



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

Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting – Kearney, NE

Kearney Public Library

Monday, September 18, 2023 & Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Tom Riley, State of Nebraska – 2023 GC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #1 – Monday, September 18, 2023		
Name	Affiliation	Member or Alternate
Department of the Interior		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Member
Chris Wright	Assistant Regional Director, Missouri Basin & Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions (USBR)	Attendee
Drue DeBerry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – 2023 Vice Chair	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Brandon Gebhart	Wyoming State Engineer	Member
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (virtual)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – 2023 Chair	Member
Jennifer Schellpeper	DNR	Alternate
Upper Platte Water Users		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District	Alternate
Owen Williams	Upper Platte Water Users Association	Alternate
Colorado Water Users		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Jason Marks	Denver Water	Alternate
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley (virtual)	Alternate
Downstream Water Users		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Kent Miller	Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD)	Member
Jeff Shafer	Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)	Alternate
John Thorburn	Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)	Alternate
Environmental Entities		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Brice Krohn	The Crane Trust	Member
Melissa Mosier	Audubon Nebraska	Member



Executive Director’s Office (EDO)	
Jason Farnsworth, BCES	Executive Director
Chadwin Smith, Ph.D.	Science Policy Coordinator
Tim Tunnell, M.S.	Land Plan Coordinator
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
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist (virtual)
Other Participants	
Jennifer Hoeting, Ph.D.	Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) (virtual)
Dave Marmorek	ISAC (virtual)
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska DNR
Justin Levene	Nebraska Attorney General’s Office
Mike Drain	CNPPID
Barry Lawrence	Wyoming Water Development Office (virtual)
Andy Nicewicz	Colorado Attorney General’s Office (virtual)
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR
Avery Dresser	Nebraska DNR
Kari ?	Nebraska DNR
NAME?	Nebraska DNR
George Mosher	State of Wyoming (virtual)
Michelle Hubbard	State of Wyoming (virtual)
Michelle Martin	Anderson Consulting Engineers (virtual)
Brian Murphy	River Works (virtual)
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (virtual)
Richard Belt	SPWRAP (virtual)
Lalit Jha	JEO (virtual)

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#1	WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE	Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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9 **Introduction** – Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM Central Time. The in-person and virtual
 10 groups proceeded with introductions. Merrill introduced Chris Wright as the new Assistant Regional
 11 Director, Missouri Basin & Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions (USBR).

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 13 **Agenda** – No modifications offered.

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 15 **Minutes:**

16 **GC MOTION:** *Brundage moved and Strauch seconded to approve the June 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting*
 17 *minutes. Minutes approved.*



#2 COMMITTEE UPDATES	Agenda Item Objective: General update on recent work of PRRIP Advisory Committees.
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18 **Land Advisory Committee (LAC)** – Wagner provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC last
 19 met on August 16. Discussion topics included: Dyer Tract and Myer Estate property disposal; future role
 20 of the LAC; reviewed GIS platforms for Grassland Working Group; comment period for Land Restoration
 21 & Management Framework.

22
 23 **Water Advisory Committee (WAC)** – Steinke provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC
 24 last met on August 1. Discussion topics included: Platte Basin hydrology; leasing and recharge projects;
 25 temporary hydrologic conditions; and plans for a fall EAC/RCC meeting.

26
 27 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Scheel provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC
 28 last met in July. Discussion topics: germination suppression releases; Wet Meadow Hydrology Study;
 29 Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation; spring whooping crane monitoring report; Ecotope
 30 article (on GC agenda); next meeting in October with the ISAC.

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 32 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Merrill provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC last met on
 33 August 8. Discussion topics: update on chokepoint engineering project; updated peer review contract
 34 form; and an RFQ for in-channel disking.

#3 PRRIP BUDGET	Agenda Item Objective: General update on current status of FY22 budget.
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36 **PRRIP FY23 Budget** – Farnsworth noted the PRRIP had a clean annual federal single audit. Farnsworth
 37 provided a status update on the FY23 budget. Brei discussed server needs for the PRRIP and options for
 38 an upgrade to server equipment.

