

ORIGINAL

Seventh Annual Public Meeting of the
Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource
Damage Assessment Trustee Council
[held virtually via GoToWebinar platform]

Thursday, June 16, 2022

6 p.m. Central

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 MR. FRANKLIN: Good evening. My name is
4 Perry Franklin, and I will serve as your
5 facilitator for the Deepwater Horizon Natural
6 Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council's
7 seventh annual meeting. This meeting also serves
8 as the annual meeting of the Regionwide Trustee
9 Implementation Group.

10 The Trustees and their representatives will
11 present a lot of useful information tonight, and
12 then you will have a very important opportunity to
13 give the Trustees some feedback.

14 This meeting is the Trustee Council's third
15 virtual meeting. Whether you are listening via
16 your telephone or your computer audio, please note
17 that we have all incoming audio muted at this
18 time. If you are experiencing technical
19 difficulties and would like to request assistance,
20 please use the questions box located on the
21 right-hand side of the webinar's interface, and we
22 will try to reach out and help you.

1 We have a court reporter who will transcribe
2 the entire meeting, including your comments. The
3 PowerPoint presentation and the transcript will be
4 posted on the Trustee Council website in the very
5 near future. Also, as you can see, we are
6 providing an American Sign Language interpreter
7 via live video.

8 The Trustees want me to point out that there
9 are fact sheets on the Trustee Council's website,
10 which is GulfSpillRestoration.NOAA.gov. Let me
11 say that once again because there's a lot of
12 useful information at this website. It is
13 GulfSpillRestoration.NOAA.gov.

14 When you registered for tonight's webinar,
15 you received an email from webinars@dwhtig.org
16 confirming your registration. That email contains
17 helpful instructions on how to manage your audio
18 during tonight's webinar.

19 Additionally, you were asked if you would
20 like to make verbal comment. We have received a
21 number of requests, and we responded to each
22 person via email with instructions on making

1 verbal comment to our listening panel. After the
2 presentation portion of tonight's webinar, we will
3 take verbal public comments and then will follow
4 up with a Q&A period as time allows.

5 If you didn't make a request to give comment
6 before this meeting, that's okay, as we will
7 explain how to give comment later in tonight's
8 presentation.

9 So, without further ado, let's go ahead and
10 get started with tonight's content. I'd like to
11 introduce you to Mr. Chris Blankenship, Chair of
12 the Trustee Council.

13 Chris?

14 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Perry.

15 Good evening, everyone. Welcome to this
16 annual meeting of the Trustee Council and
17 Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group, and thank
18 you for your interest and attendance.

19 We do know that we have some elected
20 officials who are in attendance, and we would like
21 to extend a special thanks to them.

22 Since the settlement with BP in 2016, the

1 Trustees have held a meeting every year to bring
2 you up to speed on our work. This is our seventh
3 annual public meeting.

4 In tonight's presentation, I'm going to go
5 over some slides that give you an update of what
6 we've been doing since our last meeting. Then
7 you'll hear an update from each of the restoration
8 area Trustee Implementation Groups, and after
9 that, we want to hear from you.

10 Perry will facilitate the public comment
11 portion of the agenda, and then after that, we'll
12 have an open house with the questions and answers.

13 Now let me tell you who the Trustee Council
14 representatives are who are joining us tonight.
15 We have a member representing each of the five
16 Gulf states and a member who represents each of
17 the four federal agencies involved. Many of these
18 names may be familiar to you since quite a few of
19 them were also with us last year.

20 Lisa Robertson is our Trustee Council
21 representative for Florida. I, Chris Blankenship,
22 am the Trustee representative for Alabama. Chris

1 Wells represents Mississippi. Bren Haase
2 represents Louisiana. Robin Riechers represents
3 Texas. Mary Josie Blanchard represents the
4 Department of the Interior. Navis Bermudez
5 represents the Environmental Protection Agency.
6 Chris Doley represents NOAA, and Ron Howard
7 represents the USDA.

8 Just as a quick review of our
9 responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for
10 restoring the environment and compensating the
11 public for natural resource injuries resulting
12 from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

13 We used a natural resource damage assessment,
14 released in 2016, to determine the extent of the
15 injuries to natural resources and to seek
16 restoration of injuries from the responsible
17 parties.

18 The goal is to restore injured natural
19 resources, such as wetlands, fish and birds, to
20 the condition they would have been in had the
21 spill not occurred.

22 We are also responsible for addressing

1 recreational uses, like boating, fishing, and
2 swimming, that were lost or affected as a result
3 of the oil spill.

4 Now I'll provide a little bit of background
5 before I talk about our recent activities. This
6 timeline shows the oil spill began in April of
7 2010. We began the natural resource injury
8 assessment right away.

9 In April 2011, BP agreed to make \$1 billion
10 available for early restoration, even before the
11 injury assessment was complete. So we were able
12 to get a jumpstart on restoration.

13 From 2011 to 2016, we approved a total of
14 five early Restoration Plans and 65 projects with
15 a combined cost of \$866 million. Some of those
16 projects have been completed, while others are
17 still underway.

18 In April 2016, the federal government and the
19 five Gulf states reached a settlement with BP
20 totaling approximately \$20.8 billion. Of the
21 \$20.8 billion, the settlement provided \$8.8
22 billion in Natural Resource Damage Assessment

1 funds, which we call here "NRDA," to support our
2 work restoring the Gulf.

3 That includes the \$1 billion for early
4 restoration. So that means another \$7.1 billion
5 was allocated to fund post-April 2016 planning and
6 restoration, and up to \$700 million is available
7 for adaptive management of unknown conditions.

8 On this timeline, you can see that the
9 settlement date indicated here and "Today"
10 indicated along the 15-year timeline for payments
11 by BP of restoration funds.

12 In the 12 years since the spill, the
13 Implementation Groups have approved more than 270
14 projects for an estimated cost of approximately
15 \$1.9 billion.

16 Along with the settlement, the Trustee
17 Council finalized a programmatic Restoration Plan.
18 By "programmatic," we mean that the plan includes
19 overarching restoration goals for the entire Gulf
20 ecosystem and broad restoration types that guide
21 development and selection of restoration projects.
22 The plan does not include a list of individual

1 restoration projects like you often see in
2 Implementation Group Restoration Plans.

3 To accomplish this huge restoration effort,
4 the settlement established Trustee Implementation
5 Groups, often referred to as "TIGs," focusing on
6 the different restoration areas.

7 The Trustee Council provides coordination and
8 ensures transparency, fiscal and scientific
9 accountability, and consistency with the
10 programmatic plan and across the Implementation
11 Groups.

