

8.07.05

## Meeting Summary

**A. GROUP:** Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)

**B. DATE/TIME:** July 28, 1998

**C. LOCATION:** Anchorage, Alaska

**D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews, Chair	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Pam Brodie	Environmental
Eleanor Huffines	Commercial Tourism
James King	Public-at-Large
Mary McBurney	Aquaculture
Chuck Meacham	Science/Academic
Brenda Schwantes	Public-at-Large
Chuck Totemoff	Native Landowners
Howard Valley	Forest Products
Mark Hodgins ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State House of Representatives

**E. NOT REPRESENTED:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Chris Beck	Public-at-Large
Sheri Buretta	Public-at-Large
Dave Cobb	Local Government
Chip Dennerlein	Conservation
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Nancy Yeaton	Subsistence
Vacant	Public-at-Large
Loren Leman ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State Senate

**F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Grant Baker	Public
Veronica Christman	Trustee Council Staff
Dan Hull	Public
Joe Hunt	Trustee Council Staff
Barat LaPorte	Bogle & Gates
Molly McCammon	Trustee Council Staff
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of Interior
Eric Myers	Trustee Council Staff
Theresa Obermeyer	Public

Gerald Pilot  
Bud Rice  
Sandra Schubert  
Stan Senner  
Hugh Short

Claudia Slater  
Bob Spies (via teleconference)  
Deborah Williams  
Bruce Wright  
Cherri Womac

Chugachmiut  
National Park Service  
Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Chief Scientist, Trustee Council  
Trustee Council Rep. for Dept. of Interior  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Trustee Council Staff

## G. SUMMARY:

The meeting was opened July 28 at 8:40 a.m. by Rupert Andrews. The summary of the June 1-2, 1998, meeting was approved.

Molly McCammon gave the Executive Director's report. She thanked everyone for support during her illness. She said that the Government Accounting Office (GAO) issued a draft audit report which had only one recommendation: to move the settlement funds from the Court system to get a better interest rate and lower management fees. Legislation to make this move is pending in Congress. Discussions are ongoing with Alaska's Senators to arrive at satisfactory language. Torie Baker asked if a letter of support from the PAG would be helpful. McCammon asked Eric Myers to work with Baker to draft a letter (handout #1).

McCammon said that the due date for proposals in response to the Request for Proposals for an archaeological repository had been extended to August 7. The Trustee Council will review the results at their September 29 meeting. An Elders-Youth Conference will be held August 19-22 in Cordova and will include some project Principal Investigators.

She outlined the status of habitat protection activities. A portion of the Tatitlek acquisition has closed; the remainder is pending. Details on the Eyak deal are being worked out; a shareholder proxy vote is expected this fall. Details are being worked on for the Afognak Joint Venture project. Discussions with Koniag on the Karluk/Sturgeon River parcels have left us far apart on agreeing to a permanent protection solution. Several small parcel purchases have closed or are pending.

Hugh Short briefed the PAG on the Community Involvement Project (A052A & B). Community Facilitators attended a retreat at Port Graham and discussed Traditional Ecological Knowledge protocols: 8 of 10 village councils have endorsed them, 2 others are in the process. They also discussed an assessment of injured services, especially subsistence. A survey will be conducted using mostly local people. Funding for local high school interns on Kodiak was also discussed. Brenda Schwantes asked if there was any action on expanding the facilitator role on Kodiak to more than one representative. McCammon said that there had not been and that, in fact, the project was winding down with the rest of the restoration program.

The meeting was opened for public comment. Theresa Obermeyer gave a presentation and provided a handout. Representative Hodgins spoke in support of project 99387, improvements to the Kenai River dunes in order to protect wetlands from degradation. McCammon noted that the PAG would visit this site on their field trip. Dan Hull presented his thoughts on the use of the restoration reserve. He supports research and monitoring, including social and economic studies that address the health of coastal communities. He feels habitat protection is not as permanent as increased knowledge. Grant Baker spoke in support of a University of Alaska endowment as a use for the restoration reserve.

