



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
In Person PRRIP Conference Room & Teams Conference Call
May 25, 2022

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Michelle Gess, Member, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Jay Smith, Alternate, Wyoming Water Development Commission

State of Colorado

None

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (online)
Caitlin Kingsley – Alternate 2, Nebraska DNR (online)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Jeff Runge – Alternate, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR (online)

Power Districts

Dave Zorn –Member (Chair), Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District
John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power District (online)

Environmental Entities

Tim Smith - Crane Trust (online)
Melissa Moser –Member (Vice-Chair), Audubon Rowe Sanctuary (online)

Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)

Lyndon Vogt – CPNRD (online)

Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)

John Thorburn – TBNRD

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

None

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Tim Tunnell
Jason Farnsworth

Other Participants

Jean Eichhorst, Nebraska DNR
Joshua Wiese, Crane Trust (online)

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Zorn called the meeting to order at 8:57 am Central Time. Roll call of members who were attending in-person at the PRRIP conference room and Tunnell recognized members attending virtually. No State of Colorado attendance. Zorn asked for agenda modifications. Only modification was the cancelation of the scheduled tour of the Chapman Complex. Will be rescheduled in June as a potential TAC/LAC tour during the germination suppression flow release. No action was taken on the minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

General Update and Other Committee Coordination

Merrill updated LAC on the activities of the TAC. Last TAC meeting was held April 13. Tunnell gave update on contractor selection for the Grassland Monitoring RFP. Keldsen gave overview of 2022 management actions regarding LTPP monitoring and predator management at PRRIP OCSW sites. Jaymes gave update on spring 2022 WC migration. Henry gave update on pallid research. All equipment is purchased and are catching fish. Henry also gave update on system scale geomorphology and vegetation monitoring work. Good discussion concerning phragmites research project, extension science plan, and non-target listed and non-listed species of concern.

Farnsworth updated the LAC on the activities of the WAC. Last meeting was annual meeting of state annual depletion plans for the states. Construction on the BSR Recapture network project is nearing completion and will be operational soon. High level conversation, extension term water projects that could have a conversation with GC in June & September that could have the water supply for the extension secured. Last, summer channel inundation flow began yesterday, and goal is to have 1500 cubic feet at Grand Island from June 1- July 1.

Farnsworth updated the LAC on the activities of the GC. Next meeting is June 7-8 in Cheyenne. Extension Science plan approval, updates of summer channel inundation flow, phragmites research, indexing and PRRA subcommittee recommendations are main items on the agenda.

Tunnell went over Land Milestone Summary. No changes to summary. Appraisal for Tract 2201 is done, and landowner is reviewing and hopefully negotiations will occur soon. Plan is to have on the September GC.

Land Management Status Update*Information and discussion*

Tract 2020002 OSG-Lex pit

- Working with neighbors on north boundary to install woven wire fence on the boundary. One neighbor is responsive the other is not.

Tract 2009003 OCSW -Dyer

- Completed removal of large cottonwood trees on southeast corner of OCSW.

Tract 2008002 CWR BSR project

- Installed livestock well with solar pump in the NE ¼ for fresh livestock water at request of tenant.

Tract 2009004 Hostetler



- Installed continuous panel enclosure around electric pole & guide wire at NE corner of tract. Complaint from neighbor that cows rubbing on pole made his electricity go out.

Tract 2015001 Speidell

- Informal violet survey completed by PPRI & EDO. Native populations were identified on the grassland portions of the tract. EDO is working with PPRI to develop a plan.

Tract 2018001 Dippel

- Made notice to east neighbor that whole property will be in PRRA program this fall. Suppose to meet next week to settle boundary differences of interpretation. Develop bid packages for tree removal and fence construction for FC approval prior to late summer/ early fall construction.

Tract 2021001 Meyer Estate

- Completed small fence construction at NE corner of wet meadow for grazing tenant.
- Have east and west boundaries surveyed and marked for tree removal and fence construction as tract will be included in the PRRA program this fall. Develop bid packages for tree removal and fence construction for FC approval prior to late summer/ early fall construction.

2021 Public Access Program Review

Information and discussion

Zorn went through the PRRA subcommittee 2022 recommendations from April 18, 2022, meeting.

Items of Discussion were as follows:

1. Bruce Sackett retired- Tim Tunnell EDO POC for PRRA
2. Fishing on OCSW sites – Proposed Area K
 - a. Recommend opening fishing on Leaman OCSW as a Pilot Property in 2022
 - i. PRRIP owned and access entirely controlled
 - b. Only open outside of tern & plover season- August 15 to April 15 open
 - c. Bank fishing only (from the outside water perimeter around the OCSW)
 - d. No Ice Fishing (wouldn't be from bank), no boating allowed
 - e. Use statewide regs, if NGPC has regulation sign, use that
 - f. Fish must be cleaned off property, pack in pack out EVERYTHING (if you don't release a legal fish live, it must be packed out with the user-no carp on banks)
 - g. 2 users (all that will fit in parking lot for pilot year)
3. Dipple property boundary
 - a. Recommend opening up additional access in the riparian corridor along the North channel, where fence encompasses all PRRIP boundary.
 - b. East and South boundary issues ongoing- GC guidance to seek resolution, but timeline unclear
 - c. North boundary is known, there is a fence of convenience that can be used to mark and sign North channel boundary. Tunnell will work to establish the cutoff of where access in the timber on the Northern boundary should end and divert back to South.
4. Enroll available Chapman Complex property- Proposed Area Q
 - a. Recommend enrolling Meyer Tract in PRRA
 - b. Riparian forest and river- Parking lot proposed on SW corner of property.



- c. Access to only include wet meadow and accretion riparian forest/river ground
- d. Check fencing on E and W boundary- if no fence, a new fence and signage will be constructed and installed
- e. Homestead and crop land closed
- f. Remove permanent blind on river
- g. 1/user per 100 acres
- 5. Public communication about management
 - a. List recent and/or upcoming management actions on PRRA website- news letter highlighting program WC successes, or on Program website? Could add disclaimer “Program management may involve disking, grazing, tree clearing- users are reminded to scout ahead”.
- 6. Fake users and overbooking- EDO to run statistical analysis on 2021 season data to see if this is a real or perceived problem. If no patterns suggest user problems, this will be permanently put to bed (PRRA surveys consistently have these comments every year).
- 7. Review tri-fold brochure content- NGPC update with WC success in “about us”
- 8. Review survey questions
 - a. NGPC will remove questions on topics that are no longer of interest
 - b. NGPC will add new questions if deemed useful
- 9. No public comments received

Due to the lack of a quorum at the time of the meeting, an electronic vote was obtained from the committee members with a unanimous vote to recommend that the GC accept PRRA changes/recommendations as outlined in the document provided to the LAC

Public Forum

Chairman Zorn asked for public comments, none were offered.

The next LAC meeting is planned for August 24, 2022. Details will be provided prior to the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Zorn at 9:59 a.m. CDT