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 40 **GC MOTION:** Merrill moved and Gebhart seconded to approve an increase of \$17,300 in approved and
 41 available funds in PRRIP FY23 Budget Line Item PD-8 and to authorize acquisition of upgraded server
 42 equipment. **Motion passed.**

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 44 **FY23 Procurement** – Smith summarized major procurement items for the June GC meeting. Marks asked
 45 how Peer Reviewers are identified. Smith said from his network of subject matter experts, general
 46 exploration of subject matter experts, authors of key papers in the field, and asking for names from EDO
 47 staff and PRRIP participants. Mosier asked what will be in the proposed FY24 budget relative to
 48 sediment augmentation. Smith said that will be a major discussion topic at the upcoming TAC and ISAC
 49 meeting – sand dam RFP only, also include funds for sediment augmentation implementation in 2024?
 50 The EDO needs TAC input and guidance on this in getting to the associated FY24 budget discussion with
 51 the Finance Committee and Governance Committee.

#4 PRRIP SCIENCE PLAN	Agenda Item Objective: Discussion recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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53 **Whooping Crane (WC):**
 54 Bruggeman summarized the Spring 2023 WC Monitoring Report. Brundage asked if the metrics reported
 55 include WC that did not roost on the channel. Bruggeman said unobstructed channel width and nearest
 56 forest are calculated for riverine use sites only. Henry said the figures showing flow conditions and WC
 57 groups detected include both on- and off-channel observations of WC groups. Whitaker asked if there
 58 are other metrics that matter for WC. He asked if we had looked at stay length. Bruggeman said that is a
 59 Big Question in the Science Plan. Farnsworth said as clarification we don't let channels narrow to 650



60 feet, we try to manage for that as a minimum suitable habitat metric. Riley said for Figure #3 in the
61 report, it would be interesting to show the distribution for all years on another figure.

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63 **GC MOTION:** Gebhart moved and Walters seconded to approve the PRRIP Spring 2023 Whooping Crane
64 Monitoring Report. **Motion passed.**

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66 **Piping Plover (PP):**

67 Keldsen provided an update from the 2023 summer tern/plover nesting season. There was one plover
68 nest on a river sandbar this summer. Marks asked if there was any predator control at this location.
69 Keldsen said no. Both plovers and terns did well this year. We had fewer plover nests this year but
70 better nest success, resulting in the highest number of plover fledglings since 2012.

71
72 Henry provided an update on a recent juvenile eagle mortality event on a PRRIP OCSW site (eagle was
73 caught in a temporary predator fence). The mortality was reported to the USFWS and the USFWS wants
74 the Program to mitigate potential future mortality events. Henry said costs for implementing a different
75 approach to predator fencing will be included in the draft FY24 PRRIP budget.

76
77 **Pallid Sturgeon (PS):**

78 Henry provided a brief update on the status of the PS genetics project with Southern Illinois University
79 and the PS habitat research project with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the lower Platte River.
80 Whitaker asked if the PS found as part of the fish kill had any tracking indication on it. Porath said it had
81 a PITT tag and was a hatchery-raised fish. Riley asked about UNL’s preparation of a data analysis plan.
82 Henry said that plan will be presented by UNL and discussed with the ISAC and TAC in October at the Fall
83 ISAC meeting.

84
85 Casavant provided an update on the lower Platte River modeling work. The Proposal Selection Panel
86 selected HDR to conduct the work and HDR presented a scope for this work last week. Final details are
87 expected to be ironed out this week and they should be under contract soon.

#5	SCIENCE ONBOARDING	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss issues related to the onboarding of science generated outside the Program.
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89 Scheel summarized recent TAC discussions about the Ecotope article and the associated TAC
90 recommendations. Riley asked if the TAC wants the GC to do anything with these recommendations.
91 Scheel asked Henry if the EDO was looking for any GC guidance. Henry said yes, for example re-running
92 the WEST analysis. Schellpeper asked if there needed to be more detail or cost estimates for the scope
93 of work. Porath asked if this would be published or peer reviewed. Farnsworth said we would leave that
94 recommendation to the TAC. Whitaker asked about the potential for bias in this re-analysis. Farnsworth
95 said the intent is to use the original assumptions and original dataset with the new landcover classes.
96 Jenniges and Scheel said there were different inputs for these two analyses. There may be subjective
97 discussions that happen after the new analysis is done. Riley asked about reproducibility. Gebhart asked
98 if this would change the results of the WEST report. Jenniges said no, that report is done. This will be a
99 new analysis that utilizes the same models and assumptions, just a different data layer.