Senner reviewed the changes to projects by cluster in the Work Plan since the last PAG meeting (handouts #2-4):

<u>Cluster</u>	<u>Action</u>
Pink salmon:	\188 added funds to closeout, \366 fund contingent
Pacific herring:	\378 withdrawn, \468 start-up
Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) and related projects:	no changes
Cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, rockfish, and pollock:	\252 defer
Marine mammals:	\444 defer
Nearshore ecosystem:	\459 defer
Seabird/forage fish and related projects:	\479 fund
Archaeological Resources:	no changes
Subsistence:	\052B fund synthesis workshops but defer training workshop, \401 defer
Reduction of marine pollution:	no change
Habitat improvement:	no change
Ecosystem synthesis:	\391 defer for Cook Inlet; reconsider PWS in future year.
Administration, science management, and public information:	\471 fund

Jim King raised a question about the possibility of the settlement re-opener clause to obtain additional funding from Exxon. Senner said that this clause is for after 2001 for injury not reasonably anticipated in 1991.

Senner reviewed actions on the PAG Project list from the June 1-2 meeting:

<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Action</u>
368	no change
339	no change
399	Do not fund; reconsider in FY00 when \339 is complete
382	no change, will discuss later this fall
278	fund
361	Do not fund; may reconsider in future year
354	have met to discuss as a possible future project
434	no change (defer to December)
401	defer to December
052B	fund synthesis workshops but defer training workshops
468	start

Eleanor Huffines raised a point about the number of researchers in the field at particular locales, such as around Naked Island, and their impact on the resources and services in remote areas. There needs to be a balance; there is a lot of people and traffic in some areas.

The sense of the PAG is that they agree with the Work Plan as proposed.

Veronica Christman provided a summary of the public comments on the restoration reserve (handout #5). McCammon noted that the Trustee Council will discuss the reserve at their September 29 meeting.

King said his impressions of the public comments were that there were no specific requests for land purchases; that people needed to understand that research and monitoring were two separate things; that a growing endowment should be able to address most desires; and that we should see what the University of Alaska can come up with.

T. Baker asked what habitat remained to be purchased?

Deborah Williams outlined a possible second phase of large habitat protection projects, which would mostly be Department of the Interior acquisitions from willing sellers. Her rule of thumb regarding Native acquisitions is that not more than one-half of their ANCSA entitlement acreage would be purchased. Possible parcels include: Port Graham (who was not interested in phase one), Koniag's Karluk/Sturgeon River (pending in phase one, but large discrepancy in valuation), Lake Clark National Park in-holdings, Cook Inlet Region Inc. Appendix C lands now in court, Kodiak's Long Lake and Chiniak, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, Afognak Lake, and CIRI/Salmantoff holding along the Kenai River.

Brenda Schwantes noted that to maintain the restoration value of land purchased management support needed to be addressed.

Williams said that she thinks there is a balance now. She questioned the linkage of research to the spill as the time since from the spill grows longer, while habitat values continue to support injured resources far into the future. The Trustee Council is seeking guidance on the balance for after 2002.

Huffines asked about funding for work that is normal agency responsibility. McCammon replied that most everything we do is within an agency mandate; the question is would an agency have funding to do a project were it not for the oil spill? This is a policy decision, not a legal requirement.

King asked if Congress could put up money for large purchases. Williams responded by noting the lack of funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Alaska's inability to often compete with lower forty-eight projects. Baker said that management-oriented research is needed to help resources, and that just purchasing habitat or just doing research were not responsive actions for restoration. There are compelling management issues that need to be

addressed, and we should not get too focused on percentages of "votes" {i.e., public comments} or get polarized. She noted that the public comment was not very substantive, and that we need to take time to develop a vision. King added that we need science and training along with land to manage resources.

