



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2018

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

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (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

John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power District

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

Jim Jenniges – Alternate, 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

John Thorburn – Member, TBNRD

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth, Executive Director

Bruce Sackett

Justin Brei

Tim Tunnell

Other Participants

Eric Skeie – Colorado Water Conservation Board (by phone)



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Central Time and the group
3 proceeded with introductions.

4
5 Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications. None were offered.

6
7 Czaplewski asked for the LAC’s recommendation on the minutes of the April 2, 2018 and May
8 16, 2018 meetings.

9
10 **Thorburn made a motion to approve the minutes from both the April 2, 2018 and May 16,**
11 **2018 meetings. Motion seconded by Arrington and passed unanimously.**

12
13 **Other Committee Updates**

14 Czaplewski briefly updated the LAC on the activities of the June 2018 GC Meeting. The GC is
15 finalizing its review of the draft Biological Opinion for the First Increment Extension. The GC
16 approved the Platte River Recreation Access Program for the 2018-2019 season. The GC will
17 also meet on August 14 to discuss the Slurry Wall project and the Broad-Scale Recharge Project
18 and their associated agreements.

19
20 **Land Information & Update**

21 Tunnell discussed the Restoration & Management Framework document which outlines PRRIP property
22 management and restoration activities. All comments received to-date were included in the document,
23 and Tunnell asked the LAC if there was anything further before approval. LaGrange said that the
24 document was in good shape. La asked if the document would continue to be updated, and if so to label
25 the front page with the date last updated. Farnsworth said that it would be a “living document”, and while
26 it should be serviceable for most of the extension as-is, if any new information makes the content
27 outdated it would be updated as-needed.

28
29 **LaGrange moved to forward the Restoration and Management Framework to the Governance**
30 **Committee with a recommendation to approve. Motion seconded by Arrington and passed**
31 **unanimously.**

32
33 Sackett discussed an easement document with the LAC, where Southern Public Power District is
34 requesting a formal easement for their power line which was buried under the road on the west property
35 boundary of Tract 2011001. The easement affects a very small portion of the property adjacent to the
36 road, and there is already an existing easement and overhead power line which crosses the property.

37
38 **Arrington moved to forward the Tract 2011001 power easement to the Governance Committee with**
39 **a recommendation to approve. Motion seconded by Thorburn and passed unanimously.**

40
41 Sackett distributed a document to the LAC detailing all of PRRIP’s habitat leases & management
42 agreements. Several of these agreements are set to expire in 2019. Sackett asked the LAC for feedback
43 on whether or not there were any of these easements or agreements which he should not attempt to renew
44 for the extension. Rabbe said that he was OK with extending all of these agreements, but wants to make
45 sure any agreements for new tracts are passed through the LAC and GC for review. Sackett said this
46 would be the case. No action was taken on this item – the agreements will be addressed when finalized.



48 **Land Offerings**

49 Sackett discussed two tracts that have come to PRRIP’s attention since the last meeting. The first is tract
50 1802, a property which is up for auction near the Highway 34 bridge by Grand Island. The LAC
51 generally agreed that given the tract’s proximity/confinement between the Highway 34 bridge and the
52 BNSF Railroad bridge, there is not much opportunity to start a new complex there. The LAC was not
53 interested in considering this tract any further. The second property is tract 1803, a property located
54 across from Rowe Sanctuary which is available for sale through a realtor. Audubon and partners have a
55 perpetual easement on this tract which does not allow new building and does not allow the grassland to be
56 broken for cropland. Audubon is also able to manage the river on this tract through this easement. The
57 LAC believes this tract is adequately protected. Also, PRRIP would be subject to the existing easement if
58 the property was acquired. The LAC was not interested in reviewing this tract further.

59
60 **Public Forum**

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

62
63 **The next meeting of the LAC is scheduled for October 29, 2018 from 1pm-4pm Central**
64 **time in Kearney, NE.**

65
66 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 2:10 pm.