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101 **GC MOTION:** Mehling moved and Merrill seconded to direct the EDO to re-run the WEST analysis
102 substituting the finer-scale Ecotope landcover classes in place of PRRIP landcover classes, as described on
103 Page 1 of the TAC Ecotope Memo. **Motion passed.**



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#6	PRRIP INDEPENDENT SCIENCE	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss issues related to the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and Peer Review.
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ISAC:

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- Smith noted the appointment of Dr. Alan Kasprak to the ISAC.
- Smith noted recent discussions with the PRRIP Signatories about a potential conflict of interest with an ISAC member (Dr. Aaron Pearse) related to use of WC telemetry data. That issue has been resolved in a way that preserves Dr. Pearse’s role on the ISAC and ensures the PRRIP will be able to access a set of WC telemetry data for analysis.

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Peer Review:

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- Smith discussed the Wet Meadow Hydrology Report that has been recommended by the TAC for peer review. Schellpeper asked what the objectives of the report are, and what the main conclusions are relative to those objectives. Henry and Farnsworth summarized the report and said it was a roll-up of several years of data collection, and it provides tools that could be used by the GC and others in the future to consider possible alternative management actions at PRRIP wet meadow properties. Marks asked if the results will be published. Brundage asked if it will be used to advise management. Farnsworth said the study provides information and tools relevant to management, but the report itself does not make management recommendations.

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GC MOTION: *Williams moved and Strauch seconded to approve the Wet Meadow Hydrology Report for peer review. Motion approved.*

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#7	PRRIP OUTREACH	Agenda Item Objective: General update on PRRIP outreach activities.
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Quarterly Outreach Report:

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PRESENTATIONS

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- Jonathan Wentz facilitated a job shadow to a Kearney High School student on August 8th, 2023.
- Chad Smith gave a virtual presentation on Monday, September 11th, 2023, to the UNL National Science Foundation National Research Traineeship (NRT) STEM Graduate Students. He talked about what it means to work for a private natural resources consulting firm with an emphasis on the role of providing the Executive Director and staff for the PRRIP.
- Malinda Henry updates on Pallid Sturgeon Research:
 - Southern Illinois University presented a poster at the American Fisheries Society Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI on August 21st, 2023.
 - University of Nebraska – Lincoln published a project update on Pallid Sturgeon Biology in the Platte River and its Tributaries.
 - *Junman Huang, Amy C. Buhman, Richard Flamio Jr., and Edward J. Heist. Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University. Presented a poster at the American Fisheries Society Meeting in Grand Rapids MI on August 21, 2023 entitled “GT- seq panel development for Scaphirhynchus spp. for high-resolution species identification, broodstock selection, and parentage analysis”*
 - *Mark Pegg, Kirk Steffensen, Jon Spurgeon, Christopher Pullano, Jenna Ruoss. University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Update on Pallid Sturgeon Biology in the Platte River and its Tributaries. Annual Report of the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. 2022-2023. Pg 43.*
 - Jenna Ruoss, Christopher Pullano, Jonathan Spurgeon, Mark Pegg, and Kirk Steffensen. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, U.S. Geological Survey, Nebraska Game and Parks. Pallid

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- 147 Sturgeon Movement in the Lower Platte River and its Tributaries: Year 2 Update. Poster
148 presentation to Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at UNL on Sep 13,
149 2023.
- 150 ○ Jenna Ruoss, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Assessing Pallid Sturgeon Habitat in the Lower
151 Platte River. Presentation to Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at UNL
152 on Sep 13, 2023.
- 153 ○ Christopher Pullano, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Passive Acoustic Detection Range in the
154 Lower Platte River. Presentation to Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at
155 UNL on Sep 13, 2023.

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157 **EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 158 ● Alicia Uribe and Julie Liakos exhibited at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 12-14th
159 2023.

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161 **MEDIA COVERAGE/OTHER**

- 162 ● The 2021/2022 Biennial Report is now available as an ArcGIS StoryMap.
- 163 ● Alicia Uribe will present the Outreach Communications Plan to GC.

