost.....

20 DR. WANG: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:of FY22 funding for Long-Term
22 Research and Monitoring Program is in the three components; the Science
23 component, the Outreach component, and the Fiscal Administration component,
24 what that totals for FY22.

25 MS. SARA TAYLOR: While Shiway looks that up, Mr. Chair.....

1 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Sara Taylor.

2 MS. SARA TAYLOR: The Outreach component includes paying for the
3 website. So I'm just curious how we're going to be able to host the
4 website, whether Council staff have any expertise for website hosting or
5 how we're going to pay for the website to be hosted, because that is where
6 we're going to housing a lot of our documents to be accessible to the
7 public while we're (indiscernible) regular meeting schedule?

8 CHAIR BRUNE: It's a good question, Trustee Taylor. Thank you. I
9 think let's get the numbers and then we'll understand the specific
10 components and the costs for those, but we'll come back to that though,
11 Sara, I promise.

12 DR. WANG: Yeah, I am opening up the big budget workbook at the
13 moment.

14 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Did you send those out? Is there some
15 place I could look at those numbers or.....

16 DR. WANG: Well, okay, let's see, because there's so many of them
17 that, you know, I have one document -- no, I don't think so. I don't think
18 we have it broken down by year in any of the 26 documents that I sent you.
19 It was either broken down by every five years -- so I am looking in the
20 budget workbook that has the breakdowns, okay.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So Shiway, the document is for five years
22 of funding.....

23 DR. WANG: Correct, yeah, and so I'm looking for the one that has the
24 breakdown by year. So thank you for your patience. There's a lot of tabs
25 to go through.

1 Okay, so we have -- I have for FY22 for the Science Administration is
2 \$177,649 for FY22, which includes GA.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

4 DR. WANG: We're going to have to do some subtraction here. For the
5 Fiscal Administration without the Outreach Coordinator is \$2,770,000.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: And real quickly, just for clarification, that
7 \$2,770,000, when you had your PowerPoint up there, something like 600-and-
8 some-thousand of that goes to NOAA?

9 DR. WANG: There's nothing that goes to NOAA, because there's no
10 indirect charge.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: No, no, I thought that you had a slide on your
12 presentation that said around \$600,000 goes to NOAA staff.

13 DR. WANG: Here, I'll pull it up, let's see.

14 MS. LINDEBERG: For staff, there was no cost. It was the post-docs
15 costs money.

16 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: For the fiscal.....

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, right there in letter A, you said personnel for
18 NOAA (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

19 DR. WANG: Yeah, yeah, so that is -- that is -- that is the Science
20 Coordinator, a full-time Science Coordinator and then -- I don't think the
21 post-docs start until the next five years. So let's see, it also --
22 no.....

23 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So the \$177,649 includes money going to
24 NOAA and -- can you break down what the \$2.77 million for Fiscal
25 Administration covers? That's -- is that.....

1 DR. WANG: Yeah, it covers everything, except for the Outreach
2 Coordinator.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay, so tell me what that is, just run
4 that through again to me. That's.....

5 DR. WANG: Okay, so the Outreach Coordinator is only \$18,000 for FY22.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, but the \$2.7 million, what does -- of that,
7 looking at this chart that you have on the screen, will that include the
8 NOAA Science Administration, as well as the Prince William Sound?

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: What does \$2.77 million buy us? A Program
10 Coordinator, administrative -- just tell me what's broken down.

11 DR. WANG: Yeah, let me -- standby for a second, just standby.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: Sara, while she looks that up, \$18,000 for Outreach, I
13 think is the number that we got and so that would include the website, et
14 cetera, so I mean.....

15 MS. SARA TAYLOR: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm looking at the proposal and it
16 would include that, yes.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, and to show my bias, \$18,000 is a pittance,
18 but that was not.....

19 MS. SARA TAYLOR: It's not just the website, too, so.....

20 CHAIR BRUNE: No, no, exactly.

21 MS. SARA TAYLOR: I agree.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So the total.....

23 DR. WANG: Okay, I'm.....

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:cost that I came up with between
25 these three components is \$2,965,649 to do the Integrated Long-Term

1 Monitoring Program for FY22, \$177,649 for Science, \$2,777,000.....

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Two-point-seven million.

3 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, \$2,770,000.....

4 CHAIR BRUNE: Thousand.....

5 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:for Fiscal Administration and 18,000
6 for Outreach.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Correct.

