



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
In Person PRRIP Conference Room & Teams Conference Call
February 23, 2022

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Jay Smith, Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer's Office

State of Colorado

Erik Skeie – Alternate, Colorado Water Conservation Board

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Elizabeth Esseks, Nebraska DNR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR

Power Districts

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

Environmental Entities

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

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

None

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

Cody Miller, The Nature Conservancy
Caitlin Kingsley, Nebraska DNR
Jean Eichhorst, Nebraska DNR

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Zorn called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time. Tunnell recognized members who were attending in-person at the PRRIP conference room and acknowledge members attending virtually. Zorn asked for agenda modifications. None were offered. Zorn asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the October 27, 2021, LAC meeting. Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2021, LAC meeting. Motion seconded by J. Smith and passed unanimously.

General Update and Other Committee Coordination

Merrill updated LAC on the activities of the TAC. Science Plan Reporting session- Land & Water Plan updates and new science plan for the extension and modeling on North Platte Chokepoint. Modeling indicates the ability to potentially route water around the chokepoint to the South Platte.

Farnsworth updated the LAC on the activities of the WAC. EDO is finishing the Broadscale Recharge Recapture Network in conjunction with Tri-Basin NRD as sponsor. Work is approximately 80 % done, pipe has been laid and back filled, wells drilled (8), pumps have been ordered and last is to construct concrete structures at the river for return and get pumps in wells to begin running it. Cook recharge well will be pulled into the recharge network and SCADA system. Working with State of Nebraska looking at additional water projects to propose to the Program to get us to 120,000 acre-feet.

Farnsworth provided GC update. GC meeting in 2 weeks. Full agenda Pallid, chokepoint issues, Science Plain approved for extension and land issues on today's agenda will be discussed at meeting.

Tunnell went over Land Milestone Summary. Pointed out total of 1,461.6 acres have been acquired for the 1,500-acre goal for the Extension. Tunnell gave update on spring 2022 Prescribed Fire operations. Scholl Fire and Fuels Management, Inc. out of Walla Walla, WA was the only contractor to submit a proposal for the RFP that was issued earlier this year. A contract will be issued and will plan to burn this spring if conditions allow.

2021 Land Work Report Overview*Information and discussion*

Tunnell gave and overview of 2021 Land Work Report related budget line items and discussion of expenditures for each budget line item. Zorn asked for the LAC's recommendation on the 2021 Land Work Report. Shadle made a motion to approve the 2021 Land Work Report. Motion seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.

Vegetation Monitoring Memo and RFP*Information and discussion*

Tunnell gave an overview of the Vegetation Monitoring Memo and RFP. Discussion included background of the monitoring effort throughout the First Increment. Memo is information related to how the information is used, associated costs of past monitoring efforts, and options to consider for the First Increment Extension. Tunnell reviewed monitoring protocol located within the RFP and asked for input and guidance on continuation of the effort and if so at what level.

This document is a draft based on one person's notes of the meeting. The official meeting minutes may be different if corrections are made by the Land Advisory Committee before approval.



Rabbe commented his support for option 2 and his review of the data in the 2019 report as valuable information even though FWS guidance was to manage for structure rather than composition. He agreed with Tunnell's view that there is value in the data to be able to see trends in species composition over time and could be adjusted through changes in management if warranted. Rabbe did not support option 3 as additional monitoring would cost more than most efforts to provide benefits (i.e., adding milkweeds or violets to grasslands) to species of concern. LAC recommended to continue with option 2 for one year.

Executive Session

Information and discussion

Thorburn made motion to enter executive session. Motion seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.

1. Tunnell provided update on farm sale at Tract 2021001.
2. Farnsworth gave update on Tract 2102.
3. Tunnell reviewed Evaluation Report of Tract 2201.
4. Farnsworth & Tunnell reviewed and discussed boundary issues

Rabbe made motion to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Thorburn and passed unanimously.

Recommendation on Land Offering:

Shadle made motion to accept the review team's recommendation to pursue acquisition of Tract 2201 as complex habitat. Motion seconded by J. Smith and passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Chairman Zorn asked for public comments, none were offered.

The next LAC meeting is planned for May 25, 2022. A tour of the Programs' Chapman Complex will be planned in addition to the meeting. Details will be provided prior to the meeting. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Zorn at 11:07 a.m. CDT