



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

**Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting – Cheyenne, WY**

Wyoming Water Development Office

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 & Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Tom Riley, State of Nebraska – 2023 GC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #1 – Tuesday, June 13, 2023		
Name	Affiliation	Member or Alternate
<b>Department of the Interior</b>		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Member
Drue DeBerry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – 2023 Vice Chair (virtual)	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
<b>State of Wyoming</b>		
Brandon Gebhart	Wyoming State Engineer	Member
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
<b>State of Colorado</b>		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
<b>State of Nebraska</b>		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – 2023 Chair	Member
<b>Upper Platte Water Users</b>		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District	Alternate
Owen Williams	Upper Platte Water Users Association	Alternate
<b>Colorado Water Users</b>		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley	Alternate
Jason Marks	Denver Water	Alternate
<b>Downstream Water Users</b>		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Kent Miller	Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD)	Member
John Shadle	Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)	Member
John Thorburn	Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)	Member
<b>Environmental Entities</b>		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Brice Krohn	The Crane Trust	Member
<b>Executive Director’s Office (EDO)</b>		
Jason Farnsworth, BCES	Executive Director	
Chadwin Smith, Ph.D.	Science Policy Coordinator	



Tim Tunnell, M.S.	Land Plan Coordinator (virtual)
Seth Turner, P.E.	Water Plan Coordinator
Malinda Henry, Ph.D.	Science Plan Coordinator
Justin Brei, P.E.	Engineering/Colorado Coordinator
Jason Bruggeman, Ph.D.	Species Monitoring Coordinator (virtual)
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager (virtual)
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist (virtual)
Mallory Jaymes, M.S.	Whooping Crane Biologist (virtual)
Ed Weschler	Water Resources Engineer
Libby Casavant, M.S.	Hydraulic Engineer
Kristen Cognac, M.S.	Hydrogeologist
Helen Davis, M.S.	Geospatial Analyst
Sarah Fancher, Ph.D.	Fluvial Geomorphologist
<b>Other Participants</b>	
Jennifer Hoeting, Ph.D.	Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) (virtual)
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska DNR
Ryan Kelly	Nebraska DNR
	Nebraska Attorney General’s Office
Mike Drain	CNPPID
Dave Zorn	CNPPID
Tom Smrdel	GEI (virtual)
Melissa Mosier	Audubon Nebraska
Barry Lawrence	Wyoming Water Development Office
Andy Nicewicz	Colorado Attorney General’s Office
John Mohr	LRE Water
Abigail Budiwine	Wyoming Attorney General’s Office
	Wyoming Attorney General’s Office
Kevin Urie	Colorado Water Users (virtual)
Rich Belt	SPWRAP (virtual)
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR (virtual)
Dan Fricke	JEO (virtual)

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<b>#1</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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**Introduction** – Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM Mountain Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

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**Agenda** – No modifications offered.

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**Minutes:**

14

**GC MOTION:** *Ostdiek moved and Porath seconded to approve the March 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

15

16



17 Miller moved and Merrill seconded April 2023 GC Special Session minutes. **Minutes approved.**

18

<b>#2 COMMITTEE UPDATES</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> General update on recent work of PRRIP Advisory Committees.
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19 **Land Advisory Committee (LAC)** – Zorn provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC  
20 discussed the PRRIP not being the top bid for the BELF property, there may be an opportunity for a  
21 management agreement. The LAC and TAC are going to form a joint committee to work with the EDO on  
22 issues related to grassland vegetation.

23

24 **Water Advisory Committee (WAC)** – Turner provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC  
25 last met on and discussed the germination EA release, federal depletions reporting, Platte Basin  
26 hydrology and snowpack, state depletions reporting. The WAC did a PRRIP water projects tour (about 40  
27 participants) of 12 stops over two days. The tour started at Kingsley Dam and ended at Cottonwood  
28 Ranch.

29

30 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Scheel provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC  
31 last met on April 12. The TAC will shift its meeting schedule to two half-days going forward. The TAC  
32 discussed Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) guidance from the Service; the grassland vegetation  
33 monitoring report; the Lower Platte River Modeling RFP; whooping crane monitoring; and onboarding  
34 outside science. Riley asked about the NLEB guidance and next steps. Farnsworth said there is guidance  
35 from the Service and we discuss later today how the Program might fit in with that guidance.

