

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Tremont House

Galveston, Texas

OCTOBER 21, 2019

**VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 11 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 12 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 13 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 14 Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
- 15 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- 16 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
- 17 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
- 18 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 19 Troy Williamson.....Texas

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 22 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 23 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 24 Susan Gerhart (designee for Roy Crabtree).....NMFS
- 25 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 26 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 27 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 28 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 29 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 30 Lt. Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

**STAFF**

- 33 Zeenatul Basher.....Coral and Habitat Biologist
- 34 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 35 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 36 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
- 37 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 38 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 39 Jessica Matos.....Document Editor & Administrative Assistant
- 40 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
- 41 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 42 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 43 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 44 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- 47 Greg Ball.....Galveston, TX
- 48 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance

1 Donna Brooks.....FL  
2 Glen Brooks.....FL  
3 James Bruce.....MS  
4 Nikki Bruce.....MS  
5 Catherine Bruger.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL  
6 Leslie Clift.....FGBNMS, Galveston, TX  
7 Ronald Chicola.....Ruston, LA  
8 Chris Conklin.....SAFMC  
9 Michael Drexler.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL  
10 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL  
11 Peter Hood.....NMFS  
12 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA  
13 Larry Marino.....LA  
14 Paul Mickle.....MS  
15 Carole Neidig.....Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, FL  
16 Sinclair Oubre.....Port Arthur Area Shrimp Association, TX  
17 Clay Porch.....SEFSC  
18 Skyler Sagarese.....SEFSC  
19 Lisa Schmidt.....FL  
20 Bob Zales.....Panama City, FL  
21 Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

22  
23  
24

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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico  
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Tremont House,  
3 Galveston, Texas, Monday morning, October 21, 2019, and was  
4 called to order by Chairman Phil Dyskow.

5  
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**  
9

10 **CHAIRMAN PHIL DYSKOW:** I have only had a few discussions since  
11 this appointment, as it applies to the Administrative/Budget,  
12 but be assured that these actions of the Gulf Council staff are  
13 audited by an outside auditor, and they do follow GAAP  
14 principles, and so they're going down the right path with all of  
15 their financial activities.

16  
17 I would like to start by putting out the agenda, if I can get  
18 staff to do that. There are a couple of important issues that  
19 we need to finalize today for Dr. Simmons, one of which is we  
20 need to approve the budget carryover into 2020, and Dr. Simmons  
21 will be discussing that, and the other thing that we need to do  
22 is prioritize the carryover activities, because we have many  
23 potential activities, but a smaller budget. In other words, we  
24 can't do all of them, and so we would like some guidance as far  
25 as prioritizing those. I would like to entertain a motion to  
26 adopt this agenda.

27  
28 **MR. JOE SPRAGGINS:** Motion.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** The motion is made. Do we have a second?

31  
32 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Second.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is there any opposition? The motion carries.  
35 The next thing we need to go through is the Approval of our  
36 August 2019 Minutes. I need a motion to entertain that.

37  
38 **MR. SPRAGGINS:** So moved.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is there a second? We have a second. Any  
41 opposition to this motion? The motion carries. The next item  
42 on the agenda will be introduced by Dr. Simmons, and that's the  
43 Action Guide and Next Steps. Dr. Simmons.

44  
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
46 good morning, everyone. We have two main agenda items, as Mr.  
47 Dyskow said, and I will just give you an overview, again, of  
48 what those are. Ms. Hager is going to walk us through our

1 refined projections for anticipated year-end fiscal position,  
2 and those are going to be projections for the end of 2019, and  
3 we have some proposed carryover activities that we want to go  
4 through with you, and that's in the other carryover activities  
5 category, and then we have the anticipated unexpended funds that  
6 we're going to look at with nine different contractual projects  
7 that we're going to provide an overview of, and we're going to  
8 ask for a priority list from the council, from the committee and  
9 then the council. With that, maybe we can turn it over to Ms.  
10 Hager.

11  
12 **UPDATE OF 2015-2019 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES AND BUDGET CARRYOVER**  
13 **TO 2020**  
14

15 **MS. BETH HAGER:** I am presenting remotely today, and so, Bernie,  
16 if you put up the funds status, 2015 to 2019, and that's Tab G,  
17 Number 4. This is very similar, and it's the same format, to  
18 what we looked at in August, and so, at the top, we have our  
19 actual expenditures from the beginning of the award to 2018,  
20 December of 2018, and that's \$13,692,220. Then we have our  
21 expenditures that are now updated through September of 2019, for  
22 this year, which would be a total of \$2,835,584.

23  
24 Then we look at our estimated obligations from October through  
25 December, and so we're only looking at the last quarter now, and  
26 so this is a lower number than before, and we have \$1,128,815.  
27 That is based on our anticipated meetings, payroll, rent, all of  
28 our regular costs through the end of the year, and so we're  
29 looking at a final figure of \$17,656,619.

30  
31 Since our funding was \$18,953,575, we have a potential fund  
32 remaining of \$1,296,956, but, as we presented in August, we have  
33 some carryover activities that are already planned, and these  
34 are the meeting activities that we haven't been able to complete  
35 in this last period, and those stand at the same number,  
36 \$546,283.

37  
38 The other carryover activities, we have been able to revise that  
39 number slightly and refine it. We have the 508 document  
40 compliance number changed a little bit and the EFH potential  
41 carryover is based on whatever activity we get done in this  
42 year, between now and December, and so that number will change  
43 slightly too between now and the end of the year.

44  
45 Overall, it leaves us an expended fund of about \$316,000 to look  
46 at these other activities that Dr. Simmons is going to review  
47 for you all in the next tab, and she's going to review the other  
48 carryover activities in a little more detail and give you some

1 more discussion on those contractual projects. Does anybody  
2 have any questions?