12 Besides determining the total amount of money
13 BP will pay in NRDA damages, the settlement also
14 provided where those funds will be spent. The
15 funds are assigned to geographic restoration
16 areas, one for each state and also two restoration
17 areas called "regionwide" and "open ocean." Then,
18 within each restoration area, funds are assigned
19 to the restoration types that were injured in
20 those areas. The icons indicate which restoration
21 areas apply to each group.

22 And we'll leave this slide here for just a

1 second so you can see that.

2 The Gulf ecosystem is very diverse with a
3 wide variety of natural resources and habitats
4 that depend on each other as shown in this
5 diagram.

6 The spill injured a wide range of wildlife
7 and habitats. It also negatively impacted
8 recreational opportunities, like fishing and
9 boating. The injuries were across the entire Gulf
10 ecosystem.

11 Because of those ecosystem-wide injuries, the
12 Trustees, through the Implementation Groups, are
13 taking a comprehensive and integrated
14 ecosystem-level approach to restoring the Gulf,
15 consistent with our programmatic Restoration Plan
16 discussed a few moments ago.

17 We're seeing some common themes across all
18 the restoration activities.

19 A lot of our projects are benefiting from
20 multiple Restoration Types, as mentioned before.
21 For example, projects focused on improving water
22 quality also benefit recreational opportunities,

1 making areas more enjoyable for visitors, and
2 restoration projects in wetlands, coastal, and
3 nearshore habitats can also benefit birds and
4 oyster populations.

5 When appropriate, we approve projects that
6 span broad geographies.

7 We are also coordinating across funding
8 sources to maximize Gulf ecosystem restoration.

9 That is, along with NRDA funding, we're leveraging
10 funds managed through other entities, including
11 local and state agencies, the RESTORE Council,
12 Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund that's managed by
13 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and
14 NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve.

15 As we implement restoration projects, it is
16 imperative that we manage them well and monitor
17 their success. This monitoring and adaptive
18 management evaluates the success of current
19 projects and adapts them, as needed, to ensure
20 that we maximize resource restoration. We can
21 also use our monitoring information for future
22 projects to improve their results.

1 Here is an update on the Monitoring and
2 Adaptive Management work group, which is overseen
3 by the Trustee Council and supports the TIGs in
4 their Monitoring and Adaptive Management work.

5 The work group continues to build off the
6 previously released Monitoring and Adaptive
7 Management Manual to develop new guidance for
8 restoration projects focused on birds, marine
9 mammals, sea turtles, mesophotic, fish, and other
10 restoration types.

11 The Monitoring and Adaptive Management Work
12 Group is continuing to evaluate and make
13 recommendations regarding our data management.

14 The work group also supported the development
15 of the 5-year programmatic review, which you'll
16 hear a little bit more about next.

17 The Trustee Council is committed to
18 proactively communicate and report about our work.
19 We're continuing to communicate progress through
20 our annual reporting. This year we produced more
21 than 270 project reports and our usual annual
22 financial summary, all of which can be found on

1 the Gulf Spill website.

2 In 2021, we posted almost 60 different
3 articles and updates to the Gulf Spill Restoration
4 website, driving more than 100,000 visits to the
5 site.

6 We also updated the site with new features to
7 make it easier to access information, including a
8 feature that shows all the Restoration Plans out
9 for public comment at any given time and one-click
10 access to provide public comment to those plans.

11 The Trustee Council's 2016 Programmatic
12 Restoration Plan provides that the Trustees for
13 the Deepwater Horizon oil spill may reexamine the
14 restoration program to track progress towards
15 meeting restoration goals and evaluate any
16 potential needs for program adjustments.

17 To fulfill these commitments, the Trustees
18 released the first Deepwater Horizon Natural
19 Resource Damage Assessment Programmatic Review in
20 November of 2021. The Programmatic Review
21 provides an in-depth look at restoration progress
22 through the end of 2020.

1 The Programmatic Review includes summaries of
2 administrative and financial information, public
3 engagement activities, monitoring data, and
4 project accomplishments, some of which are shown
5 to the right of this slide. The document also
6 includes other metrics that support restoration
7 program evaluation.

8 We'll include the URL to the document in the
9 chat for easy reference.

10 The Programmatic Review is 100 pages. So the
11 Trustees also created a story map, which is like
12 an interactive factsheet. The story map has
13 high-level information for administrative
14 oversight, restoration planning, implementation
15 process, monitoring and adaptive management,
16 restoration implementation progress, restoration
17 area updates, and future restoration planning. We
18 found that the story map can be a nice way to
19 explore the Programmatic Review, and we hope you
20 will find it useful since it links directly to
21 specific areas in the document.

22 We'll also include the URL to the story map

1 in the chat for easy reference.

2 Now we start the updates from the Trustee
3 Implementation Groups on what they are doing for
4 their restoration areas. As you hear from each
5 representative, you'll hear some common themes.
6 As we plan for future restoration, we are getting
7 public input early in the process.

8 Generally speaking, the Trustee
9 Implementation Groups have focused on a variety of
10 activities, including restoring the Gulf's coastal
11 habitats and access to those habitats. They are
12 also looking at improving water quality and
13 addressing living coastal marine resources, which
14 include birds, oysters, turtles, and marine
15 mammals.

16 Perhaps most important for many of you,
17 you'll hear that restoration projects are
18 continuing to move forward, both on the ground and
19 in the water.

20 To begin, I will share some updates from the
21 state of Alabama.

22 Again, I am Chris Blankenship, the

1 Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and
2 Natural Resources in Alabama and the Lead Trustee
3 for the State of Alabama. The other NRDA Trustee
4 for Alabama is Dr. Nick Tew with the Alabama
5 Geological Survey.

6 Next slide, please.

7 For the Alabama funding update, \$295 million
8 total was allocated to Alabama or allocated for
9 the restoration area for Alabama. We received
10 \$192 million from BP to date. Of the \$192 million
11 received, \$185 million is the approximate amount
12 that's committed to projects and activities as of
13 May of 2022.

14 Next slide.

15 The project I'd like to highlight today is
16 the Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement.
17 Bayfront Park is a 20-acre park on Mobile Bay in
18 South Mobile County that includes wetlands and
19 coastal birding habitats. Park renovations funded
20 by NRDA include construction of a pocket beach,
21 new restrooms and park office, new playground, a
22 new parking area, new boardwalk, pavilions, and

1 more. The designated conservation areas in the
2 park will continue to be protected.

