



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

November 2022 Governance Committee (GC) Virtual Special Session Minutes

November 9, 2022

Governance Committee (GC)

State of Wyoming

Brandon Gebhart – Member

State of Colorado

Amy Ostdiek – Member

Emily Zmak – Alternate

Kara Scheel – Alternate

State of Nebraska

Tom Riley – Member

Upper Platte Water Users

Dennis Strauch – Member

Bob Mehling – Alternate

Owen Williams – Alternate

Downstream Water Users

Kent Miller – Member

John Shadle – Member

Devin Brundage – Member

Lyndon Vogt – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth – ED

Bridget Barron

Justin Brei

Libby Casavant

Patrick Farrell

Malinda Henry

Sarah Hinshaw

Mallory Jaymes

Kaley Keldsen

Chad Smith

Tim Tunnell

Seth Turner

Alicia Uribe

Malia Volke

Ed Weschler

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member (2022 GC Chair)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Steve Small – Member

Mark Porath – Alternate

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

Environmental Entities

Brice Krohn – Member

Bill Taddicken – Member

Rich Walters – Member

Colorado Water Users

Kyle Whitaker – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Jason Marks – Alternate

Other Participants

Jeff Shafer – NPPD

Brian Caruso – Service

Melissa Mosier – Audubon Nebraska, VESPR

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM Central Time. This was a virtual meeting in Microsoft Teams. The Teams attendance list will serve as record of attendance.

FY23 Program budget

Farnsworth and EDO staff summarized all FY23 PRRIP budget/work plan items. General discussion points:

ADMINISTRATION

Farnsworth discussed all budget line items.

- Displayed Program personnel and amount of time spent of PRRIP projects
- Average 14.5 full time employee equivalent (FTE) since 2015, 14.7 FTE close to average for 2023 FY
- 40% admin, 60% technical cost
- Farnsworth discussed each employee's role for the Program and how their roles interact with others at various levels
- Farnsworth continued by summarizing costs associated with each of these line items.

No questions or comments from GC on ADMINISTRATION budget line items.

LAND PLAN

Tunnel summarized costs included under line items LP-3 – LP-7 and referred the GC to a more detailed Appendix A summarizing Land Plan costs by complex.

No questions or comments from GC on LAND PLAN budget items.

WATER PLAN

Turner summarized costs included under WATER PLAN line items.

No questions or comments from GC on WATER PLAN budget items.

SCIENCE PLAN

Henry summarizes costs included under SCIENCE PLAN line items.

- Freeman asked: Two Special Advisors; explain what Special Advisors do compared to what the ISAC does and then what Program peer review does for (1) sediment augmentation and (2) climate change.
 - o Henry: We currently do not have specific technical experience on climate change in our current ISAC membership. Special Advisors and ISAC allow for input into active process (study design/implementation/evaluation) as it evolves, whereas peer review comes in after the study has been done to evaluate it on technical merit from the standpoint of someone who has not invested in the process. Special Advisors and ISAC provide guidance/feedback during the process. Peer reviewers can only provide feedback at the back end. When input is provided and what type of input is received is the difference between those categories of advisement.



- Farnsworth: In the case of sediment augmentation, we would be looking for a Special Advisor with a very specific set of skills to identify and deal with systematic vs. random error in these remote-sensed products to help us better answer our question. This is a very new field with very few people at the forefront of this emerging science with the technical skills to deal with this. Want to get their input as special advisors early in the process
- Riley: Accounting question on PD-18 line item for Equipment Costs. Why using actual cost of use and maintenance) and not the typical mileage reimbursement costs in budget?
 - Farnsworth: Use of vehicles for field work on river ground and sandpits is not comparable to typical highway mileage reimbursement. Field work is harder on vehicles and that higher use and maintenance cost needs to be included.

Executive Session

GC MOTION: *Riley moved and Gebhart seconded to enter Executive Session.*

Motion passed, Executive session began at 11:24 AM Central Time.

GC MOTION: *Riley moved and Gebhart seconded to exit Executive Session.*

Motion passed, Executive session ended at 12:14 PM Central Time.

Executive Session Motions

GC MOTION: *Walters moved and Zmak seconded to proceed with property appraisal and return to the GC with appraised value and negotiation information, but no purchase commitment until further GC review.*

Discussion:

- Farnsworth reminded GC members of voting rules. 9/10 motion passes as long as all Signatories approve. If any signatory opposes the motion, the motion fails.
- No signal of opposition from any GC member.

Motion passed.

GC Meeting Review and Wrap-Up

Meeting concluded.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 2022 GC Special Session

- 1) Approved proceeding with property appraisal and returning to the GC with appraised value and negotiation information, but no purchase commitment until further GC review.