



# **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or PROGRAM) Governance Committee (GC) Special Session Minutes**

Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
9:00-11:30 AM Mountain Time

## **Governance Committee (GC)**

### **State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Member

### **Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Chris Beardsley – Member

Brock Merrill – Alternate

### **State of Colorado**

Don Ament – Member

JoJo La – Alternate

Carlee Brown – Alternate

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

Michael Thabault – Member

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

### **State of Nebraska**

Jeff Fassett – Member (2018 GC Chair)

### **Environmental Entities**

Bill Taddicken – Member

Rich Walters – Member

### **Upper Platte Water Users**

Dennis Strauch – Member

### **Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

### **Downstream Water Users**

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Mike Drain – Alternate

Devin Brundage – CNPPID

Brian Barels – Member

John Shadle – NPPD

Kent Miller – Member

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

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Chad Smith, DED

Bridget Barron

Dave Baasch

Bruce Sackett

Tim Tunnell

Seth Turner

Kevin Werbylo



## **Welcome & Administrative**

Fassett called the meeting to order at 9:02 Mountain Time and Smith read through the participant list.

## **Elwood Reservoir Recharge**

Farnsworth discussed the agreement amendment for Elwood Reservoir recharge. Walters asked if this can be credited to the Program's water objective. Farnsworth said this is the amount of water that would be diverted on behalf of the Program, most of that water recharges into the ground. There is a recommended score of 2,800 acre-feet for this project. La asked how we approved the scoring mechanism, she was thinking it was an annual cap instead of a single score. Farnsworth said that is how it was approved by the GC, but the GC asked the EDO to go back and work with the Nebraska DNR on the associated modeling. Drain said the Scoring Subcommittee recommended a score based upon an assumption of capacity being made available and then utilizing the graph with that assumed capacity. The GC could elect to re-score in the future based on that graph and a different assumed capacity. Fassett said the contract in front of the GC today is not related to score, it is related to the amount of water that is diverted.

**GC Decision** – *Berryman moved to approve the Elwood Reservoir Recharge agreement amendment; LaBonde seconded. CNPPID (Drain) abstained from voting. CPNRD (Czaplewski) abstained from voting. Agreement amendment approved.*

## **Permitting**

Farnsworth discussed the proposed sole source agreement with HDR for permitting services for the PRRIP.

**GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to approve the HDR sole source contract for Permitting Services; Ament seconded. Sole source agreement approved.*

## **Prescribed Fire Management**

Farnsworth discussed the proposed sole source agreement with CHOLETA for prescribed fire management services for the PRRIP in 2018 only. The EDO intends to issue a new multi-year RFP in 2020 for prescribed fire management services.

**GC Decision** – *Ament moved to approve the CHOLETA sole source contract for Prescribed Fire Management Services in 2018, Czaplewski seconded. Sole source agreement approved.*

## **Public Comment**

Fassett asked for public comment. None offered.

## **Executive Session**

*Ament moved to enter Executive Session; LaBonde seconded. GC entered Executive Session at 9:22 AM Mountain Time.*

*Taddicken moved to end Executive Session; Beardsley seconded. GC ended Executive Session at 9:29 AM Mountain Time.*

## **PRRIP Executive Session Motions**

**GC Decision** – *Strauch moved to grant an easement deed with the City of Bayard associated with Tract W201601; Czaplewski seconded. Easement deed approved.*

**GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to approve sale of Tract W201601 for the purchase price of \$278,000; Ament seconded. Sale approved.*

**PRRIP FY19 Budget and Work Plan**

Farnsworth, Smith, and EDO staff discussed the draft FY19 PRRIP budget spreadsheet and work plan.

- Czaplewski asked about WP-1(b) for phragmites control. The Program hosted a site visit in September after the GC meeting, he wondered if this item should be increased back to \$300,000 as in previous years because other funding sources are tenuous at this time. Walters said the proposed funding level is bare-bones and would also support moving the number higher. Rabbe said the Service would support moving the number higher. LaBonde said it is a good program but the amount of funding the PRRIP has put into this far outweighs the benefits and it is more of a Nebraska problem that should be covered more by the entities in Nebraska that benefit from the Program. He does not support moving the number higher.
- Drain asked about the qualifying statement at the top of the budget spreadsheet. Farnsworth said that is just an acknowledgement that the out-year budgets show higher expenditures than appropriations until the GC makes decisions on which WAP projects to actually implement.
- Barels asked why LP-2 is \$2M in FY19. Farnsworth said it has \$1.8M built in for a Clark Island OCSW site, that relates to whether or not the GC decides to move forward with the Lakeside slurry wall project.
- Walters asked if the GC would consider bumping phragmites control money from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for FY19. LaBonde said the phragmites issue is problematic for a set of beneficiaries in Nebraska that includes Program contributors but the Program should not pay over half of the phragmites control costs. It might be good to give the GC a refresher on these costs at the December GC meeting. The Program should pay its fair share but the other Nebraska beneficiaries should pay their fair share as well. Walters said he could present the numbers if needed, the Program pays about 42-44% of the control costs. If the Program could agree to \$250,000 that would be helpful, too. LaBonde said he would like to see the contribution breakdown again, he wants to know if all the NRDs and the Service are contributing. Thabault said Partner programs currently put their money in other places on the river. He does not want to have a stranded investment if we reduce the contributions and phragmites starts to take over again. Walters agreed to have updated contribution numbers for the December GC meeting.

**Future Meetings & Closing Business**

Upcoming 2018 GC meetings:

- GC Quarterly Meeting – **December 10, 2018** @ Denver, CO (Warwick Denver Hotel)

**Meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM Mountain Time.**

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 13, 2018 GC Special Session**

- 1) Approved the Elwood Reservoir recharge agreement amendment.
- 2) Approved the HDR sole source contract for permitting services
- 3) Approved the CHOLETA sole source contract for prescribed fire management services.
- 4) Approved the easement deed with the City of Bayard for Tract W201601.
- 5) Approved the sale of Tract W201601 for the purchase price of \$278,000.