



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM  
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
EDO Office, Kearney and Conference Call  
April 30, 2019**

**Meeting Participants**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Brock Merrill – Member

**State of Colorado**

Jojo La – Member

**State of Wyoming**

Barry Lawrence – Member

Jeremy Manley – Alternate

**State of Nebraska**

Carol Flaute – Member (WebEx)

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

Matt Rabbe – Member

**Environmental Entities**

Rich Walters – Member

Andrew Pierson – Alternate (WebEx)

**Upper Platte Water Users**

**Colorado Water Users**

[Kyle Whitaker](#)

**Downstream Water Users**

Dave Zorn – Member

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Jim Jenniges – Member

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

Jason Farnsworth

Chad Smith

Dave Baasch

Patrick Farrell

Kevin Werbylo

Tom Smrdel

Scott Griebeling

Courtney Black

Justin Brei

**Other Participants**

Joel Jorgensen – NGPC (WebEx)

Andrew Caven – Trust

Mike Drain – NPPD

Sarah Nevison – Nebraska (WebEx)

Tom Econopouly – USFWS

**Welcome and Administrative**

Baasch called the meeting to order and asked for any agenda modifications; Caven asked for some time during the meeting to discuss a potential macroinvertebrate study on Program and Trust lands.

**TAC Chair**

Baasch asked the group if there were any nominations for the 2019 TAC Chair. **Jenniges recommended Merrill remain the TAC chair during 2019 and Merrill accepted the roll; all supported the recommendation.**

**TAC Minutes**

Merrill asked the group if there were any suggested changes for the October 16, 2018 TAC Minutes. **Lawrence moved to approve the October 16, 2018 TAC minutes; Rabbe seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

**Fall 2018 Whooping Crane Monitoring Report**

Baasch discussed a minor edit Jenniges had in the whooping crane monitoring report. **Czaplewski moved to approve the Fall 2018 Whooping Crane Monitoring Report as final with edits discussed during the meeting; Jenniges seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

**2018 Tern and Plover Monitoring and Research Report**

Baasch discussed a few edits Jenniges had to tables 7-10 in the tern and plover monitoring report. Nevison pointed out tables 12 and 13 were miss labeled; Baasch made the edits. **Czaplewski moved to approve the 2018 Tern and Plover Monitoring and Research Report as final with edits discussed during the meeting; Rabbe seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

**Predator/Nest Monitoring**

Baasch discussed the new monitoring efforts of tern and plover nests for predation events on Newark east and west and Leaman during 2019.

**Dipple OCSW Design**

Baasch led the discussion and presented background information on the potential of designing and off-channel nesting site at the Program's Dipple tract. Caven discussed the remnant grass and a slough on the north edge of the pit and suggested expanding the pit east into the cornfield and avoid the grass and slough. Walters asked if there were existing sandpits we could work with to develop off-channel habitat; Sackett said he had contacted all sandpit operators and wasn't able to find anyone interested in working with the Program to develop tern and plover nesting habitat. Jenniges and Rabbe expressed concern with developing another off-channel site when so many sand and gravel mines already exist on the landscape. Caven asked where we are in meeting our non-complex land objectives; Farnsworth stated we have about 200 acres left to meet our land objective and that the GC said we could use the remaining acres to acquire off-channel sand and water habitats or lands to build an off-channel site. Baasch mentioned we would eventually need to replace some of the habitat if sites like Broadfoot South become sold for housing developments. La recommended maximizing the size of Dipple as much as possible to potentially make up for the future loss of the Broadfoot South habitat. The TAC discussed the preliminary site design plan for an extended period



and ~~recommended~~ waiting on building an off-channel site and continue to investigate other potential options that may arise in the upcoming years.

The TAC recommended finalizing design plans for the Dippel tract and recommended Rabbe, Jenniges, Caven, Zorn, and Czaplewski serve on an ad hoc committee to help with the site design, holding off on building the OCSW at Dippel, and the EDO and ad hoc committee exploring other potential opportunities and existing sand and gravel pit options.

### Macroinvertebrate Study

Caven led the discussion and provided background information on the potential of initiating a macroinvertebrate study on Program and Trust wet meadows with Craig Davis from Oklahoma State to identify high-quality wet meadow sites and high-quality areas within grasslands. Caven mentioned the Trust is seeking an EPA grant and their proposal is due at the end of May. La asked if the grant would cover the project; Caven said the project would only cost \$200,000-\$250,000 and would be covered by the EPA grant. Rabbe said the Service supports the Trust implementing the research project on PRRIP lands. The TAC discussed the project for an extended period. Smith mentioned the next GC meeting isn't until June so Program funding or a Program letter of support may not be an option. Farnsworth said the EDO could write a letter of support and allow access to PRRIP lands for the research as long as it didn't interfere with target species use.

### Upcoming 2019 TAC Meeting Schedule

A Doodle Poll will be distributed to set the next couple of meetings which would be early June and late October. The following items would be discussed during the upcoming meetings.

- June 1<sup>st</sup>-ish – 2-hour TAC Conference Call to discuss any final suggestions they may have on the State of the Platte Report as well as species updates and any other items that may come up.
- October 15<sup>th</sup>-ish – 4-hour TAC meeting to discuss FY2020 Budget, progress/direction for the AMP, species updates, and any other items that may come up.

### Summary of Decisions from the April 30, 2019 TAC Meeting

1. The TAC nominated Merrill as the 2019 TAC chair
2. The TAC approved the October 16, 2018 TAC Meeting Minutes as Final
3. The TAC approved the fall 2018 whooping crane monitoring report as final with edits made as discussed
4. The TAC approved the 2018 tern and plover monitoring and research report as final with edits made as discussed
5. The TAC recommended finalizing design plans for the Dippel tract and recommended Rabbe, Jenniges, Caven, Zorn, and Czaplewski serve on an ad hoc committee to help with the site design, holding off on building the OCSW at Dippel, and the EDO and ad hoc committee exploring other potential opportunities and existing sand and gravel pit options. ~~and explore other potential existing sand and gravel pit options.~~
6. The TAC supported writing a letter of recommendation for the Trust's macroinvertebrate study and allowing access to Program lands to implement the study.