



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

Governance Committee (GC) Quarterly Meeting_ September 2024 (Q3) – Wood River, NE

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

The Crane Trust Nature & Visitors Center

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

Jason Farnsworth, PRRIP Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Attendees Tuesday, September 10, 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 (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
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District (virtual)	Alternate
Owen Williams	Upper Platte Water Users Association	Alternate
Colorado Water Users		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Deb Freeman	Trout Raley (virtual)	Alternate
Downstream Water Users		
Devin Brundage	Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID)	Member
Kyle Leibig	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
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 (virtual)	
Seth Turner, P.E.	Water Plan Coordinator	
Malinda Henry, Ph.D.	Science Plan Coordinator	



Justin Brei, P.E.	Water Resources & Engineering Manager
Patrick Farrell, M.S.	Statistical Ecologist
Other Participants	
Justin Lavene	NE Attorney General’s Office
Abigail Boudewyns	WY Attorney General’s Office
Andy Nicewicz	CO Attorney General’s Office
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DNR (virtual)
Cory Steinke	CNPPID
Dave Zorn	CNPPID
John Shadle	NPPD (virtual)
Jeff Shafer	NPPD (virtual)
Jim Jenniges	NPPD (virtual)
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC)
Brandi Flyr	CPNRD
Mark Czaplewski	Public

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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 2:10 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: *Ostdiek moved and Mead seconded to approve the GC Quarterly Meeting_June 2024 (Q2) minutes.* **Motion carried.**

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#2	GC Executive Session	Agenda Item Objective: GC member discussion of sensitive land, water, and policy items.
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GC MOTION: *Merrill moved and Brundage seconded to enter Executive Session.* **Motion carried,** entered Executive Session at 2:14 PM Central Time,

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GC MOTION: *Brundage moved and Vogt seconded to exit Executive Session.* **Motion carried,** exited Executive Session at 3:40 PM Central Time.

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Meeting Break – 3:40 PM (:15)

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#3	Public Comment	Agenda Item Objective: Public comment period on PRRIP activities and meeting agenda items.
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None offered.

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#4	PRRIP Water Plan	Agenda Item Objective: Update on recent Water Plan implementation activities
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Turner introduced presentations from LRE Water (expanded recharge recapture) and George Oamek (CNPPID irrigator lease). Mead asked about private landowners that could be affected by the expanded recharge recapture options. LRE Water said no landowners had been contacted thus

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31 far. Brundage asked about flow rates. Farnsworth and Turner said something under 10 cfs. The GC
32 agreed to have Brundage and Merrill work with the EDO on further project evaluation and planning.

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34 General GC discussion about continuing the irrigator lease program and if so how to price the
35 water. Mead asked if bird numbers are going up with the water we have (including a small amount
36 of irrigator lease water) do we really want to consider paying a higher price for a small amount of
37 additional water. Farnsworth said he would propose one more year at \$160/acre or shut the
38 program down. Mosier said it would be helpful to use Oamek’s data to set a price. Oamek was
39 asked what he would say and he said he would not go below \$160, higher would encourage
40 participation. Merrill said workshop feedback suggested landowners would prefer to decide on
41 whether to participate in March, so we could wait to make a decision on the program and on price
42 in December. The GC agreed.

43	#5 Executive Director’s (ED) Report	Agenda Item Objective: Update on PRRIP budget, implementation, and other key activities.
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44 **GC MOTION:** *Strauch moved and Krohn seconded to approve the revised PRRIP Whooping Crane*
45 *(WC) Monitoring Protocol.* **Motion carried.**

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47 **GC MOTION:** *Merrill moved and Ostdiek seconded to appoint Dr. Gary Lamberti to the ISAC.* **Motion**
48 **carried.**

49	#7 GC Meeting Review & Wrap-Up	Agenda Item Objective: Discuss action items, meeting feedback, and upcoming meeting schedule.
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50 Remaining 2024 GC Meeting Schedule *(note date changes for both meetings below):*

- 51 • **GC Virtual Special Session – FY25 Budget & Work Plan:**
- 52 Monday, November 18, 2024
- 53 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Central Time *via Teams*
- 54 • **December 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting:**
- 55 December 10-11, 2024 *@ TBD in Colorado*

56	GC Meeting End 5:58 PM
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58 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 2024 (Q3) GC Quarterly Meeting:**

- 59 1) Approved the GC Quarterly Meeting_June 2024 (Q2) minutes.
- 60 2) Approved the revised PRRIP WC Monitoring Protocol.
- 61 3) Appointed Dr. Gary Lamberti to the ISAC.