



February 2024

Member Call

SUMMARY

February 2, 2024

ATTENDEES

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (Executive Director), Bri Goodwin (Project Manager), Margaret Corvi (Tribal Engagement Manager)

West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) Staff: Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP), Laura Bliss (WCODP Coordinator)

State Staff: Al Andy (WA Commerce), Katie Robinson-Filipp (CA State Lands Commission), Brittany Poirson (WA DNR), Jay Krienitz (WA Ecology), Delia Kelly (ODFW), Tanya Haddad (OR DLCD)

Tribal Members/Staff: Andrea Sumerau (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Starry Insixiengmay (Sacred Places Institute), Jess Gravelle (Trinidad Rancheria), Abreanna Gomes (Kashia Band of Pomo Indians), Elaine Harvey (Yakama Nation), Carl Merkle (Confederated Umatilla Tribes), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Sheryn Olson (CRITFC), Joe Schumacker (Quinalt Indian Nation), Rosie Gradoville (CRITFC), Freddie Romero (Sacred Places Institute), Matthew Schwoebel (CTCLUSI), Rob Jacob (Elk Valley Rancheria)

Federal Staff: Liesl Olson (USCG), Thomas Leeman (USFWS), Sara Gultinan (BSEE), Stef Stavrakas (USFWS), Paul Michel (NOAA NMS), Gustav Hein (US Maritime Administration), Bridgette Lohrman (EPA), Juliette Chausson (EPA R9), Jessica Curran (Navy), Natalie Dayal (BOEM), Irina Irvine (NPS), Naomi Lewandowski (DOE), Tricia Perez (DOE), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Adam Melerski (Space Force), Laura Block (EPA), Scott Johnston (USFWS), Juliana Carmondy (USACE), Katie Wrubel (NOAA NMS), Maggie Dour (Navy), Gustav Hein (US DOT)

WCOA Fellows: Avery Calhoun (NOAA), Suzie O’Niell (NOAA), Ysabelle Yrad (Blue Lake Rancheria), Carina Burroughs (NOAA),

Strategic Earth Consulting (strategic plan consultants): Sara Gené, Noelia Aponte-Silva

CALL SUMMARY

WCOA Strategic Planning

Noelia Aponte-Silva and Sara Gene from Strategic Earth Consulting provided an overview of the draft strategic plan framework and timeline.

- The draft Strategic Plan Framework was sent to members on January 3, 2024 for feedback. The Leadership Team and Strategic Planning Committee are currently reviewing the goals and strategies before those go out for review.
- Sara presented the current draft Vision, Purpose, Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategies ([presentation linked here](#)).
 - Members completed a zoom poll or Jotform poll to get a feel for how the content is sitting with folks. Members should reach out to Noelia if they have any questions or feedback.
- Discussion:
 - Joe Schumacker: I’m liking the way this thing is coming together. There are a lot of trigger words and buzz words in the document that can be helped with this type of document. We’re trying to be as generalistic as possible – and aspirational. For the stewardship guiding principle, who in the WCOA will decide what is responsible use of the resources? Is that WCOA's place? And I think that there are uses amongst the various members of the group. And we have a lot of varied members here, remember, that may not be considered as responsible to others.
 - Sara Gene: Thank you, Joe. We’ve included your feedback in the notes. We’re including all of the comments in the chat in our notes as well.
 - Sara: The poll results are displayed:
 - 75% of folks have reviewed the framework.
 - 94% are comfortable moving to the next stage.
 - 90% are feeling like this is really great and 10% feeling okay.
- Sara presented an updated timeline for the Strategic Plan. The process is one to two months behind and is now scheduled to be completed by the end of August (which includes review by government leaders, as appropriate).

Offshore Wind Summit Update

Sara Gene with Strategic Earth Consulting provided an update on the Offshore Wind Summit planning.

- We have heard the importance and the desire to have everyone come together in person. It's really not looking like it's going to be possible to gather in person because of travel restrictions and other scheduling excitement. So what we are tentatively proposing moving to a virtual format on the same dates. Nothing has been decided yet – the Offshore Wind Working Group will discuss and make the decision next week.
 - Joe Shumacker: I'm disappointed. I'm guessing this is mostly the California travel restrictions. Not that I'm discounting California... It's really disappointing. I say so because virtual is fine for some things, but as you noted today we would probably get a lot better comments in person.
- Sara provided an overview of what a virtual Summit would look like over two half days. We would retain the panel discussions and break out by government type after the panels. Panels would include: State of the Science and Policy, Science Collaborative, Cultural, Historical, and Treaty Tribal Rights, and WCOA's Role in Offshore Wind.
- Joe Schumacker: Had we been able to hold this in person, I believe we would have let a public attend, correct?
 - Bri Goodwin: It was going to be invite only, not public.
 - Joe Schumacker: I was pushing for public. We really need to have input from those people out there that use the ocean, count on the ocean and depend upon it. We're throwing this wind summit together to get input beyond these industry sponsored summits that have been put together up and down the coast. If it's just WCOA, we're probably going to get the same feedback we're getting today.

