

**Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Trustee Council  
Summary  
March 23, 2006 Trustee Council Meeting  
Long Beach, California**

The following primary and alternate Montrose Trustee Council ("Council") members were present:

Jen Boyce	NOAA	Suzanne Goode	CDPR
Patty Velez	CDFG	Scott Sobiech	USFWS
Kate Faulkner	NPS	Julie Yamamoto	CDFG
Jim Haas	USFWS	Jennifer Lucchesi	CSLC

Also attending:

Greg Baker	MSRP Staff	Chuck McKinley	DOI (by phone)
Dave Witting	MSRP Staff	Lisa Wolfe	DFG
Annie Little	MSRP Staff	Chris Plaisted	NOAA/ GCNR
Milena Viljoen	MSRP Staff	Kathy Verrue-Slater	DFG

### **Restoration Planning**

The federal RODs and the State Notice of Determination were in the process of being signed as of the date of this meeting, but not all necessary signatures had yet been obtained. Therefore, the Council discussed upcoming restoration implementation funding needs, but deferred on signing resolutions at this meeting. Once all the necessary approvals are in place, the MSRP team will circulate resolutions for signature.

### **Cost Subcommittee**

We agreed to convene the cost subcommittee for a meeting to identify steps needed to bring our cost documentation up to date, and review and recommend improved procedures for managing and accounting for our costs. A representative of Cotton and Company who is an accountant will participate, and the meeting date was set for April 25<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach.

### **Transfer of Settlement Funds**

Chris Plaisted confirmed that, pursuant to the Council's direction at the November meeting, \$14.2 million was transferred from the Court Registry Accounts to the DOI NRDAR Fund. This was done to consolidate funds for restoration into the DOI NRDAR, and leave approximately only the funds needed to reimburse NOAA's past costs in the Court Registry Accounts. In so doing, we closed out several of the accounts at the Court, and now have just a single account remaining, which should simplify our periodic reconciliations. In so doing, the balance in the DOI NRDAR should be approximately \$38 million, and after a \$4 million past cost payment to NOAA occurs, there should be approximately \$19.5 million remaining in the Court Registry Account.

### **MOU Update**

The Council revisited the need to update its operating Memorandum of Understanding. Chris Plaisted will take the lead on drafting a new MOU. The Luckenbach MOU was discussed as a more recent model. Chris will seek comments from Katherine Pease Chuck McKinley, Kathy Verrue-Slater, and Lisa Wolfe.

## **Restoration Implementation**

### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The MSRP team proposes to utilize a combination of suitable approaches for implementing restoration, including the use of NFWF for managing some of the projects. The MSRP team and Jen Boyce reported on continuing efforts to work with NFWF on the specific provisions of an agreement to have them manage implementation of several restoration projects. Once we clarify how NFWF's fee structure will work in light of their recently identified need to handle accounting differently for their needs and ours, we'll conduct a conference call with the Council to discuss the specifics and make a decision on whether to move forward with an agreement.

### Bald Eagles

We identified a need to get video footage if a bald eagle chick hatches on Santa Cruz Island, and to develop a plan for media outreach on the event. Jim Haas raised the idea of holding an eagle workshop not only for our internal technical purposes but to disseminate information to the public. Such a workshop could summarize what's happening with bald eagle restoration on the Northern Channel Islands and Catalina, and provide an opportunity to explain what data are showing. Optimal timing would probably be sufficiently after the breeding season to allow for results to be written up.

### Seabird Restoration

The Council agreed on the proposed baseline survey for San Miguel Island, recommending that the initial payment to Harry Carter be limited to 50% of the total cost.

The proposed work on Scorpion and Orizaba Rocks was also agreed upon, with a change to the proposed Statement of Work recommending that 25% of the payment be made upon acceptance of the final work product.

The Council agreed to the proposal to hire a biologist at the NPS on a term basis to oversee the MSRP seabird projects. Annie will continue to add recommended specifics to the position description.

The Council also agreed to the proposal to contribute funding through the Navy to Island Conservation for work on identifying measures to eradicate non-native cats on San Nicolas Island. Kate Faulkner recommended incorporation of veterinary standards language.

### Fishing and Fish Habitat Restoration

The MSRP team is working on developing Requests for Application (RFAs) to be advertised through the NOAA grants process. Drafts of these RFAs for wetlands, MPAs, and outreach mini-grants were circulated to the Council, and input provided at the meeting to the MSRP team on the specific provisions in the RFAs. After revising the RFAs to incorporate comments at this Council meeting, the MSRP team agreed to get the final RFAs to the Trustees by March 30<sup>th</sup> for quick turnaround so they may be finalized and transmitted by the April 10<sup>th</sup> NOAA grants office deadline. They will then be published in the Federal Register on or around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Next Meeting**

The Council agreed to reserve June 27<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting. The MSRP team will identify whether it needs to be an in-person meeting, or a conference call, prior to that date. September 20<sup>th</sup> was identified as the subsequent meeting date for the Council in Long Beach, to coincide with an upcoming conference, California and the World's Oceans.