8 DR. WANG: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: That totals \$2.965649 for one year of
10 doing Long-Term Science and Long-Term Monitoring -- Research and Monitoring
11 Programs.

12 DR. WANG: Okay, I have the one-year numbers, if you guys would like
13 them.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, please.

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Are those different from what I just read?

16 DR. WANG: Yeah.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Yeah, put them on the screen, please.

18 DR. WANG: Okay, the Science -- I'm going to just type them out and
19 put them on the screen. Thanks for everybody's patience. This is -- okay,
20 so I am going to put a new slide up and enter a text box. All right, so we
21 have for Fiscal Administration and -- we're going to do some math, Outreach
22 for FY22 equals -- and Mandy, shout out if this is different, but I'm
23 taking it from the budget workbook, 103 and Outreach Coordinator is -- for
24 FY22 is \$18,000.

25 Mandy, can you pipe in and let me know if that includes GA or not?

1 MS. LINDBERG: Sure, that does -- does not include (indiscernible -
2 speaking simultaneously).....

3 DR. WANG: The \$18,000 -- okay.

4 MS. LINDBERG: It does not include it, yeah. It's just a line item
5 on the budget, so that's the cost for that.....

6 DR. WANG: So that would be.....

7 MS. LINDBERG:in FY22 without GA.

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So just real quick, Shiway, so the.....

9 DR. WANG: Yeah, yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:Fiscal Administration Outreach, I
11 would presume that includes the Outreach Coordinator. Are we subtracting -
12 - is that a subtraction off if we don't want to do the Outreach
13 Coordinator?

14 DR. WANG: That is correct, yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So you don't need that line. I just --
16 there's -- you don't have to calculate it because it's included in the
17 (indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

18 CHAIR BRUNE: (Indiscernible - speaking simultaneously).....

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:in 531, so I'm (indiscernible -
20 speaking simultaneously).....

21 DR. WANG: Okay, okay. I was under the impression that you guys
22 wanted to take it out, so.....

23 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: No, so.....

24 CHAIR BRUNE: If it was a much larger number, potentially, but.....

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, but I'm not worried about it,

1 so.....

2 DR. WANG: Okay. All right, sorry for all the confusion. There's
3 just a lot of, basically you know, documents, spreadsheets and numbers,
4 okay. I want to make sure we've got this all correct. So the project --
5 that's not right. Okay, Science Administration for FY22 is 177,649.

6 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So the total, if we wanted to fund the
7 Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program, as proposed, is \$708,752 --
8 \$708,752 and that includes GA, okay.

9 CHAIR BRUNE: And that -- and just to be clear because a few minutes
10 ago, you said \$2.77 million, so.....

11 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah.

12 CHAIR BRUNE: I want to make sure that.....

13 DR. WANG: No, no, no, that was the five-year total. I apologize,
14 yeah -- apologize.

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

16 DR. WANG: That didn't look quite right, so.....

17 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

18 DR. WANG: That is correct, \$708,752.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Vincent-Lang.

20 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I'm ready to make a motion, if people
21 are comfortable or if they have more questions, I'm willing to wait.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Well, why don't you make a motion and we can have
23 further discussion?

24 DR. WANG: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I move we approve \$708,752, which includes

1 GA for funding 2020 (sic) -- 2222LTRM Long-Term Monitoring and Research
2 Program Monitoring Integrated Program Management Budget Project for FY22
3 funding cycle to fund administrative and scientific management of the LTRM
4 Program.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

6 MS. SARA TAYLOR: Second.

7 CHAIR BRUNE: Trustee Sara Taylor with the second. Discussion?

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I think will bridge us for a year,
9 until we have further discussions as to what we want to do. It'll allow us
10 to do fiscal -- it'll allow the Prince William Sound Science Center, as the
11 NOAA agent, to do fiscal administration of the grants. It'll allow the
12 science oversight to continue for one year and it'll allow our outreach
13 components, including the website, to continue.

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Further discussion?

15 (No audible response).

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Just to be very clear for the record, Shiway, this is
17 question for you; that amount that Doug put forward would fully fund the
18 LTRM for FY22?

19 DR. WANG: That is correct, the program management for FY22.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Program management, that's what I meant.

21 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yes.

22 DR. WANG: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Okay, other discussion?

24 (No audible response).

