



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

Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting_March 2024 (Q1) – Kearney, NE

Monday, March 11 to Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Holiday Inn Kearney – 110 2nd Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847 (Stateroom BS)

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

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #1 – Monday, March 11, 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
Matt Rabbe	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Member
Jesse Bradley	DNR	Alternate
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	Alternate
Downstream Water Users		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Kent Miller	Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD)	Member
Kyle Leibig	Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)	Member
John Thorburn	Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (CPNRD)	Member
Environmental Entities		
Rich Walters	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Member
Brice Krohn	The Crane Trust	Member
Melissa Mosier	Audubon Nebraska (virtual)	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, B.S.	Executive Office Manager
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist
Jason Bruggeman, Ph.D.	Species Monitoring Coordinator
Libby Casavant, P.E.	Hydraulic Engineer
Other Participants	
Dave Marmorek, M.Sc.	Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) (virtual)
Justin Lavene	NE Attorney General’s Office
Mike Drain	CNPPID
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR (virtual)
Ryan Kelly	Nebraska DNR
Rich Belt	SPWRAP (virtual)
Cory Steinke	CNPPID
Dave Zorn	CNPPID
Jeff Shafer	NPPD
Jim Jenniges	NPPD
Andy Nicewicz	CO Attorney General’s Office (virtual)
Kevin Urie	Colorado Water Users (virtual)

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#1	GC Meeting – Welcome & Administrative	Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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Introduction – Chair DeBerry called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

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Agenda – No modifications offered.

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Minutes:

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GC MOTION: *Brundage moved and Riley seconded to approve the December 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting minutes.* **Motion carried.**

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GC MOTION: *Riley moved and Strauch seconded to approve the December 2023 GC Virtual Special Session minutes.* **Motion carried.**

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#2	PRRIP Advisory Committees	Agenda Item Objective: General update on recent work of PRRIP Advisory Committees.
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Land Advisory Committee (LAC) – Wagner provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC last met on February 14. The LAC approved the 2023 Land Work Report and the Land Management Framework, to be discussed by the GC.

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24 **Water Advisory Committee (WAC)** – Turner provided an update on the latest WAC activities. Steinke
 25 was elected 2024 WC Chair. Items discussed at the WAC meeting: North Platte chokepoint; expanded
 26 recapture; changes to hydrocycling and related flows; E65 canal project and Elwood seepage repairs.
 27 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Rabbe provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC
 28 discussed: co-locate one meeting more centrally among the three states so the next meeting will be in
 29 Ogallala in May; remote sensing RFP; discussed pros and cons of the SDM sole source contract; reviewed
 30 sediment augmentation alternatives and actions going forward; discussed the annual monitoring reports
 31 (tern/plover, whooping cranes) and the pallid sturgeon research update; whooping crane roost site
 32 selection.

33
 34 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Merrill provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC last met on
 35 February 7. The FC elected Merrill 2024 FC Chair. The FC recommended the GC review and approve the
 36 multi-year LiDAR RFP.
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#3	PRRIP Outreach	Agenda Item Objective: General update on PRRIP outreach activities.
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38 Uribe provided an update on the latest PRRIP outreach activities:
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40 **PRESENTATIONS**

- 41 • **Chris Pullano**, Jenna Ruoss, Jonathan Spurgeon, Mark Pegg (UNL) gave a presentation at the Middle
 42 Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Meeting on Jan 17, 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri entitled *Pallid*
 43 *sturgeon biology in the Platte River and its tributaries*.
- 44 • **Ed Heist** gave a presentation at the Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Meeting on Jan 18,
 45 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri entitled *Pallid sturgeon genetics update*.
- 46 • **Chris Pullano**, Jenna Ruoss, Mark Pegg, and Jonathan Spurgeon (UNL) gave a presentation at the
 47 84th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, SD on Jan 30, 2024, entitled *Between the*
 48 *Braids: Evaluation of Acoustic Telemetry Detection Range in the Lower Platte River, Nebraska*.
- 49 • **Jason Farnsworth** presented PRRIP history and progress at the Nebraska Water Round Table in
 50 January 2024.
- 51 • **Chris Pullano**, Jenna Ruoss, Jonathan Spurgeon, and Mark Pegg (UNL) gave a presentation at the
 52 Nebraska American Fisheries Chapter meeting on Feb 14th, 2024, in Aurora, NE, entitled
 53 *Performance of Acoustic Telemetry in the Lower Platte River, Nebraska*.
- 54 • **Jason Farnsworth** served on a discussion panel at the NE Sportsmen’s Foundation Legislative Lunch
 55 on February 29th, 2024 in Lincoln, NE.

