

# Transcript

June 18, 2025, 6:26PM

**KW** **Kelly Sellers Wittie** 1:10

Good afternoon, Vanessa.

Can you hear me OK and see the screen in the chat.

**VH** **Vanessa Hanvey** 1:15

Good afternoon and yes.

**KW** **Kelly Sellers Wittie** 1:18

Thank you.

**LS** **Latz, Sophia (CFM)** 4:44

Hello it is 2:30 eastern. I'm gonna give it. Give it another minute and then we'll get started.

All right. So before we get started, this meeting is being recorded. For those who are who are not able to participate.

Va also is taking notes and will retain a summary for the administrative record. If you would prefer not to be recorded, please decide either just to listen today or sign out and e-mail the VA HPO office at the address on the screen.

That'll be on the next slide.

Va acknowledges that consultation is A2 way government to government exchange.

Va will meet with any tribal or native Hawaiian leader or their section 106 contacts that request a private or one-on-one meeting.

For discussion concerning the proposed MPA or any leasing undertaking, please use the e-mail on the screen or respond to the e-mail meeting invitation to arrange.

Next slide please.

Thank you for joining today's meeting to discuss Va's proposed nationwide programmatic agreement for its major leasing program.

I realize this is my first time speaking with many of you, so by way of introductions, I'm Sophia Latz.

I'm taking over for Hector Abrocentron as lead for this consultation effort and I know I've got some big sandals to fill.

Hector retired last month and we hope he is enjoying a well deserved break on the beaches of Puerto Rico.

VAS new federal preservation Officer Angela McArdle was unable to be here today. But she thinks you all for attending.

Some webinar housekeeping before we begin. The chat feature is live.

You can ask questions or post comments in the chat.

We ask that you please use the chat feature if you have a specific document or web page reference so we can record the link correctly.

These notes will be included in the admin record.

We will pause the presentation at various points for questions and take questions at the end. Please use the hand raised feature if you would like to ask a question or provide a comment.

The comment period on the draft MPA remains open for several more weeks.

Virginia asks that you provide recommendations and suggestions via e-mail.

Those comments will be collated, summarized and posted to the Bah website.

Today's the last of the second round of meetings.

About the proposed leasing MPA, we are working with our IT department to get the transcripts and slide decks posted to the website.

Hopefully next week, if you or a colleague have any questions, please reach out via historic preservation at Virginia Gov.

And we will be happy to assist.

Next slide please.

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the draft now, the revised draft nationwide programmatic agreement for VA's major leasing program.

We are not going to review every comment if you have not yet done so, I recommend that everyone review the revised draft MPA that you received via e-mail.

The document and comment matrix is also posted to the VA HPO website.

Next slide please.

So here's a brief overview of a consultation process thus far in August of 2024, we initiated consultation.

We had round one meetings in October of 2024 and we released the draft NPA December 2024 January 2025.

Since then, we've incorporated all of your comments and earlier this month we released the revised draft MPA in mid June.

Now we're having the round two meetings and we request your comments by July

7th.

Of 2025.

In addition to the consultation process noted on the screen, several of you have commented on the proposed undertaking through V as associated NEPA process. Your comments are being reviewed and considered in development of the draft MPA. Your comments will be addressed in the final environmental assessment.

Next slide please.

Va received comments on the draft MPA from several shippo's tippos and the Advisory Council through the round one meetings and in writing.

These comments are posted on the VA HPO website in the form of a comment matrix. If you'd like to see how the comments were incorporated into the revised draft.

Next slide please.

Va distributed a draft outline of the MPA and its consultation plan in August 2024, and followed that outline in the draft MPA following a review of the draft NPA, the Council recommended that VA keep the same steps and determinations, but reorganize the process by the steps.

The consultation process, rather than by lease action.

The Council requested additional information about V as leasing process and most of that information will be included in the attachments.

They also requested more opportunities for public outreach.

Next slide please.

As Hector stated in round one it is challenging but not impossible for VA to reutilize historic buildings for medical use.

Va reviewed comments and discussed the matter internally.

We have proposed in the revised draft to follow standard consultation procedures when doing a build out lease action in a historic building. Va is not committing to following the standards for rehabilitation in all cases, we cannot make that commitment because the mission of VA to provide medical care.

Takes priority.

Next slide please.

We talked in round one about V as plan to notify Shippo, Tippos tribal representatives and or Native Hawaiian organizations of its identification of historic properties and findings of effect.

EAS received several questions and comments on this topic.

Va also received several questions about this notification and how it would work. You will see in stipulation six of the revised draft that VA has proposed to complete a form about historic properties identified and the means of identification to the relevant shippo tippo, tribal representatives and Native Hawaiian organizations. Then, following review by these parties and public outreach, VA will use the same form to assert its binding of effect.

That process is described in stipulation 7.

Please note that the comment Matrix mentions attachment documents, including the identification form. The attachment documents will be released via e-mail following today's meeting.

They will also be posted online on the VA HBO website, hopefully within the next week or so.

All information is in one place throughout this entire process.

Shippo, Tippo tribal representatives and our Native Hawaiian organizations have the opportunity to provide information and or comments on the identification of historic properties, and there are two opportunities for public comment.

So now.

I ask you if you have any questions or comments on the process or the form.

OK.

Next slide.

Ground disturbance and disturbed soils.

Va knew this was going to be a point of discussion, so we deliberately left the definitions open in the revised draft so the matter could be discussed again.

V as goal was for the definitions to be universally applicable, as the agreement is a nationwide initiative. We welcome recommendations and suggested text if you have any.

We are happy to take them in the chat so we can accurately record them as well.

Next slide please.

So this is an open forum if there are any other questions on the revised draft NPA.

OK, next steps. So next slide please.

The opportunity to provide comment on the draft NPA remains open through July 7th.

Va will continue to consult on leasing undertakings through standard Section 106 until the MPA is executed.

Next slide please.

These are the VA websites related to this process plus our e-mail.  
Va encourages all participants in this consultation process to review the draft environmental assessment.  
And we'll leave it on this.  
Excuse me on this screen.  
So you have all the information.  
Well, I thank you.  
Thank you to all attendees for your time and consideration today.  
We look forward to hearing your comments.  
And and discussing this process further.  
Thank you.

**BM** **Betsy Merritt** 14:47

Would it be possible to send us a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for those who register?

**LS** **Latz, Sophia (CFM)** 14:52

Yes. Yes, ma'am. Thank you all.  
Slides will be posted on the website, but we can certainly e-mail them out as well.

**BM** **Betsy Merritt** 14:58

OK.  
This has the link to the website, so that's useful.

**LS** **Latz, Sophia (CFM)** 15:04

Thank you. Yes.

**BM** **Betsy Merritt** 15:04

Thank you.

**LS** **Latz, Sophia (CFM)** 15:17

All right.  
Well, thank you all. Again, we appreciate it.  
And we'll make sure that you get these slides with the link to the website. Thank you.

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