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons, before we go on, is it your  
5 desire that the committee approve this expenditure, this  
6 carryover expenditure, and then we can bring it before the Full  
7 Council later in the meeting?

8  
9 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I suggest we go through some of  
10 these activities and see if there's any questions, and then we  
11 can talk about the contracts, and then, maybe at the end, it  
12 would be appropriate for a motion.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay, and so, again, there's two things we  
15 need to approve, the carryover amount, and we need to approve  
16 the prioritization of the projects.

17  
18 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think the amount we should leave  
19 out, perhaps, of the motion, because that amount could change,  
20 as Beth mentioned. I think it's just the fact that the council  
21 understands that we are creating a request with proposed  
22 activities and other activities, as well as these contracts that  
23 we're looking at that we're going to provide to NOAA, and so  
24 that's the important piece of it at this time, and so I don't  
25 know that you need to put the value in the motion at this time,  
26 but perhaps -- Let me just go through these other carryover  
27 activities.

28  
29 These don't need to be prioritized, per se, but they were  
30 expensive, and I want to bring them to the council's attention  
31 and see if there's any questions or feedback on the best way  
32 forward with some of these things.

33  
34 One of the things I wanted to talk about, and this is in Tab G,  
35 Number 4(a), that we were proposing to do, and this is in the  
36 other carryover activities line item, the \$434,611 that we're  
37 talking about here. One of the things we would like to do is  
38 develop a commercial fishing regulations mobile app, and we want  
39 to do this with the South Atlantic Council.

40  
41 To develop that app, it would be through Fish Rules, and it  
42 would cost us \$20,000, each council, and so we're proposing to  
43 do that. Now, currently, we have the recreational Fish Rules  
44 app, and the commercial regulations are in there, but they're  
45 buried, and so what we would like to do is kind of restructure  
46 the commercial fishing rules app and then just make the  
47 recreational one its own app, so that it's at the forefront and  
48 there's a difference there.

1  
2 One of the ways that we've been talking to the developer about  
3 setting it up, in coordination with the South Atlantic Council  
4 staff, is that the commercial Fish Rules app potentially could  
5 be sorted by permit, species, and location, whereas maybe more  
6 species and location-specific for the recreational app.

7  
8 One of the things that we would put, moving forward with this,  
9 for annual maintenance of this app, it would be \$8,000 a year,  
10 and so that would show up in our annual budget, and so I wanted  
11 to discuss that with the council and put that on your radar.

12  
13 The other thing, and maybe Emily can speak to this some more,  
14 that I think is really important with these apps, and I think to  
15 make them the best that we can and provide the best product to  
16 the user, is that all the Gulf states are involved and have a  
17 point of contact, because it will include state regulations as  
18 well in there, and so, to have the best and most current  
19 information, if we could work together to do that as well, and  
20 so I don't think there necessarily has to be a charge to the  
21 states for that, but just providing a point of contact, to make  
22 it the best app that we can. I will stop there and see if  
23 there's any questions on that, and then I will move on to the  
24 other activities.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Go ahead

27  
28 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Carrie, you said there's an \$8,000 annual  
29 maintenance fee, and is that per council, or is that divided  
30 between the two councils?

31  
32 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** That's per council, correct?

33  
34 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, that is per council, and it's  
35 different than the fees associated with the recreational app.  
36 The recreational app, I think it's a \$4,000 charge for each  
37 agency that signs on to use that as their official app, per  
38 year, and this one is higher, because there will not be any ad  
39 revenue to sort of offset that, is what he was thinking, is that  
40 the universe of commercial anglers is much smaller than the  
41 universe of recreational anglers, and so he won't be able to  
42 offset costs with ad revenue, and so it would be \$8,000 per  
43 agency that signs onto it.

44  
45 Right now, it's just us and the South Atlantic that are talking  
46 about developing and sort of retaining creative control of it,  
47 but I think the idea is that, down the line, we would invite the  
48 states to also host their commercial regulations, and then they

1 would have this fee associated with that, if they wanted to.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Shipp.

4  
5 **DR. BOB SHIPP:** I am just curious. Does this app include a  
6 disclaimer? Most of these regulations that people put out,  
7 there is always language at the bottom that you're still  
8 responsible for any changes. I hear that we're going to update  
9 it each year, but is there any disclaimer that these are  
10 official or they're not official?

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Emily, go ahead.

13  
14 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** There are proper disclosures, and sort of the  
15 way that it works, and just to give you guys an idea of the  
16 current recreational app, if you are a state or an agency, like  
17 us, that has signed on to host the app, I actually have control.  
18 Since we have signed on to use Fish Rules as our official app,  
19 they then designate a point person, and I have access to the  
20 backend of the app, and, every time a regulation changes, I keep  
21 it up-to-date in the moment.

22  
23 Now, there are certain states, or certain other agencies, that  
24 have not signed up with Fish Rules to make that an official app,  
25 at which point the developer then takes responsibility for  
26 keeping up with those regulations, and that's sort of why Carrie  
27 was suggesting that maybe we create a point person, or, if any  
28 of the states feel like Fish Rules is the right way to go, to  
29 actually sign-on, but, if there is a point person, at the very  
30 least, that person can communicate with the developer and try  
31 and make those regulations more appropriate, because they're  
32 hosting them anyway, and so they think the idea is, if we can  
33 get a point person from each agency to at least communicate, if  
34 you're not going to use it as your sort of number-one way to  
35 communicate your regulations, then that will make the  
36 information on the app more precise.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

39  
40 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Moving on  
41 down to some of the other items, we need to work on -- What  
42 we're proposing here is improvements and planning for the  
43 website. One of the things that we need to do, in order to meet  
44 the United States Workforce Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for the  
45 Section 508 compliance for limited vision or blindness and  
46 deafness, as well as other disabilities, is to make our website  
47 508 compliant, and we have developed a proposal and call for  
48 contractors, and we've received several contractors to do this,

1 and so this was the maximum that we were looking at spending  
2 doing this.

