



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)**  
**Finance Committee (FC) Meeting Minutes**  
February 05, 2020

**Finance Committee (FC)**

**State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Member

Brandon Gebhardt – Alternate

**Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Brock Merrill – Alternate

**State of Colorado**

JoJo La – Member (Vice Chair)

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

Tom Econopouly – Alternate

**State of Nebraska**

Jeff Fassett – Member

**Environmental Entities**

N/A

**Upper Platte Water Users**

Dennis Strauch – Member

**Colorado Water Users**

N/A

**Downstream Water Users**

Mark Czaplewski – Member

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

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Justin Brei

Patrick Farrell

Chad Smith

**Welcome & Administrative**

La (Vice Chair, filling in for Beardsley) called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM Central Time and Farnsworth completed a roll call. La welcomed everyone into the Extension and thanked them for their work in making it happen.

Farnsworth asked for an agenda modification at the end to discuss the broad-scale recharge project construction claim. La agreed.

La asked the FC for nominations for the 2020 FC Chair and Vice Chair. LaBonde nominated Beardsley as Chair and La as Vice Chair. Merrill said Beardsley is the Acting Policy Director for Reclamation for this month and possibly longer, and after that likely headed back to Billings. It might work better to have La serve as Chair and Beardsley serve as Vice Chair in case he gets tasked with other work in Reclamation. La said she is willing to fill in when Beardsley cannot make it, Merrill said that would work well.

**FC Decision** – *Labonde moved and Fassett seconded to appoint Beardsley 2020 FC Chair and La 2020 FC Vice Chair.* Appointments approved.

**FC Decision** – *Czaplewski moved and Strauch seconded to approve the November 04, 2019 FC minutes.* Minutes approved.

**PRRIP ISAC**

Smith discussed the 2020 ISAC contract amendments. La asked about planning for the ISAC and membership and activities this year. Smith said the EDO plans to put thoughts on paper about next steps for the ISAC and begin discussing the path forward with the GC at the June meeting in Cheyenne. La asked about how to handle budgeting when the ISAC contracts would extend through March 2021. Farnsworth said the easiest thing will be to not spend all the approved ISAC budget in 2020 and budget accordingly in the 2021 budget. La asked about the reasons for moving the AMP Reporting Session to the February of the following year. Smith said the need to sync up with the Program budgeting process has not proved necessary and waiting until February will allow the EDO to have all monitoring data in hand to have a better discussion with the GC, ISAC, and TAC at the AMP Reporting Session regarding the full results of annual monitoring and research. Merrill said it makes sense to move the AMP Reporting Session out of the first quarter of the new fiscal year, February makes sense from that perspective.

**FC Decision** – *Merrill moved and LaBonde seconded to approve the 2020 contract amendments for all six (6) ISAC members.* Contract amendments approved.

**PRRIP Website & Database**

Brei discussed the 2020 PRRIP website and database contract amendment. Farnsworth said the 2020 PRRIP budget includes funding to evaluate the Program's financial database and determine if there is a more effective and efficient way to develop Program funding requests and track Program finances, possibly a web-based application. Econopouly asked how many visitors outside of the Program come to the PRRIP website. Brei said we monitor it and it is not a high number, the overall Program needs to weigh in on the Program marketing side of the website. DJ Case would be a good advisor for this as well.

**FC Decision** – *Fassett moved and Econopouly seconded to approve the 2020 contract amendment for PRRIP website and database management.* Contract amendment approved.

**PRRIP Predator Trapping**

Farrell discussed the 2020 agreement for PRRIP predator trapping.

**FC Decision** – *LaBonde moved and Czaplewski seconded to approve the 2020 agreement for PRRIP predator trapping. Agreement approved.*

**Other Business**

Merrill said there is some First Increment budgeting clean-up related to indexing and other matters that needs to be discussed with the FC probably before the June 2020 GC meeting. Merrill will be talking with the Signatories about this next week and will recommend a meeting time and items to discuss for the FC as we get closer to the June GC meeting.

Farnsworth gave an update on the status of the construction claim related to the Cottonwood Ranch broad-scale recharge project. As per Signatory direction, the Program entered into direct negotiation with the contractor through the parties' attorneys. Negotiations are ongoing and will hopefully be resolved in the next week or two. When that happens, the EDO will convene a Special Session of the GC to approve moving forward with resolving the claim.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM Central Time.**

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from February 5, 2020 FC Meeting**

- 1) Appointed Beardsley 2020 FC Chair and La 2020 FC Vice Chair.
- 2) Approved the November 04, 2019 FC minutes.
- 3) Approved the 2020 ISAC contract amendments.
- 4) Approved the 2020 website and database contract amendment.
- 5) Approved the 2020 predator trapping agreement.