

Pribilof Islands Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting

March 9, 2005 9:00 AM AK teleconference

Planning and Steering Committee meeting

Agenda and meeting summary

NOTE: Action items are highlighted in yellow

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be Monday March 21 at 9:00am Alaska time (10:00am Seattle, 1:00pm D.C.)

Present: Denise Woods, Margaret Williams, Steve Maclean, Heather McCarty, Paul MacGregor, Max Malavansky Jr., Debbie Lestenkof

Agenda for the Steering Committee Conference Call

1. March 3-4 meeting debrief/ review
2. Steering Committee duties (assigned during fur seal meeting)
 - a. Subgroup to work on research facilities upgrade
 - b. LTKW- reconvene subcommittee, letter to NPRB
 - c. Letter to MCA regarding marine debris/ Ocean Clipper removal
 - d. White paper on PIC accomplishments
3. Next meeting dates: is a 5-day meeting in September feasible?
4. Financials
 - a. Update on FACA findings/ NOAA funding
 - b. Production of generic letter of need for PIC?
 - c. NPRB proposal letter/ reapply for funding
 - d. Travel reimbursements- get receipts to Denise

Conference Call Summary

1. March 3-4 meeting debrief/ review

During the meeting in Seattle, there was general consensus reached on:

- A list of research priorities/ questions
 - There was no discussion of the specifics of these projects; we will leave it to the scientists to design the experiments/ formulate the research questions
- A list of action steps, including:
 - A letter to MCA supporting the beach clean-up (at a ramped-up level)/ outreach and education to prevent more marine debris dumping/ a “Code of Conduct” for fisheries, to be developed by industry reps.
 - Upgrading research facilities on the Pribilof Islands/ forming subgroup to explore needs and options
 - Reconvening LTKW subgroup to create action plan and next steps in designing the LTKW protocol/ data-gathering project. Agreement to contract Henry Huntington to assist in developing the protocol. Also discussed creating a letter for NPRB, basically in support of their “LTKW” category of funding.
 - Writing a “white paper” on the PIC accomplishments (intended for press, etc.)

- Financials, including:
 - Fundraising options (including resubmitting request to NPRB)
- Next Steps for the PIC:
 - Agreed that a 5-day meeting in Anchorage to cover all three remaining resource issues (crab, halibut, seabirds) would be desirable. This was because there was no agreement by Island representatives as to which issue should be addressed next. (see later in this summary for further discussion of dates)

2. Steering Committee duties (assigned during fur seal meeting)

a) *Create subgroup to work on research facilities upgrade:*

- Need reps from the different caucuses to create briefing paper/ action plan describing the vision for what is needed
- PIC's role primarily to promote the action plan, thereby helping to secure funding
 - **Subgroup members:** Debbie, Phil, Max, Karin, Margaret, Karl or Larry
 - (Margaret will ask Karl and Larry about joining)
 - **Subgroup task and deadline:** 1 or 2 pages on the current situation, 1 or 2 pages from each island group on the vision/ needs- DUE to Denise by APRIL 11 (for circulation with April 11 Weekly Update)

b) *Reconvene subgroup to design next phase of the LTKW project (pilot results were presented during March meeting in Seattle) involving both Islanders and Bering Sea fishermen:*

- **Subgroup members:** Claire, Debbie, Karl, Karin, Henry, and Max (new)
- **Subgroup task and deadline:** Debbie and Max will convene the group via teleconference by April 11 to:
 - Begin designing next steps in the project
 - Create a contract with Henry, to enlist his help with, at least, the project design/ protocol for data collection and dissemination/ storage
 - Discuss funding: American Seafoods will fund an LTKW effort with \$4000; we had originally agreed to find a match for this, to get total of \$10K (perhaps from Larry Cotter, with PIC funds if necessary)
- Note: Paul has an email from Jan Jacobs suggesting we beef up involvement with an ongoing PCCRC project on killer whales (Kate Win, Principal Investigator). Comment made that we should be careful NOT to mix these two projects. Paul will forward the email to Max and Heather.

c) *Draft letter to NPRB in support of their support of LTKW projects (they meet next week):*