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

1 (No audible response).

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, that motion passes.

3 Agenda Item 10.....

4 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I want to -- thank you, Shiway, for
5 getting those numbers. I really appreciate your patience in getting those
6 -- walking through that with me, because I was having a -- I was having
7 difficulty in trying to figure out which numbers were which in the
8 documents that were shared. That helped. Thank you.

9 DR. WANG: You're so welcome. I'm really sorry that it took me a
10 little bit. Thanks for your patience and understanding, everybody.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: And just from my perspective, and discussions that we've
12 had amongst the Trustees, we are committed to solving this and
13 understanding the budgetary issues long-term. We are committed to that,
14 obviously. We've passed a budget for only one year, which will necessitate
15 us getting back together next October, which we are committed to doing, and
16 we will be having regular meetings between now and then to further
17 understand, but I want to put on the record the entities with whom we
18 partner that this is a transition year. There is no guarantee for future
19 years. There is no guarantee there won't be funding for future years, but
20 we are going to have detailed conversations amongst Trustees and work with
21 the staff to come forward with a proposal for either four more years, 10
22 more years, 12 more years, or one more year come this October, based on our
23 conversations.

24 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: For these two projects.

25 CHAIR BRUNE: For both the budget for staff, as well as budget for the

1 LTRM. Trustees, anything to add to what I just said?

2 (No audible response).

3 CHAIR BRUNE: We are committed to bringing that predictability and
4 certainty there, but we are also making sure that we are being good
5 fiduciaries, good financial stewards of the account to make sure that we're
6 using this money in the public interest in the best and most appropriate
7 way possible.

8 MR. O'CONNOR: And I echo your comments, Mr. Chairman. This is
9 O'Connor.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, and Shiway, we will be meeting regularly with
11 you as Trustees over the course of the next year to develop that.

12 DR. WANG: Great.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, Agenda Item 10. Presentations from Projects and
14 Programs Awarded Partial Funding at the October 13, 2021 Meeting, at that
15 meeting, you'll recall, we did approve projects for funding, but we asked
16 for them to come back with revisions based on the recommendations we gave.
17 We had a few things that came forward.

18 Shiway, I'm going to turn it over to you on each of these items and if
19 you want to walk through or if there are people here today that are
20 planning on presenting, we want to make sure to give them the opportunity
21 and to be very clear, no motions will be required for these. These are
22 just updates for the Trustees based on motions that were approved at the
23 last meeting.

24 DR. WANG: All right, thanks, Jason. The first project that is up for
25 a presentation is 507 Port Graham Corporation General Restoration and

1 Habitat Protection Project. The requested amount was \$7,468,823. The
2 revised amount was \$7,146,292 -- sorry -- yeah, I got that right. Okay,
3 and the PIs submitted a revised proposal and they -- that removed the cabin
4 electrification work, as requested by Trustees, and we have recommended
5 this revised proposal for funding to Trustees. Jon, would you like to say
6 anything?

7 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Shiway, thank you very much. We just wanted to
8 note that originally, there'd been a request to reduce that from \$7.4 down
9 to \$7.2, but it also specifically identified some line items to come out of
10 there. So when we took all of those costs out, it reduced the amount to
11 less than \$7.2, with a total of \$7.146, but we thought that was at the
12 intent of the requirements. So we're good with the number is less than the
13 mandate. It's not much of a difference, but we just want to thank the
14 Trustee Council for approving the balance of that and look forward to
15 moving forward with this project.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Shep. Any questions for him?

17 (No audible response).

18 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, thank you.

19 Letter B., Shiway.

20 DR. WANG: Okay, it is 608, Port Graham Habitat Enhancement Project.
21 The requested amount was \$7,400,200. The revised amount is \$6,679,087.
22 Staff reviewed the proposal. It met the requirements of the Trustee
23 Council, and it has been recommended for funding as is. Jon, do you have
24 anything to add to that?

25 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, the same thing. There was some discussion on

1 removing culverts and also removing fish passage and so we went back into
2 the proposal and removed all of the items that were specifically included
3 for fish passage and then redid the proposal to show everything else that
4 was in it, all the access for the roads and getting out to the land so the
5 folks in the Village can get out to some of their heritage Tribal lands
6 that they haven't been able to get to because access had been denied for so
7 long. So we redid the proposal to comply with the mandates and we
8 appreciate the Council's time in reviewing that and we look forward to
9 moving forward with this one as well.