3 This project is adjacent to a National Fish
4 and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit
5 Fund project that will expand and leverage the
6 work that's being done at Bayfront Park to a much
7 larger area that extends to the foot of the
8 Dolphin Island Bridge.

9 Next slide.

10 In Alabama, we'll continue the implementation
11 and monitoring of projects. To date, we have had
12 three Restoration Plans in Alabama and many worthy
13 projects that are underway and encourage you to
14 visit the Alabama section of the Gulf Restoration
15 website to see a list of all of the projects and
16 the status of those.

17 We recently conducted the Governor's
18 Restoration Summit in Alabama in May of 2022 that
19 explained not only the NRDA projects but also the
20 federal RESTORE, Alabama RESTORE, and NFWF
21 projects that are taking place in Alabama, and we
22 produced an Alabama restoration document that's

1 available on our website.

2 And I am always available by email or phone
3 for other questions you may have.

4 Next, I'd like to turn it over to Lisa
5 Robertson with Florida to talk about the Florida
6 restoration area and those projects.

7 MS. ROBERTSON: Good evening. I'm Lisa
8 Robertson with the Florida Department of
9 Environmental Protection, and I have the pleasure
10 of representing the Florida Trustee Implementation
11 Group tonight.

12 Next slide.

13 Seventy-one projects and planning activities
14 have been approved in the Florida restoration
15 area. In total, these projects and activities
16 cost an estimated \$251 million out of the \$351
17 million received from BP so far.

18 As our total allocation is \$680 million, we
19 still have over \$429 million in funds to conduct
20 future restoration projects and activities as well
21 as administrative oversight and adaptive
22 management in Florida.

1 Next slide.

2 The Florida TIG has completed construction of
3 about 15 projects through early restoration in our
4 first post-settlement Restoration Plan. We held a
5 virtual public meeting for the Florida TIG's
6 annual public meeting in December of 2021. In
7 June 2021, the Florida TIG approved its
8 Restoration Plan II which includes 18 projects for
9 implementation. Restoration types included in the
10 plan are habitat projects on federally managed
11 lands, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and
12 providing enhanced recreational opportunities.

13 In April of this year, the TIG released the
14 draft Restoration Plan for the fourth phase of the
15 Phase 5 Florida Coastal Access Project for public
16 comment, which proposes the Dickerson Bay
17 addition.

18 In May, the TIG held one virtual meeting and
19 one in-person meeting to collect public comments.

20 Next slide.

21 Our featured project is the Phase 3 Early
22 Restoration Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline

1 Project. Construction of this project was
2 recently completed. This project uses living
3 shoreline restoration techniques to provide
4 shoreline habitat and reduced erosion at Project
5 Greenshores Site 2 within Pensacola Bay.
6 Breakwaters were constructed to reduce wave energy
7 and create reef and saltmarsh habitat.
8 Approximately four acres of reef habitat and nine
9 acres of saltmarsh habitat were created along this
10 urban shoreline of Pensacola, Florida.

11 With the successful construction of the
12 living shoreline, NOAA will begin five years of
13 post-construction monitoring to determine whether
14 the project achieves the desired breakwater
15 specifications and thick secondary productivity
16 and saltmarsh habitat creation.

17 Next slide.

18 In addition to continuing to implement and
19 monitor early restoration projects and final RP 1
20 and RP 2 restoration projects, the Florida TIG is
21 in the process of finalizing the Phase 5.4 Florida
22 Coastal Access Projection Restoration Plan. The

1 final plan should be released to the public next
2 month.

3 The Florida TIG plans on starting restoration
4 planning for its third Restoration Plan later this
5 year, which may include the restoration types,
6 water quality, and habitat projects on federally
7 managed lands.

8 And, finally, the TIG will hold its annual
9 public meeting in late fall of 2022.

10 Thank you for your time and attention, and
11 now I'll pass it over to Maury Chatellier with the
12 Louisiana TIG.

13 MR. CHATELLIER: Hey, thank you, Lisa.

14 Good evening, everyone. As Lisa said, my
15 name is Maury Chatellier, and I am with the
16 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration
17 Authority, and I am here tonight representing the
18 Louisiana Trustees.

19 Next slide.

20 As others have done, we'll start with the
21 Louisiana funding update. To date, the Louisiana
22 Trustees have approved or committed \$1.4 billion

1 of the just over \$2 billion received from BP so
2 far. Once the LA TIG receives its full funding
3 after the 15 years, which will end in 2031, that
4 full allocation will be at \$5 billion. The \$1.4
5 billion includes all the dollars allocated via
6 resolution in calendar year '21 through May of
7 this year.

8 For recent activities for the Louisiana
9 Trustees, we've implemented a significant number
10 of projects from previous Restoration Plans, and
11 we'll touch on just a few tonight.

12 First off, the large-scale Barataria Marsh
13 Creation Project, this was approved for
14 construction through the LA TIG's Restoration Plan
15 3.3 and is being implemented by NOAA. This
16 project will build up to 1,190 acres of wetland
17 habitat in the Barataria Basin in Louisiana in an
18 area that is currently open water and highly
19 degraded marsh. Material will be dredged from the
20 Mississippi River and pumped via long-distance
21 sediment pipeline over 13 miles to build a new
22 wetland platform. This project builds upon the

1 state's Long Distance Sediment Pipeline project
2 where river sediment was dredged to create a
3 reusable pipeline corridor.

4 Another project that we have ongoing that has
5 started construction since our last update is the
6 Lake Borgne project. This is from Louisiana's
7 Restoration Plan 1.2. This project will create
8 and enhance approximately 2,700 acres of marsh in
9 St. Bernard Parish, making it the largest project
10 ever by acreage ever constructed in Louisiana.
11 This project is utilizing approximately 13 million
12 cubic yards of fill material dredged from Lake
13 Borgne.

14 And, finally, the Large Scale Marsh and Ridge
15 Restoration, the Spanish Pass Increment, this
16 Restoration Plan, again, 1.2, the project is
17 located in Lower Barataria Basin near Venice,
18 Louisiana. Just over 16 million cubic yards will
19 be dredged from the Mississippi River making this
20 project the largest project ever constructed by
21 volume in the State of Louisiana. The natural
22 channel banks and adjacent marsh in the area had

1 degraded due to natural and human causes. The
2 objective of the project is to create
3 approximately 137 acres of ridge and over 1,550
4 acres of marsh habitat. As of the beginning of
5 this month, approximately 4.7 million cubic yards
6 total have been dredged from the river and placed
7 on-site.

8 We also have three other projects that I'd
9 like to touch on very quickly. These are from
10 Restoration Plan No. 6. Our West Grand Terre
11 barrier island project, this was highlighted at
12 the Trustee Council meeting last year. This is
13 our \$92 million barrier island and marsh creation
14 that will complete dredging the end of this month.

