



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

Governance Committee (CC) Virtual Special Session

Tuesday, July 27, 2021; 9:00-10:00 AM CDT

Meeting held online via MS Teams.

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

Kent Miller – Member

Lyndon Vogt – Member

John Shadle – Alternate

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Malinda Henry

Chad Smith

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member (2021 GC Vice Chair)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Steve Small – Member

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

Environmental Entities

Brice Krohn – Member

Rich Walters – Member

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Kyle Whitaker – Alternate

Other Participants

Dave Zorn – CNPPID

Jeff Shafer, Michael Kondrack – NPPD

Mark Porath, Brian Caruso, Tom Econopouly – Service

Brian Hollis – Reclamation

Mirko Kruse – Trout Raley (CO Water Users)

**WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

Introductions – Chair Ament called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM Central Time.

Agenda – No modifications offered.

PRRIP PALLID STURGEON (PS) RESEARCH

Farnsworth introduced the two draft contracts for PS research (genetics and habitat/spawning), summarized the budgets for and processes related to both contracts, and also discussed the issues raised during the last Finance Committee (FC) virtual meeting. LaBonde asked the EDO to explain the timing of how fish are caught and how genetics work is being done. Farnsworth said there is a very high certainty about what is or isn't a PS based on morphological identification features, candidate fish are selected for tagging and then the fish are released. Genetics work is done on the back end after fish are tagged and released to identify hybrids. Shadle agreed and said most of the researchers on the river know the fish but can also identify fish that are uncertain and need to have genetics work completed. Genetic results are then used to limit continued investment in tracking and inclusion of data from hybrids or shovelnose sturgeon. Riley re-iterated some of his comments from the FC meeting: 1) using standardized contracts from the EDO office, which is important; 2) academic freedom is important, the EDO pushed these contracts as far as we can ever get in this regard; 3) the equipment purchased for Dr. Heist will stay with SIU and will be outdated and hard to manage several years down the road.

GC Motion – *LaBonde moved and Riley seconded approval of the SIU and UNL pallid sturgeon research contracts.* Contracts approved.

GC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP

Action Items & Meeting Feedback – None.

2021 GC Meetings:

- GC *In-Person* Quarterly Meeting – **September 14-15, 2021 @ Kearney, NE**
- GC *Virtual* Special Session – **November 10, 2021**; discussion of FY22 budget and work plan
- GC *In-Person* Quarterly Meeting – **December 7-8, 2021 @ Denver, CO**

GC MEETING END

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM Central Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from July 27, 2021, GC Virtual Special Session

- 1) Approved the SIU and UNL pallid sturgeon research contracts.