U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM OFFICE

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OVERVIEW SESSION

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THURSDAY
JUNE 1, 2023

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The Session convened via Videoconference, at 10:30 a.m. EDT, Jennifer Aguinaga, Deputy Director, Policy and Planning, NTTO, presiding.

PRESENT:

BILL HORNBUCKLE, Chair; President and CEO, MGM Resorts International

BRAD DEAN, Vice Chair; CEO, Discover Puerto Rico JULIE COKER, President and CEO, San Diego Tourism Authority

FRED FELLEMAN, Commissioner, Port of Seattle
LIZ FITZSIMMONS, Managing Director, Maryland
Department of Commerce Office of Tourism
and Film

MUFI HANNEMANN, President and CEO, Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association

RUSS HEDGE, President and CEO, Hostelling International USA

STEPHANIE JONES, Founder and CEO, Cultural Heritage Economic Alliance

ANDREW LEARY, Director of Sustainable Tourism and Partnerships, Leave No Trace

PRESENT: (cont'd)

- ERIC LIPP, Founder and Executive Director, Open Doors Organization
- CASANDRA MATEJ, President and CEO, Visit Orlando PETER MILLONES, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Booking Holdings, Inc.
- WILL MOREY, President and CEO, The Morey Organization
- TRICIA PRIMROSE, Executive Vice President and Chief Global Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Marriott International
- LANA RAMOS, Vice President, Marketing and Community Relations, Locally Grown Restaurants
- CARROLL RHEEM, Founder and CEO, iolite group DAN RICHARDS, Founder and CEO, The Global Rescue Companies
- ADAM SACKS, President, Tourism Economics JOHN SAGE, President, Accessible Travel Solutions
- GREG SCHULZE, Senior Vice President, Strategic Travel Partners, Expedia
- MONICA SMITH, President and CEO, Southeast Tourism Society
- JERRY TAN, President and CEO, Tan Holdings DONALD TAYLOR, President, UNITE HERE PETER VAN BERKEL, President, Travalco USA, Inc.

ALSO PRESENT:

- JENNIFER AGUINAGA, Deputy Director, Policy and Planning, National Travel and Tourism Office
- BRIAN BEALL, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism and Director of the NTTO
- CURT COTTLE, Tourism Policy Council Secretariat DAVID HUETHER, Deputy Director, Research

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(10:31 a.m.)

MS. AGUINAGA: Thank you all for being here. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jennifer Aguinaga, and I'm the Deputy Director for Policy and Planning in the National Travel and Tourism Office. And I'm also the Federal Officer for the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board.

So at the request of one of the members, which was a great idea, we wanted to give this NTT NTTO overview for those of you who don't know a lot about what the National Travel and Tourism Office does. This overview will be a little bit shorter than we had originally planned, since we moved from in person to virtual. And given the fact that it is very, very early for some of you on the call, we are going to do just a brief overview.

But if you would like more information, we're happy to do one-on-one meetings with any of you at your convenience. So

just let us know.

So what we're going to do quickly this morning is just walking through a quick overview of our office. We're going to talk a little bit about the Tourism Policy Council and the National Travel and Tourism Strategy. And then we're going to be talking about our research programs and hopefully have time for a short demo of some of that work.

Logistically, we are going to try and end around 10:50 to 10:55, since we'll all need to jump over to the other meeting for the actual Board meeting, which is a separate Teams meeting invite, and also we'll be putting that info in the chat towards the end of the meeting.

So with that, I will turn it over to our actually pretty new Office Director and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism, Brian Beall.

MR. BEALL: Good morning, everybody.

It's so great to meet all of you. I see many

familiar faces. I had a chance to meet some of

you at IPW in San Antonio last week.

As Jennifer mentioned, I recently started. I'm serving now as the Director of the National Travel and Tourism Office and currently as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism. So I'm going to give you a really quick top line overview of what our office does, and then I'll turn to my colleagues, Curt Cottle and Dave Huether, to go into more detail about the Tourism Policy Council, the National Travel and Tourism Strategy, and our research program and products.