10 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Are there any questions?

11 (No audible response).

12 CHAIR BRUNE: All right, we appreciate you being here and appreciate
13 the work that you made to update those, both of those proposals. Thank you
14 so much. We'll now.....

15 MR. SHEPHERD: We appreciate your time and so thank you very much.

16 CHAIR BRUNE: We'll now go to letter C. the CORaL Network and I assume
17 that we have a SeaLife Center represented -- represented here.

18 DR. WANG: Yes. Tara, are you on?

19 DR. RIEMER: I am, and I've just turned my video on. So hopefully,
20 you can both see and hear me.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Perfect.

22 DR. RIEMER: So in this project, the original requested amount was a
23 little over \$27 million, including the GA. It was a little under \$25
24 million without that GA. The amount of funding awarded was \$12.5 million,
25 and if you take out the GA, that's about \$11.5 million.

1 So as requested by the Trustees, we did reduce the budget to five
2 years from the original 10 years, and we removed the mini-grant program
3 from the budget. When we did that, we ended up somewhat below that \$12.5
4 million that was awarded, and what we've done is made some changes to the
5 budget to retain two key functions of the mini-grants that would otherwise
6 be lost; that is to provide opportunities for communities and community
7 members to engage with EVOSTC-funded researchers and to provide
8 opportunities for EVOSTC-researchers to engage with communities.

9 Those were the aspects that we expected the mini-grants to fulfill
10 that was a big missing piece in the proposal without them. So we did
11 reallocate budget resources. In some cases, this included adding personnel
12 to support the ability of scientists to be more involved with communicating
13 and engaging with the communities. In some cases, it was funding for
14 communications so that we could continue to engage those communities.

15 So with that, one of the questions that we had been prompted with was:
16 how will the revisions impact your project or program? And so the way that
17 we've submitted this budget, we've done the best to continue the community
18 connections to the research that were essential to the project. There is a
19 possibility that we could have some limitations on involvement of
20 scientists.

21 We had hoped to have the mini-grants available so that if there was a
22 science program that you had funded that we wanted to engage with, we could
23 invite the scientist to submit a mini-grant to fund some of their staff
24 time. We are now limited to funding scientists who are connected with one
25 of the outreach partners, like the University of Alaska and the Prince

1 William Sound Science Center or scientists who don't require funding to
2 make their time available, which hopefully, would include State and Federal
3 scientists.

4 So we don't expect that to be a major stumbling block, but I just
5 wanted to mention it, because that -- we expect that to be mostly an
6 administrative challenge and we look forward to finding creative ways to
7 keep everyone involved that wants to be involved.

8 And then just finally, I wanted to mention that the 10-year timeframe
9 of the proposal was a key strength of it. Work of this scale and
10 geographic distribution takes time to reach full capacity, and so we'd
11 encourage the Trustees to consider extending this project in the future, if
12 funding permits.

13 I also wanted to take a minute, if I could, to introduce our new Chief
14 Science and Education Officer, Dr. Wei Ying Wong. She is on the call today
15 and hopefully, she can turn her camera on so that you can see who she is.
16 She -- there was a position written into our proposal. I believe at the
17 time it was called Chief Mission Officer and the vision was that person
18 would take over the PI responsibilities for the CORaL Network Program, and
19 so Wei Ying is incredibly interested in this project and is looking forward
20 to that. We have submitted her resume to Trustee Council staff for that
21 approval, and that's all I had. I'm happy to answer any questions.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Thanks, Tara, and welcome aboard, Dr. Wong. Any
23 questions for Tara?

24 (No audible response).

25 CHAIR BRUNE: All right, hearing none, thank you so much. We'll go to

1 letter D. Herring Research and Monitoring Program, Shiway.

2 DR. WANG: Thanks, Jason. This program was requested to present to
3 show how the unfunded individual projects would affect the overall program,
4 and Mandy has prepared a presentation. So I am going to share my screen.
5 Mandy, just let me know when you want to advance, and you're on mute.

6 MS. LINDBERG: Okay.

7 DR. WANG: Yeah, thank you.

8 MS. LINDBERG: Yeah, it seems like the connection is really slow.
9 Sure, and you know, I just put together five slides to go through really
10 quickly to give an overview of some of the impacts to the program with the
11 unfunded projects, at the request of the Trustees, but you have also heard
12 some of this information in the comments period. So this is just kind of
13 putting it all together.