36

37 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Merrill provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC last met on May  
38 30. The FC discussed the PRRIP Procurement Policy; approved the RFP to remove the lodge at the Dyer  
39 Tract; approved five ISAC member contract agreements; approved the Expanded Recapture RFP;  
40 approved the Lower Platte River Modeling RFP; and the FC discussed PRRIP indexing.

41

<b>#3 PRRIP OUTREACH</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> General update on PRRIP outreach activities.
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42 **PRESENTATIONS**

- 43 • Jason Farnsworth and Malinda Henry were participants of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy
- 44 Platte/Republican Basin Interface Panel on March 23rd, 2023 in Kearney, NE.
- 45 • Jason Farnsworth presented on PRRIP to the Central Nebraska Senior College on March 27th, 2023
- 46 in Kearney, NE.
- 47 • Malinda Henry presented on the Program summarizing water, land, and science objectives to the
- 48 Kearney Rotary Club on May 1st, 2023 in Kearney, NE.
- 49 • Jason presented on PRRIP to the Kearney Action Network on May 30th, 2023 in Kearney, NE.

50

51 **EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 52 • There were no exhibits this quarter.

53

54 **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 55 • The Program plans to exhibit at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 12th through
- 56 14th 2023. Husker Harvest Days is recognized as the World’s Largest Totally Irrigated Working Farm
- 57 Show™ and features the most extensive state-of-the-art information and technology available for
- 58 today’s agricultural producers.



59 **MEDIA COVERAGE/OTHER**

- 60 • The 2021/2022 Biennial Report in process for September GC meeting.
- 61 • Outreach Communications Plan in process since March.

<b>#4 PRRIP BUDGET</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> General update on current status of FY22 budget.
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63 **PRRIP FY23 Budget** – Farnsworth provided a status update on the FY23 budget.

64 **FY23 Procurement** – Smith summarized major procurement items for the June GC meeting.

65 **PRRIP Procurement Policy** – Farnsworth summarized proposed changes to the Procurement Policy related to “Made in America” guidance from the federal government that apply to grant programs like the PRRIP is under the Bureau of Reclamation.

66 **GC MOTION:** *Williams moved and Ostdiek seconded to approve the amended PRRIP Procurement Policy.*  
67 **Motion approved.**

<b>#5 PRRIP INDEXING</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Discussion of latest PRRIP indexing.
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68 Merrill updated the GC on 2022 PRRIP indexing. Indexed numbers have been revised to use the correct indexing number that updated since 2020. This resulted in a very small change in the appropriation ceiling. The numbers provided by Merrill are still under review in Billings, MT but should be ready for official GC review soon.

<b>#6 SECOND INCREMENT POLICY FRAME</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Update on status of Policy Frame.
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69 Smith gave the GC an update on a few key priorities in the PRRIP Second Increment Policy Frame. The GC directed Smith to provide future updates in a document separate from the original Policy Frame. Smith agreed.

<b>#7 PRRIP SCIENCE PLAN</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Discussion recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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70 **Whooping Cranes:**

71 **Spring 2023 Whooping Crane Monitoring Update** – Jaymes gave the GC an update on the results of WC monitoring during Spring 2023. Brundage asked what the flow conditions were this spring given this is the best spring of WC use since 2018. Jaymes said she observed flows being lower this past season than in previous spring monitoring seasons. Flows between hydropeaking events was around 200-400 cfs, so very low.

72 **WC Monitoring Period** – Bruggeman summarized proposed changes to the annual spring and fall WC survey periods due to changes in WC migration over the past decade. Brundage asked if this shift in monitoring dates has been seen in any other stopover locations other than the Platte. Bruggeman said the data comes from all of Nebraska so the shift applies to the whole state, but we did not look anywhere beyond Nebraska. Brundage asked if this might inform management actions. Farnsworth said it will make our monitoring effort more efficient and effective, and this monitoring is important in evaluating crane use of the central Platte. We would have to use a different data set (cellular telemetry) to include birds that might not stop in Nebraska and fly over the Platte. Freeman asked if this will still allow us to look at trends over time. Henry said this will make it even more effective at looking at trends over time.



