

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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JANUARY 26, 2024, TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Trustee Council Members Present:

Janelle Crocker, Acting Alaska Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Craig O'Connor*, Special Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Emma Pokon, Acting Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Sara Taylor, Policy Advisor – Alaska, U.S. Department of the Interior

Treg Taylor, Attorney General, Alaska Department of Law

Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

*Chair

The meeting convened at 2:04 p.m., January 26, 2024, using the Microsoft Teams conferencing platform.

1. Approval of the January 26, 2024, meeting agenda

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to approve the January 26, 2024, meeting agenda, draft dated January 16, 2024.

Motion by Vincent-Lang, seconded by Pokon, approved unanimously.

Review of Interim Actions provided by Executive Director Wang. Interim Actions included the Approval of the November 30, 2022 Meeting Notes and the Resolution 23-01 Regarding the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Michael Stekoll, Vice- Chair, reported on the January 24, 2024, EVOSTC Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting.

Public Comment: Rob Suryan (NOAA, Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program Science Lead) provided public comment on the program's budget reallocation request.

Financial Updates: Executive Director Wang and Shane Carson (Alaska Department of Revenue) provided EVOSTC financial updates.

FY25-FY33 Spending Scenarios were provided by Executive Director Wang.

Update on the Legislative Amendment of Public Law 106-113 was provided by Trustee Sara Taylor.

2. Approval of Gulf Watch Alaska LTRM Program Budget Reallocation Request not including the Killer Whale Project (Project 2222LTRM)

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to approve \$404,189 of the budget reallocation request, not including GA, reallocating previously approved funding from the Science Coordinator position, Travel and Commodities to the Pelagic Synthesis Component of the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program Project 2222LTRM-A, and forage fish aerial surveys and seabird surveys as part of the Integrated Predator Prey Project, which will be incorporated into Project 22120114-C Monitoring Long-Term Changes in Forage Fish Distribution, Relative Abundance, and Body Condition in Prince William Sound and the Northern Gulf of Alaska for the FY24-FY26 three-year funding cycle. The request for reallocation of funds to the Killer Whale Project was not approved; however, a Trustee requested submission of a separate proposal better articulating the need and purpose of that work.

The requested reallocation of \$309,090 to the Killer Whale Project will be returned to the Research Subaccount minus up to \$81,372 for Data Management services for the forage fish aerial surveys and seabird surveys.

Motion by Vincent-Lang, seconded by Pokon, approved by the Council with O'Connor abstaining.

3. Approval of Standardized High-Resolution Wetlands and Hydrography Data across the EVOS Region Budget Reallocation Request (Project 22220508)

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to approve the budget reallocation request of unspent funds in the amount of \$1,000,448, not including GA, to produce additional 3DHP hydrographic data as outlined in the proposal amendment dated January 8, 2024, for Project 22220508 Standardized, High-Resolution, Geospatial Wetlands and Hydrography Data Across the EVOS Region for the FY24-FY26 three-year funding cycle.

Motion by Vincent-Lang, seconded by S. Taylor, approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Data Management Program Services for Revised Project 2222LTRM

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to approve \$40,686, which includes GA, for the Data Management Program Project 24120113 to ensure the Council's Data Policy requirements are met for the forage fish aerial surveys for the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program for the FY24-FY26 three-year funding cycle.

Motion to approve \$40,686, which includes GA, for the Data Management Program Project 24120113 to ensure the Council's Data Policy requirements are met for the seabird surveys for the Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program for the FY24-FY26 three-year funding cycle.

Motions by S. Taylor, seconded by Vincent-Lang, approved by the Council with O'Connor abstaining.

5. Adjournment of the meeting

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Vincent-Lang, seconded by T. Taylor, approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:26 pm.