

Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023, from 11 am- 5 pm Eastern Time

The following Council members attended the meeting:

Dr. Chuck Bargeron
Ms. Pam Fuller
Ms. Shelly Grow
Mr. Jim Heffelfinger
Mr. Tom Moreland
Dr. Toni Piaggio
Dr. Terri Roth
Ms. Sara Parker-Pauley (attended > 1 hour)
Ms. Suzanne Stone (attended > 3 hours)
Ms. Rachel Wolstenholme

The following Council member did not attend the meeting:

Ms. April Callahan
Dr. Christopher Comer
Mr. Joshua Gaskamp
Dr. Meredith Gore
Ms. Lisa Mills
Dr. Michelle Lute
Ms. Tchele Segev

In addition, Stephanie Rickabaugh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Designated Federal Officer (DFO) attended.

Opening

The Council heard two presentations that centered on Department of the Interior (DOI) invasive species priorities and from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife partner who shared how new innovations such as bio banking is moving the needle for conservation.

Presenters:

Ms. Hilary Smith, Senior Advisor for Invasive Species, DOI Office of Policy Analysis
Ms. Ryan Phelan, Executive Director, and Co-founder, Revive and Restore

Public comment

The meeting was virtual and open to the public.

The public was invited to speak at 1 pm. No one signed up to speak, and no written comments were received prior to the meeting. Members of the public, in attendance, were invited to speak. No public comments were provided.

Council Business and Discussion

The Council members adopted the agenda unanimously.

The subcommittees provided updates and reported their draft recommendation for the Secretary of the Interior.

Discussion included sharing reactions and brainstorming ideas around the presentations. The members found consistent themes running through the draft recommendations and worked on combining them.

Members voted to move forward with three recommendations that had synergy among all the subcommittee reports and table the other three more specific recommendations until the subcommittees have a chance to review and discuss. In general, the three recommendations are:

- Integrate artificial intelligence into conservation
- Leverage the power of social media to better engage the American public on conservation issues.
- Support technology innovation and software that would increase accessibility and house large data sets, species collections, and libraries of photo for within the public domain.

Subcommittee reports will be on the agenda for the next meeting and time for further discussion will be provided.

Co-Chairs will develop a letter to the Secretary. Stephanie Rickabaugh, FWS DFO, will provide the Council's letterhead.

Adjournment

March 9, 2023, meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.