3  
4 Then we also have a second item for the website that we need to  
5 work on, which is moving -- We have a historical -- When we  
6 first shifted our website over, many of you were on the council,  
7 and we still have historical documents and materials on that  
8 other domain, I guess, and so we need to shift that over to our  
9 current website, and that's going to take some work.

10  
11 We also would like to develop a run book and best practices for  
12 our staff and have this contractor do that as well, and so these  
13 were the maximum values of these two projects that we put out,  
14 and we have several proposals, and so we need to go back and go  
15 through those and then select a contractor to do this work, but  
16 this was the maximum amount that we were planning to spend to  
17 make that happen with the website.

18  
19 Then the final thing that we also need to do with the 508  
20 compliance for documents is -- We've been working, moving  
21 forward, to make our amendments and framework actions 508  
22 complaint with the Regional Office, in order for them to be  
23 accepted into the NOAA library, but we don't have our historical  
24 documents compliant with 508, and so what we would like to do is  
25 get a contractor to also work on that, and we have several names  
26 from the Regional Office that have also done some work, and so  
27 we're estimating the cost of that would be \$35,000. That would  
28 also include some of the joint documents.

29  
30 Some of the earlier first FMPs, original FMPs, and Amendment 1,  
31 we can't make those 508 compliant without re-typing them. It's  
32 considered an undue burden, and so we won't be able to go back  
33 that far, but we'll do the best we can with our recent documents  
34 and going back in time, and we've worked out a pretty good list  
35 with the Regional Office, and we're estimating that cost will be  
36 \$35,000, and so I will stop there.

37  
38 **MR. SPRAGGINS:** Dr. Simmons, on what you have proposed, I saw I  
39 think there was three-hundred-and-something-thousand left over.  
40 If there is any funds in it -- The question is, if it's legal,  
41 and I'm fairly new doing this, but is it legal to use any of  
42 this to help promote something, as far as seafood safety? Is  
43 that legal, for the council to use that to promote it?

44  
45 What I'm talking about is, after this big disaster with the  
46 Bonnet Carre and the other things that have happened, we have  
47 seen a lot of issues in Mississippi and Louisiana and Alabama,  
48 and I think Florida also has seen the same thing, where we are

1 having people questioning the seafood in the Gulf of Mexico, as  
2 to whether it's safe, as far as bacteria and other things, and  
3 it's going out all over America, and we see signs of -- People  
4 put a sign up and said we do not serve seafood from the  
5 Mississippi Gulf coast, or we don't serve seafood from the Gulf  
6 of Mexico, because they are concerned about it. Is there  
7 something that we could look at? Is that legal or not?  
8

9 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I would have to defer to Mara,  
10 because we're not involved with the FDA regulations, and so I'm  
11 not sure how we would do a seafood safety real-time --  
12

13 **MS. MARA LEVY:** I don't know, off the top of my head, and I  
14 don't know what your constraints are either, in terms of what  
15 you do under your grant and such, and so we would have to look  
16 at specifically what you wanted to do and talk to the Grants  
17 Office and figure out whether that's something that's even  
18 within the scope of what your grant is for.  
19

20 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.  
21

22 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes,  
23 that's a good point, and so keep in mind that these funds need  
24 to be for unforeseen things that have come up that have been  
25 planned in our last five-year grant, but we were unable to  
26 complete, and that's what you will see in the carryover  
27 activities line, and then that line item I just went through is  
28 the \$434,611, and so now the next part of this is getting into  
29 the anticipated unexpended funds, which we have nine contracts  
30 that various staff members have put together that I wanted to  
31 walk the council through that we're proposing to use that  
32 remaining funding for, and we're asking you to prioritize those,  
33 as Mr. Dyskow said. Would you like me to go through those?  
34

35 **MR. SPRAGGINS:** Yes, and, once again, I was just bringing it up  
36 as a point, and I'm not sure whether -- From what you just told  
37 me, it's probably not even legal in this part, and so I will  
38 withdraw that.  
39

40 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** General Spraggins, just thinking about that, I  
41 mean, it's obviously a big issue for the Gulf states, and we can  
42 look and pursue it a little bit, but I would think it might be  
43 part of the communications plan, as opposed to one of the  
44 specific projects that Carrie is going to go over next.  
45

46 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons, go ahead with that list.  
47

48 **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CONTRACTUAL PROJECTS**

1  
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
3 This is Tab G, Number 5. These are in order of the lead PIs,  
4 alphabetical order, under last name. This doesn't currently  
5 have any priority to it. What I am trying to do here is just  
6 give you an overview of each of the projects that we have to  
7 look through.

8  
9 We are anticipating being able to fund at least four of them, at  
10 around \$75,000, and I think there's some flexibility in that  
11 final number, and so what I plan to do is work with the Chair  
12 and see if there is other projects we can fund, \$5,000 and  
13 \$6,000, depending on where those final contracts land with the  
14 other activities that I just went over in the previous document.

15  
16 The first project is evaluation of dolphin acoustic deterrent  
17 devices as a method to reduce reef fish depredation rates in the  
18 Gulf of Mexico, and that's proposed by Dr. Judd Curtis and other  
19 co-authors with the Harte Research Institute.

20  
21 The overall goal of this project is to characterize regulatory  
22 discards while estimating instantaneous and post-release  
23 mortalities attributed to depredation and to determine if  
24 acoustic deterrent devices currently used in commercial net  
25 fisheries could be a tool to reduce discard mortality in Gulf of  
26 Mexico reef fish fisheries. I think this is going to be focused  
27 on the western Gulf, I believe, and it's going to work with the  
28 charter fleet, and they are requesting \$90,000 for this project.  
29 Let's go to the next one. Again, I'm just providing a brief  
30 overview.