So with that, we'll turn to the next slide.

So really quickly, the National Travel and Tourism Office, or NTTO as we call it, has a few key objectives -- key activities and objectives. Our office serves as the primary point of contact for travel and tourism issues within the Federal Government. We provide research and national statistics on travel and tourism to inform private and public sector

decisionmaking.

And we serve as the Secretariat for the Tourism Policy Council, which is an interagency body that coordinates government-wide activities to support the growth of the industry. And a key activity underway being led through the Tourism Policy Council now is the implementation of the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

We also of course coordinate advice to the Secretary of Commerce and the private sector through the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, and we serve as the principal federal liaison to Brand USA.

Additionally, we represent U.S. travel and tourism policy in international fora, like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Tourism Committee, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Tourism Working Group, the G20's tourism work stream, and other similar multilateral groups where U.S. travel and tourism policy is represented.

I'm getting a little bit of feedback.

MS. AGUINAGA: If everyone could just mute -- we're hearing a little bit of feedback -- that would be great. Thank you.

MR. BEALL: So really quickly, those

MR. BEALL: So really quickly, those are a couple of top line points regarding our office and our activities. Again, as Jen mentioned, happy to set up a call on anything we cover during today's briefing for a one-on-one discussion to go into more detail on anything of interest.

So with that, I'd like to turn to my colleague, Curt Cottle, who is going to talk to you about the Tourism Policy Council and then also the National Travel and Tourism Strategy, both of which you'll be hearing a lot about during our board meeting coming up in 25 minutes.

Curt?

MR. COTTLE: Thank you, Brian.

Next slide, please?

The Tourism Policy Council is mandated by Congress. It is created by law, and it's set up to coordinate policies and programs related to

travel and tourism, recreation, and natural heritage, although primarily we focused on the first part of that.

Next slide?

The Tourism Policy Council, as Brian mentioned, was the body that led the development of the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

This slide is only meant to show you the complexity of the Federal Government and how many people were involved.

The first six here and OMB are formally members of the Tourism Policy Council.

Agriculture and EPA and SBA have been participating, along with CDC as invited members as the law allows to do.

Next slide?

So the strategy, as you well know, is focusing our federal efforts to support travel and tourism. There are lots of phrasing in there about working with state, local, tribal, and private sector, but this is sort of a federally-led USG document.

You were instrumental in helping us create the goal. Thank you very much. It is 90 million visitors, 279 billion annually, by 2027, and it envisions how the private and public sectors will work together. And a key phrase here is the value and volume. We wanted to get beyond just a numerical goal.

Next slide?

So it, as a reminder, has four pillars promoting the U.S. as a travel destination, facilitating travel, ensuring a diverse, inclusive, and accessible tourism experience, and fostering resilient and sustainable travel and tourism.

The first two could be found in the 2012 National Strategy. The second two are new for this go-round.

Also, a difference I should mention is the 2012 strategy was a 10-year strategy. Coming out of COVID, there was no way we could predict that far into the future, so this is a five-year strategy.

So I'll go roughly quickly through this. I won't repeat the information that is here, because you can look at it. What I thought would be more helpful is to sort of talk about some of the specifics in terms of what goes under here.

So you'll be hearing, you know, about tourism country plans. That's under strategy 1, working on helping promote accessible travel, working with outreach to diverse communities to make sure they are part of the picture, that they are promoted as part of the U.S. marketing message, the Recreation Economies for Rural Communities Program, getting communities better positioned for travel, and also promoting responsible travel messages.

I know that NOAA, NPS, Forest Service, BLM, are already in this space with responsible, sustainable travel messaging. But we want to see if there is more synergy in working together, and then, obviously, leveraging large-scale events like the Olympics and the World Cup that is just

around the corner.

Under facilitation, we are looking at things like borderless visas and touchless technology biometrics, remote processing, cross-border work with Canada to make things easier between the two countries, and TSA's One-Stop Pilot Project with the U.K. Those are the kinds of things that will pop up here under facilitating travel.