Mary McBurney asked if it would be possible for the Trustee Council and the PAG to have a joint work session to discuss the use of the Restoration Reserve. McCammon said that she believes the Trustee Council needs to decide on the Reserve this fall because some implementation scenarios will take time to put into place. Chuck Meacham said he also would like to hear the views of other Trustee Council members.

Doug Mutter stated that this was the end of the two-year PAG membership cycle and that the Charter and membership needed to be renewed in October 1998. He encouraged PAG members who wished to be considered for another term to get updated information in writing to Cherri Womac by August 21. The Trustee Council will act on the PAG membership at their September 29 meeting.

Eric Myers went through the itinerary for the September field trip (handout #9).

PAG members said they were glad to hear from Deborah Williams and would like to hear from other Trustee Council members. They complimented the staff on the excellent job in preparing information on the Work Plan. They were glad Molly was back. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. July 28.

#### **H. FOLLOW-UP:**

1. McCammon will discuss the request of the PAG to participate with the Trustee Council in a work session on the Restoration Reserve. (The Trustee Council meets August 13 and September 29)
2. PAG members who wish to be considered for the next two-year PAG need to get information to Womac by August 21.

#### **I. NEXT MEETINGS: Field Trip on September 15-16**

#### **J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)**

1. Letters to Congressional Delegation re. changes in the management of settlement funds
3. Summary of Executive Director's Revised Recommendation: FY99 Work Plan
4. Spreadsheet B: Revised Executive Director's Recommendation: FY99 Work Plan
5. Public Comment Received: FY99 Draft Work Plan
6. Summary of Public Comments on the Restoration Reserve
7. Letter from Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission
8. Letter from Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council
9. Letter from Jack Lentfer
10. Draft Itinerary for PAG Field Trip

**K. CERTIFICATION:**

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**PAG Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178



July 28, 1998

The Honorable Donald E. Young  
United States Congress  
2111 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0201

Dear Congressman Young:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage your assistance with efforts to enact legislation through Congress that will enable the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council to minimize management fees and maximize net returns on the civil settlement funds.

As members of the Public Advisory Group, we have long recognized the need to secure legislative changes that would permit settlement funds to be withdrawn from the Court Registry Investment System and invested in a manner that will provide higher returns than is presently possible. Further, investing the settlement funds outside of the Court System should substantially reduce fees thus also allowing for more productive use of settlement funds for restoration purposes. As you know, action is needed by Congress to achieve this goal and the PAG strongly encourages your support of this effort.

Trustee Council staff, with support from the PAG, has been working on this issue for some time and we are hopeful that authorizing legislation will soon be enacted. At the same time, we are aware that there is a wide spectrum of views regarding how civil settlement funds should be used. Over several years, the PAG itself has struggled with this same issue. As representatives of diverse interests, we often find that our priorities differ when it comes to restoration funding decisions. However, we feel that the process established under the settlement has been a fair one that allows for a healthy debate and balanced decision making.

Please know that the PAG considers obtaining legislative authority to move funds out of the Court System in order to enhance returns and reduce fees as an essential priority. As you further consider this issue, we are hopeful that you will be able to work with the Trustee Council and its staff to come to common agreement regarding language in the authorizing legislation that will be acceptable to all parties while maintaining the integrity of the settlement and continued public involvement in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Rupert Andrews, Chair  
Public Advisory Group  
*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council

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# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178



July 28, 1998

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Dear Senator Stevens:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage your assistance with efforts to enact legislation through Congress that will enable the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council to minimize management fees and maximize net returns on the civil settlement funds.

As members of the Public Advisory Group, we have long recognized the need to secure legislative changes that would permit settlement funds to be withdrawn from the Court Registry Investment System and invested in a manner that will provide higher returns than is presently possible. Further, investing the settlement funds outside of the Court System should substantially reduce fees thus also allowing for more productive use of settlement funds for restoration purposes. As you know, action is needed by Congress to achieve this goal and the PAG strongly encourages your support of this effort.