100 **GC MOTION:** Merrill moved and Gebhart seconded to approve the proposed changes to the annual  
101 spring and fall WC monitoring periods. **Monitoring period changes approved.**  
102

103 **WC Telemetry Data Sharing Agreement** – Henry gave the GC an update on efforts to come to an  
104 agreement with the WC Telemetry Tracking Partnership on telemetry data sharing and use.  
105

#### 106 **Pallid Sturgeon (PS):**

107 **PS Research Update** – Henry gave an update to the GC on the latest from the ongoing PS research in the  
108 lower Platte River. Henry also updated the GC on the status of the PS data sharing agreement with the  
109 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).  
110

111 **Lower Platte River Modeling RFP** – Casavant discussed the purpose and scope of the RFP, approved by  
112 the FC in May. Riley asked about the presence of voids in the data in areas of deep flow. Casavant, Brei,  
113 and Farnsworth said we have about 90% of the coverage but we need help from the potential contractor  
114 to fill in the data voids.  
115

116 *The GC appointed the following Proposal Selection Panel: Tom Riley (State of Nebraska); Jeff Shafer*  
117 *(NPPD); Kara Scheel (State of Colorado); Melissa Mosier (Audubon Nebraska); and a Wyoming*  
118 *representative TBD. Aaron Mittelstet (UNL) is welcome to participate as an observer.*  
119

#### 120 **Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB):**

121 Porath updated the GC on the interim consultation period for the NLEB. Davis gave a presentation to the  
122 GC on possible options for NLEB monitoring related to the PRRIP. Freeman asked how long the site-  
123 specific monitoring takes to complete. Davis said acoustic monitoring for 14 days. Drain asked if we  
124 would use the same equipment for baseline monitoring vs. site-specific monitoring. Davis said yes, it  
125 would be the same equipment. Porath said in 2024 the Service database will overlay with suitable  
126 habitat which will expand the potential for impacts. Gebhart asked if what the PRRIP is doing (for  
127 endangered species) is exempt from this in any way and if not, does NLEB habitat outweigh target  
128 species habitat. Farnsworth said we do footprint consultations regularly; this will be an additional  
129 species we have to work with. Freeman asked if it is too cumbersome to build in a process without tree  
130 clearing projects so that we do it on the early end of the work season. If we confirm absence, we go  
131 ahead. If there is presence, we wait until the end of November to proceed. Farnsworth said that would  
132 fit with our current process. Davis said the only concern would be the potential slow-down due to the  
133 Service project approval process.  
134

135 Marks asked how many restoration projects may be happening in the future that would be subject to  
136 this. Farnsworth said we seem to get 10-20 acres of tree clearing and other habitat work every year or  
137 every other year. Freeman asked about the status of the tri-color bat. Porath said it is proposed being  
138 listed as endangered, should be a decision this fall. Krohn asked about the extent of area we are talking  
139 about. Davis said she did a quick analysis of the area, there would probably be something like 30 PRRIP  
140 data points (areas) that would need to be surveyed. Thorburn asked if the equipment gives you data on  
141 distance or direction. Davis said no, it just picks up the call and you use software to determine species.  
142

#### 143 **Sediment Augmentation:**

144 Fancher, Weschler, and Casavant gave the GC a presentation on the results of the first five years of  
145 sediment augmentation (2017-2021) in the south channel along Jeffrey Island and what those results say



146 about potential sediment augmentation in 2023. Farnsworth summarized sediment augmentation  
147 options for 2023.

148  
149 **GC MOTION:** *Riley moved and Miller seconded to suspend sediment augmentation in 2023 and direct the*  
150 *EDO develop a process by which to examine the North Channel (Jeffrey Island) sand dam as a potential*  
151 *long-term solution to channel incision in the South Channel (Jeffrey Island).* **Motion passed.**

152

<b>#8</b>	<b>PRRIP INDEPENDENT SCIENCE</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Discuss issues related to the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and Peer Review.
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153 Smith updated the GC on the status of identifying a new ISAC member to fill the open fluvial  
154 geomorphology seat. The GC agreed to consider appointment of the new ISAC member via electronic  
155 vote once a candidate is recommended by the ISAC Selection Panel.