WCOA Governance Document Drafting

John Hansen provided an update on development of an Alliance governance document.

- The Alliance staff team is working with the Leadership Team to develop a governance document to guide WCOA operations and decision-making. The new document will pull from the RPB Charter but will be updated to match the current structure of the Alliance. We are still discussing what type of acknowledgement mechanism will be used for the document. The Caucuses will be a key point of feedback. We hope to have this finalized by this fall with formalization and endorsements by the end of the year.
 - Tricia Perez (U.S. DOE): Has the Alliance reached out to the other partnerships like MARCO and NROC to see how they're working and what's worked and what's not?
 - John Hansen: We regularly check in with our partners out there. There is less direct resonance with things like governance because the regions are very different – especially in their membership.

FY24-25 NOAA ROP Funding Proposal

John Hansen provided an update on the NOAA proposal development and asked for feedback from members.

- The RFA has been released and the proposal is due April 12. The funding start date will be 12/1/24 with a project duration of 12-18 months. Applicants may request up to \$1,963,233 and proposals must include at least \$300,000 focused on ocean and coastal data activities.
- Our staff team has been holding monthly drop in office hours to discuss proposal development. The next office hours are on Wed, Feb 7, 10 am - 12 pm PT and Tues, Mar 5, 10 am - 12 pm PT. Email staff@westcoastoceanalliance.org for a calendar invite to any or all of these dates.
- The following are potential items that will be included in the proposal:
 - 'Core' Components:
 - Administrative Support Team (3.0 FTE)
 - Annual Member Summit
 - Annual Tribal Summit
 - Data Tasks (\$300k)
 - Fiscal Sponsor Overhead (10%)
 - Continuation of Years 1-2 Tasks
 - Annual WCOA Fellowship Program
 - WCOA Topical Summit
 - Tribal Engagement Support
 - Communications Support
 - Aquaculture Project
 - New Priorities & Tasks
 - West Coast Science Entity Development / Feasibility
 - WCOA Member Support (support engagement of members related to WCOA priorities)
 - Tribal Technical Support Staff (1.0 FTE)
 - WCOA Business Management Support (0.25 FTE)
 - Decision Support Tool Development
 - Regional Marine Plan Assessment
 - Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal: Regional Needs Assessment
 - Data Tasks
 - West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard: New Indicators
 - Ongoing Portal Technical Maintenance / Upgrades
 - New WCODP Work Plan
 - Regional Data Needs Assessment

- West Coast Offshore Wind Data & Science Assessment

- Members provided input on proposal items using mentimeter. Results can be found [via this link](#).

Member Spotlight - Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

Jess Gravelle provided an update on Trinidad Rancheria's new Marine and Climate Resiliency Program.

- I have been studying and working on the Pacific Northwest marine and coastal climate for about 10 years. After graduate school, I moved back to Humboldt County and now have the immense privilege of serving Trinidad Rancheria as their new Marine and Climate Resiliency Program Manager.
- This program came about after several years of strategic planning by Trinidad Rancheria's leadership team. The vision of the program is to co-manage the Tribe's ancestral coastal and marine environment and resources for the sustainability and resiliency of local ecosystems and the community. This vision kind of came about from Tribal elders sharing memories of subsistence harvest and a very long story tradition of stewarding marine resources on their ancestral territory. Trinidad Rancheria continues to invest in their Tribal community and the broader North Coast community as they own and operate Trinidad Bay Pier and Harbor.
- After connecting community engagement with Tribal elders and Tribal community members, we also worked closely with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to identify some key species of interests. These species represent important marine resources, but they are also cultural keystone species for the Tribal community. Crab, mussels, seaweed, and red abalone already have flagship projects off the ground.
- Trinidad Rancheria is also one of three North Coast Tribes to designate the first ever indigenous marine stewardship area in the United States. Along with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Resighini Rancheria, we plan to steward about 700 square miles of ancestral ocean and coastal territories. It's a chance to assert our sovereignty and basically provide an example of Indigenous-led stewardship.
- The Marine and Climate Program is really just kind of getting off the ground but we have more projects lined up like rocky intertidal habitat monitoring. We're working on other grants and projects to build our capacity and establish a strong framework for the Marine and Climate Program.
- Reach out to Jessica Gravelle if you have any questions:
jgravelle@trinidadrancheria.com

END CALL