



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Teams Conference Call**  
**November 3, 2020**

**Meeting Participants**

**Land Advisory Committee (LAC)**

**State of Wyoming**

Jay Smith, Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer's  
Office  
Random Gebhart, Wyoming

**Other Participants**

None

**State of Colorado**

JoJo La – Member, Colorado Water Conservation  
Board

**State of Nebraska**

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

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

Tom Econopouly – 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 – (Vice-chair) Member, Nebraska Public  
Power District

**Environmental Entities**

Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary

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

Lyndon Vogt – Member, CPNRD

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

None

**Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD**

None

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

Bruce Sackett  
Tim Tunnell  
Jason Farnsworth



**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Zorn called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Zorn asked for agenda modifications. None were offered.

Zorn asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the August 11, 2020 LAC meeting.

Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020 LAC meeting. Motion seconded by La Grange and passed unanimously.

**General Update and Other Committee Coordination**

Merrill updated LAC on the activities of the TAC. TAC meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> discussed management plans as presented by the EDO along with the monitoring portion of budget. La updated LAC on the activities of the WAC. The meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> provided an update regarding EDO Leasing and Recharge projects. La explained there were no excess flows in September. The EDO is reviewing NP choke point tests and are requesting comments due by November 13.

Jason provided GC update. Budget call will be held next week. December meeting is scheduled to be a ½ day virtual call. GC is working on mock negotiations now for the second increment to identify science needs and prepare for next things needed.

An update was provided to the group on reseeding and berms at the Cottonwood Ranch Broadscale Recharge Project.

Sackett provided the LAC with an update on the current land objective status. The Crane Trust has offered a parcel of land in the Wood River to Shelton reach that needs to be reviewed. Setting a time to review should happen in the next week or two. A poll will be circulated to interested people.

**Chapman Management Plans**

*Information and discussion* (Tim Tunnell, ED Office, Jason Farnsworth, ED)

Tim explained the decision from the TAC to make a 5-year commitment toward management by using fire and clearing the north edge and east and west lines to manage the land. A reassessment will happen in five years to determine the effectiveness of this approach.

Robinson tract: TAC reduced the island vegetation clearing to 6 acres under the MCA plan. Other parts of the plan were accepted.

Need consensus about the management plans and getting a vote or email poll to accept those plans.

Tim will revise the Chapman Complex Management Plans and the final plans will be sent out to the LAC members by email for approval before the next GC meeting.

LaGrange commented on the Berggren plan to clear trees between the meadow and the river. He feels ultimately it will be necessary to clear the area to bring back the meadow but also understands that not clearing is ok for now. Attempting to burn and work on bringing back the meadow in a less costly way is worth the try. Since we own the land if this does not work, we can always come back in the future and clear the area mechanically.



The memo needs a couple things adjusted in a couple places suggested by discussion in the LAC. Final plans are being worked on and when done they will go back to the LAC in email for a final vote.

### **2021 Land Plan Budget**

*Information and discussion* (Jason Farnsworth, ED, Tim Tunnell and Bruce Sackett, ED Office)

#### Review 2021 Land Budget & Work Plan

Tunnell explained the LP-2 and LP-4 portions of the budget.

Shadle wants to see agreements with neighbors come before the LAC to comment on the agreements before being sent to the GC for approval.

Sackett reviewed the LP-3 and the LP-7 portions of the budget.

### **MOTION TO RECOMMEND GC APPROVAL OF LAND BUDGET**

Motion by Lyndon Vogt to recommend to the GC acceptance of the 2021 Land Budget & Work Plan as updated. Seconded by Andrew Pierson.

**Motion passed with no objections.**

La Grange abstained.

### **Reorganize Officers**

**Information and discussion, and action (Dave Zorn, LAC Chair ) Discuss process and action**

**1. MOTION by Andrew Pierson to recommend Dave Zorn as LAC chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted LaGrange.**

**Motion passed with no objections.**

**2. MOTION by John Shadle to recommend Andrew Pierson as LAC vice chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lyndon Vogt.**

**3. Motion passed with no objections.**

### **Public Forum**

Chairman Zorn asked for public comments, none were offered.

**The LAC will plan for an electronic vote before the GC December Meeting on the Chapman Land Plans.**

**The next LAC meeting is planned for Mid January, 2021. A Doodle Poll will be sent to the committee members for the best date.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Zorn at 10:25 a.m.