56
 57 **EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 58 • PRRIP Exhibitor booth at The Wildlife Society, NE Chapter meeting on Feb 27-28th in Kearney, NE,
 59 attended by **Jonathan Wentz and Ethan Ideus**. 100 contacts were made.
- 60 • PRRIP Exhibitor Booth at Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention, January 31-February 2,
 61 attended by **Justin Brei, Libby Casavant, and Seth Turner**.

62
 63 **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 64 • **Patrick Farrell and Alyx Vogel** will attend the 2024 Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational
 65 Seminar on March 14th in Grand Island, NE representing the Program.



#4	PRRIP Budget	Agenda Item Objective: FY23 PRRIP budget review, FY24 PRRIP budget status report, FY24 Procurement Policy report, and specific FY24 budget items.
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66 **PRRIP FY23 Budget** – Farnsworth provided a final review of the FY23 PRRIP budget and PRRIP
 67 expenditures through 2023.

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 69 **PRRIP FY24 Budget** – Farnsworth summarized the status of the PRRIP FY24 budget.

70
 71 **PRRIP FY24 Procurement** – Smith summarized the status of several FY24 budget items related to the
 72 PRRIP Procurement Policy. Riley asked for Farnsworth to add a footnote to track that some changes in
 73 line item identification and organization was made for 2024 to help readers track over time.

74
 75 **Remote Sensing Data Collection (G-1)** – Brei summarized the multi-year RFP for annual LiDAR and aerial
 76 photography collection.

77
 78 **GC MOTION:** Riley moved and Walters seconded to approve the Annual LiDAR & Aerial Photography RFP.
 79 **Motion carried.**

80
 81 **Proposal Selection Panel:** Melissa Mosier (Environmental Entities): GC asked additional parties to email
 82 Brei directly.

83
 84 **Geomorphology & Vegetation Monitoring and Research (G-5)** – Bruggeman provided an update on
 85 responses to the *Phragmites* RFP. The Program received two proposals and the Proposal Selection Panel
 86 awarded the work to GEI Consultants.

#6	PRRIP Science Plan	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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88 **Whooping Crane (WC) Telemetry Data** – Henry provided a status update on WC telemetry data. The WC
 89 Tacking Partnership did provide a dataset for Program use. Farrell is working through the dataset and
 90 identifying questions and clarifications to send to the Tracking Partnership. Whitaker asked how the EDO
 91 can tell what data might be missing from the telemetry dataset. Henry and Farrell said in some cases
 92 information before and after a stopover, missing data from the day before, etc. Mead asked if we are
 93 getting more data than we have asked for in the past. Henry said yes for the most part. Mead asked if
 94 that means we are closer to what we wanted but not fully there yet. Henry said generally yes.
 95 Schellpeper asked if the information is there about how long they stopped before the Platte, after the
 96 Platte, etc. Henry said Farrell is working on that problem trying to see what is really in the dataset. Riley
 97 asked if we have enough information. Walters said the Tracking Partnership has apparently given the
 98 Program a dataset that covers request A (stopovers with information about what happened before and
 99 after those stops) but explained they would not give data that would cover request B (Nebraska sand
 100 bed rivers) or request C (full migration corridor data).

101
 102 Freeman asked about the question of investigating what aspects of the Platte make it unique to other
 103 rivers corridor wide. Henry said not sure we could get it at that right now. Freeman said the Tracking
 104 Partnership mentioned that sometimes they release data summaries as opposed to full datasets, maybe
 105 that is something that could be requested to help get at that question. Freeman said if the judgement is
 106 the broader dataset is important for Program management considerations, maybe we can craft that
 107 explanation in a way that might result in getting these data summaries. Farnsworth said we might be



108 able to see signals where this could be important, and in that case we could go back and talk to the
109 Tracking Partnership about additional data or data summaries.