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165 **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 166 ● PRRIP EDO staff will share a poster presentation on sediment augmentation to the Sustaining
167 Colorado Watersheds conference on October 3rd – 5th, 2023 in Avon, CO.

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169 **Biennial Report:**

170 Uribe introduced the 2021-2022 PRRIP Biennial Report which this year is presented as an online story
171 map. The biennial report will be available on the PRRIP website and can be accessed at the following
172 link: <https://arcg.is/1aiufr1>.

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174 **PRRIP Education & Outreach:**

175 Becca gave a presentation on the Platte River Safari Camp (formerly SOAR Camp) that immerses kids in
176 nature. The PRRIP has been a contributor to this program.

177
178 Uribe presented a summary of a possible approach to PRRIP Education & Outreach moving forward.
179 Farnsworth said it is up to the GC to provide direction on this, but it likely means the need to hire
180 someone trained in education and outreach to implement a new approach. Zmak said if something were
181 to be done differently, then a scope needs to be developed. Riley said the EDO would distribute the plan
182 summarized by Uribe and then the GC can submit feedback to the EDO. Williams asked where the
183 impetus came from to look into this. Farnsworth said it was his idea in thinking about the fact we have
184 done the same thing since the Program started and it might be time to re-evaluate effectiveness and
185 priorities. Merrill said this will be important to think about for negotiations related to the Second
186 Increment and development of a new EIS. Marks said he would like to talk to Farnsworth more about
187 how to work together with SPWRAP on things like this. Mehling said the Program is changing
188 generations. There used to be a lot of interest, now it is not as known. We will have to bring it back to
189 the forefront as we do this.

190 **GC MEETING END**

5:30 PM Central Time



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

192 **Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting – Kearney, NE**

193 Kearney Public Library

194 *Monday, September 18, 2023 & Tuesday, September 19, 2023*

195 Tom Riley, State of Nebraska – 2023 GC Chair

196 Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

197

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #1 – Monday, September 18, 2023		
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Department of the Interior		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Member
Chris Wright	Assistant Regional Director, Missouri Basin & Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions (USBR)	Attendee
Drue DeBerry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – <i>2023 Vice Chair</i>	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Brandon Gebhart	Wyoming State Engineer	Member
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (virtual)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – <i>2023 Chair</i>	Member
Jennifer Schellpeper	DNR	Alternate
Upper Platte Water Users		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District	Alternate
Owen Williams	Upper Platte Water Users Association	Alternate
Colorado Water Users		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Jason Marks	Denver Water	Alternate
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley (virtual)	Alternate
Downstream Water Users		
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) (virtual)	Member
Lyndon Vogt	Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)	Member
Environmental Entities		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Brice Krohn	The Crane Trust	Member
Melissa Mosier	Audubon Nebraska	Member



Executive Director’s Office (EDO)	
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Justin Brei, P.E.	Engineering/Colorado Coordinator
Jason Bruggeman, Ph.D.	Species Monitoring Coordinator
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist (virtual)
Other Participants	
Jennifer Hoeting, Ph.D.	Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) (virtual)
Dave Marmorek	ISAC (virtual)
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska DNR
Justin Levene	Nebraska Attorney General’s Office
Mike Drain	CNPPID
Barry Lawrence	Wyoming Water Development Office (virtual)
Andy Nicewicz	Colorado Attorney General’s Office (virtual)
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR
George Mosher	State of Wyoming (virtual)
Michelle Hubbard	State of Wyoming (virtual)
Michelle Martin	Anderson Consulting Engineers (virtual)
Brian Murphy	River Works (virtual)
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (virtual)
Richard Belt	SPWRAP (virtual)
Lalit Jha	JEO (virtual)

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#8	WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE	Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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Introduction – Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

Agenda Modifications – none offered.

