

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)****Finance Committee (FC) Virtual Meeting_ May 2024 (Q2) (held online via Teams)**

Tuesday, May 28, 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
Mark Porath	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Brandon Gebhart	Wyoming State Engineer	Member
David Ray	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Emily Zmak	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Tom Riley	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	
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 – No modifications offered.

Minutes:

FC MOTION: Riley moved and Porath seconded to approve the February 2024 (Q1) FC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

FC BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

Smith summarized the 2024 PRRIP FC Procurement Table and updated the FC on the status of several items.

ISAC

Smith summarized the contract amendments for all six (6) existing ISAC members.

FC MOTION: Riley moved and Zmak seconded to approve the six (6) 2024 ISAC Member contract amendments. Motion approved.

In-Channel Disking

Tunnell summarized the In-Channel Disking RFQ for 2024. Riley asked if the Program needs a permit to do this disking work. Tunnell said no, Farnsworth concurred as per the USACE Omaha District. Porath asked if the disking locations have been vetted by the LAC and the TAC. Tunnell said no, they were identified in the 2024 Land Work Plan. Farnsworth said the disking locations align with Program property management plans that direct doing what we can to widen the channel. Brundage asked if we have ever had problems with contractor mobilization/demobilization related to weather or other concerns. Tunnell said generally no, we tend to manage that by having more than one contractor mobilized at a time to make sure the work can get done. Merrill asked if we had a strong showing with bidders for disking last year. Tunnell said yes, there were more bidders than usual in 2023. Porath noted inconsistencies with written plans and specifications, he recommended Tunnel review all those to ensure dates are accurate and consistent. Tunnell agreed.

FC MOTION: Brundage moved and Gebhart seconded to approve the 2024 In-Channel Disking RFQ. Motion approved.

Surface Water Leasing

Farnsworth summarized proposed changes to the PRRIP/NPPD Surface Water Leasing Agreement and the history of this and other similar water exchange agreements. The PRRIP/NPPD Agreement changes termination from annual to a provision saying if the Agreement is not terminated it rolls over with the same terms and at the same price as the previous year (automatic rollover). Farnsworth said he had a question about whether this is Nebraska's original water going into the Environmental Account (EA), Farnsworth said no, it is part of the overall volume going into the EA. Zmak said the Colorado team wanted clarity on whether there is a pause feature or what happens if



there is a year where there is no water to lease. Farnsworth said there is no provision for a pause at this point. Merrill said he is concerned about not having a termination date since the federal authorization ends at this point as of December 31, 2032. He suggested adding language saying the Agreement could be extended if/when the federal authorization termination date changes. Zmak said Colorado also had a couple of redline edits she wants to share with Farnsworth for consideration and concurs with adding termination language similar to what Merrill mentioned.

FC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP

Action Items & Meeting Feedback – None.

2024 FC Virtual meetings:

All meetings will be in Teams from 10:00-11:00 AM Central Time.

- Tuesday, August 27, 2024
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024

FC MEETING END

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM Central Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from the May 2024 (Q2) FC Virtual Meeting:

- 1) Approved the February 2024 (Q1) FC virtual meeting minutes.
- 2) Approved six (6) contract amendments for ISAC Members.
- 3) Approved the 2024 In-Channel Disking RFQ.