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Sincerely,

Rupert Andrews, Chair  
Public Advisory Group  
*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council

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# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178



July 28, 1998

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0202

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage your assistance with efforts to enact legislation through Congress that will enable the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council to minimize management fees and maximize net returns on the civil settlement funds.

As members of the Public Advisory Group, we have long recognized the need to secure legislative changes that would permit settlement funds to be withdrawn from the Court Registry Investment System and invested in a manner that will provide higher returns than is presently possible. Further, investing the settlement funds outside of the Court System should substantially reduce fees thus also allowing for more productive use of settlement funds for restoration purposes. As you know, action is needed by Congress to achieve this goal and the PAG strongly encourages your support of this effort.

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Sincerely,

Rupert Andrews, Chair  
Public Advisory Group  
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**DRAFT****Meeting Summary****A. GROUP:** Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)**B. DATE/TIME:** June 1-2, 1998**C. LOCATION:** Anchorage, Alaska**D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews, Chair	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Chris Beck	Public-at-Large
Pam Brodie	Environmental
Sheri Buretta (June 1 only)	Public-at-Large
Dave Cobb (via teleconference)	Local Government
Chip Dennerlein	Conservation
James King	Public-at-Large
Mary McBurney (June 2 only)	Aquaculture
Chuck Meacham	Science/Academic
Brenda Schwantes	Public-at-Large
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Chuck Totemoff	Native Landowners
Loren Leman ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State Senate

**E. NOT REPRESENTED:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Eleanor Huffines	Commercial Tourism
Howard Valley	Forest Products
Nancy Yeaton	Subsistence
Vacant	Public-at-Large
Mark Hodgins ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State House

**F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Veronica Christman	Trustee Council Staff
Rachel Crittenden	Dept. of Interior Intern
Bill Hauser	AK Department of Fish and Game
Joe Hunt	Trustee Council Staff
Karen Murphy	U.S. Forest Service
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of Interior
Eric Myers	Trustee Council Staff
Tom Quick (via teleconference)	Public
Theresa Obermeyer	Public

Sandra Schubert  
Stan Senner  
Hugh Short

Bob Spies (via teleconference)  
Cherri Womac

Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Chief Scientist, Trustee Council  
Trustee Council Staff

## G. SUMMARY:

The meeting was opened June 1 at 10:35 a.m. by Rupert Andrews. After roll call, the summary of the November 4, 1997, meeting was approved.

Eric Myers provided the Executive Director's report. He reported on the status of large parcel acquisitions with Afognak Joint Venture (about 2 months of work left) and Tatitlek (to close this week). Trustee Council action on small parcels is expected next week. He discussed the nature of the meeting described in the Anchorage Times editorial (Handout #1) as listening to a proposal, which does not fall within the spill region boundaries.

Hugh Short discussed the Community Involvement Project (Handout #2). Tribal Councils receive \$12,000 for a year-long Community Facilitator. Kodiak has one facilitator for the island. He just completed a round of public meetings at villages in the region. He distributed a list of Department of Community and Regional Affairs list of grants from EVOS criminal settlement funds to communities (Handout #3). Stacy Studebaker noted that Ted Cooney's and Craig Matkin's presentations on EVOS projects were well received in Kodiak; it would be good to get more researchers into the villages to let people know what is being learned. Sherri Buretta said that the Community Facilitator project helped villagers participate with researchers and agencies. Dave Cobb said that he saw the Valdez Facilitator every week. Chuck Meacham suggested that local people should choose topics of interest to hear about and the EVOS staff could pick the presenters.

Veronica Christman provided a summary of the public comments on the restoration reserve (a summary was previously sent to the PAG). Between the fall 1997 and spring 1998 solicitations for comment, some 1,100 comments were received and entered into a database. This includes oral comments from meetings held in 22 communities and email messages. Most comments from outside Alaska came from organized mailing campaigns of organizations. The *Restoration Update* newsletter goes to about 3,000 people. Studebaker said it would be interesting to see the number of members of these organizations. Brenda Schwantes suggested giving more weight to comments from within the spill area than those from out of state. Pam Brodie said there were different ways to weigh comments, significant impacts to State and Federal public resources gives statewide and nationwide commenters a say. Buretta said that many local people were not content with what was going on and had cut themselves off rather than keep participating. Jim King suggested that current rounds of comments be correlated with past public input efforts. Studebaker said she belongs to some of the organizations who commented, but was not asked for her opinion by them. Chris Beck suggested that if organized opinion solicitations were discounted, the comments looked balanced.