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<b>GC MEETING END</b>	<b>5:30 PM Mountain Time</b>
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Wyoming Water Development Office

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Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #2 – Wednesday, June 14, 2023		
Name	Affiliation	Member or Alternate
<b>Department of the Interior</b>		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Member
Drue DeBerry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – 2023 Vice Chair (virtual)	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
<b>State of Wyoming</b>		
Brandon Gebhart	Wyoming State Engineer	Member
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
<b>State of Colorado</b>		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
<b>State of Nebraska</b>		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – 2023 Chair	Member
<b>Upper Platte Water Users</b>		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District	Alternate
Owen Williams	Upper Platte Water Users Association	Alternate
<b>Colorado Water Users</b>		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley	Alternate
Jason Marks	Denver Water	Alternate
<b>Downstream Water Users</b>		
Mike Drain	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Alternate
John Shadle	Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)	Member
Kent Miller	Twin Platte Nature Resources District (TPNRD) (virtual)	Member
John Thorburn	Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)	Alternate
<b>Environmental Entities</b>		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Brice Krohn	The Crane Trust	Member
<b>Executive Director’s Office (EDO)</b>		
Jason Farnsworth, BCES	Executive Director	
Chadwin Smith, Ph.D.	Science Policy Coordinator	



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Malinda Henry, Ph.D.	Science Plan Coordinator
Justin Brei, P.E.	Engineering/Colorado Coordinator
Jason Bruggeman, Ph.D.	Species Monitoring Coordinator (virtual)
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager (virtual)
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist (virtual)
Mallory Jaymes, M.S.	Whooping Crane Biologist (virtual)
Ed Weschler	Water Resources Engineer
Libby Casavant, M.S.	Hydraulic Engineer
Kristen Cognac, M.S.	Hydrogeologist
Helen Davis, M.S.	Geospatial Analyst
Sarah Fancher, Ph.D.	Fluvial Geomorphologist
<b>Other Participants</b>	
Jennifer Hoeting, Ph.D.	Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) (virtual)
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska DNR
Ryan Kelly	Nebraska DNR
	Nebraska Attorney General’s Office
Dave Zorn	CNPPID
Tom Smrdel	GEI (virtual)
Melissa Mosier	Audubon Nebraska
Barry Lawrence	Wyoming Water Development Office
Andy Nicewicz	Colorado Attorney General’s Office (virtual)
John Mohr	LRE Water
Abigail Budiwine	Wyoming Attorney General’s Office
	Wyoming Attorney General’s Office
Kevin Urie	Colorado Water Users (virtual)
Rich Belt	SPWRAP (virtual)
Caitlin Kingsley	(virtual)
Dan Fricke	JEO (virtual)

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<b>#9</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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166 **Introduction** – Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 7:59 AM Mountain Time. The in-person and  
 167 virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

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169 **Agenda Modifications** – none offered.

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<b>#10</b>	<b>WATER ACTION PLAN (WAP)</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Update on recent WAP implementation activities.
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171 Turner gave the GC an update on:

- 172 • Water Milestone Summary
- 173 • CNPPID irrigator lease contract
- 174 • Water project operations (Pathfinder, recapture wells, Cottonwood Ranch broad-scale recharge)



- 175 • Germination suppression flow management action (Environmental Account release)
- 176 • North Platte Chokepoint engineering services project – Turner said a team led by Anderson
- 177 Consulting Engineers was selected for the chokepoint study. Contracting is complete, a project
- 178 kickoff meeting was held on May 24, and work is underway on Task Order #1, which includes a
- 179 comprehensive review of chokepoint documentation, scoping of the alternatives analysis, and
- 180 initiation of baseline model updates. A meeting with the Chokepoint Planning Workgroup is
- 181 anticipated in late July.” Freeman and Whitaker asked to establish a formal Chokepoint Planning
- 182 Workgroup and requested the current membership list be distributed to the GC for review and
- 183 possible additions. Merrill read the membership list and Freeman withdrew her comment regarding
- 184 distribution and membership additions because the current group has a wide set of members.
- 185 • Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study RFP – *The GC appointed the following Proposal Selection*
- 186 *Panel: John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD); Tyler Thulin (CNPPID); Brock Merrill (USBR); Kyle Whitaker*
- 187 *(Northern Water); Rich Walters (TNC).*

188  
 189 Turner summarized the one-year lease agreements with CPNRD and NPPD. Whitaker asked if we are  
 190 whittling away at the pre-paid volume. Turner said this is separate from the pre-paid recharge  
 191 agreement with CNPPID that was approved in December. Farnsworth clarified that the CPNRD and  
 192 NPPD leases are part of the nearly \$25 million included in this year’s budget and that we were hoping  
 193 these could be lump-sum agreements for the remainder of the Extension but negotiations are ongoing  
 194 so we are looking at one-year agreements at least for this year. Whitaker noted his concern with  
 195 continuing to use one-year agreements and not securing longer-term agreements that could be  
 196 extended into the Second Increment.