Under diverse travel, this is lots.

It's two slides' worth of stuff. There are so many ideas that were coming into place, because it wasn't just the diversity. It wasn't just the inclusiveness. It was a lot of the issues and supporting the destinations and supporting and the land and water agencies and the product that they have as well.

So there is an enormous amount of work that is with Native communities coming out of the Native Act, but also there are lots of Office of Indian Affairs in federal departments already that are in this space.

The National Park Service is broadening the national register, so that it is more representative of the United States. There is money for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. There is -- the Corps of Engineers is doing a -- developing a tool for sign language at some of their facilities. There is digital accessibility. There is activities around visitor management.

All of these -- and not to mention significantly all the workforce issues are in this section. So there is a tremendous amount of work being done within the diverse, inclusive, and accessible tourism experience.

And then sustainability, another new area for us that includes sharing best practices, the investments in EV and EV infrastructure, sustainability tools and metrics, sustainable fuels.

An exciting thing that I think you'll hear about is the White House has committed to a satellite account, which sounds sort of esoteric

1 for the environment. But if you think about how 2 much we gained -- and Dave can back me up -- from 3 having a tourism satellite account, so that we 4 know the contributions of travel and tourism to 5 the national economy -- and we have an outdoor recreation account now, so we understand how that 6 7 -- so adding an environmental satellite account 8 to this will give a much more complete picture in 9 the space of how sustainable travel and tourism 10 contributes to the national economy. 11 And I think that's it for me, so I'll 12 turn it over to Dave. 13 MR. HUETHER: Thanks, Curt. 14 Next slide, please? 15 So, hi, everybody. So my name is Dave I am the head of research here at NTTO. 16 Huether. 17 And what I'm going to do is I'm going to share my 18 screen, and I'm going to go over some products 19 with you. 20 Does everybody see my screen? 21 MR. COTTLE: Yeah. You're good, Dave. 22 MR. HUETHER: Okay. Good. Thanks.

So the research part of NTTO, we are in charge of estimating and publishing international travel volume to the United States from 250 countries and regions that we do every month. We also publish visitation by visa type, by age, by port of entry, by first visit for most of the major inbound countries of the world. That's a significant research product of ours.

The second one, which is the most important, is the Survey of International Air Travelers. Once international air travelers come to the United States, once the international visitation comes to the United States, where do they go? How much money do they spend? What activities are they involved in?

So every year we survey more than 100,000 international visitors, and from that we've got very good market profile data.

In addition to that, we forecast international travel to the United States, and we paused that during the -- during the COVID period of time, the last couple of years, but we began a

new forecast for international visitation earlier this year.

Finally, we report on the spending by international travelers to and from the United

States, as well as fund and publish the tourism

-- travel and tourism satellite account that Curt mentioned.

One of the major areas that we have been investing in the last couple of years has been data visualization. So whether or not you go to our I-94 program, which is inbound travel, or you go to our I-92 program, which is international air passenger volume, or you go to the Survey of International Air Travelers

Program, each one of those we have developed data visualization tools.

I'm going to show you one of them right now, actually two of them. So the first one, and probably the most powerful one, is the Survey of International Air Travelers. And how to use it is as simple as one, two, three. You pick a year from 2012 to 2022. We just published

updated 2022 several weeks ago.

You pick -- if you want to look at a particular overseas market, so I will go down and maybe I will look at Germany. And then if I want to see where the Germans went, I go and look at destinations and hit go, and there we go.

That shows you in 2022 where the 1.5 million German visitors went.

So in addition to destinations, we have information related to trip planning, travel party size, activities and purposes of the trip, accommodations of transportation destinations, as well as spending and income.

Now, this is not inclusive of the entire Survey of International Air Travelers. We developed this about a year and a half ago. We are working on doing two things that is going to make this information even more useful to the travel industry.

