



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -OR- PROGRAM)

TO: Governance Committee
FROM: Jason Farnsworth, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Director's Report
DATE: September 8, 2025

This report provides a high-level summary of current Program activities and priorities with a focus on items of relevance to the GC.¹

Organizational Update

- Program public website and intranet update ongoing. Currently testing newly developed landing page for Program stakeholders that 1) allows users to manage their own committee participation and notifications, 2) lists upcoming meetings and tasks, and 3) allows for electronic voting and polling. Anticipate transitioning to new site by December GC.
- The EDO has completed the 2023-2024 Biennial Report (using 2022 template). The report is in the form of an online story map. Bookmarks with a QR code for the report will be provided to the GC at the September meeting.
- Information and education refresh process is ongoing. Refresh contractor (DJ Case) will be soliciting GC feedback on the direction of the plan. See memo in GC packet.

Budget and Procurement Update

- 2025 Q3 (interim, does not include September data) budget summary attached.
- Disking RFP advertised and contractor selected. Disking commenced in early September and will continue until whooping crane migration.

Land Plan Implementation

- Flowage easement executed for groundwater impacts on neighboring property at the Cottonwood Ranch recharge project.
- Bidding process open for removal of Meyer Farms buildings. Minimal interest from potential bidders.

Water Plan Implementation

- LRE Water team (RJH is design sub) has completed preliminary design of Elwood outlet. GC needs to take action on the future of the project given project benefits and costs. If we proceed, next step is to evaluate Plum Creek stability and improvements that are necessary to prevent damage from Elwood releases.
- GC needs to take action on the future of the CNPPID Irrigator lease program given cost of water and irrigator participation.

Science Plan Implementation

- Need GC guidance on 2026 implementation of predator control at Program OCSW habitat. Should we compete or reinstate cooperative agreement with USDA-APHIS?

¹ GC-Governance Committee, ED-Executive Director, EDO-Executive Director's Office, LAC-Land Advisory Committee, WAC-Water Advisory Committee, TAC-Technical Advisory Committee, ISAC-Independent Science Advisory Committee, FC-Finance Committee, AHR-Associated Habitat Reach.



- GC will receive an update on the amount of Program water that was used to implement the 2025 germination suppression release in June and water supply outlook for 2026.
- Several EDO reports have been reviewed by the TAC and will be brought before the GC for discussion and (as necessary) approval. This includes the Fall 2024 whooping crane monitoring report, system-scale geomorph/veg monitoring report, and monitoring of channel response to the no-augmentation sediment experiment.

Independent Science and Peer Review

- The 2025 meeting of the Program’s Independent Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) will commence on Tuesday afternoon (following the GC) and run through noon on Thursday. The meeting is structured as a workshop focused solely on pallid sturgeon and is intended to help inform and focus analyses methods now that most of the monitoring data has been collected. Data collection concludes at the end of 2025 and data analysis and reporting will be completed in 2026.