PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCOPING MEETINGS COMMENT NAMED IN 1992 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Cordova Public Library NAMED 2 5 1992

Attendees	Affiliation	exxon valdez on spill Addæēš Council Administrative record
Ken Rice	Restoration Team	
Sandy Rabinowitch	RPWG	
Barbara Iseah	Restoration Team	
C.K. Weaverling	Mayor, City of Cordova	Box 1200
Mary McBurney	CDFU	Box 939
Nancy Bird		Box 1185
Rick Steiner		Box 2424
Sam Sharr	ADFG	Box 529
Dan Logan	USFS	Box 208
Dave Schmid	USFS	Box 208
Dan Torgerson	USFS	Box 1356

Issues Addressed:

General Review

Ken gave a brief introduction and proceeded to summarize the following handout documents:

Settlement 101
Draft Summary of Comments
Nomination Process/Timeline
Public Advisory Group Charter
Letter to Agencies and Public Requesting Ideas for 1993
Proposed Expenditures for 1992 (Projects and Administration)
Timeline for the Restoration Plan

Public Advisory Group

Nominations are being accepted for a 15-member advisory group set up by the Trustee Council. The Trustee Council would like some feedback from the public on whether this group should have assigned seats. The Public Participation group will screen the nominations for certain criteria. The deadline for nominations is June 8th.

Release of Natural Resource Damage Assessment Information

The Attorney General announced at the last Trustee Council meeting that the damage assessment information will no longer be held confidential. This data will be available within the next month through the Oil Spill Public Information Center.

Ken gave a brief summary of the following handouts for public comment:

Proposed Budget Summary for 1992
Timeline for Completion of the Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
Habitat Protection and Acquisition Process

The public's attention was directed to the hierarchial and concurrent approaches to reviewing habitat protection options.

Volume I - Restoration Framework

The Restoration Framework is a road map to a plan. It offers an opportunity for public comment on whether the ideas in the framework are on track. This document also contains policies in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Sandy gave the following brief description of each section contained in Volume I of the Restoration Framework:

Chapter I - provides the background of the legal settlement

Chapter II - outlines the goals of the public participation program

Chapter III - recounts restoration activities from 1989 to the present

Chapter IV - contains the analysis of the injury information to date

Chapter V - proposes criteria for determining when the injury is sufficient to warrant any restoration action

Chapter VI - proposes criteria and procedures for evaluating restoration options

Chapter VII - contains six conceptual restoration alternatives

Appendix A - provides information on injured resources and

services

Appendix B - provides 35 restoration options for consideration and the 14 options rejected

Comments are solicited on the contents of the Restoration Framework. A chapter-by-chapter prompt of questions was distributed eliciting comments from the public on the framework document.

Questions:

Ken and Sandy provided answers to the following questions posed by members of the public:

Is it possible to resubmit projects that were rejected? Will they be reconsidered for 1993? Mary McBurney

What is the definition of the Work Plan? Why is it distinguished from the Restoration Plan? Nancy Bird

When will the Work Plan be finalized? Will this be after the bulk of the work has already been done? Rick Steiner

What part of the Work Plan will be subjected to the EIS process? Mary McBurney

Regarding the habitat protection supplement, why was option three not put out as a proposal? Rick Steiner

Have people had enough time to review the framework document? Dan Logan

Does the interim protection issue show up anywhere? How quickly can interim protection be implemented? Rick Steiner

Where are the contingent valuation studies? What is the reason they are still being held confidential? Nancy Bird

What are the Trustees cleanings toward lost services? Sam Sharr

When will the decision be made on the designated seats for the Public Advisory Group? Nancy Bird

Has the Trustee Council already approved the charter for the Public Advisory Group? Nancy Bird

In filling the Public Advisory Group slots, the Attorney General wanted to be sure that no interests were overlapped. Will that be an overriding concern in filling the Public Advisory Group seats? Mary McBurney

Does the criteria for the advisory group disqualify anyone? Nancy Bird

Will the Public Advisory Group be listened to? Rick Steiner

Is there any requirement that the Trustee Council respond in writing to the Public Advisory Group if there is a strong consensus or disagreement? Nancy Bird

Are the comments available to the public? Rick Steiner

Can the public see the products the Trustee Council has declined? Dan Torgerson

Oral Statements Presented:

Mary McBurney - Cordova Fishermen United

-concerned about what was in the Work Plan for funding and that they are only getting a small snapshot of the total; seems they are rather arbitrarily sorted through; not sure there was any real peer review; there were a number of commercial fisheries projects which had merit; the public

has not been presented with a full range of possibilities and has been given a distilled version; a small part of the resource injury has been addressed; there are a number of herring projects which she doesn't feel will be revisited -concerned that the Attorney General will impose a certain amount of orthodoxy to the nomination process for the advisory group

Rick Steiner

- -seems like the 1993 work should be started on now
- -the 1992 Work Plan seems almost futile
- -thinks there is a profound paradox in that the Trustees are slowing the process down
- -the public is pissed; something needs to be done; they have been told privately that the Trustee Council has no intention of following through on habitat protection
- -contingent valuation was not mentioned in the habitat protection section; seems unnecessarily restrictive; surprised the Attorney General had to bring up the contingent valuation idea
- -the single most important issue that the public was bringing up, habitat protection, was omitted from the framework -suggested scheduling a meeting when the fisheries are
- -suggested scheduling a meeting when the fisheries are closed
- -there is nothing really imminent four years after the fact -doesn't see any projects having to do with identification of replacing injured services; nothing categorizes what resource services were injured and what the options are for replacing these services
- -requested that contingent valuation of economic studies be released
- -extended an invitation for the Trustee Council to visit this area
- -comments from API and Exxon regarding damages were similar and seem to attempt to dismiss financial liability of the spill; Trustees are opening themselves up to huge political liability by playing into Exxon's hands

Dan Torgerson

- -has worked in the fishing industry a long time
- -it was brought up in several meetings that the departments have to work together to get full use of the community
- -it is ironic that there was a fishing opener and a public participation meeting scheduled on the same night; there should be more planning so that the majority of the public can come and give their comments; there should be some flexibility to change the meeting schedule
- -the Trustee Council needs to visit this area before they can make any real decisions
- -senior high school classes should be encouraged to attend

these meetings because they will be the ones dealing with these issues in the future; this is a good resource to tap into

-the public needs to see what the Trustee Council has rejected to make them accountable to the public

Nancy Bird

- -there is so much paperwork involved in this process and people are being overwhelmed with NEPA
- -not opposed to planning but thinks we need to do something -habitat acquisition is what the vast majority of the public wants; hasn't seen anything from the Trustee Council in this direction
- -was very disappointed with paying back state and federal agencies; money should be used for more critical things, such as herring studies and habitat acquisition
- -encouraged the Public Participation group to keep coming out to the communities to explain materials

Sam Sharr

- -asked for a framework document three weeks ago and still hasn't received one
- -all proposals on lost resource services were rejected by the Trustees
- -acquisition is not the only option; every public testimony meeting has had strong support for resource research

C.K. Weaverling - Mayor of Cordova

-the only thing that has any hope for success will be the acquisition of equivalent resources; we cannot restore or replace the lost resources; money received as a result of natural resource damages should go to natural resources; this idea is broadly supported within this community

The public was encouraged to make comments on the information presented.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Public Meeting Cordova, Alaska 20 January 1992 - 7:00p.m.

Panel: Ken Rice (USFS), Ernie Piper (ADEC), Joe Sullivan (ADF&G), Peg Thompson (OSPIC)

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- approximately 46 citizens attended (sign-in sheets attached)
- o PANEL COMMENTS
- * PUBLIC QUESTIONS &/or COMMENTS
- o E. Piper introduced the panel, explained the purpose of the meeting, and read the list of handouts that were available.
- * Is \$900 million an accurate amount of money Exxon is paying, isn't \$30 million going to be taken off the top of that?
- o K.Rice the money already spent will be taken off the top. The actual money coming from Exxon now will be approximately \$850 million. The \$50 million will come out of next year's distribution.
- * What size will the citizens' group be?
- o K. Rice the ideal size would be 10 15 people.
- * How can the public communicate their ideas on how to spend the money to the Trustees?
- o K. Rice there is a list of projects being considered in the blue book, also we are accepting proposals from the public. They are currently evaluating against a draft set of criteria. In March a framework document will come out for how they are evaluating. Suggestions, proposals, etc. for evaluation can be sent or submitted to 645 G Street, Anchorage. They will be reviewed by the Restoration Team and submitted to the Trustee Council after public hearings.
- * How can public comment on restoration be made without access to science studies?
- o K. Rice the 18p. summary is the best there is to date. This is being updated and will be published in March. Until 3rd party suits are resolved June-Oct. more information cannot be released.
- o E. Piper clarified that this is the state's position.
- * What is the life time of the public information group?
- o K. Rice the settlement does not set a time limit. Likely that it will be in place until the money is spent.
- o E. Piper it may change over time.
- * Are the decisions for studies made in March just 1992 money? What

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about long range goals & plans?