110
111 **WC Roost Site Selection Technical Report** – Farrell gave a presentation on where the roost site selection
112 analysis stands and next steps. Whitaker asked several questions about roost locations, available
113 habitat, and the uncertainty curve around the roost selection ratio. Farnsworth said from a decision
114 standpoint, we need to be able to look into availability and potential cost (“bang for buck”). When
115 confidence intervals start widening out, what does it mean relative to what it could be? Rabbe said one
116 way to reduce the uncertainty would be to increase the availability of wider channels. Farrell agreed.
117 Jenniges asked if you could limit your look at availability to just main channels to help with the spread of
118 availability data, in part because this analysis is probably being driven by the high availability of narrow
119 channels (100 feet or less). Porath asked if the uncertainty band were narrower, could that help us think
120 about where additional channel widening would not return much benefit? Farrell said that could be
121 likely. Jenniges said the TAC agreed that cranes use wider channels, but from a management perspective
122 it can be hard to impossible to maintain a lot of areas much wider than they are now.

123
124 Farrell said there is now a joint Working Group to evaluate areas that might be worth further
125 investigation for potential to recommend additional channel widening.

126
127 **Piping Plover/Least Tern Monitoring & Research** – Bruggeman summarized results from 2023
128 plover/tern monitoring and research (predation). Riley asked how much effort and time we spend on
129 the tern portion of this as compared to the overall effort. Bruggeman said for monitoring we are
130 watching both species at the same time. In terms of summarizing monitoring data, it creates a bit of
131 effort to add additional analyses and graphs. So, about 20% of the overall effort goes to terns.

132
133 **GC MOTION:** *Walters moved and Marks seconded to approve the 2023 Plover/Tern Monitoring Report.*
134 **Motion carried.**

135
136 **WC Monitoring** – Bruggeman said the completed 2023 monitoring report will be presented to the TAC
137 once we have the LiDAR data and can finalize analyses and we expect to present that to the GC at the
138 June 2024 Quarterly Meeting.

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140 **Break – 3:45-4:00 PM Central Time**

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#7	PRRIP Science Plan (continued)	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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142 **Pallid Sturgeon (PS)** – Henry summarized presentations made by Ed Heist (SIU) and Mark Pegg (UNL) at
143 the 2024 Science Plan Reporting Session (SPRS). Freeman asked if the genetics work would allow us to
144 identify pure pallid sturgeon (as opposed hybrid) in the Platte. Henry said that will likely depend on how
145 many fish and samples Heist has available to investigate. Belt asked if

146
147 **Flow Split Project** – Farnsworth summarized the process of getting the Wyoming property flow split.
148 Brundage asked if we are planning to do this in multiple locations. Farnsworth said it is a one-off in that
149 this split happened on Program property and was impacting substantial downstream WC roosting
150 habitat including through Rowe Sanctuary. This is not related to the larger discussion of flow
151 consolidation that happened during the First Increment related to the FSM management strategy.



152 Casavant said the Corps did permit the project and said the Corps said it was a good way to show we
 153 would be providing functional improvements to the system. Riley said that is not a typical response from
 154 the Corps. Farnsworth said the Program’s permitting contractor (HDR) developed a functional
 155 assessment that the Corps seemed to find helpful in assessing the permit. Brundage asked how many
 156 more of these are possibilities on Program properties. Farnsworth said nothing active, there have been
 157 some options looked at before like at Cottonwood Ranch but that ended up being a no-go.

#8	PRRIP Independent Science	Agenda Item Objective: Appoint Peer Review Panel.
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159 **Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)** – Smith provided an update on the process to
 160 identify a new ISAC member to replace David Galat, who is cycling off the ISAC at the end of June 2024.

162 **Peer Review** – Smith provided an update on the peer review process for the Wet Meadow Hydrology
 163 Report (all peer review comments have been submitted, EDO working through those for discussion with
 164 the TAC) and the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation (peer review comments expected
 165 by March 29).

167 **2024 State of the Platte Report (SoPR)** – Smith provided an update on the 2024 SoPR, noting a final
 168 version of the document is expected to be in front of the GC this June.