14 So yeah, I am the Program Lead for the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term
15 Research and Monitoring Program, and this was designed to meet the
16 Council's mission as one of the -- one of a kind, integrated ecosystem
17 program to assess recovery potential of injured resources, especially given
18 a rapidly changing marine environment.

19 Next, next. There you go. This is just a summary table of all the
20 projects in the program. It's organized by ecosystem component. We show
21 the injured resource status for each program that it's monitoring in these
22 projects and also the data time series that these projects are curating,
23 and that's really important just from the fact that some of these longer
24 datasets give us the ability to define what recovery is. So that's
25 important.

1 And the funding status based on the October meeting, you can see in
2 green, we have three new projects and then orange were the unfunded
3 projects, and you can see the Herring Research and Monitoring component had
4 the most projects that were unfunded, and just quickly, again, you heard
5 this in the comments, but I'm not going to go over all of the impacts of
6 these unfunded projects, but I am going to focus in on a few key impacts
7 that are based on financial linkages to the funded projects and
8 contributions to help us better understand recoveries of injured resources.

9 So you know, these are, you know, financial linkages and key
10 scientific information that the program needs. So the Killer Whale Project
11 was not funded and that was part of the Pelagic component. Killer whales
12 are one of the few remaining *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill injured resources that
13 has not recovered. The AB pod is on a 30-year recovery trajectory since
14 the spill, but suffered a major setback during the recent marine heatwave.
15 You can see that in the graph with the circle there during the heatwave and
16 the AB pod did take a hit there in the population. So these studies are
17 critical in assessing their recovery potential.

18 The Fall and Winter Marine Bird Project was not funded. That's also
19 part of the Pelagic component. It's the only winter bird survey in Prince
20 William Sound, which is the same time the spill occurred. This is really
21 important because the marine bird community is different in the winter
22 versus summer. So you need to look at both those time periods of when they
23 experience the exposure, and this includes three -- this project includes
24 three bird species that are still listed as injured resources, as you heard
25 from Mary Anne Bishop.

1 And this project is also highly collaborative with the fall Integrated
2 Predator-Prey Surveys in assessing predator impacts to herring and forage
3 fish. This is a joint effort between the Killer Whale Project and the
4 Forage Fish Project. All three of these projects have been sharing field
5 platforms to collect data at the same time and also to share data across
6 the projects for syntheses.

7 The Lower Cook Inlet Oceanography Project was not funded. It's part
8 of the Environmental Driver component, and it provides oceanographic
9 context outside of Prince William Sound for the nearshore monitoring sites
10 and funded marine bird projects and syntheses that these projects are
11 planning to do for this specific region. So these projects will lose
12 environmental information that they rely on to help them interpret their
13 data.

14 Next. For the Herring Research and Monitoring component, it will
15 experience the most impacts. There were six projects that were not funded.
16 Some impacts are linked to funded projects. The Aerial Forage Fish Survey
17 was not funded. It provides sampling of inshore waters that are too
18 shallow for large vessel surveys and provides the best abundance estimate
19 of juvenile herring in the Sound, but it's also highly collaborative with
20 the Pelagic component and multiple projects in there, but specifically, the
21 Forage Fish Project is collaborative with the aerial surveys.

22 They provide vessel-based ground-truthing for the aerial survey to
23 verify what they're seeing, and the advantage to the Forage Fish Project is
24 that they benefit from the aerial plane being up there spotting where the
25 fish are located. They can get on the fish quickly and they can get fish

1 samples right away for a lot of important condition analyses that will be
2 done for various projects. So that are the impacts for that.

3 And then the Salmon-Herring Interactions Project was funded, but it
4 was also collaborative with the Larval Herring Project. The plan for these
5 two projects was to share a post-doc, but that was funded in the Larval
6 Project and so that went away. So the Salmon-Herring Interactions Project
7 won't have -- they'll be limited in the analyses that they can do.

8 And in general, impacts from all the loss of these projects is there's
9 reduced community involvement and information sharing, knowing what factors
10 are limiting herring recovery and an increased uncertainty in the
11 population model, and I would just like to note here that there is socio-
12 economic value to these projects for all of them, not just the herring
13 ones.