15 This project was delayed, as it took a direct
16 hit from Hurricane Ida last year. The hurricane
17 caused significant losses on the newly dredged
18 sediment, and after a pause in construction, we
19 found additional bar material, and the project,
20 again, just completed dredging operations within
21 the last couple weeks.

22 Golden Triangle Marsh Creation, this is a

1 project of \$50 million just to the east of New
2 Orleans. Again, a marsh creation project,
3 dredging again in May, and it's scheduled to be
4 completed early next year.

5 Then, finally, we have the Biloxi Marsh
6 Living Shoreline project. This is a \$66 million
7 project over in St. Bernard Parish that is under
8 construction. The project includes installation
9 of multiple shoreline protection features,
10 including wave attenuation devices, devices and
11 shore jacks in an effort to reduce wave-induced
12 erosion. Installation of these units began the
13 beginning of the month, and it's estimated at
14 project completion over 6,000 wave attenuation
15 devices and over 7,000 shore jacks will ultimately
16 be installed. So we're very excited to have all
17 these projects under construction.

18 And then on the monitoring and adaptive
19 management front activities over the last 12
20 months, we have continuation of the Louisiana
21 Coastwide Fish and Shellfish Monitoring Program,
22 guidance document for avian habitat restoration

1 and monitoring and a lower trophic level
2 inventory.

3 The Trustees also finalized a MAM Strategy
4 planning document that laid out a process for
5 individual Trustees to prioritize monitoring
6 adaptive management activities in Louisiana for
7 effective and efficient evaluation of restoration
8 resources injured by Deepwater Horizon.

9 After the process was finalized, the Trustees
10 developed and ultimately approved nine separate
11 MAM activities that meet the needs identified in
12 the strategy. Collective approved budgets for
13 these activities was just over \$20 million, and it
14 includes 1 to 5 years of funding, depending on the
15 activity.

16 Again, these activities will provide
17 information to identify data and information gaps
18 needed by the TIG to inform the collective status
19 of recovery of resources injured by the Deepwater
20 Horizon spill.

21 So the project I'd like to highlight tonight
22 for the Louisiana Trustees is the North Breton

1 Island Restoration. North Breton Island is
2 located off the coast of Louisiana, 17 miles
3 northeast of Venice and about 63 miles southeast
4 of New Orleans. It's the southern most island in
5 the Chandeleur barrier island chain, and it's part
6 of Breton National Wildlife Refuge in Plaquemines
7 Parish. This project was designed and implemented
8 by the Department of the Interior through the U.S.
9 Fish and Wildlife Service.

10 The top image you see here is a
11 preconstruction aerial photo of the island taken
12 in October of 2020. The project consisted of
13 hydraulically dredging offshore material to create
14 beach, dune, and back barrier marsh habitat and
15 mangrove habitat to provide nesting and foraging
16 habitat for brown pelicans, terns, skimmers,
17 gulls, and other species affected by the spill.
18 The total cost to implement the project was
19 slightly over \$55 million.

20 A total of about 6.6 million cubic yards of
21 fill material was added to the island.
22 Construction started in November of 2020, and all

1 the fill material was completed in December of
2 last year. In addition to the fill material, over
3 14,700 linear feet of sand fencing was added along
4 the dune crest of the island.

5 And in the bottom photo, you can see a
6 post-construction aerial that was taken in
7 February. This shows the 426 acres of newly
8 constructed island.

9 The island will be planted with 282 acres of
10 native vegetation on the dune, back barrier marsh
11 platform, and a mangrove marsh area. Plannings
12 for the mangrove area and the dune are expected in
13 the fall of this year, with plannings of the back
14 barrier marsh will take place 1 to 2 years late,
15 as we have to let that marsh platform settle
16 before it's ready to be planted.

17 Future efforts for the island consist of
18 about 8 years of long-term monitoring of vegetable
19 survival, habitat acreage, bird production
20 estimates, and conditional parameters for island
21 structures like bridges, shoreline position, and
22 sediment volume. So it's a wonderful project to

1 have complete.

2 And for our future and ongoing activities,
3 currently the TIG has three draft Restoration
4 Plans underway. Ongoing Restoration Plan EA 3.2,
5 this is our Large Scale Sediment Diversion Project
6 that will reconnect the Mississippi River to
7 Louisiana's Barataria Basin. The project will
8 allow controlled release of fresh water nutrients
9 and sediment back to the basin to rebuild wetlands
10 and contribute to the broader restoration of the
11 ecosystem.

12 The Trustees have developed a draft plan
13 during the 90-day public comment period for the
14 plan, which closed on June 3rd of 2021. The
15 Louisiana Trustees and the Corps of Engineers
16 received over 40,000 correspondence regarding both
17 the Restoration Plan and the Environmental Impact
18 Statement.

19 Since that time, the Trustees have been
20 working to review and consider public input,
21 prepare responses, and update the Restoration Plan
22 and EIS where appropriate. Following

1 consideration of the comments and updates to the
2 Restoration Plan and EIS, the Trustees will
3 determine the appropriateness of the project for
4 funding. That decision will be made after a
5 public release of the final RP and the final EIS.

6 Also ongoing, Restoration Plan EA No. 8,
7 which focuses on wetland, coastal, and nearshore
8 habitat, looks to initiate one or more projects
9 for design and possibly construction. The draft
10 RP went out for public comment in March of this
11 year. The Trustees accepted comments through
12 April. The plan has been revised and went out to
13 the Trustees the beginning of this month for final
14 review, and actually, that review closed this
15 week, and we're hopeful to have this final
16 Restoration Plan published by the middle of next
17 month, so fingers crossed on that.

18 And then, finally, we have initiated
19 Restoration Plan 7.1. This is a Phase 2 plan to
20 select construction alternatives for two bird
21 restoration projects that were approved for
22 engineering and design through RP 7. The Trustees

1 are proposing to select construction alternatives
2 for Isle Au Pitre, which is a small bird island in
3 Northern St. Bernard Parish, just north and west
4 of the tip of the Chandeleur Island chain, and
5 we're also looking to fund for construction
6 alternative for a bird island in Terrebonne
7 Parish. There are several species of greatest
8 conservation need that nest on these islands, and
9 these islands are some of the last remaining brown
10 pelican colonies in the state.

11 Both islands are dangerously close to being
12 lost to subsidence, sea-level rise, and natural
13 erosive forces. The planning effort for this RP
14 was initiated in February, and we have a very
15 aggressive schedule and hope to have a draft plan
16 out for public comment the middle of next month,
17 with a final plan out before Thanksgiving.