Number one is that we are going to expand what you can analyze to basically all the questions in the slide, and there are about

30 questions.

Number two is that we are going to increase the frequency of the Survey of International Air Travelers from annual to quarterly. So you will be able to look in real time about where international air travelers are going. So that is one exciting tool.

The second tool I want to show you real quick is the -- what we call the APIS I-92 monitor, which basically follows or allows you to analyze air passenger volume from every international airport in the United States to every international airport in the world. And it can be done on an annual basis or on a monthly basis.

So what I have right here is all international travel to JFK. And it shows you that in the first four months of this year nearly 10 million travelers traveled in and out of JFK for the rest of the world. And it decomposes the information for arrivals to the United States and arrivals from foreigners — foreigners coming to

the United States and U.S. citizens returning.

It also decomposes it by departures from the United States, i.e. from JFK. And there are foreigners who are returning, and there are also U.S. citizens who are originating in JFK.

If instead you wanted to not look at JFK but wanted to look at a -- not overseas, but wanted to look at a particular airport overseas, you can in this instance pick London Heathrow.

And so now it will show you, okay, this is -- this is the travel information during the first four months of travel this year between JFK and Heathrow.

If you want to look at periods of time, and you want to look at maybe how we did compared to the first four months of last year, you can say, "I want to look at January, February, March, and April," it will then give you growth rates and show you visitor volume between JFK and Heathrow for the first four months of last year versus this year.

So this is an exciting tool that we

1 have been working on, and we have developed so 2 far eight data visualization monitors. 3 are planning on improving the ones that we have, and we are planning on building a number more 4 5 over the next several years. So with that, thank you very much. 6 7 MS. AGUINAGA: Thanks, Dave. 8 thanks to the rest of the team. 9 So we do actually have a couple of 10 minutes for any questions. If you have a 11 question, just raise your hand or just speak up. 12 Yes. I see Fred. 13 MR. FELLEMAN: Yeah. Thank you very 14 At the IPW conference, I had a little 15 glance at this dashboard. And one of the things 16 I saw that wasn't there were trend data. You can 17 look at each year individually, but not how it 18 changes over time. Is that one of the ads that 19 you might include? I -- and I20 MR. HUETHER: Yes. 21 basically look at this as a data user as well.

So our first step was doing -- using it for a

particular year. But if you wanted to, say, look at the share of German travelers that go to Charleston, South Carolina, who are business travelers, and you wanted to look at that over multiple years, that's the area we're headed in as well. Yes.

MS. AGUINAGA: And Stephanie?

MS. JONES: Thank you. Thank you for sharing, Dave.

I have a question about the area that allows you to determine the types of activities or the types of -- the purpose that people were visiting. Is it possible to further develop under types of activities to be able to collect data that indicates what type of diverse experiences or activities, because when you're -- when we're talking about the National Travel and Tourism Strategy, you know, throughout it it's specifically indicating being able to target underrepresented communities and small-scale businesses.

So is there a way to ask people what

type of diverse activities, who facilitated it?

Was it an African American? Was it LGBTQ?

Because how will we be able to measure, you know, the impact of tourists on diverse and marginalized communities if we don't know who is actually visiting and having those types of experiences.

MR. HUETHER: The answer is there is always a way. So what we have to find out -- when we make changes to the Survey of
International Air Travelers -- last time we did a major, significant change was 2012. And if we make significant changes, then we have to go through a fairly lengthy process to make sure we're not creating an over -- we're not overly burdening the survey respondents.

If the questions -- if the changes we make are deemed to be not significant, then we can do that much quicker. So it's something that we should think about and find out, if we want to expand that in this area, what will be the way to do it?