31  
32 Project B, the next one, is increasing availability and  
33 understanding of reef fish descender devices, and this is Dr.  
34 Marcus Drymon at Mississippi State University and Mississippi-  
35 Alabama Sea Grant.

36  
37 The purpose of this project would be to distribute 500 fish  
38 descenders, and they're looking at using SeaQualizers, to  
39 Mississippi recreational fishermen through the Department of  
40 Marine Resources, using the Tails 'n Scales Program, and develop  
41 and disseminate a short instructional video to detail the proper  
42 use of these devices. I believe this is focused on the north  
43 central Gulf, based on this project, and they are requesting  
44 \$75,000 for this.

45  
46 The next project is understanding the population dynamics of  
47 adult red drum, and this is Dr. Marcus Drymon and Sean Powers,  
48 Dr. Sean Powers, at Mississippi State University and

1 Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant and the University of South  
2 Alabama, and these studies are needed to determine the age  
3 composition for spawning red drum in federal waters.

4  
5 This project's goal would fill a critical gap using samples and  
6 data already in hand, and it would provide an index of relative  
7 abundance for adult red drum in offshore waters, such as sex-  
8 specific age and growth parameters, and they're estimating they  
9 could do that for 1,000 individuals. Estimates of mortality and  
10 general habitat suitability maps, and, again, I think this is  
11 focused on the north central Gulf.

12  
13 Assessing the influence of sargassum habitat on greater  
14 amberjack recruitment in the Gulf of Mexico, and this is Dr.  
15 Frank Hernandez and Dr. Verena Wang at the Division of Coastal  
16 Sciences and the University of South Alabama.

17  
18 These efforts will be concentrated on assessing the relationship  
19 between these sargassum indices and gray triggerfish populations  
20 in the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed work will extend the  
21 application of project-developed sargassum indices to evaluate  
22 recruitment of the greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico,  
23 which are, as we know, federally managed and have been  
24 designated as overfished and undergoing overfishing. We know  
25 that this is also a priority for the council in our current  
26 research priorities, and so the amount requested for that is  
27 \$75,000.

28  
29 Exploring unexplained variability in stock-recruitment  
30 relationship estimates for the Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack  
31 stock with long-term ecological time series, that's Dr. Joshua  
32 Kilborn at the University of South Florida. He is proposing to  
33 investigate the unexplained portion of the greater amberjack  
34 stock-recruitment relationship used for fishery management  
35 decisions in the Gulf of Mexico, as it's described in the 2014  
36 SEDAR assessment, and I believe this is Gulf-wide, this project  
37 is Gulf-wide, and it would help to better constrain the models  
38 used to estimate spawning stock biomass. He is requesting  
39 \$85,000 for that one.

40  
41 This F is the only socioeconomic project we have. The rest are  
42 biological and life history and tagging and movement studies,  
43 and this is a social network analysis of quota trading in the  
44 Gulf of Mexico IFQ fisheries, and this is Dr. Andrew Ropicki at  
45 the University of Florida, and he is proposing to employ a  
46 social network analysis to both the quota and landings markets  
47 in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery programs, and so I think  
48 that's the red snapper and the grouper-tilefish programs, to

1 examine connections between the quota and landings markets,  
2 evaluate regional differences in the quota market and how the  
3 quota market has changed since IFQ implementation, the role and  
4 influence of dealers in the quota market, how IFQ management has  
5 affected the spatial distribution of the fishery and the Gulf  
6 working waterfront communities, with emphasis on the role of  
7 quota trading in the fishery following external shocks, such as  
8 oil spills, red tide events, and hurricanes. I believe this is  
9 a Gulf-wide study, and he is requesting \$76,000.

10  
11 G is movement patterns and discard mortality of cobia in the  
12 Gulf of Mexico, and this is Dr. Matt Streich at the Harte  
13 Research Institute in the Gulf of Mexico and other co-authors.  
14 The overall goal of this project is to provide new information  
15 on movement, stock structure, and discard mortality of cobia  
16 captured in the Gulf recreational hook-and-line fishery using  
17 advanced tagging technology, and so they would look at seasonal  
18 movement of cobia, the mixing between the western Gulf and  
19 Mexico, and estimate discard mortality for cobia in the  
20 recreational hook-and-line fishery. They are requesting \$92,500  
21 for that project.

22  
23 The next one is habitat estimates and the comparative habitat  
24 value of artificial reefs and natural banks for Gulf of Mexico  
25 greater amberjack and gray triggerfish, and that's Dr. Greg  
26 Stunz and other co-authors at the Harte Research Institute, and  
27 the overall goal of this study is to obtain greatly needed  
28 abundance and distribution information for greater amberjack and  
29 gray triggerfish, through a combination of video surveys and  
30 bioacoustic or hydroacoustic surveys of artificial reef and  
31 natural banks.

32  
33 It would use -- They have already gathered this data, and I  
34 think they're just going to analyze it based on the Great Red  
35 Snapper Count that has already been conducted, and this is going  
36 to be Gulf-wide, I believe, because they are going to look at  
37 regional differences, and they are requesting \$75,000 for this  
38 project.

39  
40 The final project, and this is the ninth project we have, is the  
41 density estimates of age-zero and age-one gray triggerfish and  
42 vermilion snapper from 2007 to 2015, and this is the north  
43 central Gulf, and the objective is to quantify and analyze and  
44 report on two important species, which I mentioned gray  
45 triggerfish and vermilion snapper, that showed high recruitment  
46 densities on patch reefs, the same patch reefs, over this time  
47 series, and they would analyze this information and provide  
48 information on recruitment patterns before and after the oil

1 spill and the changes in the sargassum distribution as well.  
2 They are requesting \$75,000 for this project, and it would be in  
3 the north central Gulf.

