



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)
Finance Committee (FC) Meeting Minutes
November 06, 2018

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member (Chair)

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Chris Beardsley – Member

Brock Merrill – Alternate

State of Colorado

JoJo La – Alternate

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Eliza Hines – Member

State of Nebraska

Jesse Strom – Alternate

Environmental Entities

N/A

Upper Platte Water Users

N/A

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member

Downstream Water Users

Don Kraus – Member

Brian Barels – Alternate

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Chad Smith, DED

Seth Turner

Kevin Werbylo

Bruce Sackett

Tim Tunnell

Dave Baasch



Welcome & Administrative

LaBonde called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Central Time.

FC Decision – *Beardsley moved to approve the August 14, 2018 FC minutes; Berryman seconded. Minutes approved.*

FC Update Items

Farnsworth updated the FC on the proposed sole source justification for permitting services and prescribed fire management. La asked about the differences in budget between services for a nationwide permit versus an individual permit. Farnsworth said the contract amount is a max not to exceed, we will have to play each effort by ear and see how the costs come in. Any adjustments will have to be discussed with the FC and ultimately approved by the GC if necessary. Berryman asked if the Program has had any difficult permitting issues. Farnsworth said HDR has handled two or three individual permits very well and the process has gone as smoothly as could be expected. La asked if we expect costs for prescribed fire management to go up when we seek another multi-year contract after 2019. Tunnell said that is always a risk, it is hard to know if CHOLETA would get outbid. The EDO will move these two items on to the GC for discussion and review.

Cottonwood Ranch Broad-Scale Recharge (BSR) Contract Addendum

Farnsworth discussed the contract addendum for the Cottonwood Ranch BSR project. La asked what the completion date will be. Werbylo said it is now May 1, 2019.

FC Decision – *Kraus moved to approve the Cottonwood Ranch BSR contract addendum; Berryman seconded. Contract addendum approved.*

PRRIP Website & Database

Farnsworth discussed the contract amendment for DJ Case for the PRRIP website and database. Kraus asked if Farnsworth was comfortable with the revised contract numbers. Farnsworth said yes and that this represents a reduction in annual costs.

FC Decision – *Kraus moved to approve the PRRIP website and database contract amendment; Beardsley seconded. Contract amendment approved.*

PRRIP FY19 Budget & Work Plan

Farnsworth, Smith, and EDO staff discussed the draft FY19 budget and work plan and the Headwaters contract for providing the PRRIP ED, DED, and staff.

- LaBonde asked about the contract with the NGPC for the Recreation Access Program and thought costs would go down when we added a certain volume of land into the program. Sackett said that is true but we are still falling short of the projected acres by a certain amount and thus the cost reductions still do not kick in. LaBonde said we should watch the number over time since we are providing a tremendous benefit to the public.
- La asked about WP-1 and monitoring for high flow releases at the choke point. She wanted to make sure GFC-2 includes insurance for any issues related to those flow releases. Farnsworth said yes, we keep that policy in place whether or not we do flow releases.
- Farnsworth asked if the FC or GC would be interested in seeing a breakdown of costs for technical versus administrative time in the EDO. No comments offered.

**PRRIP IT Infrastructure**

Farnsworth discussed the issue of IT infrastructure and Program data storage and management and the need to upgrade hardware and services needed to store and protect data. Kraus asked if we have removed data associated with land we have removed to open up more space. Farnsworth said most of the data is LiDAR and other imagery associated with the AHR and needs to be stored and protected. Large datasets make up the bulk of the data being stored. We can use that data to save money on monitoring, but there is a cost to housing and using those data. Kraus asked about the cost of going to 30 TB and whether this will get us through the Extension. Farnsworth said likely not, it will get us through the next 4-5 years which is the right planning horizon for this kind of infrastructure. LaBonde asked if the FC needed to take action today. Farnsworth said it falls under FC purview but it is up to the FC. LaBonde said he supports this proposal. Kraus asked if this will happen in 2018 or in 2019. Farnsworth said our intent would be to do this as soon as possible and have the equipment in place by the end of the year.

FC Decision – *Kraus moved to approve the expenditure of \$24,000 in Program funds for IT infrastructure in 2018; Berryman seconded. Expenditure approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM Central Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 06, 2018 FC Meeting

- 1) Approved the August 14, 2018 FC minutes.
- 2) Approved the Cottonwood Ranch BSR contract addendum.
- 3) Approved the website and database contract amendment.
- 4) Approved the expenditure of \$24,000 in Program funds for an IT infrastructure upgrade.