1 So that's something that we can 2 investigate and come back to you on. So I think 3 it's a great idea. MS. JONES: Thank you. 4 5 CHAIR HORNBUCKLE: Jennifer? Bill. I guess maybe a question for Brian. 6 7 MS. AGUINAGA: Yes. 8 CHAIR HORNBUCKLE: How does this group 9 interact with your agency? How do you see that 10 happening? 11 MR. BEALL: The TTAP interacting with the National Travel and Tourism Office? 12 13 CHAIR HORNBUCKLE: Yeah. Because, 14 obviously, right now the way it's set up to the 15 Advisory Board, we're advisory, but obviously you 16 guys do a lot. You do most of the list, it 17 sounds like. 18 I think -- you know, MR. BEALL: No. 19 I think it's a very unique way that we have --20 the NTTO is set up, because not only do we get to work with the TTAP and receive incredible 21 22 recommendations in the private sector to help

inform the work that we're doing, you know, through Commerce's leadership role in travel and tourism issues for the Federal Government, but then we also have the Tourism Policy Council, which is where we can bring the recommendations to the interagency for consideration.

So I think, you know, it's just an incredible model we have set up with the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board and the TPC, and the inputs that we receive from the TTAP are just so helpful in all the work that we do to help support the growth of the travel and tourism industry, strengthen its competitiveness, and of course, always our focus, increasing U.S. travel and tourism exports.

CHAIR HORNBUCKLE: Thank you.

MS. AGUINAGA: Thanks, Brian.

Andrew?

MR. LEARY: Hey, Dave. Thanks for running us through the in-bound traveler tool. I think that it's really neat to see the visualization. I was playing around with it, and

1 just a question for you. Is there a way to look 2 at the data in kind of a reverse sense? 3 So what I'm thinking about is, if I was curious about in-bound traveler behavior to 4 5 American Indian communities, or those who are seeking out national parks, is there a way to 6 7 select that, and then the output then ranks these 8 countries by order of response, for instance? 9 MR. HUETHER: The answer is not yet 10 through data visualization, but we -- we do have 11 -- do special runs of our data related to 12 national parks, American Indian communities. Ι 13 think shopping is another one. There are like 14 four special runs that we do. So we have the 15 data. We just have to incorporate it into these data visualization monitors. 16 17 So the answer is, we don't have it yet 18 in data visualization, but we can do it. It's 19 just a matter of priority. And we will get there

MR. LEARY: Thanks.

over the next one to two years I think.

MS. AGUINAGA: Thanks, Andrew.

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1 Stephanie, is yours something really 2 quickly? Otherwise, we have to move over to the 3 TTAP. Okay. 4 MS. JONES: Yeah. Just really quickly adding onto Andrew's question. Just, again, be 5 6 intentional about making certain that other 7 communities beyond the Native Americans and the 8 national parks are included. That's all I wanted 9 to say. 10 MR. BEALL: And I just want to add one 11 Thank you for the feedback on the 12 research tools. As Dave has mentioned, we are 13 continuing to build these out, and we really want 14 to make them, you know, user friendly and really 15 collecting the information that the industry 16 needs and is helpful to your work. 17 Jen, back to you. 18 MR. HANNEMANN: Jennifer, this is Mufi 19 I just want to say to Stephanie's Hannemann. 20 remarks, ditto, ditto, ditto. 21 MS. AGUINAGA: Okay. Thank you. 22 MR. HANNEMANN: Thank you.

1 MS. AGUINAGA: And definitely, if this 2 is a topic of interest, let's have more 3 discussions about it, whether it's through the 4 TTAP or in one-on-one conversations. You know, 5 it seems like data I think is always a popular topic among us, so, again, we are happy to have 6 7 one-on-one briefings. We can do a whole other -- we can do 8 9 a whole other session just on Dave demo-ing. 10 loves to demo, so we could do that as well. 11 So thank you all. I hope this was at 12 least a little bit helpful, and hopefully we'll 13 continue the conversations. 14 Now we will move over to the TTAP 15 meeting, which, again, is a separate Teams link, 16 which I think, Christina, you can put in the 17 chat, or otherwise it should be on all of your 18 calendars. So I will see you all over there. 19 Okay. Thanks. 20 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the 21 above-entitled matter went off the

record at 10:55 a.m.)

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Court Reporter

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