



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
NO QUORUM – INFORMAL MEETING
Teams Conference Call
September 1, 2021

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Jay Smith, Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer's Office

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Tim Tunnell
 Jason Farnsworth

State of Colorado

JoJo La – Member, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Other Participants

None

State of Nebraska

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

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

Josh Wiese - Alternate Crane Trust
 Melissa Moser – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary
 Cody Miller – The Nature Conservancy

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

None

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

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

None



Welcome and Administrative

Chairman Zorn called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Central Time and the group proceeded without introductions. Zorn asked for agenda modifications. None were offered. Zorn asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the April 5, 2021, LAC meeting. None were offered, no discussion, and were not approved as there was not a quorum of LAC members in attendance.

General Update and Other Committee Coordination

Merrill updated LAC on the activities of the TAC. Last met on July 14, 2021 and talked about the island tree clearing on the main channel of the Speidell tract, discussed the spring 2021 WC season and report, reviewed the 2021 LT/PP Predator management actions and monitoring effort, and then discussed the Pallid sturgeon research project with UNL and UNI. TAC next meeting will be October 13, 2021. Farnsworth provided GC update. Next GC is September 14- 15 in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center and online. Main items of discussion will be the Adaptive Management Working groups' progress on updating the Program's extension-Extension science-Science planPlan, discussion on how the Program addresses Species species of Concernconcern, and land updates. Farnsworth updated the LAC on the activities of the WAC. Basin is in drought this year. It is the first time since 2009-since that we received no water from the municipal lease at Pathfinder reservoirReservoir, usually 4-5,000-acre feet and up to 9,000-acre feet. EA is in good shape and using water in a wise, targeted way. Tunnell provide quick update on Land Objective status in which there has been no change since last LAC meeting.

Land Management Update

Tunnell updated the LAC on 2021 work items; specifically the

- lack of No Rx fire in the spring-2021 spring season due to contractor unwilling-unable to mobilize a crew due to COVID.
- The Cottonwood Ranch BSR-broad-scale recharge project fencing is complete and will work with NPPD for grazing in 2022 and beyond.
- Tunnell reviewed mapsMap & drone footage of progress to date on the tree clearing and disking at the 2021 Chapman Complex Habitat Enhancement work.

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Land Reviews

Tunnell gave background of the Tract 2103 offering from the landowner to the Program. Rabbe discussed the topic of management agreements and how they contribute to the 1,500-acre plus-up land objective in the Extension. Tract 2103 discussion will be during the upcoming GC meeting and Rabbe will present the Service's viewpoint of the tract. La brought-up discussion about land acres and requested a copy of the Platte River Management joint study and asked if the study provided land objectives, guidelines, or advice for management agreements. Rabbe clarified that differences between management agreements and long-term land objectives are different topics. Farnsworth sent a link to Platte River Management joint study to La. Farnsworth discussed that in the mock negotiation or policy framework for the 2nd-Second incrementIncrement, there is a need to take an inventory of all the conservation lands in the AHR and identify gaps from a species perspective. This should be done in the next 5-6 years and identify id-the long-term goal of 30,000-acres is appropriate and provide clarity on what does and



46 does not count. Tunnell and Farnsworth provided updates on other offerings and management
47 agreements that are in various stages of negotiations following [Bruce](#) Sackett's retirement in
48 August.

49
50 **Public Forum**

51 Chairman Zorn asked for public comments, none were offered.

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53 **The next LAC meeting is planned for mid to late October 2021. A Doodle Poll will be sent**
54 **to the committee members for the best date.**

55 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Zorn at 2:16 p.m.