- o K. Rice working on one year of work.
- * Public advisory group would these members be given access to science studies?
- o E. Piper may be moot if studies are released in June, if not public subcommittee recommends that there be some kind of technical support.
- *If studies are not released should expenditures & efforts be held off until they are released?
- * (John McMullen Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association) prepared statement (attached)
- * (Bob Anderson Sherstone) look at possible land readjustment;
 - support looking at PWS in rational way, not emotional & bring all groups together to work on this;
 - trade & sale of land & timber, cooperative management, subsistence consideration;
 - if moratorium on logging the community would be affected, could be done in conjunction with planning of uses of PWS, [Sherestone] is getting pressed for time & needs a decision before company is financially hurt.
- * (Rick Steiner) strongly suggested that Trustee Council give Sherstone some idea of what they want in the February meeting.
- * Because of heightened awareness regulations are becoming more stringent will people be compensated?
- * Timber buyback a number of Cordovans support. Deer in this area need old growth to protect them from heavy snow load.
- o E. Piper global buyback or specific area or habitat?
- * Buyback as much as possible if can't buy all specific areas, i.e. Montegue Island.
- * Propose support for moratorium for all industry in the Sound so there can be time to make decisions and evaluate plans for use of Sound. Expand & coordinate efforts with Forest Service's current study of the Sound.
- * Is the group strictly advisory? or set policy?
- o K. Rice hasn't been decided yet to <u>set</u> policy probably not, to <u>influence</u> policy, yes.



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- * Who will the group report to?
- o E. Piper needs to work with the Restoration Group. Staff does a lot of the work; therefore, needs to work with them.
- * Have the chairman sit at ex-officio member on Trustee Council and be in on all communication & have members work with the Restoration Group.
- * Key for Public Advisory Group is to work with the Restoration Group and have access to the Trustees. Rotate membership so there aren't too many on at once.
- * Does the Public Advisory Group need consensus?
- * Restoration is so varied and wide open there will be many avenues for disagreement. Would like to see three people from the Public Advisory Executive Committee sit in with the Trustees. Have an Executive Committee which does day by day business decided by consensus, if they can't agree go to whole committee (set up like RCAC). If recommendations are given to Trustee Council, the Council must respond.
- * What is mission/role of the Public Advisory Committee? How to fairly deal with money for restoration.
- * Takes large number of hours. Will committee be given stipend? Strictly volunteer? If not paid on some level, it costs the individual. Suggest covering expenses.
- * Should seats be reserved?
- * List presented by Restoration Group is a good representation. Should be 'specialists' in these area to advise Restoration Group.
- * It will be difficult to select members. Can let established groups pick their members. Some groups don't have official organizations, hopefully could get together & decide.
- o E. Piper how much money should be spent on public participation?
- * There needs to be public involvement. Takes load off of staff and allows them to do their jobs.
- * Suggest under \$75,000/year for Public Advisory Group with 1 paid person.
- * Each geographic area needs to be represented. Members will need to wear more than one hat to also represent various interest area as well.

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- * Concern about Trustees' reluctance to spend money on the infrastructure i.e. RCAC has a budget of \$1.5 million & this is comparable.
- * Suggest a first class media specialist for marketing Alaska fish, tourism, etc. suggest this person be on the Public Advisory Group.
- * Concern over lack of 'leadership' by Trustee Council. No 'big plan.' Need to be more organized. Maybe Public Advisory Group should help develop the big plan.
- * Public Advisory Group needs to have assigned power, if not it is just 'window dressing.'
- * Concern that money remains in the spill impacted areas.
- * Would like to see veto power for Public Advisory Group. Don't trust Trustees because they are politically appointed.
- * In holding meetings do they have to be executive sessions? o E. Piper no.
- * What happens with Public Advisory Meeting depends on Trustee Council. How is information to get out? Information needs to go out and/or be available in a timely manner. Need contact person or persons.
- o E. Piper L.J. Evans from his office has been handling this; she supplied the documents in rear of room.
- * Advisory group with longevity has a big roll to play. It will last longer than elected/appointed officials.
- * Consider "groups" that are already in place to choose people for the Public Advisory Group.
- * Length of terms need to be set.
- * (Michelle Hahn O'Leary) Trustees are not trusted; therefore, suggested they (the Trustees) make an additional by-law addressing the Public Advisory Group and how to respond to the group. Trustees gould write into
 - the group. Trustees could write into their by-laws a Public Advisory Group 'vote' at the Trustee level.
 - Trustees and Public Advisory Group need to come up with a 'big plan.'
 - Initially will need to spend money to set up organization.
 - Each geographic area could have a

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'group' and then each 'group' would select members to serve on the Public Advisory Group. The Public Advisory Group could have an executive committee of 5 to 7 members, three of which would sit in on the Trustee Council.

