



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2019

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Lee Arrington, Member, Wyoming State Engineer's
Office (by phone)

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)
Isabella Peterson – NDNR intern (by phone)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS (by phone)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR (by phone)

Power Districts

Dave Zorn – Member, Central Nebraska Public Power
& Irrigation District (by phone)
John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power
District (by phone)

Environmental Entities

Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary
(by phone)

**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

John Thorburn – Alternate, TBNRD

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Bruce Sackett
Jason Farnsworth (ED)
Tim Tunnell

Other Participants

None

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 October 29, 2018 LAC meeting.

Merrill made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2018 LAC meeting. Motion seconded by Arrington and passed unanimously.

Other Committee Updates

Merrill briefly updated the LAC on the activities of the April 2019 TAC Meeting. The TAC recommended finalizing design plans for the off-channel sand and water site on the Dippel tract and appointed a subcommittee to assist with the design. Plans will be drafted but work or bids on the off-channel project will not currently proceed ~~for a while in order to continue to look for and obtain another pumped-out site if any become available~~ as the subcommittee and EDO explores other potential opportunities and existing sand and gravel pit options.

The Crane Trust asked for access to the Binfield property at Shoemaker Island to help conduct a wet meadow research project. The TAC recommended allowing them to access the site. Andrew Caven will be the lead for that project.

Public Access Subcommittee Review

Rabbe reviewed the subcommittee minutes and recommendations.

Discussion recommendation regarding allowing coyote and fur bearer incidental harvest but not allowing calls and trapping during open season on other hunted species.

Discussed "Area Closed signs" causing concern to PRRA users. EDO will correct and update as appropriate.

Discussed acres enrolled and properties where access to the river was not allowed during any time of the year. Properties where PRRIP owns to the center of the river were recommended to be opened to access (unless otherwise noted) consistent with other PRRA lands already open within the river channel. Areas where this applies are Areas J, N, G and the western portion of Area L. Additionally, it was recommended to add the remaining land on Area L not currently enrolled (SE portion).

Discussed 2018 change in access limiting concurrent reservation available to 3 at a time. Agreed to keep reservations as is at three days per person maximum.

Discussed "limited access" period and locations where river channel access opportunities are closed during tern and plover nesting period. Science collected to date indicates tern and plover natural in-channel nesting habitat and use of those areas has been extremely limited and the Program is no longer creating in-channel nesting islands on Program complexes (outside of MCA island). There was agreement that it could be beneficial to open these areas during the tern and plover nesting season. Recommended to eliminate the "limited access" of river channels on Areas A, D, E, H, I and P.

Discussion about bee hives allowed on Program areas. Recommended that NGPC note the presence of bees and related information on the site or permission slips.

Discussed changing the date for the rifle lottery. Suggested date changes to make those dates earlier.

Discussed keeping Cottonwood Ranch closed for this year due to continued construction.

Discussed allowing scuba diving on program areas and will keep them closed.

Discussed adding a new landowner member to the PRRA subcommittee.



Recommended changes to the GC Program Policy

- Add Coyote and fur bearer incidental harvest (during open hunting seasons) to Appendix B of Public Access Policy – list of compatible uses, but not allowing calls and trapping during open season on other hunted species.
- Remove the “limited access” period from Appendix A of the Public Access Policy, effectively opening Areas A, D, E, H, and I during tern and plover nesting season within the channel portion of the properties.

Recommended that the GC adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2019-2020 season:

- Keep Program owned portion of the Cottonwood Ranch complex closed for public availability for this year due to continued Broadscale Recharge Project construction. Area B.
- Enroll remaining land on Area L open to access (SE portion of property)
- Open river access to the center of the channel at the following properties: Area J, N, G, and the western half of Area L.

Arrington motioned to accept the subcommittee recommendations as amended to the Governance Committee with a recommendation to approve. Motion seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.

No public comments on access program.

Public Forum

Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

The LAC did not schedule a meeting but thought a meeting prior to the September GC meeting would be in order. There may be a need for another conference call if negotiations on land advance to a contract.

The ED Office will organize a meeting date with the LAC as needed in August 2019.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 10:01 am.