



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)**

2 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Virtual Meeting**

3 Wednesday, January 6, 2021; 1:00-4:00 PM CST

4 *Meeting held online via MS Teams*

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6 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

7 **State of Wyoming**

8 Barry Lawrence

9 Jeremy Manley

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11 **State of Colorado**

12 Jojo La

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16 **State of Nebraska**

17 Dan Sternkopf

18 Elizabeth Esseks

19

20 **Upper Platte Water Users**

21 n/a

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23 **Downstream Water Users**

24 Mike Drain

25 Brandi Flyr

26 Jim Jenniges

27 Dave Zorn

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

30 Jason Farnsworth, ED

31 Patrick Farrell

32 Julia Grabowski

33 Scott Griebing

34 Malinda Henry

35 Kaley Keldsen

36 Kari Mohlman

37 Chad Smith

38 Tom Smrdel

39 Tim Tunnell

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Tom Econopouly

Matt Rabbe

Jeff Runge

Environmental Entities

Melissa Mosier

Rich Walters

Colorado Water Users

n/a

Other Participants

Michelle Koch

Joel Jorgensen

Nathan Darnall

**WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

Merrill called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM Central Time.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Henry said we will not need a TAC motion on the Lex Pit rehab management plan. That will just be a discussion item. In addition, Brock will lead the election of officers as acting Chair.

MINUTES

TAC MOTION: *Walters moved and Zorn seconded to approve the October 30, 2020 TAC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

[10_30_20 PRRIP TAC Virtual Meeting Minutes](#)

LAND MANAGEMENT

Tunnell gave an overview of habitat management actions at the Lex Pit off-channel tern/plover nesting site. Rabbe asked if turtle fencing and strobe lights will be available to re-install in the future if deemed necessary. Farnsworth said we will add language saying we are looking into enhanced predator management techniques that will be employed if deemed necessary. La asked whether predator wing panels will be used at all fenced entries. Tunnel said yes, they will be installed at the NW entrance to the 2021 habitat and at the temporary fencing entrance from the mining area. They will be added later to the furthest E entrance as habitat is created. Rabbe asked about moat width and Farnsworth referred to engineering plan which indicates a 100 foot moat width set as a goal.

FALL 2020 WHOOPING CRANE REPORT

Farrell gave a presentation on the results of fall 2020 whooping crane (WC) monitoring and Program's acquisition of cellular telemetry dataset from the new tracking partnership. Henry discussed changes in the fall 2020 WC monitoring report since the spring 2020 WC monitoring report that was discussed with the TAC. Rabbe said the figures have been updated with higher-resolution imagery and he appreciates that. Henry said that suggested edit by Rabbe to specify that the group detected by the Service tracking database consisted of 2 adults had already been made.

TAC MOTION: *Rabbe moved and Flyr seconded to approve the fall 2020 WC monitoring report. Report approved.*

[Implementation of the Whooping Crane Monitoring Protocol - Fall 2020](#)

2020 LEAST TERN & PIPING PLOVER REPORT

Mohlman discussed the results of 2020 tern/plover monitoring and the associated 2020 monitoring report. She pointed out modifications or additions to the 2020 report from previous years. Additional results tables related to LiDAR data will be updated via an addendum once that data is provided and analyzed. Merrill asked if we can wait for the data to catch up before approving the 2020 monitoring report. Runge asked if this will go to the GC and would an addendum go through the GC as well. Farnsworth asked how critical it is for the TAC to review the report again to view acres of sand habitat based on LiDAR data. Zorn asked what date the LiDAR was flown and how that relates to shifts in elevation during nesting season. Mohlman said distance to predator perch and distance to water are calculated using July imagery. Nest elevations would be based on LiDAR from November and would be



86 reported as a mean of past years we have collected this data. Farnsworth reiterated that for the
87 distance from nest to non-elevation features we use summer imagery (June/July). Nest elevation above
88 water is determined based on October/November LiDAR data, after nesting season is over.

89
90 **TAC MOTION:** *Zorn moved and Walters seconded to approve the 2020 tern and plover monitoring report*
91 *with the caveat that Tables 22 and 23 will be updated with LiDAR data when available. Report approved.*

92
93 [PRRIP 2020 Tern and Plover Monitoring and Research Report](#)

94 95 **AMWG PROGRESS REPORT**

96 Henry gave an overview of AMWG work since October 2020, which had focused mainly on terns and
97 plovers. The AMWG began to work on the AMP for whooping cranes in December. Rabbe asked about
98 materials for the AMWG to prepare for next meeting. Henry said those materials had not been sent out
99 yet as EDO is still gathering information on the uncertainties remaining for whooping cranes in
100 preparation for the next meeting. Manley asked if the list of AMWG members is current. Farnsworth
101 said yes, the list posted on the PRRIP website is current.

102 103 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

104 Merrill said he is willing to remain chair in 2021. Rabbe was identified as the current vice-chair, and also
105 willing to remain.

106
107 **TAC MOTION:** *Rabbe moved and Walters seconded to nominate Merrill as 2021 TAC Chair. Merrill*
108 *appointed.*

109
110 **TAC MOTION:** *La moved and Walters seconded to nominate Rabbe as 2021 TAC Vice Chair. Rabbe*
111 *appointed.*

112 113 **TAC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP**

114 Smith alerted the TAC that the AMP Reporting Session will be a full-day virtual session on Tuesday,
115 February 16, 2021. The EDO will meet alone with the ISAC virtually on the morning of Wednesday,
116 February 17, 2021.

117
118 Henry said she would propose a schedule for regular quarterly TAC meetings and distribute that to the
119 TAC soon.

120
121 Rabbe asked about scheduled AMWG meeting for January 12. Smith and Henry agreed to postpone the
122 first meeting of 2021 to allow the EDO additional time to work on drafts of tern and plover science plan
123 as well as prepare materials for addressing whooping crane uncertainties. The AMWG will meet on
124 January 26.

125
126 Rabbe said there is a Director's announcement slated for January 12 regarding the delisting of the tern.
127 That will officially happen sometime in the month of January and be reflected in the Federal Register.
128 Change in status will not mean a change in Program monitoring efforts. Farnsworth mentioned the need
129 to work with the Service to change the language in Program documents and website communications to
130 reflect this change in status. Drain had the same question regarding Program language for least terns
131 following delisting.



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133 **TAC MEETING END**

134 The TAC meeting concluded at 2:16 PM Central Time.