- The Public Advisory Group would not be doing studies, etc. but would need administrative support.
- Purpose of the Public Advisory Group would be to receive information from the Trustees, take this information back to their respective communities & get responses to it, then take these responses back to the Trustees.
- * Will the Public Advisory Committee be in place in time to evaluate 1992 studies?
- o K. Rice time-lines make it very difficult to get full public input this year.
- * What is the best avenue to get comments to the Trustees?
- o K. Rice people can comment outside of the Public Advisory Group if they wish to.
- o E. Piper information from the Trustee meeting in February will be mailed out and people will have an opportunity to respond.
- * Concerned that Trustees have been given direction to stop damage assessment studies from the Governor to allow ANWR to forge ahead. The Public Advisory Group will probably want them continued. Need updates and general information on Trustees meetings regularly in all area newspapers.
- * (Mayor Weaverling) would like to see by-laws written that would give the Public Advisory Committee power. Need effective means of dissemination of information. People don't trust Trustee Council because they are political appointees.
- * Concerned that what was just proposed may dilute Natives' say in the process.
- * Public Advisory Committee needs constant contact with the Restoration Group and subcommittees.
- * Need a dedicated place in community to get information.
- Requests for NRDA studies, Restoration blue books, OSPIC collection list, Trustee Council minutes, Ecological Restoration of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska Bibliography, and

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1991 Work Study and Restoration Plans were noted and taken back to OSPIC. OSPIC staff filled these requests.

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Restoration Public Participation Meeting, Cordova, Monday, January 20, 1992			
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John Wilcock	ADTEG Cordova	Box 1366 Condova	424-3212
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Patsy Fisher	Resident-Cordova	Box 321-Cdva	424-7202
Margy Johnson		Box 150 Conder	424-3272
any wood	Pordone Rogarist Whiteston, Logging	Box 1264 Cordova	4045295
Dan Wood	Cordour Resident Logger	Box 1364 Corobug	424-3295
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Restoration Public Participation Meeting, Cordova, Monday, January 20, 1992			
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Rick Steiner	Univ. of Alaska	Marine Advisory Program. Pox 830 Cordova	424-3446
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Mark Willette	ADFG	le	424-3214
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Mary McBurna	CDFU	Box 359 Cordora	474-3447
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Ken Kritchen	Commercial Fisherman	Box 1255 Cordova	- 3649
KenOdams	Cordon District Fishermen United	Box 1855 Chr.	2126
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Steve M. ffitt	ADF46	Box 2145 Codora	424-3212
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James Winchester	Public Radis KON Vallez, Indian, White	CR BOX467 Valdez	835-41.65
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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) endorses current and proposed agency and joint agency/PWSAC studies of salmon ecology, and wild and hatchery salmon interaction in Prince William Sound, and

WHEREAS, PWSAC recognizes the overall importance of a healthy salmon resource in the long-range economic restoration of the Prince William Sound community, and

WHEREAS, these scientific studies have the potential of determining future actions by PWSAC and other agencies given the responsibility to rehabilitate, enhance and manage the salmon resources of Prince William Sound to mitigate impacts on PWS caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION:

- (1) That the Oil Spill Trustee Council make long-term funding available from oil spill restoration funds, either by direct funding or by formation of an endowment fund, for:
- (a) these cooperative current and proposed salmon ecology and interaction programs, and
- (b) actions by PWSAC and other agencies resulting from such studies, leading to restoration, enhancement and management of the salmon resources of Prince William Sound.
- (2) That PWSAC, as the regional aquaculture association, governed by a board representing the complete spectrum of salmon resource users in Prince William Sound, must share management and funding decisions regarding these programs, and
- (3) That the information gathered by all programs so funded must be made available to PWSAC, appropriate agencies, and the general public.

Approved by unanimous consent of the PWSAC Board of Directors, January 19, 1992.

E. J. Cheshier, Chairman

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KenOdami	Fishermen United	Box 1822 Chr.	2126
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Cere Stack	Resident	Box 565 Cordora	×7770
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