

Location and Attendance

The meeting was held at the California Department of Fish and Game's office in Cordelia. The following primary and alternate members of the Trustee Council were present: Tammy Whittington and Mary Gibson Scott (National Park Service), John Tarpley (California Department of Fish and Game), Dan Welsh and Marge Kolar (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Ed Ueber and Kolleen Bannon (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and Nick Franco (California Department of Parks and Recreation). Attorney Kathy Verrue-Slater (California Department of Fish and Game) participated by speaker phone. Tom Suchanek, NRDAR Branch Chief in the FWS Sacramento Field Office, also attended and will replace Dan Welsh as the lead representative for the FWS after this meeting.

Administrative Issues

The Council reviewed the minutes of the November 6 meeting and approved them with minor changes. Mary will revise and distribute the November meeting summary, including an electronic copy to Kolleen to include in the Administrative Record.

Tammy reported that the Cape Mohican account in the DOI NRDAR Fund has a current balance of \$3,570,868. We have allocated \$353,174 for restoration planning and have earned \$479,042 in interest.

Discussion of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Tammy reported that the NPS is preparing a detailed FONSI in order to comply with Director's Order #12 regarding NEPA compliance. This may take another month before final approval. The Council discussed whether to do a single FONSI that covers all projects and agencies and decided that the NPS will complete their detailed FONSI per Director's Order #12 and the NOAA will prepare a separate FONSI that does not cover DOI. The draft NOAA FONSI will be revised to exclude DOI (NPS and FWS) and will have to go through another round of review in Washington, D.C. Both FONSI's and the State's CEQA Negative Declaration, if applicable, will be included as appendices in the Final Restoration Plan. Therefore, the Final Restoration Plan will not be distributed until the FONSI's are done.

Project Planning

Tammy reviewed the language of the MOA that says the lead trustees for restoration need to provide a schedule and budget for their projects and need Council approval before they start the projects. The Council agreed that completion of the Final Restoration Plan, including the FONSI's and Negative Declaration, constitutes Council approval for agencies to start restoration projects. Kolleen pointed out that NOAA will also need to get formal approval through their Damage Assessment and Restoration Program. The MOA also requires each agency that is lead on a restoration project to submit quarterly reports to the Council. The Council agreed that quarterly reports can be submitted via e-mail.

The Council discussed the allocation process for funding projects and prepared a matrix that shows how much money is to be allocated to each project in each Federal fiscal year between now and FY2006. Minor revisions were necessary in the budget of the Point Reyes Dune Restoration project and Tammy agreed to work with Point Reyes National Seashore to produce a revised budget as soon as possible after the meeting. The attached table contains the approved allocation matrix, including the revised annual budgets for the Point Reyes dune project. The table also identifies the lead agency for implementing each of the approved projects.

Tammy will prepare a Trustee Council resolution approving the FY2002 allocations and will also prepare a memo to the DOI NRDAR Fund Manager requesting that the money be allocated as soon as possible. The allocation request memo will cover the projects that need an FY2002 allocation based on the attached matrix, with the exception of Red Rock and Angel Island. The Council agreed that the \$450,000 that is set aside for the Red Rock acquisition will be reinvested for 90 days since we do not know how long the allocation process will take. The allocation request memo will not cover Angel Island since the Angel Island money is not invested in the DOI NRDAR Fund. Thus, the memo requesting an allocation from the DOI NRDAR Fund will request the following:

\$113,000 to FWS

\$467,824 to CDFG

\$178,653 to NPS

\$759,477 Total (These amounts were subsequently changed per agency requests)

The Council discussed the mechanism for transferring project money from the DOI NRDAR Fund to State and Federal agencies. Fish and Game will explore whether their internal overhead rate can be waived or reduced for the projects that will be implemented under Fish and Game lead.

Next Meeting

The next Trustee Council meeting will be a conference call on April 3 at 09:00 Pacific time. This will be the first of a series of biweekly Trustee Council conference calls. The other calls will be on April 17, May 1, and May 15, and will also start at 09:00, Pacific time. Tammy will set up the conference calls and provide access information to the rest of the Council.

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