

8.05.03

Oct 29, 1992

Meeting Summary

- A. MEETING:** Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group
- B. DATE/TIME:** Thursday, October 29, 1992
- C. LOCATION:** Anchorage, Alaska
- D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Pamela Brodie	Environmental
James Cloud	Public-at-Large
James Diehl	Recreation Users
Donna Fischer	Local Government
John French	Science/Academic
Paul Gavora	Public-at-Large
James King	Conservation
Vern McCorkle	Public-at-Large
Gerald McCune	Commercial Fishing
Brad Phillips	Commercial Tourism
Kim Benton (for J. Sturgeon)	Forest Products
Charles Totemoff	Native Landowners
Cliff Davidson (ex officio)	Alaska State House

E. NOT REPRESENTED:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews	Sport Hunting & Fishing
Richard Eliason	Public-at-Large
Richard Knecht	Subsistence
John McMullen	Aquaculture
Llewellyn Williams	Public-at-Large
Jalmar Kertulla (ex officio)	Alaska State Senate

F. OTHERS PRESENT:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Pamela Bergmann	Restoration Team member Dept. of Interior
Mark Broderson	Restoration Team member AK Dept. Envir. Conservation
Charlie Cole	Trustee Council member AK State Attorney General
Deborah French	Applied Science Assoc.
Keith Goltz	Dept. of Interior
Bob Loeffler	AK Dept. Environ. Conservation
Regina Martinez	Fish & Wildlife Service
Charles McKee	Citizen

Curt McVee

Chuck Meacham
Cathy Miller
Jerome Montague

Byron Morris

Frank Murkowski
Doug Mutter

Natalie Phillips
Sandy Rabinowitch
Ken Rice

Yereth Rosen
Marty Rutherford

John Sandor

John Strand
Arliss Sturgulewski
Craig Tillery
Eric Yould
Don Young

Trustee Council member
Spec. Assistant to the
Secretary of Interior - AK
AK Dept. Fish & Game
Fish & Wildlife Service
Restoration Team member
AK Dept. Fish & Game
Restoration Team member
Nat. Marine Fisheries Ser.
US Senator for Alaska
Designated Federal Officer
Dept. of Interior
Anchorage Daily News
Nat. Park Service
Restoration Team member
Forest Service
Reuters
Restoration Team member
AK Dept. Natural Resources
Trustee Council member
Commissioner, Alaska Dept.
Environmental Conservation
Nat. Oceanic & Atmos. Admin
AK State Senate
AK Dept. Law
Ebasco Environmental
US Representative for Alaska

G. SUMMARY:

The meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by State Trustee Council member Charlie Cole. Trustee Council members in attendance were introduced (Curt McVee and John Sandor, Chuck Meacham for Carl Rossier). Public Advisory Group (PAG) members introduced themselves. Representative Don Young spoke of the need to consider people impacts caused by the oil spill. Senator Frank Murkowski spoke of the need to enhance specifically injured resources and services and also discussed the recent events surrounding the action on Alaska provisions of the Energy Bill before Congress.

Mr. Cole provided an overview of the history, damage assessments, settlement and ensuing restoration efforts of the Trustee Council. He outlined the purpose of the Restoration Team (RT) and the Chief Scientist (Dr. Robert Spies), noting that Dr. Spies was available to the Public Advisory Group. He discussed the purpose of the Public Advisory Group as assisting the Trustee Council in discharging its duties as defined in the Consent Decree and Agreement (see Volume I, Tab VII). The Public Advisory Group is expected to give advice on how to spend the settlement money, what projects should be conducted, and long-range expenditures within the Restoration Plan. Key areas to focus on at this time are the proposed 1993 projects and protection of threatened habitat.

Curt McVee discussed the role of the Department of the Interior as the lead agency for the Public Advisory Group (see Volume I, Tab X). He noted that Federal regulations required a plan to be in place prior to spending restoration funds, unless there was an imminent threat to a resource or service. He also noted that restoration activities must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. He requested the Public Advisory Group meet to make recommendations on the 1993 work plan prior to the December 11 meeting of the Trustee Council.

John Sandor made brief welcoming comments, stating that it was good to reach a quick settlement on the oil spill so that the important work of restoration could begin. Chuck Meacham also made some introductory, welcoming comments on behalf of Alaska Department of Fish & Game Trustee Council member, Carl Rosier. Cliff Davidson said that the Alaska State Legislature was very interested in the restoration process.

A general discussion and questions about the role of the Public Advisory Group and how the Trustee Council operates ensued. Some thoughts were: (1) the Trustee Council needs to look more at chronic oil spill problems, not just acute, damage assessment type of problems; (2) new projects could be suggested for the 1993 work plan; (3) the members of the Public Advisory Group are expected and encouraged to present information about restoration efforts to their interest groups; (4) the Public Advisory Group has a certain degree of independence in determining its method of operation--in keeping with the charter and applicable State and Federal rules; (5) the Public Advisory Group can take the initiative to identify issues and concerns to relay to the Trustee Council.

Regina Martinez and Cathy Miller presented the procedures for Public Advisory Group members to use in requesting travel and getting reimbursed for expenses.

Doug Mutter presented a suggested agenda and date for the next meeting of the Public Advisory Group which was adopted (see attachment). The draft Public Advisory Group Background and Guidelines (Volume I, Tab IV) was briefly outlined, the Public Advisory Group needs to determine how they wish to operate. Keith Goltz, Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor reviewed conflict of interest and ethics requirements for serving on a Federal advisory committee. He noted that each member was viewed as representing a larger group, and was not serving as an individual. If an issue that directly affects the financial well being of the member arises, it should be viewed as a potential conflict of interest and the member should avoid taking action on the issue. A question was raised as to the applicability of the State Open Meetings Law (to be reviewed at the next meeting).

The Restoration Team introduced themselves. Mark Broderon presented the status of settlement funds to date. Marty Rutherford outlined the history and role of public participation in developing restoration programs and projects. John Strand and Bob Loeffler presented the current status and general schedule for the overall Restoration Plan (see Volume II, Tab II). The draft Restoration Plan is due this winter.

Ken Rice discussed the requirements for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the Restoration Plan. A draft environmental impact statement is being prepared by a contractor, Walcoff & Associates, and is due in February. A scoping meeting is set for Anchorage on November 4. Some individual projects may need additional environmental compliance actions. Mr. Rice also presented a status report (Volume II, Tab V) on the analysis of threatened habitat that may need protection via the acquisition of rights or title, or the pursuit of other protection strategies. Habitat protection is a significant portion of the 1993 budget.

Byron Morris outlined the upcoming symposium to present oil spill damage assessment information. This is scheduled for February 2-5, 1993, in Anchorage (see brochure and Volume I, Tab VIII). Jerome Montague reported on the process to develop the 1993 work plan (see Volume II, Tab IV). Over 460 ideas were submitted from the public and agencies. These were reduced to approximately 50 projects that are contained in the 1993 Work Plan, which is out for public review prior to a December 11 meeting during which the Trustee Council will approve projects for 1993.

Each of the Public Advisory Group members in attendance offered a brief statement or asked questions of the staff and Restoration Team.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was presented by Arliss Sturgulewski supporting the establishment of an Exxon Valdez marine sciences endowment. Charles McKee presented his views on restoration. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

- H. ACTION ITEMS: None.
- I. NEXT MEETING: December 2, 1992 at 9:30 a.m., Anchorage, AK
- J. ATTACHMENTS:
1. Agenda for next meeting.
 2. Handouts from the meeting for those not in attendance.
- K. CERTIFICATION:

PAG Chairperson

Date