170 **2024 Science Plan Reporting Session (SPRS)** – Smith asked the GC how to increase GC participation in
 171 this annual meeting. Riley said timing was an issue this year and future SPRSs should be scheduled to
 172 avoid legislative sessions. Freeman said it can be a lot of information to take in over a 2.5-day period,
 173 think about breaking out items into a couple of sessions during the year to make it more manageable.
 174 Freeman also said starting to develop annual SoPRs will be really helpful for the GC to engage with the
 175 material.

#9	PRRIP Administration	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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177 **Structured Decision Making (SDM) contractor** – Farnsworth said he heard from PRRIP Signatories that
 178 this item should be tabled and there should be some more information generated to help GC thinking
 179 about how best to approach this item.

181 **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Function** – Farnsworth said the TAC requested a discussion with
 182 the GC about how best to facilitate the most effective TAC. General GC discussion:

184 Freeman – what is the GC’s expectation of the TAC (document review and recommendation, + what
 185 else)?

187 Riley – need to get documents out more ahead of time; quarterly meetings may not cut it anymore;
 188 keep it front and center for people as much as possible.

189 Marks – plover/tern report is 150 pages each year; can we boil this down? Bruggeman – try to develop
 191 Executive Summary, adding in predator management has really added to the overall length of this
 192 report.



194 Mead – this is about 5% of their job in Wyoming and it should likely be more; think about a running
195 schedule and help people plan out on a longer timeline.

196 Mosier – highlight changes from year to year in an Executive Summary or at least make it plain.

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GC Meeting End – Day #1	5:30 PM
GC Group Dinner @ Holiday Inn Kearney Ballroom 2	6:00 PM

198



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

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Day #2 – Tuesday, March 12, 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 Chair	
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
Matt Rabbe	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Tom Riley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Member
Jennifer Schellpeper	DNR	Alternate
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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 (virtual)	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 Manger
Alicia Uribe, B.S.	Executive Office Manager
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist
Jason Bruggeman, Ph.D.	Species Monitoring Coordinator
Libby Casavant, P.E.	Hydraulic Engineer
Other Participants	
Michelle Hubbard	State of Wyoming (virtual)
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR (virtual)
Ryan Kelly	Nebraska DNR
Cory Steinke	CNPPID
Dave Zorn	CNPPID
Jeff Shafer	NPPD
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) (virtual)

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#10	GC Meeting – Welcome & Administrative	Agenda Item Objective: Greetings, roll call, review agenda.
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9

Introduction – Chair DeBerry called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM Central Time. The in-person and virtual groups proceeded with introductions.

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Agenda Modifications – none offered.

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#11	PRRIP Science Plan (continued)	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss recent Science Plan implementation activities.
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Sediment Augmentation – Farnsworth summarized recent learning regarding sediment augmentation in the south channel along Jeffrey Island and discussions with the TAC and ISAC since the December 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting. General GC discussion:

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Walters – talked to Michal Tal on the ISAC and that was helpful.

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20

Mosier – can you approach this from an adaptive management standpoint and combine learning with continued augmentation? Casavant – hard to tell anything because all confounded; Mosier – what signals would you be looking for? Casavant – can look at volume.

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24

Walters – Environmental Entities supported seg aug closer to the north/south channel complex and not impact the habitat complex; Thorburn – where would this occur? Brei – downstream of the Plum Creek Complex right before the confluence; Rabbe – would this be on or off Program property? Brei – on the very end of Program property; Mosier – could you still learn what you need to upstream? Casavant – yes. Riley – what are you assessing by augmenting in this location? Casavant – we would be assessing what is happening in J2 reach without augmentation; Brei – this action would not assess anything; Riley

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30 – so why would we augment if the incision is not progressing? Need to look at a controlled option using
31 the sand dam (not something that would lead to an avulsion); isn't there a limit on the amount of
32 sediment available? Casavant – permitted sites plus Cook/Dyer would allow us to augment for 70 years.

33
34 Riley – unintended consequence of previous augmentation has resulted in crane use and it is now
35 habitat; do we protect this site, or do we do work (sed aug) here?