Andrews asked if the PAG could discuss actions that went beyond the limits currently set by

the court for the use of EVOS funds. Myers said that theoretically the court agreement could be changed.

PAG members each commented on the use of the restoration reserve:

-King said that the public in Alaska supports education, especially rural areas, so education-oriented research makes sense. Summaries of comments from other EVOS forums should be examined regarding use of the reserve. The University proposal (99474, Handout #3) should be considered.

-Studebaker said that 50% of the reserve should go for land acquisition, 40% for long-term ecosystem monitoring and research, and 10% for education of the public by researchers.

-Meacham said that scientific and academic actions should be supported, not more land acquisition (maybe a small portion for small parcels). (90% should go for science (e.g., the Spies approach) and 10% for land. A significant portion should go for education and outreach, e.g., endowed university chairs and scholarship programs; and continue the Youth Area Watch project.

-Brodie said the Trustee Council represents all Alaskans and people of the U.S. and that what the majority of comments were should not be discounted, the PAG is only a few people with special interests. She does not think a consensus on numbers can be reached.

-Chip Dennerlein said that we should do what is best for Alaska and Alaskan communities, but cannot ignore public comments, federal land ownership, and the heritage of the people of the U.S. People see land as real and most Americans don't understand science. The message is balance. We need applied science that can be used for management guidelines. Education is important. Habitat protection is important, both marine reserves and uplands.

-Buretta said that yes, the impacted lands are federal and people of the U.S. can have a say, but that we need to consider the people who have lived here for a 1,000 years. Local people were impacted personally and financially. A local tribal representative should be in the decision process. Monitoring is important. We need money to manage lands that have been purchased. Enough has been spent on large parcel acquisition. More emphasis is needed on community involvement, education and scholarships. Special interests are divisive.

-Beck said that we should be trying to work on the long-term health of the ecosystem, and the best means is through science and applied research. Agencies who manage resources often don't make good decisions. We need to grab the curiosity and passion of the public and get them to understand. 90% is needed to sustain applied research and education, 10% for habitat acquisitions. How resources are managed and how the public feels about them are keys. An ongoing stewardship approach to management, e.g., watershed or ecosystem, is needed to govern the reserve.

-Schwantes said that villagers think enough land has been sold, this need has been met. The money should be regionally divided and local boards can decide what to do with it. A lot of good project ideas come from local sources. The highest need now is at the local level.

-Chuck Totemof said that large parcel acquisitions have been accomplished. Research and monitoring should be over by the end of the payments. Community-based projects have been lacking and should be increased. Some small parcel acquisitions could continue. Education is good, we need to keep people informed. Many people are quiet, not because they are satisfied, but because they feel their input won't do any good.

-Cobb said that the PAG does represent the public because special interests are part of the public. He has a problem with more large parcel purchases, but there are some good small

parcels to work on. Don't stop research and monitoring, this has long-term importance. Education is important, too. Community needs for small communities have been overlooked. He has a hard time with endowments for university chairs. There are opportunities to parlay reserve funds with other funding to get more bang for the buck.

-Andrews said that the public doesn't understand that negative research results are useful, too. He agrees that there is a need for long-term ecosystem health and that a balanced program is needed (unless the Karluk River becomes available for purchase, then it should be bought). Some large parcel acquisitions don't make a connection with injured species. We should do basic research, it has long-term payoffs. We should look at how to handle the next oil spill. We have done a remarkable job learning about the marine ecosystem. A balance of public education, community outreach and basic research should be taken. We don't want to repeat the Columbia River salmon disaster. We could benefit by university chairs, too.

