



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Executive Director's Office, Kearney, NE
October 29, 2019

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde, Member, State of Wyoming
Jay Smith, Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer's
Office

State of Colorado

JoJo La – Member, Colorado Water Conservation
Board (by phone)

State of Nebraska

Melissa Mosier – Alternate, Nebraska Department of
Natural Resources (by phone)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR (by phone)

Power Districts

Dave Zorn – Member, Central Nebraska Public Power
& Irrigation District
John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power
District

Environmental Entities

Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary

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

Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD

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

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

Jim Bendfeldt – Member, CPNRD

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Bruce Sackett
Jason Farnsworth (ED)
Tim Tunnell
Justin Brei
Dave Baasch

Other Participants

Bryan O'Connor, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 10:05 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications. None were offered.

Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the May 8, 2019 LAC meeting.

Rabbe made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2019 LAC meeting. Motion seconded by Zorn and passed unanimously.

General Update and Other Committee Coordination

Czaplewski updated the LAC on the activities of the September 2019 GC Meeting. In land-related actions, the GC approved the PRRIP Land Interest Holding Entity contract for the Extension with Nebraska Community Foundation. The GC also approved acquisition of tract 1906 in the Chapman complex. Czaplewski and La updated the LAC on the status of the Federal authorization of the First Increment Extension. The bill is on the Senate calendar for a vote, but progress is slowed by factors unrelated to the extension.

Farnsworth updated the LAC on the October WAC meeting. The WAC discussed and provided recommendations on the FY2020 water plan budget. The Program's water milestone sits at approximately 114,000 acre-feet. The Cottonwood Ranch broad-scale recharge project is nearly complete. The project will be filled sometime in 2020, after the seeding on the berms and disturbed areas has fully established.

Baasch gave the update on the latest TAC meeting. The TAC discussed and provided recommendations on the FY2020 science and adaptive management budget. They also discussed a potential predator study and predator control actions for PRRIP least tern and piping plover nesting sites. The TAC reviewed and provided input on the Dippel property operations and management plan, to be approved by the LAC.

Sackett provided the LAC with an update on the current land objective status. PRRIP owns or manages 13,224.4 acres. 705 acres of that total is currently credited towards the Extension plus-up goal of 1,500 acres. Some management agreements that are currently counted towards the 13,224.4-acre total may not be renewed for the Extension, but the total acres at risk would not drop the milestone progress below 10,000. EDO staff are still contacting landowners and attempting to renew all management agreements for the Extension.

2020 Land Plan Budget

Tunnell walked the LAC through the FY2020 land budget work plan. The largest LP-2 habitat actions from a budget perspective are disking and prescribed fire. The largest LP-4 operations actions are noxious weed control and maintenance of fences and roads. Sackett discussed the LP-3 line item, which includes approximately \$130,000 of property taxes for all of PRRIP lands.



The LAC requested some formatting changes to the work plan document but had no changes to any budgets.

Shadle motioned to recommend GC approval of the 2020 land budget. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.

Dippel Management Plan

Tunnell introduced the Dippel land management plan, and walked the LAC through the various goals and objectives for this tract. The TAC has reviewed and commented on the plan, and those comments were already incorporated into the version that was distributed to the LAC. The LAC requested that the specific costs and timelines be removed from Goal 1 Objective 1, and requested to strike Goal 9 Objective 9 from the management plan.

Rabbe motioned to approve the Dippel management plan, as amended, and forward to the GC with a recommendation to approve. Motion seconded by Pierson and passed unanimously.

Land Offerings

Shadle moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Bendfeldt. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 12:07 p.m.

LaBonde moved to come out of executive session. Zorn seconded and the motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 1:55 p.m.

Rabbe moved to forward tract 1910 to the Governance Committee with a recommendation to continue pursuit of the tract as non-complex land counting towards the goal of acquiring 60 acres of additional off-channel sand and water habitat. LaBonde seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rabbe moved to forward tract 1905 to the Governance Committee with a recommendation to cease further pursuit of this tract. Motion seconded by Shadle and passed unanimously.

Rabbe moved to table further discussion of tract 1902 until a final determination is made for tract 1910. Motion seconded by Shadle and passed unanimously.

Reorganize Officers

Chairman Czaplewski opened the floor for nominations and recommendations for the chair and vice-chair positions on the LAC for 2020.

LaBonde moved to retain Mark Czaplewski as LAC Chairman for 2020. Motion seconded by Shadle and passed unanimously.



88 **Shadle moved to nominate and approve Dave Zorn as LAC Vice-chair for 2020. Motion**
89 **seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.**

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91 **Public Forum**

92 Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

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94 **The LAC did not schedule a time for the next meeting. It will be scheduled as needed –**
95 **likely in February 2020.**

96 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 2:07 p.m.