18 So that concludes the Louisiana Trustee
19 update. At this point, I will turn the
20 presentation over to my good friend, Mr. Chris
21 Wells, representing the Mississippi Trustees.

22 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Maury, and as he said,

1 I'm Chris Wells. I'm the Executive Director of
2 the Mississippi Department of Environmental
3 Quality, and I'm representing the Mississippi TIG
4 here tonight.

5 Before I get to the funding update, I want to
6 point out this title slide here. The theme for
7 tonight from the Mississippi TIG or the project
8 that we want to highlight is really a
9 multicomponent project, Phase 4 Early Restoration
10 Project, and this is an aerial photo of the
11 southern shore of Graveline Bay, which is one of
12 the five components of that project, referred to
13 as the Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in
14 Mississippi Estuaries Project.

15 This particular component was a 12-acre
16 integrated subtidal and intertidal reef, which was
17 completed last August, August of 2021, and it was
18 designed with ridges with a maximum reef height of
19 6 inches.

20 For our funding update, you'll see here that
21 the \$295 million that was allocated to Mississippi
22 in total, about 56 percent of that funding has

1 thus far been allocated towards projects. \$166
2 million in projects is either completed or
3 underway, and on June 3rd of this year, just very
4 recently, we published the Restoration Plan 3,
5 which selected over \$19 million in projects.

6 When those funded projects are implemented
7 beginning later this year, we will have committed
8 184- of the \$193 million in settlement funds that
9 have been received to date, and again, ultimately,
10 our total allocation is \$295 million.

11 In terms of recent activities, as I
12 mentioned, we released recently the third
13 Restoration Plan. The draft was released in 2021,
14 and the final plan was released June 3rd. It
15 includes seven projects. One is a habitat on
16 federally managed lands project, one bird project,
17 one sea turtle project, two marine mammal
18 projects, and two recreational opportunity
19 projects.

20 In February of this year, we requested
21 project ideas and put out a solicitation for
22 project ideas for our Restoration Plan 4, which

1 may include wetlands, coastal, and nearshore
2 habitats, nutrient reduction, and providing
3 enhanced recreational opportunities.

4 And as we move forward, we will continue the
5 implementation and monitoring of the projects that
6 have been approved to date. We will finalize our
7 Restoration Plan 4. We're scheduled to release
8 that in the spring of next year. In November, we
9 will hold our annual Restoration Summit. I hope
10 everyone can attend, and at that summit, we will
11 also conduct the annual meeting of the Mississippi
12 TIG as the one component of our summit.

13 And, again, I mentioned earlier our featured
14 project is the Restoring Living Shorelines and
15 Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries Project. There are
16 several photographs here. I just wanted to, I
17 guess, point these out. In the upper left is
18 Bangs Bayou, which is part of the Grand Bay NERR.
19 We built a 3-acre intertidal reef out of oyster
20 bags and limestone cultch in areas along the north
21 and south banks of Bangs Bayou. The specific reef
22 locations were selected by the Grand Bay NERR

1 research staff.

2 The bottom left is a photo of a 90-acre Deer
3 Island subtidal reef, which was completed in
4 January of 2021. It was build in an area with
5 historic oyster reef, and also DMR--Mississippi
6 Department of Marine Resources artificial reef.
7 It was designed with ridges of low and high
8 vertical relief ranging from zero to 3 feet and
9 required 45,000 cubic yards of limestone.

10 And on the right of the screen is just south
11 of the mouth of Wolf River in St. Louis Bay. This
12 was a 1,600-foot living shoreline breakwater made
13 of oyster-crete rings which you can see to the
14 right. This was the first use of oyster-crete
15 rings in Mississippi.

16 To the south of the breakwater is a 30-acre
17 variable relief subtidal reef ranging from .2 to 3
18 feet, which was intentionally placed near an
19 existing TNC reef, which will soon be enhanced and
20 expanded. The construction of this component was
21 completed last February.

22 And with that, I'll turn the mic over to

1 Robin Riechers with Texas.

2 MR. RIECHERS: Thank you, Chris.

3 Again, my name is Robin Riechers, and I'm
4 with the Trustee Agency of the Texas Parks and
5 Wildlife Department, and I'm representing the
6 Texas Trustee Implementation Group tonight.

7 For our federal Trustees, I'm representing
8 them as well as my sister agencies, my sister
9 state agencies, the general land office, and the
10 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

11 Next slide. Yes.

12 Texas is set to receive a total of \$238
13 million. To date, we have received \$157 million,
14 and approximately \$109 million or 46 percent of
15 the Texas allocation has been committed or
16 allocated for projects or planning activities to
17 date.

18 Tonight I will be highlighting some of the
19 projects that the TIG has been working on during
20 the past year. The Texas TIG began construction
21 activities associated with McFaddin Beach and Dune
22 Restoration and Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration

1 Projects.

2 In the photograph on the right, elevation is
3 being raised to support marsh vegetation at Pierce
4 Marsh. This is the first phase of a multiphase
5 project.

6 We have also made significant progress on the
7 construction of a new campground at Galveston
8 Island State Park, which was part of early
9 restoration, and construction on that is nearing
10 completion. It's very near to completion.

11 From a monitoring standpoint, monitoring is
12 ongoing for the Indian Point Shoreline Erosion
13 Project and is anticipated to begin for the Texas
14 Rookery Island, what we call Dickinson Bay Island
15 No. 2 Project, later this year.

16 The monitoring for the Laguna Atascosa
17 Habitat Acquisition Project and the Mid-Coast
18 Habitat Acquisition Project are expected to be
19 completed this year.

20 Our featured project tonight is the Bahia
21 Grande Hydrologic Restoration Project. This
22 project is about 9 miles west of South Padre

1 Island and located at the intersection of the
2 Bahia Grande in the Brownsville Ship Channel.
3 This project which is currently about to complete
4 construction is restoring the flow of water to an
5 area which has very high salinities and dissolved
6 oxygens that can get so low that not much wildlife
7 can survive. Restoring the flow will help improve
8 salinity and dissolved oxygen fluctuations,
9 providing better habitat for aquatic and wetland
10 species.

11 This is a strategically important project
12 because it is part of a larger-scale effort, which
13 aims to provide landscape-scale improvements to
14 the Bahia Grande area. To date, this area has
15 received funding and implemented projects that are
16 preserving high-quality habitat and improving
17 hydrology and habitat quality for wildlife.