14 They're valuable to local communities. These projects inform the
15 local citizens about the resources that they rely on and economically,
16 these projects employ local citizens. They purchase supplies and equipment
17 in their stores, and they have contracts locally in the communities with
18 vessel charters and air charters, and so this can be somewhat significant
19 for a small community. So I just want to point that out.

20 And then the last slide there Shiway, just in summary, this is a
21 productive and efficient program. It's focused on the Council's mission to
22 understand the recovery of injured resources. The projects provide a
23 wealth of knowledge, but it takes a program to provide an understanding of
24 that knowledge, to put it all together, and finally, the loss of some
25 projects will limit the ability to identify recovery of these injured

1 resources.

2 And in closing, I'd just like to say that, you know, the first 10
3 years of the program, we've evolved and we've adapted. We will continue to
4 do this moving forward and we appreciate the Council's support. Thank you.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you so much for that. I really appreciate the
6 overview on that. That was actually very helpful, the graph that you
7 presented was very helpful as well. Are there questions for her?

8 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So Mandy, maybe I could ask a question,
9 this is Doug. So of all the comments that we've gotten, the vast majority
10 were about the Killer Whale Project, and you know, we made decisions on
11 herring. I know you're making a case for herring, but I'm convinced that
12 in my mind that we found the right balance in herring. I think we've also
13 found the right balance in doing oceanographic research. I know you want -
14 - would like to do more in (indiscernible), but I think we -- but the one
15 that I've most read about and I've most heard about is the killer whale
16 piece, and I heard from Dr. Matkin, I think is his name, that said that we
17 really pulled the rug out for him -- underneath him for a long-term
18 database and he'd appreciate some funding as bridge funding to allow him to
19 complete his work and get some other funding sources from, for instance
20 from NPRB or other sources, and I was going back through the budget book
21 that we had in place for our October meeting, and I think the amount of
22 EVOSTC funding requested for FY22 was \$213,302.

23 I am considering to make a motion to have a one-year funding for the
24 Long-Term Killer Whale Monitoring Program in Prince William Sound Kenai
25 Fjords at the cost of \$213,302, including GA, as bridge funding for that

1 year, just to allow that dataset to continue for that year and not to drop
2 off a year while they seek some alternative funding, but I guess I'm
3 looking toward you and toward Shiway. Is that the number that is
4 sufficient to cover that project for a year?

5 MS. LINDEBERG: I don't have the budget in front of me. Shiway, do
6 you have the.....

7 DR. WANG: Yeah. I am pulling it up. Give me one moment.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: So I have it on page 126 of what you had presented to us
9 at the last meeting of the full -- I don't remember what it was called,
10 the.....

11 DR. WANG: The Work Plan?

12 CHAIR BRUNE:Draft Work Plan, page 126.

13 DR. WANG: Yeah, okay, pulling it up, and you said page 126?

14 CHAIR BRUNE: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, it shows the annual cost over 10
16 years of the total project, but it gives annual costs for FY22 on forward
17 through FY31, and I'm just looking at the FY22 budget of \$213,302.

18 DR. WANG: Yes, that is correct.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: So I guess to get something on the table,
20 I'll make a motion that I move that we approve funding for the Long-Term
21 Killer Whale Monitoring in Prince William Sound Kenai Fjords for FY22,
22 totaling \$213,302, including GA.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there a second?

24 (No audible response).

25 CHAIR BRUNE: I'll second it.

1 Trustee Vincent-Lang.

2 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, and this is -- of all the things
3 that I've received comments on, it was a request to have this project
4 continue. I don't necessarily agree it needs to continue for 10 years, but
5 I was swayed by the public testimony that I got, as well as Dr. Matkin
6 saying that we basically pulled the rug out and it's endangering his long-
7 term dataset while they look for some additional funding.

8 I am not interested in funding this long-term, but I am interested in
9 providing some bridge funding to allow that program to look for alternative
10 sources of funding moving forward.

11 CHAIR BRUNE: Other comments from Trustees? Trustee O'Connor.

12 MR. O'CONNOR: I call for the question of the motion.

13 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, there's a call for the question. Is there any
14 opposition to the motion?

15 (No audible response).

