

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)****Finance Committee (FC) Virtual Meeting_ 2024 Q4** *(held online via Teams)*

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

PRRIP Finance Committee Meeting Attendees		
Name	Affiliation	Member or Alternate
Department of the Interior		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) – 2024 FC Chair	Member
State of Wyoming		
David Ray	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Jesse Bradley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Member
Upper Platte Water Users		
n/a		
Colorado Water Users		
n/a		
Downstream Water Users		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Environmental Entities		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Ele Nugent	Ducks Unlimited (DU)	Alternate
Executive Director's Office (EDO)		
Jason Farnsworth	Executive Director	
Chadwin Smith, Ph.D.	Science Policy Coordinator	
Tim Tunnell	Land Plan Coordinator	
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager	
Other Participants		
n/a		



WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE

Introductions – Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM Central Time. The Teams participant list will be used to record meeting attendees. Merrill mentioned he wanted to discuss a potential government shutdown before the FC meeting concludes.

Agenda – Farnsworth said he would update the FC on a contract issue at the end of the meeting.

Minutes:

FC MOTION: *Bradley moved and Rabbe seconded to approve the 2024 Q3 FC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

FC BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

Smith summarized the FY25 PRRIP Procurement Table and the discussion item for today (PRRIP Public Outreach).

PRRIP Public Outreach

Uribe summarized the draft RFP for PRRIP Public Outreach and getting the help of a marketing contractor in FY25. Brundage asked if this will be an FY25 budget item and will need to first be approved by the GC in December 2024 before putting this on the street. Smith and Farnsworth said yes. Rabbe asked how this work will be structured to ensure that the Program can reach a broader set of generations with its outreach. Zmak said the point of this is to get some help from a contractor that has skills not already contained within the EDO, this contractor would complement what the EDO can already do with outreach. Farnsworth agreed and said this is more for marketing, the EDO does a good amount of youth-based public outreach but can certainly build on that with this effort. We also want to get more feedback from Program participants about what direction the Program wants to go with overall marketing and outreach. Rabbe agreed to be part of the RFP effort and the actual work once a contractor is selected. Bradley asked if the result of this will be the EDO working with the contractor on a plan of action that will be reviewed and approved by the GC. Farnsworth said yes.

FC MOTION: *Walters moved and Zmak seconded to approve the PRRIP Public Outreach RFP contingent on GC approval of the FY25 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan and adding individuals to the Proposal Selection Panel. RFP approved.*

PRRIP Prescribed Fire

Farnsworth said the Program has had an issue since COVID getting fire on the ground on Program properties for different reasons, most of which relate to contracting. Farnsworth said several entities that utilize prescribed fire in Nebraska are intending to develop a joint RFP that would allow the entities to work together to get larger fire firms to respond to the RFP. It appears the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RBJV) could issue the RFP and hold the contract, the Program's fire priorities would be included in the RFP and the resulting scope of work for the successful contractor. Farnsworth said this will comply with the PRRIP Procurement Policy except the RBJV would be doing the advertising. FC question – should Farnsworth write a memorandum for discussion with the GC in December, or do we move ahead with this new approach?



Merrill said a short memo for GC consideration would be useful, but this approach seems like a reasonable solution. Rabbe said he echoes Merrill's thoughts on this.

PRRIP Contracting Item

Update for the FC – Farnsworth said we have a contractor right now at the end of a contract (Lower Platte River modeling). The contractor meet the performance metrics at the model locations but the model does not work outside of those locations. So, we need a model that is useful and meets the scope of work. We may need to have a broader conversation in the near future about contracting and what we do about deliverables. Current discussions right now are focused on very specific and technical model calibration parameters.

FC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP

Action Items & Meeting Feedback – None.

2025 FC Virtual Meetings (all meetings will be in Teams from 10:00-11:00 AM Central Time):

- Tuesday, February 25, 2025
- Tuesday, May 27, 2025
- Tuesday, August 26, 2025
- Tuesday, November 4, 2025

FC MEETING END

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM Central Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from the 2024 Q4 FC Virtual Meeting:

- 1) Approved the 2024 Q3 FC virtual meeting minutes.
- 2) Approved the PRRIP Public Outreach RFP, contingent on GC approval of the FY25 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.