18 The Texas TIG will continue implementing 17
19 active restoration projects. The TIG will
20 continue planning activities associated with the
21 Dressing Point and Rollover Rookery Island
22 Projects, dredge material planning, and Essex

1 Bayou habitat restoration engineering.

2 We'll also continue to acquire suitable
3 habitat on Follets Island. Work towards beginning
4 marsh restoration construction at Bessie Heights
5 will continue, and we will continue to implement
6 future phases of the Pierce Marsh Wetland
7 Restoration Project, which you just saw
8 previously.

9 Additionally, our efforts to restore sea
10 turtle populations in Texas will continue. We're
11 currently in year seven of a 10-year project that
12 seeks to help recover sea turtle populations
13 through enhancing nesting success, preventing
14 mortality through enforcement of current turtle
15 excluder device regulations, and by enhancing
16 stranding and rehabilitation efforts.

17 During the upcoming year, the Texas TIG will
18 continue progress on finalizing the Restoration
19 Plan, our Restoration Plan No. 2. In the draft
20 Restoration Plan, there were 13 proposed preferred
21 projects, four of which were in the wetlands,
22 coastal, and nearshore habitat restoration type,

1 two projects addressing nutrient reduction, one
2 project focused on oyster restoration, two
3 projects contributed to the sea turtle restoration
4 I just mentioned, and four projects sought to
5 restore birds. We expect this Restoration Plan to
6 be finalized during this Summer.

7 Again, I want to thank you for the
8 opportunity to present the work of the Texas
9 Trustee Implementation Group tonight and for you
10 being with us tonight, and with that, I will turn
11 the presentation over to Laurie Rounds who will be
12 representing the Open Ocean Group tonight. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. ROUNDS: Well, thank you very much,
15 Robin, and hello, everybody. My name is Laurie
16 Rounds with NOAA, and I'd like to provide the
17 update for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation
18 Group.

19 The federal Trustees make up the TIG with
20 representatives from NOAA, the Department of the
21 Interior, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
22 and the U.S. of Agriculture.

1 The Open Ocean TIG has committed
2 approximately \$340 million for restoration
3 planning and implementation out of the \$518
4 million in settlement funds that have been
5 received to date from BP. Additional information
6 about how these funds have been committed is
7 available in this year's funding chart, which you
8 can find on our Web page.

9 So, next, I'd like to share some information
10 about our restoration activities. The Open Ocean
11 Trustees are implementing 21 restoration projects
12 that were approved in our first two Restoration
13 Plans. We're also nearing completion on three
14 early restoration projects. One of these
15 projects, the Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancement
16 Project in the Mississippi part of the Gulf
17 Islands National Seashore, began construction this
18 past fall and will soon complete nearly 2 miles of
19 trail, enhancing visitors' experience and
20 improving safety and accessibility.

21 We will also complete our final year of
22 implementation for the Oceanic Fish Restoration

1 Project. This early restoration project partnered
2 with fishing vessel owners to voluntarily refrain
3 from pelagic longline fishing to reduce mortality
4 of fish such as swordfish and tuna. This project
5 has made it possible for more than 23,000 fish
6 that would otherwise have been caught to grow and
7 reproduce. As the project comes to a close, the
8 team will meet with participants to learn from
9 their experiences in the project. They will also
10 complete project reporting and monitoring,
11 including a study about the survivorship of
12 released fish.

13 Implementation also continues for three
14 monitoring and adaptive management activities
15 shown on this slight. I'd like to highlight one
16 of these projects that is evaluating the
17 cumulative impact of multiple stressors on
18 cetaceans. Recently, the project team developed a
19 model of stressor effects on Gulf of Mexico sperm
20 whales. The model will help us plan and
21 understand how reducing the effects of stressors
22 can help to restore injured marine mammal species.

1 This year, the model will be further
2 developed and reviewed by additional experts to
3 improve its accuracy and prevision.

4 The Open Ocean TIG is also planning for
5 future restoration. In April, we released a
6 strategic plan to help guide restoration for fish
7 and water column invertebrates. The plan
8 incorporated stakeholder input to identify
9 priority species and set restoration objectives.

10 Also, this year, we began drafting a third
11 Restoration Plan which will propose projects to
12 restore injured seabird species. Project
13 alternatives are being developed based on our
14 screening of project ideas submitted to the
15 Trustees last year. We anticipate completing the
16 draft plan for public comment this winter.

17 So, next, I'd like to highlight one of our
18 projects, the Mesophotic and Deep Benthic
19 Communities Coral Propagation Technique
20 Development Project. Coral propagation is a
21 restoration technique that seeks to enhance
22 reproduction of species in the lab and field by

1 providing natural or artificial materials to
2 enhance settlement of larva and by using
3 techniques such as fragmentation to grow corals.

4 So, through this project, NOAA and the
5 Department of the Interior are developing special
6 facilities at three labs that are designed to grow
7 deep sea coral species and develop techniques for
8 their restoration.

9 In 2021, small coral colonies were carefully
10 collected and successfully reared in the NOAA
11 Hollings Marine Lab and the Wetland and Aquatic
12 Research Center managed by the U.S. Geological
13 Services, which is part of the Department of the
14 Interior. Using fragmentation, lab staff were
15 able to produce 18 small coral fragments from just
16 six colonies.

17 In addition to this success, one species of
18 these corals called *Swiftia exserta* had male and
19 female colonies that spawned naturally in two
20 labs. The smart and quick-acting lab staff
21 retained the fertilized eggs that settled onto
22 cured ceramic tiles. Tiles are used in the lab to

1 mimic the substrates that coral would normally use
2 to settle and grow. So, currently, 10 new coral
3 recruits continue to thrive and grow with the help
4 of our partner, the Florida Aquarium. So this may
5 be the first time that this coral species has
6 successfully spawned and recruited in a lab
7 setting. By observing and studying this spawning
8 event, we can learn more and share more about
9 methods to support coral reproduction. It will
10 also help us develop settlement substrates for
11 coral recruitment and restoration sites.

12 The team is closely monitoring the coral's
13 health and condition in anticipation of expanding
14 to a network of aquaria that will help grow coral
15 and test techniques for the restoration in the
16 Gulf of Mexico.

17 So there are also many exciting restoration
18 activities happening over the next year. Our deep
19 sea coral restoration teams and several partners
20 have begun multiple at-sea expeditions for more
21 than 150 days at sea across the north central Gulf
22 of Mexico. During these expeditions, we will map

1 deep sea communications, assess habitat
2 conditions, and collect coral samples for studies
3 to develop restoration techniques.

