



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

Governance Committee (GC) Virtual Special Session_November 2024

Monday, November 18, 2024

Drue DeBerry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 2024 GC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Monday, November 18, 2024		
Name	Affiliation	Member or Alternate
Department of the Interior		
Brock Merrill	Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Member
Drue DeBerry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – 2024 GC Chair	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO)	Member
Barry Lawrence	WWDO	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Jesse Bradley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Member
Jennifer Schellpeper	DNR	Alternate
Upper Platte Water Users		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Colorado Water Users		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley	Alternate
Jason Marks	Denver Water	Alternate
Downstream Water Users		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Kyle Liebig	Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)	Member
Kent Miller	Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD)	Member
Lyndon Vogt	Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)	Member
Environmental Entities		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (virtual)	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.	Water Resources & Engineering Manager	
Alicia Uribe	Executive Office Manager	
Quinn Lewis, Ph.D.	River Scientist	



Other Participants	
Justin Lavene	NE Attorney General’s Office
John Shadle	NPPD (virtual)
Jeff Shafer	NPPD (virtual)
Brandi Flyr	CPNRD

7

#1	GC Meeting – Welcome & Administrative	Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
----	--	--

8

Introduction – Mead called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM Central Time.

9

#2	PRRIP FY25 BUDGET	Agenda Item Objective: Group discussion of draft FY25 budget, work plan, and PRRIP EDO Contract Amendment.
----	--------------------------	---

10

Farnsworth summarized the draft FY25 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan, and the 2025 PRRIP EDO Contract Amendment. General GC discussion:

11

12

- ED-1: Walters – going to fill hydrogeologist position in the EDO in the future? Farnsworth – probably will work instead through PRRIP partners and/or Special Advisor or specific contractor.
- LP2-P: Mead - pooled costs? Henry – USDA-APHIS admin charge; will need to specify the difference between pooled and overhead. Farnsworth – will add into the description on this line item.
- WP-1(b): Mead - benefit just Program lands, or outside of Program lands; Tunnell – all land along river, not just Program land. Mead – is PVWMA looking into other funding so Program doesn’t fund beyond where we are focused? Tunnell – work for flow conveyance; Walters - agreed for flow conveyance, partners all contribute cash; lost some State of NE funds so were short in 2024 and will be short again in 2025; support for this at TAC level; Mead - funding lost from State of NE: Walters - yes, lost \$200K, meeting soon to discuss and see if that money comes back in whole or in part; Mead - could NE folks involved with PRRIP help to get NE funds back? Liebig – Jenniges said at last TAC mtg. discussion about moving from research to this line item; Farnsworth - yes, we will get to that in science section. Brundage – some support back to NE Dept. of Ag on benefits of Phrag spraying. Brundage - status of endowment? Tunnell – trying to grow Resilience Fund; goal to build fund up so interest and cash could pay for control efforts; have a big chunk to raise still to get to that point; consultant helping build a fundraising plan; retaining earnings to try to build fund.
- LP-6: Mead - does income back into the Program? Tunnell – all lease etc. income now used to pay property taxes, incidental bills (electric, etc.), paid by Farm Manager out of the farm account. Farnsworth - as we accumulate more, we will periodically distribute the overage back to NCF and that will be credited back proportionally.
- WPRT-1: Bradley - projects scored? Turner - tried draft scores, need to be updated and decide what to do next. Bradley - diverting recharge irrelevant to score, correct? Turner - OPSTUDY hydrology says what you should be diverting, hard to pass straight-face test when delivering nothing; Bradley - don’t want one standard for some projects and a different standard for others. Farnsworth - will be part of future discussions related to what to do about OPSTUDY, how to consistently score hydrology relevant to where w are now. Bradley - until that time, the rules are the rules, we have a score and should use it based on current rules.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41



- 42 • G-5: Vogt – support moving funding to WP-1(b). Merrill – are we moving \$367K to phrag spraying
 43 or zeroing it out? My idea is to leave WP-1(b) at \$300K and zero this out; Mead - agree; could we
 44 put the money in the Resilience Fund? Walters – good discussion to have. Farnsworth - make
 45 this a priority discussion for next year; Walters - would allow us to see what other funding
 46 comes in/doesn't come in. Current \$300K will help us get done what we need to in 2025. Merrill
 47 – need to have internal discussion within USBR before committing to funds for Resilience Fund;
 48 propose we zero this money out for 2025. Farnsworth - will add as a priority in Land Plan
 49 section for 2025.

50
 51 Merrill requested the EDO develop a draft set of questions that could be posed to the ISAC related
 52 to Program science processes and the DOI Policy on the Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly
 53 Activities. Smith agreed to draft the questions and discuss them with Reclamation and the Service
 54 prior to the 2024 Q4 GC Quarterly Meeting.
 55

#7	GC Meeting Review & Wrap-Up	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule.
----	--	--

56 Remaining 2024 GC Meeting Schedule:

- 57 • **2024 Q4 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
 58 December 10-11, 2024 @ *Sterling, CO*
 59

GC Meeting End	12:05 PM Central Time
-----------------------	------------------------------

60
 61 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 2024 GC Special Session:**

- 62 1) Recommended edits to the draft FY25 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.
- 63 2) Directed the EDO to develop a set of questions for the ISAC to consider during 2025 Q1.