#9	PRRIP WATER PLAN	Agenda Item Objective: Update on recent Water Plan implementation activities.
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North Platte Chokepoint:

Michelle Martin from Anderson Consulting Engineers gave a presentation on the work so far on the North Platte Chokepoint Engineering Services Project. Martin summarized the “short list” of nine (9) alternatives and subsequent work to be completed in evaluating these alternatives further. Miller asked if the City of North Platte and Lincoln County are on the Chokepoint Work Group. Turner said they are not and have not been a part of the Work Group since the flow test. Miller said he would like them (City Engineer, Lincoln County Emergency Management, and ask the Commissioners whom they would like to



211 have represent the County) added to the Work Group, Turner agreed. Farnsworth asked if Miller wanted
212 to add anyone from his shop at the NRD. Miller said just keep me up to speed. Brundage asked about
213 considerations for resources downstream of the chokepoint being considered as an alternative, such as
214 storage in Elwood. Farnsworth said temporary storage in Elwood has not been part of the discussion so
215 far. Turner said it is something we can consider moving forward as the chokepoint project and the
216 Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study are being conducted in parallel. Whitaker asked if it is
217 something we should have Anderson add to their list for consideration. Turner said it probably fits
218 better with the expanded recapture study in terms of operations and benefits. Brei said we will facilitate
219 some coordination between Anderson (chokepoint) and LRE Water (expanded recapture) on this.
220 Whitaker asked if there is other plumbing or other buckets of water that should be considered.
221 Farnsworth said the South Platte alternative is one option, we need to start with the question of how
222 much water we need to store there. Turner said Johnson Lake was considered in the past but it just did
223 not pan out.

224
225 Whitaker asked why we are still working on chokepoint capacity and not focusing on increasing staged
226 water or controllable capacity at the top of the AHR. Farnsworth said the Program Document has an
227 objective to get 3,000 cfs through the chokepoint. Number 1, there could be a silver bullet alternative
228 that we missed that we could implement. Or, Number 2, there is an expensive alternative or a bunch of
229 small items that will result in the GC having to work through the trade-offs of going all in on the
230 chokepoint to try to resolve that issues or spend money or effort elsewhere to try to increase
231 controllable flow into the AHR. Miller said he agrees with Whitaker and is not sure why this issue keeps
232 rising to the top. Whitaker said we would not be doing this correctly if we are not looking at all the
233 options. Drain said the Program is still looking at options for putting water, and how much, in the AHR.
234 Farnsworth said it will ultimately come back to the GC through a Structured Decision Making process.
235 Flyr asked if you do nothing and let the chokepoint be, what is the risk of continuing loss of capacity.
236 Martin said it is a concern, our geomorphic assessment will touch on that. But it is clear that capacity
237 will continue to diminish over the long term. Steinke said we have looked at some other options for
238 staging water downstream of the chokepoint, there are no silver bullets. Whitaker said maybe we
239 should look at bronze or primer level options.

240
241 Mosier said that the River Design Group looked at a do nothing option at the chokepoint, would it be
242 helpful to provide that information to the Anderson team as something consider and add to the short
243 list of alternatives. Turner agreed. Miller said one of the alternative should be what needs to be done to
244 maintain the capacity we have, which is at least in part the result of a lot of Program work. Steinke said
245 we need to make sure that ongoing VESPR work and the Program are coordinating so there is a clear
246 message about who has done what, and who is still doing work on the chokepoint. Walters said VESPR
247 has nothing else going on now. Steinke said he was part of a recent VESPR field trip and there were local
248 officials there so things like that could be part of a confusing message.

249
250 **PRRIP Water Plan:**

251 Turner gave the GC an update on the Water Milestone Summary and an update on the work of LRE
252 Water so far on the Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study.

253
254 **Long-Term Water Leasing:**

255 Brundage said work continues to try to firm up long-term agreements for water leasing. Shadle agreed
256 that NPPD is working on its end as well. Shadle also said they are looking into carbon capture at Gerald



257 Gentleman Station and if that moves forward that will require water that might affect what is available
258 for the Program. Vogt agreed discussions are ongoing about long-term leasing. Vogt said there is
259 pressure from other entities on the same water. Whitaker said he wanted to re-state that he hopes the
260 Districts and the GC make these long-term agreements extend past the end of the Extension to ensure
261 the water is there into the Second Increment.

262
263 **CNPPID Irrigator Lease:**
264 Turner summarized the history of this leasing program. The WAC recommends extending the agreement
265 for this project for one year.