4 Our restoration partnerships with fishermen
5 are also expanding. We're partnering with the
6 Return 'em Right campaign to provide descending
7 devices for reef fish restoration. We're also
8 conducting dock-site talks with shrimp fisherman.
9 These have helped us identify bycatch reduction
10 devices that will be tested over the coming year
11 to certify improved technology for reducing
12 finfish bycatch.

13 We're also working with the shrimp fishery to
14 identify prototypes for small bar spacing and
15 turtle excluder devices, or TEDs. Testing of the
16 prototypes began this summer, and next, the
17 successful prototypes will undergo additional
18 testing with our fishery partners.

19 We're also restoring birds through our common
20 loon and black tern projects. After conducting
21 multiple field surveys for common loons last year,
22 the project team identified several promising

1 sites at nesting lakes to construct artificial
2 nest platforms over the remainder of the project.

3 The project team will also continue to work
4 with league associations and many other partners
5 to enhance habitat.

6 And, as I mentioned earlier, we're developing
7 our third draft Restoration Plan focused on
8 seabirds. Following its release, we will consider
9 public comments and then select projects for
10 implementation. We anticipate projects will
11 include a range of restoration actions such as
12 enhancing breeding habitat, reestablishing
13 breeding colonies, and reducing seabird bycatch.

14 So thank you very much, and we look forward
15 to sharing the results of these ongoing activities
16 over the coming year.

17 Next, Ron Howard will provide the Regionwide
18 Tig update.

19 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Laurie.

20 Good evening, and I hope all is well. I am
21 Ronald Howard with the United States Department of
22 Agriculture, and I'm currently serving as the

1 Chair of the Regionwide TIG, Trustee
2 Implementation Group, along with Angela Sunley of
3 the Texas Trustee as the Vice Chair.

4 Next slide, please.

5 Our TIG's finding, update highlights a
6 commitment of approximately \$104 million to date
7 for restoration planning and implementation out of
8 the \$156 million received from BP so far.

9 As a reminder, once the Regionwide TIG
10 receives its full funding after 15 years, the
11 total allocation will be \$350 million. For
12 additional detail, please see the funding chart
13 that's located on the Regionwide Restoration Area
14 website.

15 Next slide.

16 The Regionwide TIG has been quite busy. Last
17 September, we released our first Restoration Plan.
18 That plan included nearly \$100 million for
19 restoration of sea turtles, birds, marine mammals,
20 and oysters.

21 Lately, we have been busy writing project
22 implementation plans to get all these important

1 projects underway. We are also continuing to
2 oversee the important monitoring of our early
3 restoration projects.

4 Our Colonial Waterbird Monitoring Activity is
5 ongoing. This project consists of coastal-wide
6 area nests, photographic surveys, as well as nest
7 dotting for counting analyses.

8 The Regionwide TIG plans on utilizing
9 information generated from this activity along
10 with the established ongoing small-scale
11 monitoring program. As a part of Regionwide TIG's
12 Restoration Plan 1, approximately 99 acres of
13 property at Fort Morgan Peninsula in Alabama was
14 acquired for conservation in late December 2021.

15 This \$6.5 million land acquisition project
16 provides conservation and enhancement of nesting
17 and foraging habitat for birds. These
18 birds--these types of habitats were injured by the
19 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

20 The area is known as Pilot Town for its
21 historical significance as a former location of a
22 community of bar pilots that helped shelves

1 navigate sandbars in Mobile Bay. The settlement
2 was destroyed in a 1906 hurricane. Nestled among
3 surrounding homes, resorts, and local business
4 exists a diverse ecosystem that provides a haven
5 for many coastal species.

6 The Pilot Town property includes sandy shrub
7 scrub, coastal marsh, and several brackish inland
8 lagoons, which provide important habitat for a
9 host of species.

10 This acquisition was a joint effort of the
11 Trustees from the Alabama Department of
12 Conservation and Natural Resources and the
13 Department of Interior as well as The Nature
14 Conservancy.

15 Next slide.

16 As for our future activities, we anticipate
17 continuing to implement monitoring of our four
18 early restoration projects. We also hope to begin
19 implementation of the 11 projects approved in
20 Restoration Plan 1.

21 We are also continuing to work on our
22 Colonial Waterbird Area Surveys and will be

1 discussing current and future regionwide
2 priorities.

3 I thank you for your time and attention, and
4 with that, I'll hand the floor back to Perry.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Howard, and
7 thank you to all of tonight's speakers who
8 prepared such informative updates.

9 Now we're going to start the public portion
10 of tonight's meeting, public comment portion of
11 tonight's meeting. I'd like to remind each of you
12 that when you registered for the webinar, we
13 provided you the opportunity to sign up to make
14 comment during the meeting. At this time, I'd
15 like to remind you that the Trustee Council
16 representatives shown on your slide are here on
17 the webinar to listen to your public comments, and
18 as with previous Trustee Council public meetings,
19 the Trustees will be listening only but will not
20 be answering questions.

21 If you have a specific question, please save
22 those and ask them during the next portion of

1 tonight's meeting, which will be a formal open
2 house where we will address your questions, and
3 that section will be facilitated by Mr. Ben
4 Frater.

5 And, also, please remember tonight we are
6 handling the NRDA process. So your questions
7 should be germane to the NRDA process.

8 If you signed up to provide comment, then you
9 should have received an email earlier this week
10 with your number in the speaking order. If you
11 did not sign up to speak, no worries. We will
12 give you directions shortly in how to give a
13 public comment.

14 As a reminder, all attendees are
15 automatically muted, and we will unmute you when
16 it is your turn to make public comment.

17 If you have called in using your phone and
18 are planning to speak, you must enter your
19 individual audio PIN. Please note this PIN is
20 different than the access code that you were
21 given.

22 As shown on the slide, if you are using your

1 phone, please make sure computer audio is not
2 selected. So just please take a second and look
3 at the screen to orient yourself.

4 When I call your name, we will unmute your
5 line, and you will have 3 minutes to speak. I
6 thank you in advance for respecting the 3-minute
7 rule.

8 Prior to making your comments, please state
9 your name for the record, and if you're
10 representing an organization, please state the
11 name of the organization as well.

12 At this time, I'd like to call our first
13 individual to make public comment. Scott
14 Bushbaum.

15 Mr. Bushbaum, the floor is yours.

16 [No response.]

17 MR. FRANKLIN: It appears that you are
18 self-muted. If you would unmute yourself, Mr.
19 Bushbaum, we would be able to hear.

20 MR. BUSHBAUM: Thank you.

21 MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. Please proceed.

22 MR. BUSHBAUM: Thank you. I'm glad you can

1 hear me.

