**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)**

**Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting\_September 2024 (Q3) – Wood River, NE**

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

The Crane Trust Nature & Visitors Center

Drue DeBerry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 2024 GC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

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| **PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees**  **Tuesday, September 10, 2024** | | |
| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Member or Alternate** |
| **Department of the Interior** | | |
| Brock Merrill | Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) | Member |
| Drue DeBerry | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – *2024 GC Chair* | Member |
| Mark Porath | USFWS | Alternate |
| Matt Rabbe | USFWS | Alternate |
| **State of Wyoming** | | |
| Jason Mead | Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) | Member |
| Barry Lawrence | WWDO | Alternate |
| **State of Colorado** | |  |
| Amy Ostdiek | Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) | Member |
| Emily Zmak | CWCB | Alternate |
| Kara Scheel | CWCB | Alternate |
| **State of Nebraska** | | |
| Jesse Bradley | Department of Natural Resources (DNR) | Member |
| Jennifer Schellpeper | DNR | Alternate |
| **Upper Platte Water Users** | | |
| Dennis Strauch | Pathfinder Irrigation District | Member |
| Bob Mehling | Goshen Irrigation District (virtual) | Alternate |
| Owen Williams | Upper Platte Water Users Association | Alternate |
| **Colorado Water Users** | | |
| Kyle Whitaker | Northern Water | Member |
| Deb Freeman | Trout Raley (virtual) | Alternate |
| **Downstream Water Users** | | |
| Devin Brundage | Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID) | Member |
| Kyle Leibig | Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) | Member |
| Kent Miller | Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) | Member |
| Lyndon Vogt | Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD) | Member |
| **Environmental Entities** | | |
| Rich Walters | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (virtual) | Member |
| Brice Krohn | The Crane Trust | Member |
| Melissa Mosier | Audubon Nebraska | Member |
| **Executive Director’s Office (EDO)** | | |
| Jason Farnsworth, BCES | Executive Director | |
| Chadwin Smith, Ph.D. | Science Policy Coordinator | |
| Tim Tunnell, M.S. | Land Plan Coordinator (virtual) | |
| Seth Turner, P.E. | Water Plan Coordinator | |
| Malinda Henry, Ph.D. | Science Plan Coordinator | |
| Justin Brei, P.E. | Water Resources & Engineering Manager | |
| Patrick Farrell, M.S. | Statistical Ecologist | |
| **Other Participants** | | |
| Justin Lavene | NE Attorney General’s Office | |
| Abigail Boudewyns | WY Attorney General’s Office | |
| Andy Nicewicz | CO Attorney General’s Office | |
| Caitlin Kingsley | Nebraska DNR (virtual) | |
| Cory Steinke | CNPPID | |
| Dave Zorn | CNPPID | |
| John Shadle | NPPD (virtual) | |
| Jeff Shafer | NPPD (virtual) | |
| Jim Jenniges | NPPD (virtual) | |
| Mike Archer | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) | |
| Brandi Flyr | CPNRD | |
| Mark Czaplewski | Public | |
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| **#1** | **GC Meeting – Welcome & Administrative** | **Agenda Item Objective:** Greetings, roll call, review agenda. |

**Introduction** – Chair DeBerry called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

**Agenda** – No modifications offered.

**Minutes****:**

GC MOTION: *Ostdiek moved and Mead seconded to approve the GC Quarterly Meeting\_June 2024 (Q2) minutes.* Motion carried.

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| **#2** | **GC Executive Session** | **Agenda Item Objective:** GC member discussion of sensitive land, water, and policy items. |

GC MOTION: *Merrill moved and Brundage seconded to enter Executive Session.* Motion carried, entered Executive Session at 2:14 PM Central Time,

GC MOTION: *Brundage moved and Vogt seconded to exit Executive Session.* Motion carried, exited Executive Session at 3:40 PM Central Time.

**Meeting Break – 3:40 PM (:15)**

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| **#3** | **Public Comment** | **Agenda Item Objective:** Public comment period on PRRIP activities and meeting agenda items. |

None offered.

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| **#4** | **PRRIP Water Plan** | **Agenda Item Objective:** Update on recent Water Plan implementation activities |

Turner introduced presentations from LRE Water (expanded recharge recapture) and George Oamek (CNPPID irrigator lease). Mead asked about private landowners that could be affected by the expanded recharge recapture options. LRE Water said no landowners had been contacted thus far. Brundage asked about flow rates. Farnsworth and Turner said something under 10 cfs. The GC agreed to have Brundage and Merrill work with the EDO on further project evaluation and planning.

General GC discussion about continuing the irrigator lease program and if so how to price the water. Mead asked if bird numbers are going up with the water we have (including a small amount of irrigator lease water) do we really want to consider paying a higher price for a small amount of additional water. Farnsworth said he would propose one more year at $160/acre or shut the program down. Mosier said it would be helpful to use Oamek’s data to set a price. Oamek was asked what he would say and he said he would not go below $160, higher would encourage participation. Merrill said workshop feedback suggested landowners would prefer to decide on whether to participate in March, so we could wait to make a decision on the program and on price in December. The GC agreed.

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| **#5** | **Executive Director’s (ED) Report** | **Agenda Item Objective:** Update on PRRIP budget, implementation, and other key activities. |

GC MOTION: *Strauch moved and Krohn seconded to approve the revised PRRIP Whooping Crane (WC) Monitoring Protocol.* Motion carried.

GC MOTION: *Merrill moved and Ostdiek seconded to appoint Dr. Gary Lamberti to the ISAC*. Motion carried.

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| **#7** | **GC Meeting Review & Wrap-Up** | **Agenda Item Objective:** Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule. |

Remaining 2024 GC Meeting Schedule *(note date changes for both meetings below)*:

* **GC Virtual Special Session – FY25 Budget & Work Plan:**

Monday, November 18, 2024

10:00 AM-12:00 PM Central Time *via Teams*

* **December 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting:**

December 10-11, 2024 *@ TBD in Colorado*

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| **GC Meeting End** | 5:58 PM |

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 2024 (Q3) GC Quarterly Meeting:**

1. Approved the GC Quarterly Meeting\_June 2024 (Q2) minutes.
2. Approved the revised PRRIP WC Monitoring Protocol.
3. Appointed Dr. Gary Lamberti to the ISAC.