36
37 Rabbe – this channel is in the AHR so it needs to be considered as habitat, not just as a sediment source;
38 Farnsworth – from a policy standpoint, focusing on the J2 reach as habitat would require a re-think in
39 how we approach management actions in this reach to maximize habitat potential (for WC use); Porath
40 – do we do sed aug in a way that ends up being beneficial for potential WC use? Farnsworth – generally
41 yes; Thorburn – when does this end, and how do we make a decision if we don't know where this ends?
42 The Program doesn't have unlimited money even if we move into a Second Increment.

43
44 Brundage – did the incision progress beyond the Overton bridge? Casavant and Farnsworth – generally
45 no, there was some movement of sediment volume out of the reach below the Overton Bridge but no
46 evidence of incision and we are unable to determine how that was or was not affected by Program
47 augmentation activities upstream in the J2 reach.

48
49 Riley – what is the relative change from year to year in this reach? Need to know this because we are
50 talking about augmentation volume numbers and costs; Farnsworth -- an example is in 2019, there
51 might have been some mining down in about 1,000 feet of thalweg; the sand dam used to wash out
52 (Jenniges said on a regular basis) and give a big flush of new material in the J2 channel; the current
53 paradigm has been in place since 1994 (sand dam reinforced); Walters – could we invest more in
54 monitoring and analysis to answer some questions? Farnsworth – said we are hopeful the peer
55 reviewers provide some guidance on filtering error and how to separate noise from signal.

56
57 Farnsworth – hearing there is still interest in learning; best way to learn is probably not to augment in
58 the J2 channel to compare to when we have been augmenting; don't touch the channel upstream of the
59 Plum Creek Complex; but then that leaves the question of what we do at the Dyer property and do we
60 augment some volume at Dyer: probably would not learn much; Rabbe – the TAC has only agreed to one
61 year of Phragmites research so that won't prevent us from doing more in this location; have heard from
62 ISAC if you want to increase your signal, double your augmentation rate; Ostdiek – most opportunity for
63 learning here seems to tilt toward not augmenting; where is the Service on this option? Porath – BO
64 identifies the J2 reach as a sediment deficit area and that will have to be addressed in the new BO for
65 the Second Increment; don't want to be pre-decisional; more learning is good; if there is incision and the
66 Program is pushing in that amount, then the Program would be doing what is necessary to offset that
67 and that is a good thing; it is likely the existence of a deficit will still require long-term Program
68 investment in a Second Increment; Ostdiek – so is there value in learning from not augmenting for a
69 period? Porath – it is fair to say there is learning that can come from that, and you could build this into
70 your argument as to why or why not you need to keep doing this; also should quantify habitat benefits
71 to the J2 reach to get you an overall benefit package; Thorburn – if we can't quantify the habitat
72 benefits of augmenting, then why are we doing it?

73
74 Farnsworth – we have a permit to improve conditions at the Dyer property; we could do a small amount
75 of channel widening at Dyer to get above the width suitability criteria at Dyer which would involve



76 activities that would result in a sediment source; Porath – is the ISAC going to be saying something
 77 about this? Farnsworth – the input from the ISAC and peer reviewers will be more geared more toward
 78 our ability to see what is happening through time in this reach; DeBerry – could we flesh out the ways to
 79 do this more cost effectively over the long term? Can we explore other approaches? Farnsworth – the
 80 passive alternatives will start getting explored in depth this year but we are probably about 5 years out
 81 from actually implementing any possible alternatives.

82
 83 Walters – policy question seems to be whether to augment, and if we don’t we need to make sure the
 84 monitoring is in place to see what is happening; Merrill – this is our only chance to learn what happens if
 85 we don’t augment; Farnsworth – we will continue to monitor this reach with the same intensity that we
 86 have been with augmentation to make sure we capture the data we need; Rabbe – we have paused one
 87 year, did we collect that same data? Farnsworth – yes, we have not paused any monitoring; Brei – we
 88 will also consider additional monitoring that could be helpful; Rabbe – has there been a consideration as
 89 to when LiDAR is collected relative to hydrocycling? Brei – yes we work hard to get the data at stable
 90 low flows.