2 First, I wanted to thank you for the
3 opportunity to not only make a comment but just
4 all the work that everyone has put into all of the
5 TIG and all of the monitoring and so forth for the
6 project after what happened.

7 I was fortunate enough to read the original
8 document that was sent to President Obama when the
9 third-party investigation took place into the
10 reason behind the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in
11 its entirety. It led me to join this Trustee
12 meeting and public comment.

13 My question is about the Mid-Barataria
14 sediment diversion, which was the last public
15 comment meeting that I had an opportunity to
16 partake in, and my question is, how significant
17 was the damage from the last hurricane? I think
18 there was some mention of Hurricane Ida. If
19 Hurricane Ida did at all impede progress on this,
20 how significant was that damage, and what is the
21 likelihood now that these hurricanes are occurring
22 rapidly and often enough that something like this

1 could impede project in the future and then costs
2 associated with that being taken into
3 consideration into the monitoring and the costs
4 and build?

5 MR. FRANKLIN: Does that conclude your verbal
6 comment, Mr. Bushbaum?

7 MR. BUSHBAUM: It's more of a question than a
8 comment, I suppose, but my comment would then be
9 take into consideration, of course, and I know you
10 are continually monitoring and upgrading all of
11 the work that's being done in light of hurricanes,
12 including Hurricane Ida and future hurricanes and
13 more significantly will be the costs associated to
14 rebuild the Barataria sediment diversion and other
15 buildouts by Army Corps of Engineers due to
16 hurricane and other events, tidal events. And is
17 this being incorporated into the budget drafts as
18 these projects continue?

19 MR. FRANKLIN: Very good. I'm going to ask
20 the team to try and capture from your verbal
21 comment the questions that you had embedded in
22 that comment, as we have very few individuals

1 signed up to make public comment. And the next
2 portion of tonight's meeting is geared to be an
3 open house where individuals can have their
4 questions answered, and so if you'll just stay a
5 part of the process tonight, if we don't capture
6 your question perfectly, I would ask you to come
7 back during the next portion and ask that question
8 again where we can have the appropriate
9 individuals in place to answer your question.

10 Does that conclude the comment that you would
11 like to place into public record?

12 MR. BUSHBAUM: The comment is to make certain
13 that appropriate funding is being asked from BP
14 and taken into consideration, of course, while
15 impacts from tidal events, including hurricanes,
16 take place over the next 5 to 10 years.

17 MR. FRANKLIN: Very good. I do thank you for
18 your participation.

19 At this time, if we could put the previous
20 slide back up. There we go. We want to encourage
21 individuals to make a public comment during this
22 meeting. This is the way your voice is included

1 in the public record, and this is the way that we
2 have all of the thoughts and hopes and aspirations
3 of the general public included in the process, and
4 so we have numbers of individuals who previously
5 signed up to make public comments, but either the
6 speakers address their concerns in those very
7 comprehensive updates or they had a change of
8 heart.

9 So, at this time, Mr. Bushbaum is now the
10 only individual on the list to make public
11 comment, and what I'd like to do is just encourage
12 you. If you're looking at this slide and you want
13 to make public comment, we would love for you to
14 enter your name into the questions box to request
15 an opportunity to speak, and I'll be glad to call
16 you forward to put your comment into the public
17 record.

18 At this time, we'll take about 30 seconds and
19 let individuals who are considering such to enter
20 their name into the questions box, and then we'll
21 call you forward.

22 [Pause.]

1 MR. FRANKLIN: And for those who are
2 considering to type in their name, if they'd like
3 to make public comment, please know there's
4 another portion of tonight's agenda where we're
5 going to have a formal open house, and there are
6 some questions that will be answered in the next
7 portion of the agenda. So this does not conclude
8 tonight's meeting. In some of the formats
9 previously, the public comment was the last
10 portion of the agenda.

11 [Pause.]

12 MR. FRANKLIN: While we're giving individuals
13 the opportunity to consider making public comment,
14 I just want to remind you of the location of where
15 you can find those fact sheets that the Trustee
16 Council have put together for you, the general
17 public. You can go to the website,
18 GulfSpillRestoration.NOAA.gov, and you can get
19 many fact sheets on these projects.

20 MR. BLANKENSHIP: This is Chris Blankenship
21 back again. We may have lost Perry from the
22 webinar. I think I see Perry moving now. Maybe

1 he's back. Let's see. Perry?

2 MR. FRANKLIN: Was I frozen?

3 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

4 MR. FRANKLIN: Okay. Well, during that
5 moment, I was talking about the location of the
6 fact sheets and where to find those fact sheets,
7 and of course, they're at the Trustee Council's
8 website, which is GulfSpillRestoration.NOAA.gov.

9 The transcript of tonight's meeting will be
10 posted at that website as well as many fact sheets
11 that are very informative, and we invite the
12 general public to go to those.

13 Okay. So it looks like we're going to wrap
14 up this portion of tonight's agenda, and we're
15 going to move forward. So, at this time, I'd like
16 to turn the meeting back over to Mr. Blankenship
17 to close this portion of the meeting and to
18 transition us into the formal open house, which
19 includes the Q&A session. Mr. Blankenship?

20 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Perry, and thank
21 you for all of the state representatives that gave
22 the presentation on behalf of the state TIGs and

1 to our Open Ocean and Regionwide TIG
2 representatives. Thank you for providing that
3 information, and thank you for the public comment
4 that was given.

5 We are committed to restoring the natural
6 resources of the Gulf of Mexico for years to come
7 and will continue to keep you updated as we strive
8 to maintain our rapid rate of progress.

9 I'd encourage you to check the website on a
10 continual basis to see updates to projects and to
11 find the most updated information.

12 Thank you all for attending this
13 presentation. We hope you found this meeting
14 informative.

15 Now we will transition into the open house or
16 the question-and-answer session with a number of
17 our Trustee representatives.

18 I'll turn it over to Ben Frater, with the
19 Department of the Interior who will moderate the
20 question-and-answer portion of the open house.

21 Ben, take it away.

22 [End of recorded session.]

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, CHERYL NICHOLSON, Certified Court Reporter, Certified LiveNote Reporter, and Certified Realtime Systems Administrator, hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were recorded by me stenographically and electronically at the time and place mentioned in the caption hereof and thereafter transcribed by me; that said proceeding is a true record of the testimony given by said participants; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Cheryl L. Nicholson

CHERYL L. NICHOLSON
Electronic Notary Public in and for
the Commonwealth of Virginia
Notary Registration Number- 270604
My Commission expires July 31, 2024.

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