4  
5 What we're asking for is the committee and council to prioritize  
6 these projects. We are confident that we could fund at least  
7 four of these, and perhaps more, depending on where things fall  
8 with the contracts that we have for the website and other things  
9 that we have going on, and we feel these are all helpful and  
10 would contribute to the council's mission and management and  
11 would be able to fall within our current or previous last five-  
12 year grant.

13  
14 After the council prioritizes these and makes a selection, what  
15 we would do is develop a contract timeline and deliverables with  
16 that PI, and then, at the end of this year -- This project has  
17 to be completed by the end of 2020, and we would ask for a  
18 report and/or presentation that would come before the council,  
19 probably in the spring of 2020. I will stop there.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Chairman Frazer, we  
22 have a couple of ways to go on this. We can either have lengthy  
23 discussion that would go beyond our timeframe to go through  
24 these one-by-one and weigh the merits, or we could perhaps give  
25 this information to the Full Council members in paper form and  
26 have them actually rank these in ballot form and then use that  
27 as our final prioritization. That would be a Full Council  
28 activity.

29  
30 If you agree with that, we really have two things we can do, as  
31 a committee. Since the carryover budget number hasn't been  
32 fully quantified at this time, at this point in the year, I  
33 think we can entertain a committee motion to approve the  
34 carryover budget direction, as stated by staff, so that they can  
35 start doing some planning in that regard.

36  
37 Then the second item would be to recommend that these nine  
38 projects be prioritized by each individual council member and  
39 that be tabulated to form the final priority of projects that we  
40 have, and so I guess what we're asking people to do, Dr.  
41 Simmons, is vote for four, or do we want them to just prioritize  
42 them all?

43  
44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I would suggest prioritizing them  
45 all, because we may be able to fund five, or perhaps even go  
46 back to someone and have six, but I think what we could do is  
47 send out like a survey, and then we would have to discuss at  
48 Full Council the projects and their priority, I think in open

1 session, before we left the council meeting, so that we could  
2 put that into our carryover request, and I think that we would  
3 have to do that publicly after we get the survey back.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay, and so do you want the survey to be  
6 electronic or paper?

7  
8 **DR. FRAZER:** Mara, do you want to weigh-in on this, real quick?

9  
10 **MS. LEVY:** I think, whatever you do, the results by individual  
11 need to be made public. Meaning, I don't think the council  
12 members can rank things and there be a private tally of the  
13 results. If you want to post what the rankings are, fine, but I  
14 think whatever happens needs to be fully transparent and public,  
15 and I will also note that a couple of these projects have a  
16 council member as a PI, and, to that extent, that person should  
17 be recused from any discussion or voting. The regulations in  
18 the Code of Conduct section basically say, if you have -- I have  
19 them here.

20  
21 It says that no council member should participate as a member  
22 through decision approval, disapproval, recommendation,  
23 rendering of advice in a particular matter, primarily of  
24 individual concern, such as a contract, in which she or he has a  
25 financial interest. To the extent this is ranking the council's  
26 priorities for contracts, it's probably something that requires  
27 a recusal, in that instance.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Stunz.

30  
31 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Thanks for recognizing me. I'm not on your  
32 committee, Mr. Dyskow, but, as one of those individuals that  
33 you're talking about, Mara, I fully plan to abstain from the  
34 discussion and voting on this, for the record.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Emily, you had your hand up?

37  
38 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** I just wanted to say that, if we did decide to  
39 go electronically, we can create a Google Doc that will track  
40 each member's vote, and we can have that done for you by the end  
41 of the day.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** What would be the Chairman's pleasure on this?

44  
45 **DR. FRAZER:** I agree that I think that it would be appropriate  
46 to move forward with a motion to approve the carryover spend  
47 plan, and I don't have any problem with that. I think that it's  
48 okay as well to generate an electronic kind of ranking of the

1 projects that we can bring to the Full Council, and we can have  
2 further discussion then. My question right now is whether or  
3 not there is a need for any initial discussion on these projects  
4 prior to actually ranking them, and so I would expect that there  
5 are a few questions at this point that we could entertain, for  
6 sure.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Well, let's divide this into -- I'm sorry.  
9 Leann.

10  
11 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Well, if we were going to discuss the  
12 projects that we just talked about, I actually -- There was one  
13 that I would like to add for discussion, and I can't make the  
14 motion, but I'm just going to bring it up as discussion, but  
15 there was a motion that came out of our AP, our Coral AP, joint  
16 meeting that we had, and it was a motion from the Shrimp AP, and  
17 it had to do with Kemp's ridley turtles and wanting some more  
18 research on those.

19  
20 The new five-year bi-op is coming up, and they're going to start  
21 that pretty soon, and we've seen some bouncing up and down of  
22 the nesting on the beaches in Mexico, and the Shrimp AP -- There  
23 was an assessment done on those Kemp's ridley somewhere between  
24 five and ten years ago, and so it is time to look at that  
25 information again.

26  
27 It does have ramifications for all of our fishermen. As you  
28 know, we're all held accountable for that, and so I would like  
29 that to be a research priority, research and possible stock  
30 assessment on the Kemp's ridley turtle, and so I just throw that  
31 out there for discussion, because I'm not on your committee.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Susan Boggs.

34  
35 **MS. BOGGS:** I think this is directed to Carrie, and please help  
36 me remember, but how did we come about these projects? Is this  
37 something the council solicited, or is this just something  
38 that's kind of been out there? It kind of brings it back to  
39 Leann and saying, hey, let's look at this.

40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Since we really didn't have a  
42 strong idea of how much money we were going to have, I asked all  
43 technical staff to provide at least one project, contact various  
44 universities or others, and several staff provided more than one  
45 contract for the council to review that was within our  
46 priorities and that we thought we could get done at the end of  
47 2020, because it's not like you can go out and do a long-term  
48 research project with one year of funding, and so that was the

1 other thing we had to keep in mind.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Swindell.