Beck outlined an approach (Handout #4) for PAG consideration to see if agreement could be reached. PAG members identified their suggested percent allocation of funds for land acquisition and discussed the proposal at length.

King said that the University endowment proposal covered all these elements. Brodie noted that there had been a lot of public outreach in the process. Schwantes said all this was in the current work plan, we were not changing anything. She emphasized the need to let regions decide what to do with the reserve through local boards. Dennerlein said there needed to be an overarching review and coordination process. Andrews said that resources were of more than local interest. Brodie said she had problems regionalizing the reserve, doing it the way we have been is not a failure, but a decision. Beck said that more focus on local-oriented research and education is required (Studebaker agreed). Dennerlein said that serious science is needed to answer complex questions and that partnerships with other institutions was important. King suggested a land trust be established with a small percentage of the reserve to match funds with other organizations.

The session was opened for public comment. Tom Quick (via teleconference from Ouzinki) outlined his suggestions: a self-sustaining fund with increased return on investment, lowered administrative costs, we have achieved a satisfactory gain in land acquisitions-cap these, minimize research, expand education efforts (e.g., scholarships, internships), do more community-based projects.

The PAG discussed reserve governance and time frame, but decided to set up a working group to present an approach/alternatives at the next meeting. Beck moved, second by Meacham, to adopt the summary as modified (Handout #4) as a working document. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Spies and Stan Senner presented a summary of the draft FY 1999 work plan and the Executive Director's and Chief Scientist's recommendations (Handouts #6 and #7). The project budget target is \$12 million. At this time, \$11.2 million is identified in recommended, contingent, and deferred projects. Long-term projects will not be started. Spies noted that the Trustee Council may consider long-term monitoring efforts, but we need to see where we are with the large ecosystem projects (SEA, NVP, and APEX) as they wind down.

Senner summarized, and the PAG discussed, the recommendations for each project cluster (Handout #8):

- Pink salmon
- Pacific herring
- Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) and related projects
- Cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, rockfish, and pollock
- Marine mammals
- Nearshore ecosystem
- Seabird/forage fish and related projects
- Archaeological Resources
- Subsistence
- Reduction of marine pollution
- Habitat improvement
- Ecosystem synthesis
- Administration, science management, and public information

McBurney raised a question about Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) bench fees. These are costs charged to projects for veterinary care, animal feeding, etc. Myers said that EVOS projects get a discount. Studebaker said that animal care was important and that the science and interpretive parts of ASLC needed to work together to make the Center a success. Spies sits on the ASLC Board. There was general agreement that projects that improve information synthesis and community involvement were worthwhile.

Dennerlein said it was important to determine the characteristics of rockfish habitat, they are long-lived species and we are now harvesting them. Senner noted that it was important also to distinguish between normal agency management and appropriate restoration projects. He said the current budget looks like this: Fund/Contingent \$9,384.5; Defer \$1,720.4; ASLC Bench Fees \$146.5; for a total of \$11,251.4.

Schwantes said that the youth area watch and community facilitators project should be expanded. King believes the study portion (\$200,000) of the University restoration center proposal, 99474) should be funded. The role of the University and this project proposal were discussed. Andrews asked if Trustee Council funds could be used for response. Myers said no, criminal funds and Oil Spill Recovery Institute funds could be.

Dennerlein moved, second by McBurney, that the PAG expresses support for the work program as presented by Senner. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was moved by Meacham, second by McBurney, that the PAG believes the goals of the projects listed (Handout #9) are worthwhile and deserve support. EVOS staff should work with proponents to further explore ways to revise and proceed with these projects. The motion passed, the vote was 7 for and 3 opposed (Brodie, King, and Schwantes).

The itinerary for the September field trip was discussed. The trip will tentatively include a visit to the SeaLife Center in Seward, and to habitat protection sites in Kenai Fjords and along the Kenai River.



The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. June 2.

