



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or PROGRAM)
Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 – 2:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Note: All times Mountain Time.

Meeting Location:

Warwick Denver
1776 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 861-2000

Governance Committee (GC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member
Bryan Clerkin – Alternate

State of Colorado

Don Ament – Member
Carlee Brown – Alternate

State of Nebraska

Jeff Fassett – Member

Upper Platte Water Users

Dennis Strauch – Member
Bob Mehling – Alternate
Jeb Steward – Alternate

Downstream Water Users

Mark Czaplewski – Member
Don Kraus – Member
Brian Barels – Member
Kent Miller – Member

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jerry Kenny, ED
Bridget Barron
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith
Tom Smrdel
Kevin Werbylo

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Chris Beardsley – Member (2017 GC Chair)
Brock Merrill – Alternate

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Michael Thabault – Member

Environmental Entities

Rich Walters – Member
Bill Taddicken – Member

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member
Deb Freeman – Alternate

Audience Members

Kevin Urie – Denver Water
Tom Econopouly – Service
Matt Rabbe – Service (by phone)
Tracy Zayac – North Platte NRD
Brent Newman – CWCB

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2017****Welcome & Administrative**

Beardsley called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM Central Time. The group proceeded with introductions. Brown noted that Suzanne Sellers had moved on from the CWCB and thanked her for her service to Colorado and the Program.

Beardsley proposed moving the Executive Session portion of the agenda at 3:15 PM. The GC agreed.

GC Decision – *Ament moved to approve the November 14, 2017 GC Special Session minutes; LaBonde seconded. Minutes approved.*

Program Committee Updates*Land Advisory Committee (LAC)*

Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC met on October 10 and discussed the Evaluation Team recommendation on Tract 1720. The LAC met again on November 8 and discussed the FY18 land budget.

Water Advisory Committee (WAC)

Kenny provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC met on October 24 and discussed several WAP projects, reviewed the FY18 water budget, heard a presentation from Olsson Associates on a CPNRD groundwater model, and got an update on the wet meadows hydrology research. The next WAC meeting is February 6 in Ogallala.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Smith provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC met via conference call on November 1 to discuss the FY18 AMP budget.

Finance Committee (FC)

LaBonde said the FC had not met since the last GC meeting.

Program Outreach Update**PRESENTATIONS**

- Jerry Kenny and Jesse Bradley (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) were panelists at the Nebraska College of Law – Nebraska Water Law annual seminar on October 6, 2017 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The title of the panel was Nebraska and the Trump Administration. The focus of Dr. Kenny's information was the impact of the administration on the PRRIP and the Program's First Increment accomplishments.
- The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project held their annual meeting at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, Nebraska on October 10 & 11, 2017. Patrick Farrell presented his session titled; *Sandhill Crane roost locations in relation to flow and channel width along the central Platte River*. Dave Baasch also presented and his session was titled; *Life History and PRRIP contributions to the continued existence of interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers along the central Platte River*.
- Kevin Werbylo presented at the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference in Avon, Colorado on October 11, 2017. His session was titled; *Sharing resources to restore endangered species habitat in the Platte River Basin*.
- Jerry Kenny and Jeff Fassett (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) were part of a panel at the Nebraska State Irrigation Association and Nebraska Water Resources Association joint conference in



94 Kearney, NE on November 20, 2017. The panel was titled “Good Stuff Does Happen”. Jerry discussed
95 the Program’s success and Jeff discussed Nebraska’s Water Sustainability Fund.

- 96 • Brock Merrill presented an overview of the Program to the Torrington Rotary Club on November 27,
97 2017 in Torrington, Wyoming.

98

99 *EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS*

- 100 • The Program exhibited at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 12, 13, and 14, 2017 in
101 the Natural Resources Districts building. We made 2,504 contacts over the course of the three days.
- 102 • The river model, purchased in part by the Program, was utilized by Dave Baasch and Jason Farnsworth
103 as interactive education at Prairie Loft’s Harvestfest on October 1, 2017 in Hastings, Nebraska. The
104 model is quite popular with both children and adults.
- 105 • The Program exhibited at the South Platte Forum on October 25 & 26, 2017 in Loveland, Colorado.
106 We made 188 contacts over the course of the two days.
- 107 • The Program exhibited at the Booseum at the Kearney Children’s Museum on October 26, 2017.
108 Attendance was over 500 children and adults. The Program gave children attending the event candy
109 and kits to make their own bird feeder.
- 110 • The Program exhibited at the joint convention of the Nebraska Water Resources Association and the
111 Nebraska State Irrigation Association on November 20 -21, 2017 in Kearney, Nebraska. We made 156
112 contacts at the conference.