4

5 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Did these projects come about through any kind  
6 of public notice out to universities or so forth, in order to  
7 get applications in for a project?

8

9 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

10

11 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** No, we did not do that. Now, if  
12 there is a project that -- I think it's \$100,000 or more, or  
13 \$99,999, and if it's of that cost, then, yes, we would have to  
14 make it competitive and open.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Frazer.

17

18 **DR. FRAZER:** I would imagine there might be other projects that  
19 would be added to this list, and I think, if you move forward in  
20 the direction that you're intending to move forward, with  
21 approving an intended spend plan for the carryover funds, that  
22 would allow us some flexibility to perhaps identify new projects  
23 or generate some ideas that could be completed in the timeframe,  
24 and so, along those lines, I would ask -- For example, with  
25 regard to the Kemp's ridley assessment, I would imagine, Clay,  
26 that that would be done in your shop, and is that correct?

27

28 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** It could be. Actually, I just sent an email to  
29 my staff, to see what that would entail and if we have any more  
30 information than just beach counts.

31

32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Donaldson.

33

34 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Along those lines, the assessment that  
35 Leann referred to was actually done by LGL Associates, Benny  
36 Gallaway, and we actually have an estimate to redo that, because  
37 that was something that we were interested in seeing, because  
38 there is some interesting information about the nesting, and we  
39 thought that redoing the assessment would be useful, and so we  
40 could probably do -- If we used Benny and his folks, we could  
41 probably do just an update of that assessment for about \$50,000,  
42 and that's just FYI.

43

44 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

45

46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just keep  
47 in mind that we have to turn around -- Beth, I don't know if  
48 you're still on the webinar, but I think it's the end of this

1 month that we have to include all of this in our carryover  
2 request to NOAA, I believe, or early November, and I can't  
3 remember what the date is, and so we have a very limited time on  
4 this, and so that's probably why it seems rushed, but it is  
5 rushed.

6  
7 **MS. HAGER:** We actually have to submit that no later than sixty  
8 days before the end of our current award, which is December 31,  
9 and so we have until October 31 to submit the finalized  
10 contracts, completely negotiated, and with any cost  
11 justification, if it's a sole-source contract.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Kevin.

14  
15 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not on your  
16 committee, but just to follow-up on the Kemp's ridley  
17 assessment. I was on the side, and I was listening into a  
18 conversation that I was having with folks in Alabama regarding  
19 the NRDA trustee work that we do, and there was a discussion of  
20 turtles, and assessments came up, and I thought I heard that  
21 NOAA was going to be conducting an assessment, and I don't know  
22 if it was on Kemp's ridley or another species, but I thought  
23 they were, and so that might be something else we want to just  
24 confirm, is that there isn't something already planned through  
25 NRDA.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Donaldson.

28  
29 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kevin, along those  
30 lines, we actually talked to the NRDA folks about funding an  
31 updated assessment, and it didn't fall within -- At least under  
32 the protected resources turtle pot of money, it didn't fall  
33 under their priorities, and that doesn't mean that they're not  
34 going to fund it through some other pot, but, at least through  
35 that avenue, they were not interested.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons, since there seems to be some  
38 interest in this, and I have noted that there aren't any shrimp-  
39 related activities on this list at this time, would it be  
40 possible to add this prior to preparing the electronic vote  
41 assessment? In other words, could the scope of this be defined  
42 enough to add to the list prior to our ranking?

43  
44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you. I think we could do  
45 that, but I would ask if, I guess, if Dr. Gallaway, who is going  
46 to do this work, that we request that by Full Council that he  
47 provide something like you have in front of you for the Full  
48 Council to look at and an estimate of cost in writing, because,

1 like I said, again, we've got to turn around and put this in our  
2 carryover request to NOAA and develop contracts with these folks  
3 like ASAP when we get back.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Donaldson.

6

7 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that I can talk  
8 with staff and we can get something to you as soon as possible.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I am not trying to put you on the spot, but  
11 what do you mean by as soon as possible, because we're trying to  
12 put this ranking document together.

13

14 **MR. DONALDSON:** Today, hopefully. I say that with an asterisk,  
15 and let me talk to staff. I mean, we have a full proposal from  
16 Benny, but it's a lot more than \$50,000, because there was a lot  
17 of other additional things that he was trying to do, but let me  
18 talk with him, and I think we can get something to you. It's a  
19 definite maybe. How about that?

20

21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Getting back to the two things that we  
22 need to do, I would entertain a motion to approve the budget  
23 carryover direction, as described by staff, at this time.

24

25 **MR. SPRAGGINS:** I will make that motion.

26

27 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, General Spraggins. Do we have a  
28 second? We have a second. Is there any opposition to this?  
29 Mr. Donaldson.

30

31 **MR. DONALDSON:** No opposition, but just a clarification. That's  
32 the \$150,000 of that first part that was presented for the  
33 update of the website and -- Is that what you're talking about?

34

35 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** What we're talking about is they have to have  
36 this project completed by the end of October, and so we're  
37 approving the direction that they've presented here, and then  
38 the other issue that we talked about, the prioritization of  
39 these additional projects, we're going to handle that  
40 separately, and we're going to have an electronic vote, and so  
41 this is merely to approve the budget direction as presented by  
42 staff at this meeting, the carryover budget direction.

43

44 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Susan Boggs.