16 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, bridge funding for one year will be done.
17 Before Craig called for the question, I was going to make a comment and so
18 I'm going to make it any way. I'm going to say I look forward to those
19 additional three to five publications coming forth from them, as they said
20 would occur, and obviously, not an expectation for subsequent funding
21 beyond that, but this will hopefully buy that time to find alternative
22 funding sources, and I was very excited to hear that entities from the
23 tourism community had been stepping in to help fund that as well. So I
24 think there's great opportunities, but this will hopefully be a bridge.

25 Okay, thank you, and so any other issues on letter D. on Item 10. for

1 the Gulf Watch Alaska?

2 (No audible response).

3 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, Agenda Item 11., I don't know what we're going to
4 do with this one, Shiway. So I'm.....

5 DR. WANG: So I guess we can -- so if we added one year into the Work
6 Plan and only approved the Operating Budget and the Program Management
7 Budget for FY22 -- so I think -- I'm not sure if there's anything that we
8 need to do. Does anybody -- staff, do you guys have any things that I
9 might be overlooking?

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Well, Shiway, that's my understanding, we
11 just amended the Work Plan to.....

12 DR. WANG: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG:do the killer whale research for one
14 year. We gave you one year of funding to do the EVOS Trustee Council
15 staffing and we provided one year of funding for the Long-Term Research and
16 Monitoring Program.

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, any other comments from Trustees? Sara -- Trustee
18 Sara Taylor.

19 MS. SARA TAYLOR: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to make sure that we could
20 just move to authorize Shiway to make changes consistent with the decisions
21 that were made at the meeting today to the Work Plan and distribute.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Second that motion.

23 CHAIR BRUNE: We have a motion from Trustee Sara Taylor, a second from
24 Trustee Vincent-Lang. Trustee Sara Taylor, do you care to speak to your
25 motion?

1 MS. SARA TAYLOR: This will allow the decisions that we've made today
2 to be carefully integrated into the Work Plan, just in case, and to allow
3 for just one last real run-through to make sure that some of the updates
4 that have happened recently are reflected in the numbers there in the Work
5 Plan, and also maybe even to capture some of what has been discussed today,
6 in terms of (indiscernible), and then that way, as long as those -- as long
7 as those revisions reflect the decisions that were made today, then we can
8 approve the (indiscernible).

9 CHAIR BRUNE: Great, thank you. Other comments?

10 (No audible response).

11 CHAIR BRUNE: I think I just heard Trustee O'Connor call for the
12 question, so is.....

13 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Question -- I can't call for it, I
14 seconded it.

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Is there any opposition to the motion?

16 (No audible response).

17 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, that motion is approved.

18 Shiway, do you feel like you have the direction you need?

19 DR. WANG: Yes, I think so. So we will draft a resolution for FY22
20 for all projects approved and move forward with that.

21 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you.

22 Agenda Item 12. Asset Allocation Revisions, if necessary, we made --
23 there was a recommendation at the last meeting in light of the fact there
24 was just a one-year budget, is anyone's recommendation that action is
25 necessary there?

1 (No audible response).

2 CHAIR BRUNE: Shiway, hearing none, I'll ask a question. We have
3 historically had someone represented from the Trustee Council on that asset
4 allocation revision. Do we need to nominate someone for that role or.....

5 DR. WANG: Typically, we had Steve Mulder, whose replacement is Cody
6 Doig -- so if you or Treg or anybody, all Trustees are welcome to sit in.
7 So it's just up to you guys.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, well, we'll deal with that behind the scenes then.
9 Okay, are there.....

10 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I think I just saw Treg's hand show up.
11 He wanted to do that.

12 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, I just looked at the stock market and it
13 just fell off the edge. So I'm not quite sure what we're going to do, but
14 I'm happy to engage. I engaged years ago on that Committee, so.....

15 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Thank you. Shiway, any other items that you
16 have for consideration by Trustees?

17 DR. WANG: I do not, that's not on the agenda. Thank you for
18 checking.

19 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, Trustees, any closing comments? We'll start with
20 Trustee Treg Taylor.

21 A.G. TAYLOR: No, just appreciate the presentations, appreciate the
22 work that went on to putting on this meeting and for juggling things to get
23 answers to the questions that Trustees have asked, so thank you.

24 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Trustee Schmid.

25 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thanks for staff and trying to be nimble here today.