113

114 *UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS*

- 115 • Jerry Kenny will be presenting a Program overview to the Platte River Recovery Implementation
116 Foundation (PRRIF) Board on December 11, 2017 in Kearney, Nebraska.
- 117 • Jason Farnsworth will be presenting on the hydrology of the Program to Rowe Sanctuary Volunteers
118 on December 12, 2017 at Rowe Sanctuary.
- 119 • Jason Farnsworth will be presenting a Program update at the annual conference of the Nebraska
120 Association of County Officials on December 13, 2017 in Kearney, Nebraska.
- 121 • The Program will be exhibiting at the annual meeting of the Four States Irrigation Council in Fort
122 Collins, Colorado on January 10-12, 2018.
- 123 • The Program will be exhibiting at Colorado Water Congress in Denver, Colorado on January 24 – 2,
124 2018.

125

126 *MEDIA/OTHER*

- 127 • After the September 2017 Governance Committee meeting the Kearney Hub published an article by
128 Lori Potter on the various issues discussed in the meeting, particularly the proposed water projects, and
129 interviewed Jerry Kenny. Lori Potter also wrote an article about the economic benefit of the Program
130 and interviewed George Oamek.
- 131 • After the November 2016 Nebraska Water Resources Association and Nebraska State Irrigation
132 Association joint convention, the Kearney Hub published an article on the “Good Stuff Does Happen”
133 panel presentation.
- 134 • The Wildlife Society published an article authored by Dave Baasch titled, *Adaptive Management for*
135 *Terns and Plovers on the Platte River*, in their November 2017 newsletter.

136

137 **PRRIP FY17 Budget Update**

138 Kenny gave an update on the status of the 2017 PRRIP budget and associated land income and taxes.
139 Projected expenditures by the end of FY17 will be roughly \$10 million (some large water bills are coming
140 due).



141 **PRRIP FY18 Budget and Work Plan**

142 Kenny discussed the FY18 budget and work plan and a few changes in the Water Plan:

143
144 Line Item WP-1(b) – language added requiring GC review and approval before being expended
145 (phragmites)

146 Line Item WP-4 (b)(ii) – cost reduction

147 Line Item WP-4(f)(vi) – zeroed out for FY18

148
149 **GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to approve the FY2018 PRRIP budget and work plan; Kraus seconded.*
150 FY18 budget and work plan approved.

151
152 Kenny discussed the FY18 ED contract.

153
154 **GC Decision** – *Strauch moved to approve the FY2018 ED contract; LaBonde seconded.* FY2018 ED
155 contract approved.

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157 **PRRIP Funding**

158 Kenny discussed the possible federal government shutdown and the need to be able to use only state funds
159 during a potential government shutdown. LaBonde said he was concerned about a government shutdown
160 that lasts for a quarter, so he would like to see this for 30 days and if necessary convene a GC conference
161 call to discuss an extension if necessary.

162
163 **GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to approve the expenditure of only available state funds for PRRIP*
164 *activities in the event of a federal government shutdown for 30 days from the date of shutdown; Fassett*
165 *seconded.* Motion approved.

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167 **Public Comment**

168 Beardsley asked for public comment. None offered.

169
170 **Executive Session**

171 *Mehling moved to enter Executive Session; Ament seconded.* **GC entered Executive Session at 2:43 PM**
172 **Mountain Time.**

173
174 *Ament moved to end Executive Session; Thabault seconded.* **GC ended Executive Session at 4:36 PM**
175 **Mountain Time.**

176
177 **PRRIP Executive Session Motions**

178 **GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to rescind the motion from the November 14, 2017 GC Special Session*
179 *regarding the sale of Tracts 1716 and 1717; Mehling seconded.* Motion approved.

