



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

**Finance Committee (FC) Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*Meeting held online via Teams*

**Finance Committee (FC)**

**State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde

**Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Brock Merrill

**State of Colorado**

Erik Skeie

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)**

Mark Porath

Matt Rabbe

**State of Nebraska**

Tom Riley

**Environmental Entities**

John Denton

**Upper Platte Water Users**

n/a

**Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman

**Downstream Water Users**

n/a

**Executive Director's Office (EDO)**

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Chad Smith

Tim Tunnell

**WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Introductions** – LaBonde called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM Central Time. Smith read the participants list from Teams.

**Agenda** – No modifications offered.

**Officers** – LaBonde said Gebhart would be comfortable remaining as 2022 FC Vice Chair and asked if Riley was interested in serving as 2022 FC Chair. Riley agreed.

**FC Motion:** *Riley moved and Berryman seconded to appoint Riley 2022 FC Chair and Gebhart 2022 Vice Chair. Motion approved.*

**Minutes:**

**FC Motion:** *Riley moved and Merrill seconded to approve the July 14, 2021, FC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

**FC Action Item Table** – Farnsworth summarized the action item, the Prescribed Fire RFP. There was a fire contractor under contract with the PRRIP but informed the EDO they could not provide services due to COVID. Diane Wilson from NCF issued a termination of contract letter and now the EDO is requesting to secure a new contractor via a competitive selection process.

**PRRIP PRESCRIBED FIRE**

Tunnell summarized the RFP for the FC. The RFP is to secure a contractor just for fire services in 2022. Riley said the Department of Agriculture through the U.S. Forest Service has more money available for prescribed fire. Riley wondered if this is a potential source of funds for the Program to access. Tunnell said his understanding is that money is for fuel reduction in forested areas, prescribed fire for the PRRIP is mostly for grassland management. If we decide to burn riparian areas with trees in the future, that would certainly be something we would evaluate. Riley said the Deputy Forester for Nebraska suggested the money could be spent more widely, including on grasslands. Tunnell said he would investigate it. Farnsworth agreed and said the EDO will explore it. LaBonde asked if the RFP was just for one year of service. Tunnell said yes.

**FC Motion:** *Riley moved and Merrill seconded to approve the 2022 Prescribed Fire RFP. RFP approved.*

**FC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP**

**Action Items & Meeting Feedback** – None.

**Next FC Meeting** – Farnsworth said we will need another FC meeting in April or May after the March GC meeting, the EDO will seek to schedule that via Doodle poll.

**FC MEETING END**

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 PM Central Time.

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from January 26, 2022 FC Virtual Meeting**

- 1) Appointed Tom Riley as 2022 FC Chair and Brandon Gebhart as 2022 FC Vice Chair.
- 2) Approved July 14, 2022 FC virtual meeting minutes.
- 3) Approved the 2022 Prescribed Fire RFP.