197  
 198 **GC MOTION:** Merrill moved and Gebhart seconded to approve the one-year lease agreements with  
 199 CPNRD and NPPD. The Downstream Water Users abstained. **Agreements approved.**

<b>#11</b>	<b>PRRIP TIERED CONSULTATIONS</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Discussion of latest PRRIP tiered consultations.
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201 Porath summarized consultations from 2022. There were five consultations conducted in Wyoming.  
 202 Turner said we compiled a master list of consultations that is now available on the PRRIP website and it  
 203 has been updated to reflect the 2022 consultations. Freeman asked about the MOA to cover  
 204 consultations and why it has not been finalized. Porath said the main issue is multiple personnel changes  
 205 at the Service in both Nebraska and Colorado. The MOA is now stalled with a new Solicitor. Freeman  
 206 said this is very important for the Colorado Water Users and it has been over three years since this  
 207 process began.

208  
 209 Riley mentioned the recent Supreme Court decision (Sackett ruling) related to Waters of the United  
 210 States. Freeman summarized her understanding of the ruling and its regulatory implications related to  
 211 the Clean Water Act (waters and wetlands).

<b>#12</b>	<b>LAND PLAN</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Update on recent Land Plan implementation activities.
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212  
 213 **Land Milestone Summary** – Tunnell summarized recent Land Plan activities.

214  
 215 **Prescribed Fire** – Tunnell updated the GC on PRRIP prescribed fire activities. Scholl Fire is now under  
 216 contract and they mobilized this spring to conduct burns. They conducted one burn near Lexington



217 (DeBoer Tract) and one at Cottonwood Ranch that required some backup. Persistent windy and dry  
218 conditions after that ended the fire season.

219  
220 **Platte River Recreation Access (PRRA) Program** – Zorn discussed highlights from 2022 and proposed  
221 changes to the program:

- 222 • Change maximum number of reservations to 4.
- 223 • EDO complete parking lot repairs where needed and install permanent parking lot at Area K.
- 224 • Add waterfowl hunting as an existing use within the slightly modified mapped geographic  
225 boundary of Area A. This excludes anything North of the high bank on the Eastern half (river)  
226 and all portions of the OCSW sand peninsula; but includes the water surrounding the OCSW and  
227 the boundary as is on the West half. Access on the land and water surrounding the OCSW would  
228 be open to all uses but access in the sand area of OCSW remains closed to access and boats are  
229 not allowed. Signage would need to get updated if approved.
- 230 • NGPC to add fish harvest survey question on public surveys.
- 231 • Add waterfowl hunting on Area K as an acceptable recreation use and remove 100-yard buffer  
232 from truck stop as exclusion area consistent with NGPC regulations on shooting distance from  
233 dwellings. The open area would include everything else except the sand island portion of the  
234 OCSW (water open but no boats allowed).
- 235 • NGPC will modify reservation system to keep past reservation data visible.
- 236 • Open Area B back up for rifle deer hunting, including the lottery.

237  
238 Shadle suggested the EDO contact the local Conservation Officer for Area A and inform them of the new  
239 waterfowl hunting allowance to help reduce possible conflicts with surrounding landowners. Farnsworth  
240 agreed.

241  
242 **GC MOTION:** Gebhart moved and Ostdiek seconded to approve the proposed changes to the PRRA from  
243 the Land Advisory Committee (LAC). Changes approved.

244  
245 **GC MOTION:** Mehling moved and Krohn seconded to approve the five-year agreement with the Nebraska  
246 Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) to administer the PRRA. Agreement approved.

247  
248 **Grassland Vegetation Monitoring** – Tunnell summarized the results of the 2022 Grassland Vegetation  
249 Monitoring report.

250  
251 **GC MOTION:** Gebhart moved and Drain seconded to approve the 2022 Grassland Vegetation Monitoring  
252 Report. Report approved.

#13	PUBLIC COMMENT	Agenda Item Objective: Public comment period on PRRIP activities.
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254 None offered.