47

48 **MS. BOGGS:** I may be late in asking this question, and I do

1 apologize, but, under the other carryover activities, which, as  
2 Mr. Donaldson mentioned, is only \$150,000, and so you have  
3 \$434,000 in your other carryover activities, and so, if you're  
4 only spending \$150,000, would that then go into these projects,  
5 or am I misunderstanding?  
6

7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I will let staff answer that question.  
8

9 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Beth, are you still on there? I  
10 think that was for equipment and some other things. Could you  
11 explain that, please?  
12

13 **MS. HAGER:** The other carryover activities that Carrie  
14 highlighted here are just a portion of them. In addition to  
15 those activities that she mentioned, we do have a request in for  
16 the SEFHIER activity, that that won't be able to be completed in  
17 this year, and so that's going to have to be carried over into  
18 next year.  
19

20 We have the request to hire a fishery outreach specialist, and  
21 so that and all of the associated costs are included in that,  
22 and then carrying over some staff time, hopefully, to work on  
23 these activities as well, and so we do have 8 percent in there  
24 to help offset some of the work that is going to need to  
25 actually be done in 2020, and so that is carryover as well, and  
26 so all of those activities are what we have that total the  
27 \$434,611.  
28

29 What we're looking at for these other projects is around  
30 \$300,000, but, as Carrie mentioned before, that is completely  
31 dependent on how much funds we have remaining in our actual  
32 operating activity, and so, if we have a meeting canceled  
33 between now and the end of the year, that number is going to go  
34 up.  
35

36 If something else changes, potentially, between now and  
37 December, that funds remaining number is going to change, which  
38 is why we're looking for the ranking, and we realize that those  
39 contracts are much higher than the funds we have available, but  
40 we just need to get an idea of the direction to go in. Does  
41 that answer it?  
42

43 **MS. BOGGS:** Yes, Beth. Thank you.  
44

45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Once again, within this motion, all we are  
46 doing as a committee is approving the overall direction of the  
47 budget carryover provisions that they have discussed today, and  
48 so we're just approving the direction that they're taking,

1 realizing that some of these numbers are not specific and finite  
2 at this early stage, but they have to present their plan by the  
3 end of this month, the 31<sup>st</sup>, and today is the 21<sup>st</sup>. We have a  
4 motion and a second to approve that budget carryover direction.  
5 **Is there any opposition? It not, the motion carries.**  
6

7 The second item that we need to take some action on is this  
8 prioritization of these nine projects, or potentially ten  
9 projects, if we add the shrimp project to the list. I would  
10 like to ask Emily to describe how this is going to transpire.  
11

12 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** I am sorry. I was trying to build the survey.  
13 Are we talking about this ranking?  
14

15 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We are talking about that survey. What I  
16 asked specifically was how is this prioritization going to  
17 transpire?  
18

19 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay, and so what I am going to try and do is,  
20 much like you just did your committee rankings, I will send you  
21 an email with a link that will send you to a Google Doc, and it  
22 will look a lot like the link that you used to rank your  
23 committee selections.  
24

25 Once that is sent out, I will let you guys know, and we can  
26 indicate that, and then you will just simply go in, and you will  
27 prioritize, just like you did for the committees, and then I  
28 will have a report that I can then deliver to you before Full  
29 Council.  
30

31 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is it your intent to send this to the full  
32 council?  
33

34 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** I would like direction on that.  
35

36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Well, I think we should send it to the full  
37 council. Then what we can do as a committee is, without going  
38 to a motion, we can simply state that a budget or an activity or  
39 carryover -- I will start over. A carryover activity list will  
40 be sent to the full council to be prioritized when we were are  
41 in full session, I guess on Thursday or Wednesday.  
42

43 **DR. FRAZER:** Okay. I think that's appropriate.  
44

45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. Let's proceed with that. I will  
46 try to wordsmith that again. A carryover project prioritization  
47 will be prepared for the full council to take action on on  
48 Wednesday, I guess. Does that make sense, or should I try to

1 get more specific? We won't have a motion at the committee  
2 level, but we will ask that this be discussed at Full Council,  
3 when we have the actual input from the council members.

4  
5 That's the last real action item that we have, and I guess we  
6 can go to Other Business. Is there any other business that  
7 needs to be presented to this committee? Susan, it looks like  
8 you're raising your hand.

9  
10 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, I am, because I am confused. Do we need to  
11 make a motion to instruct Emily, or were you just basically  
12 stating that --

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** No, we don't. We're not going to take this to  
15 motion at the committee level. We are going to take it to  
16 motion at Full Council, after Full Council gets to weigh-in on  
17 the prioritization of these projects. Kevin.

18  
19 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, again, and I'm not on your committee, but  
20 Chairman Frazer recommended there be some discussion, I guess,  
21 and I'm not on your committee, and so, if the committee doesn't  
22 want to have any discussion on the specific topics prior to  
23 making the vote, then that's fine, but I just wanted to see if  
24 that was still needed or not.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thanks, Kevin. We certainly can have that  
27 discussion now, but I think the committee's desire is to get  
28 Full Council input as well, and so we can do this in two stages  
29 if you like.

30  
31 We can have discussion at the committee level, or we can wait  
32 until we have a weigh-in from the Full Council, and I see Susan  
33 has her hand up, and she is on the committee, and so, from my  
34 position, we can do this either way, as long as Chairman Frazer  
35 will give us the time to have that discussion, because we're  
36 running on nine o'clock, and we have in the agenda until 9:15,  
37 and so I guess we have some time for some discussion. I am  
38 going to recognize Susan, because she had her hand up.

39  
40 **MS. BOGGS:** The question that I would have, with regard to the  
41 majority of these contracts, is how do they play into stock  
42 assessments? Is this something that, if we -- The evaluation of  
43 dolphin acoustics, just because that's what I'm looking at, I  
44 mean, I would like to know, and maybe this is a question for  
45 Clay, how will these play into stock assessments, because I  
46 think we want to spend our money wisely, on something that we  
47 can actually use and maybe prioritize based on the stock  
48 assessments that are coming up, because we're always talking

1 about we need more data and better data, and that's how I would  
2 try to look at it.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Well, that's a valid point. I am going to let  
5 Dr. Simmons weigh-in on this, because I believe that -- I don't  
6 know that we can fund stock assessments through this carryover.  
7 I don't know that we can't.

