

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)****Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday, January 6, 2021; 1:00-4:00 PM CST

*Meeting held online via MS Teams***Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)****State of Wyoming**

Barry Lawrence

Jeremy Manley

**Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Brock Merrill

**State of Colorado**

Jojo La

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

Tom Econopouly

Matt Rabbe

Jeff Runge

**State of Nebraska**

Dan Sternkopf

Elizabeth Esseks

**Environmental Entities**

Melissa Mosier

Rich Walters

**Upper Platte Water Users**

n/a

**Colorado Water Users**

n/a

**Downstream Water Users**

Mike Drain

Brandi Flyr

Jim Jenniges

Dave Zorn

**Other Participants**

Michelle Koch

Joel Jorgensen

Nathan Darnall

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

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Patrick Farrell

Julia Grabowski

Scott Griebeling

Malinda Henry

Kaley Keldsen

Kari Mohlman

Chad Smith

Tom Smrdel

Tim Tunnell

**WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

Merrill called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM Central Time.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

Henry said we will not need a TAC motion on the Lex Pit rehab management plan. That will just be a discussion item. In addition, Brock will lead the election of officers as acting Chair.

**MINUTES**

**TAC MOTION:** *Walters moved and Zorn seconded to approve the October 30, 2020 TAC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

[10 30 20 PRRIP TAC Virtual Meeting Minutes](#)

**LAND MANAGEMENT**

Tunnell gave an overview of habitat management actions at the Lex Pit off-channel tern/plover nesting site. Rabbe asked if turtle fencing and strobe lights will be available to re-install in the future if deemed necessary. Farnsworth said we will add language saying we are looking into enhanced predator management techniques that will be employed if deemed necessary. La asked whether predator wing panels will be used at all fenced entries. Tunnel said yes, they will be installed at the NW entrance to the 2021 habitat and at the temporary fencing entrance from the mining area. They will be added later to the furthest E entrance as habitat is created. Rabbe asked about moat width and Farnsworth referred to engineering plan which indicates a 100 foot moat width set as a goal.

**FALL 2020 WHOOPING CRANE REPORT**

Farrell gave a presentation on the results of fall 2020 whooping crane (WC) monitoring and Program's acquisition of cellular telemetry dataset from the new tracking partnership. Henry discussed changes in the fall 2020 WC monitoring report since the spring 2020 WC monitoring report that was discussed with the TAC. Rabbe said the figures have been updated with higher-resolution imagery and he appreciates that. Henry said that suggested edit by Rabbe to specify that the group detected by the Service tracking database consisted of 2 adults had already been made.

**TAC MOTION:** *Rabbe moved and Flyr seconded to approve the fall 2020 WC monitoring report. Report approved.*

[Implementation of the Whooping Crane Monitoring Protocol - Fall 2020](#)

**2020 LEAST TERN & PIPING PLOVER REPORT**

Mohlman discussed the results of 2020 tern/plover monitoring and the associated 2020 monitoring report. She pointed out modifications or additions to the 2020 report from previous years. Additional results tables related to LiDAR data will be updated via an addendum once that data is provided and analyzed. Merrill asked if we can wait for the data to catch up before approving the 2020 monitoring report. Runge asked if this will go to the GC and would an addendum go through the GC as well. Farnsworth asked how critical it is for the TAC to review the report again to view acres of sand habitat based on LiDAR data. Zorn asked what date the LiDAR was flown and how that relates to shifts in elevation during nesting season. Mohlman said distance to predator perch and distance to water are calculated using July imagery. Nest elevations would be based on LiDAR from November and would be



reported as a mean of past years we have collected this data. Farnsworth reiterated that for the distance from nest to non-elevation features we use summer imagery (June/July). Nest elevation above water is determined based on October/November LiDAR data, after nesting season is over.

**TAC MOTION:** *Zorn moved and Walters seconded to approve the 2020 tern and plover monitoring report with the caveat that Tables 22 and 23 will be updated with LiDAR data when available. Report approved.*

#### [PRRIP 2020 Tern and Plover Monitoring and Research Report](#)

#### **AMWG PROGRESS REPORT**

Henry gave an overview of AMWG work since October 2020, which had focused mainly on terns and plovers. The AMWG began to work on the AMP for whooping cranes in December. Rabbe asked about materials for the AMWG to prepare for next meeting. Henry said those materials had not been sent out yet as EDO is still gathering information on the uncertainties remaining for whooping cranes in preparation for the next meeting. Manley asked if the list of AMWG members is current. Farnsworth said yes, the list posted on the PRRIP website is current.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Merrill said he is willing to remain chair in 2021. Rabbe was identified as the current vice-chair, and also willing to remain.

**TAC MOTION:** *Rabbe moved and Walters seconded to nominate Merrill as 2021 TAC Chair. Merrill appointed.*

**TAC MOTION:** *La moved and Walters seconded to nominate Rabbe as 2021 TAC Vice Chair. Rabbe appointed.*

#### **TAC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP**

Smith alerted the TAC that the AMP Reporting Session will be a full-day virtual session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The EDO will meet alone with the ISAC virtually on the morning of Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Henry said she would propose a schedule for regular quarterly TAC meetings and distribute that to the TAC soon.

Rabbe asked about scheduled AMWG meeting for January 12. Smith and Henry agreed to postpone the first meeting of 2021 to allow the EDO additional time to work on drafts of tern and plover science plan as well as prepare materials for addressing whooping crane uncertainties. The AMWG will meet on January 26.

Rabbe said there is a Director's announcement slated for January 12 regarding the delisting of the tern. That will officially happen sometime in the month of January and be reflected in the Federal Register. Change in status will not mean a change in Program monitoring efforts. Farnsworth mentioned the need to work with the Service to change the language in Program documents and website communications to reflect this change in status. Drain had the same question regarding Program language for least terns following delisting.



132

133 **TAC MEETING END**

134 The TAC meeting concluded at 2:16 PM Central Time.