91
 92 Merrill – we are already one year into a no augment alternative, so why not set it up as a 5 year
 93 experiment? Whitaker – I’m where Brock is, learn from this no augment alternative, keep pushing on
 94 potential passive options; Jenniges – this is more of a policy decision, the system is so variable, science is
 95 unlikely to give you a clear answer.

96
 97 DeBerry – if we take a break from this, we need some time to see if we can learn about the effects and
 98 signals; may not be enough time for 3-5 years, but probably gives us the best likelihood; Service will still
 99 need to look at other factors, but because it will take several year to get potential passive options online
 100 this does give us a learning window that could be a good use of real adaptive management.

101
 102 Farnsworth said the EDO has general direction from the GC: develop an “experimental design” approach
 103 for a No Augmentation Alternative over a certain period of time, detailing monitoring efforts and
 104 parameters and triggers to watch over time that might suggest a need to begin augmentation again.
 105 That will be developed by the EDO, discussed with the TAC in May, and brought back to the GC in June
 106 for discussion and approval.

#12	PRRIP Water Plan	Agenda Item Objective: Update on recent Water Plan implementation activities.
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108 **Water Milestone Summary/Water Plan Projects + Expanded Recapture Study + North Platte**
 109 **Chokepoint** – Turner presented an update on the progress toward meeting the Water Milestone, the
 110 status of Program water projects, and the status of two ongoing Program studies (expanded recapture
 111 and North Platte chokepoint options).

#13	PRRIP Land Plan	Agenda Item Objective: Update on recent Land Plan implementation activities.
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113 **Land Milestone Summary** – Tunnell presented an update on progress toward meeting the Land
 114 Milestone.



115 **2023 PRRIP Land Work Report** – Tunnell summarized the Work Report. The document posted for the GC
116 was missing an overall summary table, that will be added and re-submitted to the GC for review and
117 approval at a later date.

118
119 **PRRIP Restoration & Land Management Framework** – Tunnell summarized the Framework and
120 associated revisions.

121
122 **GC MOTION:** Merrill moved and Walters seconded to approve the revised PRRIP Restoration & Land
123 Management Framework. **Motion carried.**

124
125 **Spring 2024 land management activities** – Tunnell provided an update on: efforts to remove some
126 facilities off certain Program properties; Clark Island Complex management agreement to resolve a
127 boundary dispute including tree clearing; 2,000 acres lined up for prescribed fire if conditions allow; and
128 recent work of the Grassland Working Group.

#14	Public Comment	Agenda Item Objective: Public comment period on PRRIP activities.
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130 None offered.

#15	GC Executive Session	Agenda Item Objective: GC member discussion of sensitive land, water, and policy items.
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132 **GC MOTION:** Merrill moved and Brundage seconded to enter Executive Session. **Motion carried,** entered
133 Executive Session at 10:54 AM Central Time, ended Executive Session at 11:58 AM.

#16	GC Executive Session Motions	Agenda Item Objective: GC consideration of motions discussed during Executive Session.
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135 None offered.

#17	GC Meeting Review & Wrap-Up	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule.
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138 2024 GC Meeting Schedule:

- 139 • **June 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
140 June 11-12, 2024 @ *Scottsbluff, NE* (EDO will work to secure meeting location)
- 141 • **2024 Summer ISAC Meeting:**
142 July 16-18, 2024 @ *Kearney, NE*
- 143 • **September 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
144 September 10-11, 2024 @ *Alda, NE* (@ The Crane Trust; EDO working with Crane Trust on logistics
145 for meeting and hotel rooms)
- 146 • **GC Virtual Special Session – FY25 Budget & Work Plan:**
147 Wednesday, November 13, 2024
148 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Central Time *via Teams*
- 149 • **December 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
150 December 3-4, 2024 @ *Loveland, CO*

GC Meeting End – Day #2	11:01 AM
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152 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from March 2024 (Q1) GC Quarterly Meeting:**

- 153 1) Approved the December 2023 GC Quarterly Meeting minutes.
154 2) Approved the December 2023 GC Special Session minutes.
155 3) Approved the Annual LiDAR & Aerial Photography RFP.
156 4) Approved the 2023 Plover/Tern Monitoring & Research Report.
157 5) Approved the revised PRRIP Restoration & Land Management Framework.