8  
9 **DR. FRAZER:** I am just going to go ahead real quick and make  
10 some suggestions. I think there are certainly two opportunities  
11 for the council to weigh-in on these topics. We could have some  
12 discussion now to entertain some questions, some clarifying  
13 types of questions, but I think, with regard to prioritization  
14 as an individual, you will be free to kind of rank the projects  
15 as you see fit, with regard to your priorities, and I think, as  
16 a council, we could then have further discussion about how those  
17 priorities might fall out, given everybody's input, and so I  
18 think it's okay to ask that question, for example, with regard  
19 to how does one of the first projects, for example, that you  
20 referenced and how does it play into a stock assessment. You  
21 could ask Clay, for example, or other people that might be  
22 around the table that have knowledge of the project.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Once again, Susan.

25  
26 **MS. BOGGS:** To clarify, just kind of do that offline, for me to  
27 have a better understanding? I mean, I'm asking just as a  
28 general question of all of these, and I just happened to be  
29 looking at one of those.

30  
31 If we chose any of these contractual projects, no matter what it  
32 is, is this something that's going to be useful to the Science  
33 Center in future stock assessments? That's just kind of a  
34 general question, or are we just doing this to find out that  
35 this is what is happening and it will have no effect on stock  
36 assessments?

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons, would you like to handle that?

39  
40 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I will give it a shot. I think  
41 we're trying to do both, but, until we get results, I'm not sure  
42 that -- Until you are at the assessment for that particular  
43 species, perhaps for let's say for greater amberjack, the study  
44 that's looking at that, that that will in fact be able to use  
45 that information, and I think it has to be ready and available  
46 for perhaps that data workshop or operational assessment or  
47 research track or wherever we are with that assessment, and it  
48 has to be vetted by the SSC panel and analyzed, in order to

1 decide if it's going to be put into the assessment.

2  
3 I guess my suggestion would be to think about the species we  
4 have data gaps for, which I think many of the species that we  
5 have before you we do have large data gaps in, and the hope is  
6 that this would be helpful for management and would be  
7 informative to the stock assessments, and I will let Dr. Porch  
8 give us more feedback.

9  
10 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you. A lot of it is going to depend on the  
11 details, and so I haven't seen the detailed proposals here,  
12 which, ideally, we would have some level of technical review,  
13 and that's exactly what they would be responding to, is they  
14 would look at it and say, okay, the coverage is too small, or  
15 maybe it's just right or whatever, all the details, because,  
16 when it goes to a stock assessment, that's exactly what they are  
17 going to look at.

18  
19 If you did a mortality rate study, is it just one little reef,  
20 and so it's not really representative of anything other than  
21 that reef, or does it represent the whole Gulf of Mexico, and  
22 those sorts of things are going to come up, and so,  
23 specifically, when we just scrolled through them, there is  
24 certainly -- Almost all of them contribute in some way that's  
25 useful, assuming they were done correctly, but I can't comment  
26 on that until I see all the details of the proposal.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I guess where I'm a little unclear is should  
29 stock assessment be the only criteria for evaluating these  
30 projects? I think these projects have value beyond merely their  
31 contribution to stock assessments. Ms. Boggs.

32  
33 **MS. BOGGS:** To that point, I'm just asking is this something  
34 that can be used for, and I'm not saying that's how we  
35 prioritize it or how I'm going to prioritize it, but I just  
36 wanted to know if these projects are something that can be  
37 looked at being used in a stock assessment. I am just trying to  
38 get my mind wrapped around what other uses is it going to have.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Those are fair comments. Any other  
41 discussion? Mr. Swindell.

42  
43 **MR. SWINDELL:** I am not a member of your committee, but I guess  
44 I'm a little concerned. I think one of the things the council  
45 has been struggling with --

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Actually, you are a member of the committee,  
48 sir.

1  
2 **MR. SWINDELL:** Okay. Well, one of the things, over time, that  
3 we've been struggling with electronic reporting. If there is  
4 one thing that I would like to see money spent on, it's to get  
5 the electronic reporting up and running as fast as we can, and I  
6 don't see anything in the proposals here that are going to get  
7 that done, and whether or not it's the right time to do it, and  
8 I don't know if it's all with Dr. Porch and his group or just  
9 where it is, but I just know that I keep hearing economics is a  
10 problem with getting electronic reporting underway. Thank you.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

13  
14 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree,  
15 Mr. Swindell. The problem we have with this funding and these  
16 very short projects is it's only one year that we can fund them  
17 for, and I think that that work is going to take many more  
18 years, and there is already other federal dollars being put  
19 forth to work on that.

20  
21 I do want to say, in our carryover activities, in the half-  
22 million-dollar line item that you saw, we have a contract with  
23 the Regional Office and their staff to continue to do workshops  
24 and develop materials for the for-hire electronic monitoring  
25 program, and we are continuing to work with them on that, and,  
26 because that has been delayed, that is going to be carried over  
27 to 2020 now, and that will be in our request.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. I think one of the things we're  
30 struggling with here is what is the criteria for these non-  
31 budgeted carryover projects, and we all have had good ideas  
32 going forward, and Susan has brought up some key points, as has  
33 Ed, as have others, and maybe, for future carryover project  
34 discussions, we can have some broad criteria under which they  
35 fall, so that we don't have this type of digression in the  
36 future and that we are more clear as to what are the provisions  
37 under which these carryover-budget-funded projects are  
38 determined.

39  
40 If that discussion is now completed, we can go on to Other  
41 Business, if there is any. If there is no other business, I  
42 would entertain a motion to close the committee.

43  
44 **MR. SPRAGGINS:** Motion.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Do we have a second? We have a motion and a  
47 second to close the Administrative/Budget Committee meeting,  
48 slightly ahead of time. If there is no opposition, Mr.

1 Chairman, I will hand it back to you.

2

3 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 21, 2019.)

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