

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCOPING MEETINGS
May 4, 1992 2:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room, City Building
Seldovia, Alaska

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Attendees	Affiliation	Address
Marty Rutherford	Restoration Team	
Barbara Iseah	Restoration Team	
LJ Evans	Restoration Team	
Alix Chartier	fisherman	P.O. Box 153
Walt Sonen	fisherman, SOS	P.O. Box 107
Dick Wyland		P.O. Box 29

Mary Malchoff and Pat Norman attended via teleconference from Port Graham.

Issues Addressed:

General Review

Marty 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

The Public Advisory Group will consist of 15 seats plus two ex-officio, one each from the Alaska State House and Senate. Nominations will be made to the Trustee Council beginning May 6th and will conclude June 8th. The Trustee Council is very interested in whether the public feels the principal interests should have seats assigned. The Public Advisory Group will be able to attend and participate in the Trustee Council meetings, which will assure that the public's interests are heard.

1993 Work Plan

Each project that was approved by the Trustee Council along with its budget are contained in the 1993 Work Plan. There was not an adequate opportunity to hear from the public on what they thought this field season should include. The Work Plan will go to the public in a timely fashion next year once comments are received.

Release of Natural Resource Damage Assessment Information

All damage assessment materials which had been previously held confidential due to third party litigants are now available to the public. A process is being formulated to get the detailed study plans, interim reports, final reports and the restoration planning reports to the public. The restoration planning reports include all the meetings that led up to the Restoration Framework document. Over 400,000 pages of data exist for release and will be available through the Oil Spill Public Information Center. Chapter IV of the Restoration Plan contains a summary of all the damage assessment information released to date.

Public review and comment was also requested on the following handouts:

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

Marty gave the following brief description of each section contained in Volume I - 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

Volume II - 1992 Draft Work Plan contains descriptions of projects proposed for this year. \$4.8 million dollars was allocated for damage assessment closeout. The restoration projects are aimed at the recovery or monitoring of an injured resource. The Trustee Council is very interested in hearing the public's comments and the deadline for both of these documents is June 4th. Comments will be synopsized and provided to the Trustee Council to aid in making their decisions. The 1993 ideas form is due by June 15th. The public is strongly encouraged to review the framework document and then comment about projects that might be a good idea. The Trustee

Council wants to be responsive to the ideas and wants to be responsible in doing things that work. The Public Advisory Group's deadline for comments is June 8th. Marty directed the public to avail themselves of the information and respond with any comments. The draft Restoration Plan will begin once comments are received. This document will drive the expenditure for the entire process.

Questions:

Marty provided answers to the following questions posed by members of the public:

What is the deadline for responding to the draft Restoration Plan? Dick Wyland

Is there still damage assessment being done on the sea lion? Alix Chartier

What are the current guidelines for proposed projects? Dick Wyland

How much input will the Public Advisory Group have on the Trustees? Walt Sonen

Oral Statements Presented:

Dick Wyland

- concerned about building monuments to the spill and not having anything viable that would give benefit to the people from now on, such as a science school
- if another spill occurred a lot of the damage could be stopped by using a diversion and accessing public lands
- community-wise more input is needed and additional meetings would help
- this is a busy season and may account for the lack of participation
- the cannery's closing could be attributed to the Exxon oil spill
- Seldovia is looking for a means to help their community to be viable

Alix Chartier

- considerable damage was done to the sea lions
- there should be some concentration on their food supply
- concerned that money go toward restoration of species and not recreational areas
- there has not been enough time to do the required study
- future prevention should be addressed also so that another spill could be dealt with more readily

Walt Sonen

- came into this meeting cold without any prior information and would like more prior notification publicizing meetings and suggested more lead time
- suggested developing a first class research facility; this is an area where there is a lax in research on the damage done by the oil platforms to the crab supply; poor monitoring has also added to this problem; a marine research center could perform this type of monitoring; it may appear as a pork barrel project because Seldovia would be a beneficiary economically, but it also is an ideal area for such a facility; the Trustees should consider a research facility of some sort which could be funded with government and university monies as a universal project; Homer and Seldovia are very accessible by boat for the lower Cook Inlet area, which makes this area ideal for a research facility
- concerned about where prevention fits in with restoration
- seems to be a lot of paper being used for reproducing these documents

Mary Malchoff

- pointed out that the village's needs are different from the city's needs

It was stressed that public comments such as these will drive this process. LJ asked for suggestions on what she could do to provide more advance publicity. The public's attention was also directed to the charts in the habitat protection and acquisition document. Marty thanked members of the public for attending this scoping meeting and asked that they share the restoration framework document with others in the community. Additional copies will be provided to the library for distribution to the public. Mary Malchoff requested that Port Graham be connected to the Tatitlek teleconference or possibly have someone come there. LJ will mail copies of the handout packet to Port Graham. The three volumes will be mailed later. Marty stressed the need for participation in nominations to the Public Advisory Group.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.