



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

November 2022 Governance Committee (GC) Virtual Special Session Minutes

November 9, 2022

Governance Committee (GC)

State of Wyoming

Brandon Gebhart – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member (2022 GC Chair)

State of Colorado

Amy Ostdiek – Member

Emily Zmak – Alternate

Kara Scheel – Alternate

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Steve Small – Member

Mark Porath – Alternate

Matt Rabbe – Alternate

State of Nebraska

Tom Riley – Member

Environmental Entities

Brice Krohn – Member

Bill Taddicken – Member

Rich Walters – Member

Upper Platte Water Users

Dennis Strauch – Member

Bob Mehling – Alternate

Owen Williams – Alternate

Colorado Water Users

Kyle Whitaker – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Jason Marks – Alternate

Downstream Water Users

Kent Miller – Member

John Shadle – Member

Devin Brundage – Member

Lyndon Vogt – Member

Other Participants

Jeff Shafer – NPPD

Brian Caruso – Service

Melissa Mosier – Audubon Nebraska, VESPR

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth – ED

Bridget Barron

Justin Brei

Libby Casavant

Patrick Farrell

Malinda Henry

Sarah Hinshaw

Mallory Jaymes

Kaley Keldsen

Chad Smith

Tim Tunnell

Seth Turner

Alicia Uribe

Malia Volke

Ed Weschler



46 **Welcome and Administrative**

47 Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups
48 proceeded with introductions.

49
50 Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM Central Time. This was a virtual meeting in
51 Microsoft Teams. The Teams attendance list will serve as record of attendance.

52
53 **FY23 Program budget**

54 Farnsworth and EDO staff summarized all FY23 PRRIP budget/work plan items. General discussion
55 points:

56
57 ADMINISTRATION

58 Farnsworth discussed all budget line items.

- 59 - Displayed Program personnel and amount of time spent of PRRIP projects
- 60 - Average 14.5 full time employee equivalent (FTE) since 2015, 14.7 FTE close to average for 2023 FY
- 61 - 40% admin, 60% technical cost
- 62 - Farnsworth discussed each employee’s role for the Program and how their roles interact with others
63 at various levels
- 64 - Farnsworth continued by summarizing costs associated with each of these line items.

65
66 No questions or comments from GC on ADMINISTRATION budget line items.

67
68 LAND PLAN

69 Tunnel summarized costs included under line items LP-3 – LP-7 and referred the GC to a more detailed
70 Appendix A summarizing Land Plan costs by complex.

71
72 No questions or comments from GC on LAND PLAN budget items.

73
74 WATER PLAN

75 Turner summarized costs included under WATER PLAN line items.

76
77 No questions or comments from GC on WATER PLAN budget items.

78
79 SCIENCE PLAN

80 Henry summarizes costs included under SCIENCE PLAN line items.

- 81 - Freeman asked: Two Special Advisors; explain what Special Advisors do compared to what the ISAC
82 does and then what Program peer review does for (1) sediment augmentation and (2) climate
83 change.
 - 84 ○ Henry: We currently do not have specific technical experience on climate change in our
85 current ISAC membership. Special Advisors and ISAC allow for input into active process
86 (study design/implementation/evaluation) as it evolves, whereas peer review comes in after
87 the study has been done to evaluate it on technical merit from the standpoint of someone
88 who has not invested in the process. Special Advisors and ISAC provide guidance/feedback
89 during the process. Peer reviewers can only provide feedback at the back end. When input is
90 provided and what type of input is received is the difference between those categories of
91 advisement.



- 92 ○ Farnsworth: In the case of sediment augmentation, we would be looking for a Special
93 Advisor with a very specific set of skills to identify and deal with systematic vs. random error
94 in these remote-sensed products to help us better answer our question. This is a very new
95 field with very few people at the forefront of this emerging science with the technical skills
96 to deal with this. Want to get their input as special advisors early in the process
97 - Riley: Accounting question on PD-18 line item for Equipment Costs. Why using actual cost of use and
98 maintenance) and not the typical mileage reimbursement costs in budget?
99 ○ Farnsworth: Use of vehicles for field work on river ground and sandpits is not comparable to
100 typical highway mileage reimbursement. Field work is harder on vehicles and that higher use
101 and maintenance cost needs to be included.
102

103 **Executive Session**

104 **GC MOTION:** *Riley moved and Gebhart seconded to enter Executive Session.*

105 Motion passed, Executive session began at 11:24 AM Central Time.
106

107 **GC MOTION:** *Riley moved and Gebhart seconded to exit Executive Session.*

108 Motion passed, Executive session ended at 12:14 PM Central Time.
109

110 **Executive Session Motions**

111 **GC MOTION:** *Walters moved and Zmak seconded to proceed with property appraisal and return to the*
112 *GC with appraised value and negotiation information, but no purchase commitment until further GC*
113 *review.*
114

115 *Discussion:*

- 116 • Farnsworth reminded GC members of voting rules. 9/10 motion passes as long as all Signatories
117 approve. If any signatory opposes the motion, the motion fails.
118 • No signal of opposition from any GC member.
119

120 Motion passed.
121

122 **GC Meeting Review and Wrap-Up**

123 Meeting concluded.
124

125 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 2022 GC Special Session**

- 126 1) Approved proceeding with property appraisal and returning to the GC with appraised value and
127 negotiation information, but no purchase commitment until further GC review.