180
181 **GC Decision** – *LaBonde moved to authorize the Executive Director to offer for sale as surplus habitat*
182 *lands with no encumbrances Tracts 1715 (114 acres), 1716 (461 acres), and 1717 (181 acres) using a*
183 *recommended advertisement and bid process in the spring of 2018, subject to GC approval of the bids;*
184 *Ament seconded.* Motion approved.

185
186 **GC Decision** – *Thabault moved to approve authorizing the EDO to seek acquisition of Tract 1702 as*
187 *complex habitat and associating 120 acres toward the First Increment Extension goal of 1,500 acres of*
188 *new complex habitat and the Governance Committee further agrees this action does not set a precedent for*



189 *the manner or method of crediting for subsequent acquisitions of prior-conserved lands; Ament seconded.*
190 Motion approved.

191

192 **PRRIP Database and Website**

193 Farnsworth discussed the PRRIP Database and Website RFP and the need for members of the Proposal
194 Selection Panel. Fassett said he will identify someone from the Nebraska DNR and Brown said she will
195 identify someone from the CWCB. Beardsley asked GC members to send names to Farnsworth by
196 December 15.

197

198 **WAP Projects Update**

199 Kenny and Werbylo gave an update on the broad-scale recharge (BSR) and slurry wall projects, including
200 the pipeline (CNPPID) and land (NPPD) agreements for the BSR project at Cottonwood Ranch. Werbylo
201 also discussed initial evaluation of other potential WAP projects such as storage in dry canyons.

202

203 **Sediment Augmentation**

204 Farnsworth and Smrdel gave a presentation on full-scale sediment augmentation in the south channel along
205 Jeffrey Island.

206

207 **PRRIP Complex Management Plans**

208 Farnsworth discussed the work that would be done by the EDO and the Advisory Committees in 2018 to
209 update and streamline parcel and complex management plans.

210

211 **Future Meetings & Closing Business**

212 **GC Decision** – *Ament moved to appoint Jeff Fassett (State of Nebraska) as 2018 GC Chair and Mike*
213 *Thabault (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) as 2018 Vice Chair; LaBonde seconded. Motion approved.*

214

215 Approve the following GC meeting schedule for 2018:

- 216 ○ GC Quarterly Meeting – **March 13-14, 2018** @ Kearney, NE
- 217 ○ GC Quarterly Meeting – **June 12-13, 2018** @ Cheyenne, WY
- 218 ○ GC Quarterly Meeting – **September 11-12, 2018** @ Kearney, NE
- 219 ○ 2017 AMP Reporting Session – **October 16-18, 2018** @ Omaha, NE
- 220 ○ GC Special Session (FY19 Budget/Work Plan) – **November 13, 2018** (conference call/webinar
221 only)
- 222 ○ GC Quarterly Meeting – **December 4-5, 2018** @ Denver, CO

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224 **Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM Mountain Time.**

225

226 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from December 05, 2017 GC Quarterly Meeting**

- 227 1) Approved the November 14, 2017 GC Special Session minutes.
- 228 2) Approved the FY2018 PRRIP budget and work plan.
- 229 3) Approved the FY2018 ED contract.
- 230 4) Approved the expenditure of only available state funds for PRRIP activities in the event of a federal
231 government shutdown for 30 days from the date of shutdown.
- 232 5) Rescinded the motion from the November 14, 2017 GC Special Session regarding the sale of Tracts
233 1716 and 1717.
- 234 6) Authorized the Executive Director to offer for sale as surplus habitat lands with no encumbrances Tracts
235 1715 (114 acres), 1716 (461 acres), and 1717 (181 acres) using a recommended advertisement and bid
236 process in the spring of 2018, subject to GC approval of the bids.



- 237 7) Approved authorizing the EDO to seek acquisition of Tract 1702 as complex habitat and associating
238 120 acres toward the First Increment Extension goal of 1,500 acres of new complex habitat and the
239 Governance Committee further agrees this action does not set a precedent for the manner or method of
240 crediting for subsequent acquisitions of prior-conserved lands.
- 241 8) The GC agreed to send names for the Proposal Selection Panel for the PRRIP Database and Website
242 RFP by December 15, 2017.
- 243 9) Appointed Jeff Fassett (State of Nebraska) as 2018 GC Chair and Mike Thabault (U.S. Fish and
244 Wildlife Service) as 2018 Vice Chair.
- 245 10) Set the 2018 GC meeting schedule.