1 I know the meeting came across as clunky at times here, trying to work
2 through this, but I do think the Trustees are trying to perform their
3 fiduciary responsibilities and try to be as transparent as we can, and so I
4 look forward to moving on here over the next year or two to resolve some of
5 the challenges we have in front of us here and I look forward to that
6 October meeting where we may be finalizing (indiscernible) so -- and thanks
7 for Chairing again here, Jane -- or Jason.

8 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Trustee Sara Taylor.

9 MS. SARA TAYLOR: I just want to thank the Trustee Council staff and
10 the Science Committee and the PAC for their, once again, outstanding work.
11 I was able to review a lot of incredibly insightful materials, particularly
12 from the PIs, as well. I just want to say thank you to everybody who
13 showed up to testify today and everyone who wrote in. I read every letter
14 and took a lot of wisdom from those thoughts and just I'm really grateful
15 to be a part of this process and to be able to look at ways that we can
16 refine it and focus very intensely over the next year on minimizing any
17 impacts to the decisions that we've made and to the projects that we've
18 approved. So thank you, and thank you to my fellow Trustees, as well.
19 It's a real honor to work with you.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, and thanks for all of your hard work, Sara.
21 Trustee Vincent-Lang.

22 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: I want to just echo everything everybody
23 said. It's been an honor working with all you guys, Trustees, to get
24 through this agenda. For anybody that's been listening in, public comments
25 matter. I think you heard all of us read, and we've made some adjustments

1 on the fly based on what we've heard through those public comments. So
2 thank you, and thank you to the people that we funded their project, but
3 they had to do some additional work. Those are good summaries coming back,
4 so thanks, everybody, looking forward to October.

5 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you. Trustee O'Connor.

6 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, I want to -- I'll echo what folks have
7 said, and particularly, the support from staff. My first exposure to the
8 *Exxon Valdez* was at 5:00 in the morning when the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground
9 on Bligh Reef, and I got a phone call from the scientists and they said,
10 "What the hell should we do?" And my answer was, "Get some sterile jars
11 and go out and start to collect oil in front of the slick," and I didn't
12 know at that point just how complicated and how protracted this process
13 would be.

14 I'm happy to be back. I -- you know, I wish Balsiger was still
15 around, but to the extent that I can contribute and help along the way, I
16 will, and I -- as I've mentioned before, this is one of many, many cases
17 that -- natural resource damage cases that NOAA's involved in, along with
18 DOI and the AG around the country in various states, and this really is the
19 flagship case. This is where it began. This is how we've refined our
20 activities, how when I crafted the NRD regulations of the Oil Pollution
21 Act, it was based on our experiences in the *Exxon Valdez*, and what we
22 thought would be more appropriate to go forward, and I hope over the course
23 of the next year that we can address some of these lingering issues and get
24 a good package put together and move forward.

25 I echo your desires to have this at least a five-year program with the

1 hope in the end that we can say, "Everything's been restored. We've
2 accomplished our task and we are done," so -- which is our responsibility
3 to the public, so that's my meandering, and thanks for covering the Chair.
4 I'm glad you did that, because we'd still be in the opening remarks if I
5 had tried to do it.

6 CHAIR BRUNE: Thank you, Trustee O'Connor, and it's great to have your
7 expertise and frankly, your candor behind the scenes, as well, is very much
8 appreciated and your ability to get stuff done. I look forward to the hard
9 work that the six of us are going to be doing with Shiway and staff over
10 the course of the next six months.

11 For the public's perspective, do plan on a meeting in October. More
12 to come on that, obviously, but that will be announced, obviously, with
13 sufficient timing and at that meeting, we, obviously, will be considering
14 LTRM and the staff budget and potentially other items, if they become
15 necessary, but for now, that's what we will be doing.

16 Thank you to all of the Trustees for your hard work. Thanks to all of
17 the public comments we received as well, and hearing no other business,
18 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

19 COMMISSIONER VINCENT-LANG: Motion to adjourn.

20 CHAIR BRUNE: Second?

21 MR. SCHMID: Second.

22 CHAIR BRUNE: Okay, so we have three -- five seconds to that, and
23 Craig O'Connor just called the question. So any opposition?

24 (No audible response).

25 CHAIR BRUNE: Hearing none, we're adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

1 12:56:48

2 (Off record)

3 (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:

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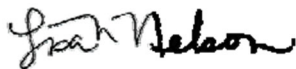
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Anchorage, Alaska

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 6th day of February 2022.

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Lisa N. Nelson

Notary Public, State of Alaska

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