**H. FOLLOW-UP:**

1. Andrews and Beck (who will be chair) will form a working group, with any other PAG members who wish to participate, to meet via teleconference and develop an approach to restoration reserve governance and time frame, to be discussed at the July PAG meeting.
2. All PAG members are to get their schedules for July, August, and September to Cherri Womac as soon as possible so that final meeting and field trip dates can be set.

**I. NEXT MEETINGS:** Tentatively July 22 and September 9-10-11

**J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)**

1. Voice of Times Editorial/Murkowski Letter
2. Community Involvement Project Update
3. Status Report-Subsistence Restoration Grant Program
4. **Summary of Areas of Agreement re. Restoration Reserve**
5. Alaska SeaLife Center
6. Spreadsheet B: Preliminary Executive Director's Recommendation/FY99 Draft Work Plan
7. New Projects Recommended for Funding
8. Summary of Projects (Senner overheads)
9. **FY99 Projects Identified by the PAG as Meeting Additional Consideration**
10. "Sounds Currents Confound" Article
11. Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission Resolution
12. Endowment of the Environmental Restoration Center: Detailed Project Proposal 99474
13. Public Advisory Group Membership Update
14. Draft Itinerary for PAG Field Trip

**K. CERTIFICATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PAG Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Public Advisory Group****Summary Of Areas Of Agreement re. Restoration Reserve**

Outlined below is a record of conclusions reached by the PAG at their meeting June 1-2, 1998 regarding the structure of the planned \$150,000,000 Restoration Reserve. We use this as a starting point open to further refinement. This summary was supported by all PAG members participating, except as noted below. The PAG also has ideas regarding specific implementation policies (e.g., specific information and education programs). These more detailed topics will be discussed and recorded at the July PAG meeting.

**Overriding Goal**

1. stewardship - long term, sustainable health of spill area ecosystems
2. restoration - restoration, replacement, enhancement of injured resources and services

(Mission statement: your speech here..."sustain the health of this achingly beautiful, vital piece of the planet; seize the unique opportunity to make spill area one of the few places in north America where people are figuring out a way to live in and actively use a rich, complex coastal ecosystem without incrementally erasing it's life and wonder..." "...a legacy of knowledge and concern passed on to the next generation..."")

**Means to Goal****A. Science/Research**

*Objectives:* Develop an integrated research and monitoring program that provides ecological information to help solve current and long-term resource management issues. "Basic" and "applied" research are tightly linked - basic research provides the foundation for applied research that addresses management needs.

- Basic Research - continue to fund research and monitoring to better understand regional ecosystems (how they work, how they are changing, what sustains and what undermines their health)
- Applied Research/Dissemination - guide research process so agencies, land owners and the public can make better decisions, on use and sustainable management of spill area land and marine resources. Design and present research results to provide information relevant to issues affecting health of spill-area ecosystems; e.g., decisions regarding infrastructure, fish and game management, land use planning.

*Specifics:* research process, specific research topics, etc. - discuss at next meeting.

**B. Education/Information**

*Objective:* Improve public understanding of research process, findings and significance. Work to enhance public understanding, to increase public curiosity and concern about spill area ecosystems - how they work, impacts of the spill, solved and unsolved eco-mysteries, and the importance and role of science in decision-making. Carry out a broad range of education, outreach programs to support this objective, working to leverage restoration funds through partnerships with established organizations such as schools and museums.

*Specifics:* Discuss details at next meeting: in general build from established successes - in particular - presentations by researchers, community involvement, school/kids programs, programs like public radio spots that tell stories to broad audience in lay terms. Make education and information an established category for restoration and funding.

