



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

## **Governance Committee (GC) Virtual Special Session**

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

### **Governance Committee (GC)**

#### **State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Member

#### **State of Colorado**

Don Ament – Member (2021 GC Chair)

JoJo La – Alternate

#### **State of Nebraska**

Tom Riley – Member

#### **Upper Platte Water Users**

Dennis Strauch – Member

Bob Mehling – Alternate

#### **Downstream Water Users**

Devin Brundage – Member

Joe Citta – Member

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

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Bridget Barron

Justin Brei

Malinda Henry

Chad Smith

Tim Tunnell

Seth Turner

#### **Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Brock Merrill – Member (2021 GC Vice Chair)

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

Mark Porath – Alternate

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

#### **Environmental Entities**

Bill Taddicken – Member

Rich Walters – Member

#### **Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Jason Marks – Alternate

Kyle Whitaker – Alternate

### **Other Participants**

Tom Econopouly – Service

Mike Drain – CNPPID

Jeff Shafer – NPPD



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| #1 | WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE | Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda. |
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**Introductions** – Chair Ament called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM Central Time.

**Agenda** – No modifications offered.

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| #2 | PRRIP FY22 BUDGET | Agenda Item Objective: Group discussion of draft FY22 budget, work plan, and EDO contract. |
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Farnsworth and EDO staff discussed the draft FY22 PRRIP budget, work plan, and Headwaters EDO contract amendment with the GC:

- Farnsworth discussed the Administration budget line items including ED-1 and the associated Headwaters EDO contract amendment for 2022. Barron discussed ED-3 (outreach) and Brei discussed PD-8 (website and database).
- LaBonde asked how the EDO FTEs compare between 2021 and 2022. Farnsworth said the EDO would be up about 1 FTE on average in 2022 but he would double-check to confirm exactly.
- Tunnell discussed the Land Plan budget line items.
- Turner discussed the Water Plan budget line items.
- Henry discussed the Science Plan budget line items. Tunnell discussed LP-2 (habitat restoration). Farnsworth discussed PS-1 (pallid sturgeon) and the inclusion of funding for the collection of LiDAR on the lower Platte River.
- Freeman asked if 2D modeling was part of the discussion about the Pallid Sturgeon Policy Frame earlier this year. Farnsworth said it was discussed as a potential backup option for Step 2 of that Policy Frame if warranted, and recent discussions with the UNL pallid sturgeon research team indicate that it will be necessary based on the kinds of data that team will be collecting in the lower Platte. That will contextualize learning in a more useful way. Ament said he is troubled this line item seems to be growing. Farnsworth said one thing that might be helpful is to remember that in the high-level Extension budget we included \$2 million for pallid sturgeon. Adding this remote sensing in as a one-time expenditure we keep the Program at about \$1.5 million for pallid sturgeon in the Extension. Farnsworth said we could talk about this more in December to better explain how this fits with the Policy Frame. Freeman agreed that would be helpful before approving this line item.
- LaBonde asked about the expenditure of funds for a Special Advisor related to climate change. LaBonde asked the Service how important this is in terms of evaluating the Program. Small said it is important to consider from the current Administration's standpoint and also from the standpoint of the long-term success of the Program. Farnsworth said this item arose when the Service indicated they wanted to seek some sort of climate change expertise on the part of potential new members of the ISAC, this was more a fallback approach to tapping into that type of expertise.

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| #3 | GC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP | Agenda Item Objective: Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule. |
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**Action Items & Meeting Feedback** – None.

**2021 GC Meetings:**

- GC *In-Person* Quarterly Meeting – **December 7-8, 2021 @ Denver, CO; Warwick Denver Hotel.**

Riley asked about the potential for the COVID situation to dictate that the December meeting be moved to full virtual. Farnsworth said the EDO will be following the situation closely in Colorado and if directed



health measures are back in place the GC meeting will comply with those measures or move to a full virtual format.

La noted that this was her last GC meeting because she is moving on to a new position with the State of Colorado. She thanked the GC for working with her and noted the good work of the Program over these many years. Farnsworth thanked La for her work and noted that since she is currently the Chair of the Finance Committee we will wrap FC-related items into the GC meeting in December and work on the issue of a new FC Chair in 2022.

**GC VIRTUAL SPECIAL SESSION END**

**10:58 AM Central Time**

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 2021 GC Special Session**

- 1) No action items, just general discussion of the draft FY22 PRRIP budget, work plan, and EDO contract.