#14	EXECUTIVE SESSION	Agenda Item Objective: GC member discussion of sensitive land, water, and policy items.
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256 **GC MOTION:** Drain moved and Gebhart seconded to enter Executive Session to discuss issues related to  
257 PRRIP land administration and management. GC entered Executive Session at 9:27 AM Mountain Time.



258 **GC MOTION:** *Drain moved and Ostdiek seconded to exit Executive Session. GC exited Executive Session at*  
259 *9:34 AM Mountain Time.*

#15	<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTIONS</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> GC consideration of motions discussed during Executive Session.
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261 None offered.

#16	<b>GC MEETING REVIEW &amp; WRAP-UP</b>	<b>Agenda Item Objective:</b> Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule.
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263 **Action Items and Meeting Feedback** – Riley requested a change in the September GC Quarterly Meeting  
264 to accommodate scheduling conflicts. GC agreed to move the meeting to September 18-19, 2023 in  
265 Kearney, NE. The GC also noted the December 2023 Quarterly Meeting would be in Loveland, CO.

266 Upcoming GC meetings:

- 267 • **September 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
- 268     September 18-19, 2023 @ Kearney, NE
- 269
- 270
- 271 • **2023 Fall ISAC Meeting:**
- 272     October 10-12, 2023 @ Kearney, NE
- 273
- 274 • **GC Virtual Special Session on FY2024 Budget & Work Plan:**
- 275     November 8, 2023
- 276     10:00 AM-12:00 PM Central Time *via Teams*
- 277
- 278 • **December 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
- 279     December 5-6, 2023 @ Loveland, CO
- 280
- 281 • **2024 PRRIP Science Plan Reporting Session:**
- 282     February 20-22, 2024 @ Omaha, NE
- 283

<b>GC MEETING END</b>	<b>10:00 AM Mountain Time</b>
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284  
285 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from June 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting**

- 286 1) Approved the March 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting minutes.
- 287 2) Approved the April 2023 GC Special Session Minutes.
- 288 3) Approved the amended PRRIP Procurement Policy.
- 289 4) Approved changes recommended by the TAC to the annual spring and fall whooping crane  
290 monitoring periods.
- 291 5) Approved a motion to suspend sediment augmentation in 2023 and to direct the EDO develop a  
292 process by which to examine the North Channel (Jeffrey Island) sand dam as a potential long-term  
293 solution to channel incision in the South Channel (Jeffrey Island).
- 294 6) Approved one-year surface water leasing agreements with NPPD and CPNRD.
- 295 7) Approved the following changes to the PRRIP Program as recommended by the LAC:
- 296     • Change maximum number of reservations to 4.
- 297     • EDO complete parking lot repairs where needed and install permanent parking lot at Area K.



- 298 • Add waterfowl hunting as an existing use within the slightly modified mapped geographic
- 299 boundary of Area A. This excludes anything North of the high bank on the Eastern half (river)
- 300 and all portions of the OCSW sand peninsula; but includes the water surrounding the OCSW and
- 301 the boundary as is on the West half. Access on the land and water surrounding the OCSW would
- 302 be open to all uses but access in the sand area of OCSW remains closed to access and boats are
- 303 not allowed. Signage would need to get updated if approved.
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- 305 • Add waterfowl hunting on Area K as an acceptable recreation use and remove 100-yard buffer
- 306 from truck stop as exclusion area consistent with NGPC regulations on shooting distance from
- 307 dwellings. The open area would include everything else except the sand island portion of the
- 308 OCSW (water open but no boats allowed).
- 309 • NGPC will modify reservation system to keep past reservation data visible.
- 310 • Open Area B back up for rifle deer hunting, including the lottery.
- 311 8) Approved the five-year agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) to
- 312 administer the PRRA.
- 313 9) Approved the 2022 Grassland Vegetation Monitoring Report.
- 314 10) Appointed the following Proposal Selection Panel for the Lower Platte River Modeling RFP: Tom
- 315 Riley (State of Nebraska); Jeff Shafer (NPPD); Kara Scheel (State of Colorado); Melissa Mosier
- 316 (Audubon Nebraska); and a Wyoming representative TBD. Aaron Mittelstet (UNL) is welcome to
- 317 participate as an observer.
- 318 11) Appointed the following Proposal Selection Panel for the Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study
- 319 RFP: John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD); Tyler Thulin (CNPPID); Brock Merrill (USBR); Kyle Whitaker
- 320 (Northern Water); and Rich Walters (TNC).