- **Task:** Heather will draft a letter and circulate it to the Steering Committee, including saying that we are working with Henry Huntington on a protocol for

gathering and transmitting the LTKW and that we will share the methods with them when completed, if they desire

d) *Letter to MCA regarding marine debris/ Ocean Clipper removal*

- **Subgroup members:** Debbie (lead), Denise, and Paul
- **Subgroup tasks and deadline:** Write two letters to MCA (Glen Reed and Simon Kinneen)
 - One letter in support of MCA support of continued/ increased effort of beach debris clean-up. Also mention that we are developing/ support a “Code of Conduct” for the industry to prevent dumping of more debris. **Due ASAP (Debbie will send draft information to Denise, who will compose and circulate draft letter)**
 - Separate letter describing the history of the ocean clipper ship (containing oil and other hazardous materials) that is beached on Island and requesting help securing funds (likely a million dollar project) to have the ship removed. **Due? This needs to wait until a briefing paper on the history of this problem can be created so we can inform MCA of the problem**
- **Task:** Write briefing paper/ background on ocean clipper grounding
 - **Debbie** will help write/ take lead
 - **Steve** volunteered to find newspaper clippings on clipper
 - **Heather** will ask Kaja for NOAA’s involvement history

e) *White paper on PIC accomplishments*

Need create page of bullets of PIC accomplishments to date/ generalized format will allow document to be adapted for press releases, other opportunities to promote the PIC (NPFMC?).

- **Subgroup members:** Denise, Margaret, Steve, Larry, Heather
- **Subgroup task and deadline:** Denise and Margaret will develop draft bullets and circulate to Steve, Larry, and Heather for input. **Due ASAP.**

3. Next meeting dates

- Agreement by those on the call that a 5-day meeting in September will not be enough time to address all three remaining resource issues (i.e. that’s less than two days per topic...).
 - **Suggestion** to hold a meeting in September, as planned, but to focus on crab and halibut, playing up the socioeconomic goals of the PIC and the socioeconomic impacts of these two species (the meeting would also include discussions of other economic issues, including Island development and the socioeconomic analysis being conducted by Ecotrust)
 - **Proposed dates:** **September 12-15 in Anchorage** (to piggyback on the American Fisheries Society meeting also in Anchorage)
 - **Suggestion** to hold a seabird meeting during summer on Island (clarify- SP or SG?) during the days following the NPFMC meeting in Girdwood (June 1-9), to join the beach clean-up that may also be held during that time and to take advantage of seabird experts’ presence on Island.

Meeting could be 1 or 2 days on seabirds, followed by 1 or 2 days on cleanup. Also, PIC has committed to hold one meeting per year on Island.

- Decision on possible meeting dates (two meetings) to wait until get feedback from key people:
 - Denise will circulate an email informing the Formal Stakeholders of this suggestion (considering the impossibility of a 5-day, 3-topic meeting) and asking them for feedback on these dates/ topics (forward to Heather first for review)
 - Debbie et al. will consider changing the current clean up dates, since they conflict with NPFMC meeting- perhaps move clean up to June 10-13?
 - Paul will call Ron Clarke to discuss clean up dates
 - Margaret will call Art (will researchers be there/ when?)
 - Margaret will call Ron Philemonof
 - Heather will call Philip Lestenkof for his input on dates
 - Debbie will call Richard Zaharof for his input on dates

4. Financials

a) Production of generic letter of need for PIC

- Randy has been volunteered to draft this letter, since he has his finger on our financial pulse

b) NPRB proposal letter/ reapply for funding

- Clarence has suggested we resubmit a letter requesting funding, this time adhering to the guidelines NPRB has created.
- Suggests we ask for funding for one or two meetings (discreet, easier to fund), approx \$20K
 - Heather and Denise will revive the old request letter and produce a new request THIS WEEK (NPRB meets next week)
 - Letter will be signed by all of the Steering Committee, minus Paul and Heather (whose involvement might constitute a conflict of interest)

c) Travel reimbursements

- PIC had originally agreed to fund 4 nights in Anchorage and 2 nights in Seattle, plus airfare
- Andy and Dennis are still stuck in Anchorage and need their hotel costs covered through this time
- Islanders the PIC agreed to fund travel for need to send their hotel and air travel receipts to Denise ASAP; she will give to Randy, who will route them through SWAMC

Final Comments

- Phil comments that he doesn't feel a sense of closure yet on northern fur seals. Group agrees it will be necessary to hold a follow up meeting, via teleconference if necessary (once the products are received from Brock)