#### C. Community Projects

*Objectives:* Do a better job in making local residents and communities partners in the mission and activities of the restoration process. Give residents a more active role in research, monitoring, education and interpretation and stewardship. Create incentives for researchers to find ways to take advantage of local knowledge, local resources. Give spill area residents the tools needed - through training and education - to take on a progressively larger share of continuing research, education and management. Examples of projects that already or in the future could meet these objectives include:

- establish science coordinators in school systems, to work as a liaison between researchers and schools (both for children, adults)
- provide scholarships to spill area residents so they're better equipped to do research, linked to summer work programs
- develop system of facilities, programs in the spill area to share ongoing-research results
- hire locals, local equipment for long term monitoring
- support site-specific restoration projects (e.g., restoring damaged habitats, developing alternative methods of earning a living while maintaining health of ecosystems)

*Issues:* Should the restoration process be a jobs/economic development program? *Possible answer:* Not directly - bottom line is high quality science. However, preference should be given to well-designed research projects that best involve spill area residents and resources.

#### D. Land Acquisition

*Summary:* Use a portion of the Reserve funds to establish a habitat protection program to support future acquisition of land and interests in land. The objective should be protection of buffer terrestrial lands immediately adjacent to aquatic environments. There should be no arbitrary limit on parcel size, but the focus should be on smaller parcels - the jewels - strategically located along streams, tidelands, or isolated within larger parcels previously acquired with EVOS funds.

*Option for Structure/Governance:* Endow a non-profit trust whose mission is ongoing land acquisition. Establish a new entity or work with an established trust. Acquire lands through fee-simple purchase, conservation easements, gifts, etc. Work actively to expand the trust's resources; e.g., using grants, gifts, partnerships.

*Funding level:* PAG views on the funding are mixed, however, the large majority of PAG members recommend devoting less than a third of the reserve to this purpose. One criteria for reaching this decision is finding a level of spending that does not jeopardize the three objectives listed above (science, information, community projects). Specific recommendations are outlined below:

Rupert Andrews	10-15%	Chip Dennerlein	50%	Stacy Studebaker	50%
Torie Baker		Eleanor Huffines	30%	Charles Totemoff	10%
Chris Beck	15%	Jim King	10-15%	Howard Valley	
Pamela Brodie	75%	Chuck Meacham	10%	Nancy Yeaton	
Sherri Buretta	5%	Mary McBurney	20%	Senator Leman	10%
Dave Cobb	20%	Brenda Schwantes	0%	Rep Hodgins	

E. Governance: Discussion begun, need more time to explore issues and reach recommendations. Take up at next meeting with a subcommittee.

F. Timeframe:

**FY 99 Projects Identified by the Public Advisory Groupas Meeting Additional Consideration  
(with PAG comments)**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation</b>
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Application

99339	Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	Fund contingent.
99399	Eastern Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model (suggest fund next year after western PWS project completed)	Do not fund.
99382	Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Information-Transfer Workshop for Managers (suggest work with agencies to develop the best approach to information transfer)	Do not fund.

Synthesis/Information

99278	Development of an Ecological Characterization and Site Profile for Kachemak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet (suggest explore adding costs for GIS)	Fund contingent.
99368	Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound--Summary Seasonal and Detailed Maps (suggest add costs to produce on CD-ROM for distribution)	Fund contingent.
99361	Dynamic Graphical Techniques for Ecosystem Synthesis, Communication and Product Delivery (suggest explore of ways to widely distribute, e.g., CD-ROM)	Do not fund.

Research

99354	Development of Habitat-Based Population Assessment for Nearshore Rockfish Along the Northern Gulf of Alaska (suggest revising this to include determining the characteristics of high quality habitat)	Do not fund.
99434	East Amatuli Island Remote Video Link Project	Defer.
99401	Spot Shrimp: A Population Dynamics Study (Suggest revising to include in work plan)	Defer.
99052B	Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Suggest following the Executive Director's recommendation to expand efforts on individual projects)	Do not fund as proposed.
99468	Fundamental Estimations of Acoustic Target Strength (FEATS)	Fund contingent.
99378	Improving Population Models for Herring Management Along the Northern Gulf of Alaska	Defer.
9939 <sup>2</sup> RAA	Prince William Sound Food Webs: Structure and Change	Defer.