



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

2 **Governance Committee (CC) Virtual Special Session**

3 Tuesday, July 27, 2021; 9:00-10:00 AM CDT

4 *Meeting held online via MS Teams.*

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6 **Governance Committee (GC)**

7 **State of Wyoming**

8 Harry LaBonde – Member

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10 **State of Colorado**

11 Don Ament – Member (2021 GC Chair)

12 JoJo La – Alternate

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14 **State of Nebraska**

15 Tom Riley – Member

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18 **Upper Platte Water Users**

19 Dennis Strauch – Member

20 Bob Mehling – Alternate

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23 **Downstream Water Users**

24 Devin Brundage – Member

25 Kent Miller – Member

26 Lyndon Vogt – Member

27 John Shadle – Alternate

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

30 Jason Farnsworth, ED

31 Malinda Henry

32 Chad Smith

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member (2021 GC Vice Chair)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Steve Small – Member

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

Environmental Entities

Brice Krohn – Member

Rich Walters – Member

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Kyle Whitaker – Alternate

Other Participants

Dave Zorn – CNPPID

Jeff Shafer, Michael Kondrack – NPPD

Mark Porath, Brian Caruso, Tom Econopouly – Service

Brian Hollis – Reclamation

Mirko Kruse – Trout Raley (CO Water Users)



1 **WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE**

2 **Introductions** – Chair Ament called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM Central Time.

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4 **Agenda** – No modifications offered.

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6 **PRRIP PALLID STURGEON (PS) RESEARCH**

7 Farnsworth introduced the two draft contracts for PS research (genetics and habitat/spawning),
8 summarized the budgets for and processes related to both contracts, and also discussed the issues
9 raised during the last Finance Committee (FC) virtual meeting. LaBonde asked the EDO to explain the
10 timing of how fish are caught and how genetics work is being done. Farnsworth said there is a very high
11 certainty about what is or isn't a PS based on morphological identification features, candidate fish are
12 selected for tagging and then the fish are released. Genetics work is done on the back end after fish are
13 tagged and released to identify hybrids. Shadle agreed and said most of the researchers on the river
14 know the fish but can also identify fish that are uncertain and need to have genetics work completed.
15 Genetic results are then used to limit continued investment in tracking and inclusion of data from
16 hybrids or shovelnose sturgeon. Riley re-iterated some of his comments from the FC meeting: 1) using
17 standardized contracts from the EDO office, which is important; 2) academic freedom is important, the
18 EDO pushed these contracts as far as we can ever get in this regard; 3) the equipment purchased for Dr.
19 Heist will stay with SIU and will be outdated and hard to manage several years down the road.

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21 **GC Motion** – *LaBonde moved and Riley seconded approval of the SIU and UNL pallid sturgeon research*
22 *contracts. Contracts approved.*

23
24 **GC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP**

25 **Action Items & Meeting Feedback** – None.

26
27 **2021 GC Meetings:**

- 28 ○ GC *In-Person* Quarterly Meeting – **September 14-15, 2021 @** Kearney, NE
29 ○ GC *Virtual* Special Session – **November 10, 2021**; discussion of FY22 budget and work plan
30 ○ GC *In-Person* Quarterly Meeting – **December 7-8, 2021 @** Denver, CO

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32 **GC MEETING END**

33 Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM Central Time.

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35 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from July 27, 2021, GC Virtual Special Session**

- 36 1) Approved the SIU and UNL pallid sturgeon research contracts.