266
267 **GC MOTION:** *Merrill moved and Gebhart seconded to approve a one-year amended agreement for the*
268 *CNPPID Irrigator Lease. The Downstream Water Users abstained. Agreement approved.*

#10	PRRIP LAND PLAN	Agenda Item Objective: Update on recent Land Plan implementation activities.
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270 **Land Milestone Summary:**

- 271 • Tunnell summarized the Land Milestone Summary. The Program is still about 183 acres short of the
- 272 Extension Plus-Up goal of 1,500 acres.
- 273 • Three contractors are working on in-channel disking now.
- 274 • Clark Island tree clearing project has been run through the Service’s Information for Planning and
- 275 Consultation Tool and has received clearance to proceed.
- 276 • The Program put in a boat ramp on the Babb Tract for river monitoring access and contractor access.
- 277 • The Program put in a parking area at the Leaman East Tract for recreation access (fishing and
- 278 hunting).
- 279 • The Program will be removing a bridge at the Myer Estate and putting in a culvert.
- 280 • Likely will not receive any bids for the Dyer Lodge, which would result in an RFQ for demolition.
- 281 • PVWMA fall *Phragmites* spraying started in September. There is also some work on saltcedar near
- 282 Lake McConaughy.
- 283 • The Grassland Working Group recently did a field tour with Tunnell to look at PRRIP grassland areas.
- 284 • Restoration & Management Framework for PRRIP properties – This is a living document and the LAC
- 285 is in the process of reviewing that framework. It will go to the TAC for review in October and back to
- 286 the GC for the December meeting.

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

#12	EXECUTIVE SESSION	Agenda Item Objective: GC member discussion of sensitive land, water, and policy items.
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290 **GC MOTION:** *Williams moved and Brundage seconded to enter Executive Session to discuss issues related*
291 *to PRRIP land administration and management. GC entered Executive Session at 10:52 AM Central Time.*

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293 **GC MOTION:** *Vogt moved and Zmak seconded to exit Executive Session. GC exited Executive Session at*
294 *11:01 AM Central Time.*

#13	EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTIONS	Agenda Item Objective: GC consideration of motions discussed during Executive Session.
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296 None offered.



#14	GC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule.
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297 Riley asked Merrill to provide an update on the Reclamation/Service agreement. Merrill said
 298 Reclamation and the Service have entered into a five-year agreement to provide funding for two
 299 positions at the Service to engage with the Program (Rabbe and EA Manager). Porath said as a result the
 300 Service is now working on an Environmental Account (EA) AOP that should be ready for review soon.

301
 302 **Action Items and Meeting Feedback** –Farnsworth noted the December 2023 Quarterly Meeting would
 303 be in Loveland, CO. Whitaker said the Northern Water campus could be a good meeting space instead of
 304 the Embassy Suites, Farnsworth agreed to investigate.

305
 306 Upcoming GC meetings:

- 307 • **2023 Fall ISAC Meeting:**
 308 October 10-12, 2023 @ Kearney, NE
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- 310 • **GC Virtual Special Session on FY2024 Budget & Work Plan:**
 311 November 8, 2023
 312 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Central Time *via Teams*
 313
- 314 • **December 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
 315 December 5-6, 2023 @ Loveland, CO
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- 317 • **2024 PRRIP Science Plan Reporting Session:**
 318 February 20-22, 2024 @ Omaha, NE
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GC MEETING END	11:15 AM Central Time
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321 **[Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting](#)**

- 322 1) Approved the June 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting minutes.
- 323 2) Approved an increase of \$17,300 in approved and available funds in PRRIP FY23 Budget Line Item
 324 PD-8 and authorized acquisition of upgraded server equipment.
- 325 3) Approved the PRRIP Spring 2023 Whooping Crane Monitoring Report.
- 326 4) Directed the EDO to re-run the WEST analysis substituting the finer-scale Ecotope landcover classes
 327 in place of PRRIP landcover classes, as described on Page 1 of the TAC Ecotope Memo.
- 328 5) Approved peer review of the Wet Meadow Hydrology Report.
- 329 6) Approve a one-year amended agreement for the CNPPID Irrigator Lease (Downstream Water Users
 330 abstained).