



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

Land Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2024; 10:00 AM - noon PM CST

Meeting held virtually & in-person at ED Office in Kearney, NE

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Michelle Hubbard – Member (online)

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member (online)

State of Colorado

Kara Scheel – Member (online)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Matt Rabbe – Member

State of Nebraska

Caitlin Kingsley – Alternate (online)

Ted LaGrange – Member

Environmental Entities

Cody Wagner – Member (Vice-Chair)

Power Districts

Dave Zorn – Member (Chair)

Jim Jenniges – Member

Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)

Dave Carr – Member

Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)

John Thorburn – Member

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

None

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Tim Tunnell

Other Participants

Melissa Moiser - Audubon

Josh Wiese – Crane Trust



37 **WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

38 Chairman Zorn called the meeting to order at 10:02 am Central Time. Tunnell recognized members who
39 were attending in-person at the PRRIP conference room and acknowledged members attending
40 virtually. Zorn asked for agenda modifications. None were offered. Zorn asked for the LAC’s
41 recommendation in the minutes of the May 15, 2024, LAC meeting.

42 **LAC MOTION:** Rabbe *moved*, and Thorburn *seconded* to approve the May 15, 2024, LAC Meeting
43 minutes. Minutes approved.

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45 **GENERAL UPDATE AND OTHER COMMITTEE COORDINATION**

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47 Rabbe updated the committee on the TAC. Discussed the predator management plan for tern/ plover
48 sites. Made informal decision to continue for 2025 and check back in after next year and see if there is
49 enough information to change course or not. Received an update from the whooping crane stopover vs
50 flyover working group and have an updated whooping crane monitoring protocol for the GC. Update
51 from the pallid sturgeon crew on monitoring efforts resulting in “verified-ish” evidence of spawning in
52 the Loup. Wet meadow working group are combining efforts with the Grassland Working Group to make
53 a policy/management recommendations of wet meadows/grasslands. First draft reviewed by the TAC,
54 revised and will go before the TAC & LAC again in October before GC in December.

55
56 Farnsworth updated the committee on the two big WAC efforts that are wrapping up right now:

- 57 • Investigation of ways to increase the efficiency of recharge. So, how can we recapture recharged
58 water and get it back to the river? Best way to increase our efficiency for recapturing recharged
59 water is to put an outlet in the Elwood Reservoir and get it into Plum Creek and then get it into
60 the river.
- 61 • The other effort is the choke point work, which the next WAC meeting will focus on. So, those
62 are the two big things that are going on from there to the governance committee.

63 GC meeting coming up in September at the Crane Trust is going to be very heavily water focused. The
64 Nebraska Water users will update the GC on the future of those projects, things like the exchange
65 projects and potential for more storage water at Central and follow that up with some broader water
66 talk.

67
68 **LAND OBJECTIVE STATUS & TRACT2024001 (Lindstrom) & 2024002 (Broadfoot South) LMPs**

69
70 Tunnell updated the committee on Land Objective Milestone summary, noting that there remains 183.5
71 acres to fulfill the 1,500-acre acquisition goal for the Extension. Tunnell reviewed the LMP for the newly
72 acquired BFS tract and the Lindstrom tract focusing on the restoration design and maintenance
73 activities. Rabbe pointed out PRRA and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act items in the plan that need to
74 be updated/clarified. There was also discussion regarding the monitoring and research sections of the 2
75 plans. Tunnell noted that the differences relate to the templates used and developed years ago for Non-
76 complex vs. Complex tracts. Group agreed to make the plans consistent. Tunnell and Rabbe will update
77 the plans as needed and send them out to LAC for review and approval. Then to the TAC in October and
78 GC in December.

79
80 **GRASSLAND WORKING GROUP**

81
82 Farnsworth led the discussion of potentially shifting management of grasslands from managing for short



83 structure and whooping crane habitat to managing for higher structure and flowering species for the
84 benefit of pollinators. The committee decided to use Shoemaker Island and Cottonwood Ranch as
85 examples to work with and create a 3–5-year plan for each complex over the next year. This will give
86 plenty of time for the Grassland Working Group to guide the plan development with EDO and farm
87 managers to give tenants time to react. Various management strategies were discussed including
88 rotational grazing, prescribed fire, and haying and the timing of these activities to suppress cool-season
89 exotic grasses. Infrastructure needs will also be a subject for the management plans and a short
90 discussion whether the EDO puts out an RFQ for vegetation monitoring as have in the past. Next year
91 will be the year monitoring will be needed to remain consistent with the 3-year monitoring cycle.

92

93 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

94 No items for discussion within executive session.

95

96 **PUBLIC FORUM**

97 Chairman Zorn asked for public comments, none were offered.

98 **LAC MOTION:**

- 99 • May 15, 2024, LAC Meeting minutes approved.

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101 *Future calendar events:*

102 ~~February 14, 2024 10:00 noon CDT [1st Quarter LAC meeting](#), Kearney, NE~~

103 ~~May 15, 2024 10:00 noon CDT [2nd Quarter LAC meeting](#), Kearney, NE~~

104 ~~August 14, 2024 10:00 noon CDT [3rd Quarter LAC meeting](#), Kearney, NE~~

105 ~~October 16, 2024 - 10:00- noon CDT [4th Quarter LAC meeting](#), Kearney, NE~~

106

107 **LAC MEETING END**

108 The LAC meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM Central Time.

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