



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

Governance Committee (CC) Virtual Special Session – FY26 PRRIP Budget & Work Plan

Monday, November 17, 2025

Jason Mead, State of Wyoming – 2025 GC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC) Virtual Special Session Attendees Monday, November 17, 2025		
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)	Member
Mark Porath	USFWS	Alternate
State of Wyoming		
Jason Mead	Wyoming Water Development Office (WWD0) – 2025 GC Chair	Member
Abigail Boudewyns	State of Wyoming	Alternate
State of Colorado		
Amy Ostdiek	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	Member
Emily Zmak	CWCB	Alternate
Kara Scheel	CWCB	Alternate
State of Nebraska		
Matt Manning	Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, & Environment (DWEE)	Member
Jennifer Schellpeper	DWEE	Alternate
Upper Platte Water Users		
Dennis Strauch	Pathfinder Irrigation District	Member
Bob Mehling	Goshen Irrigation District	Alternate
Colorado Water Users		
Kyle Whitaker	Northern Water	Member
Rich Belt	SPWRAP	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)	Alternate
John Thorburn	Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)	Alternate
Environmental Entities		
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	
Other Participants		
Caitlin Kingsley	Nebraska DWEE	
Mike Drain	CNPPID	
Cory Steinke	CNPPID	



Dave Zorn	CNPPID
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC)
Jeff Shafer	NPPD
Brandi Flyr	CPNRD
Justin Lavene	Nebraska AG Office

2025 PRRIP GC Virtual Special Session

1. Welcome & Administrative:

- Meeting called to order 10:01 AM Central Time.

2. FY26 PRRIP Budget:

- Farnsworth summarized the Program administration line items in the draft FY26 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.
- Mead question on NCF budget over the years, was it higher previously because there was more contracting occurring; Farnsworth said yes, it was also due to forecasted budgets related to expected large water expenditures that did not occur so actual expenditures were lower.
- Tunnell summarized the Land Plan line items in the draft FY26 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.
- Mead asked about the purchase of equipment related to predator trapping and whether that is Program equipment that we keep; Henry said we have not discussed that yet but will do so; Smith said proposed contract does not contemplate equipment issues, we will have to sort that out and make sure the Program is on the same page as the contractor.
- Turner summarized the Water Plan line items in the draft FY26 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.
- Henry summarized the Science Plan line items in the draft FY26 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan.
- Mosier question on usual period of ISAC Member contracts; Smith said 3 years is typical but at the discretion of the GC.
- Whitaker question on earlier efforts to stagger ISAC Member terms; Smith said all ISAC Members are new over the past 2-3 years with the exception of Hoeting, there is some staggering among the current Member contracts though 3-4 Members would cycle off at the end of 2026; up to the GC to decide whether to proceed with that cycling or retain ISAC for remainder of Extension.
- Mosier question on forecasted water expenditure outlook; Farnsworth said used best information at the time, expenditure forecasts will be updated in 2026 based on current prices and events.

3. GC Discussion Items:

PRRIP Predator Trapping

- Henry summarized the justification for the sole source to Homan.
- Merrill said would prefer he build equipment expenses into his contract and he retains ownership because of federal contracting rules.



- **GC Motion:** *Approve 3-Year Sole Source Predator Trapping Contract as modified with equipment owned by contractor (Merrill moved, Manning seconded);* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Meyer Farm

- Farnsworth summarized issues related to removing structures off the site.

ISAC

- **GC Motion:** *Approve 2026 ISAC Member External Solicitation (Ostdiek moved, Merrill seconded);* **MOTION CARRIED.**
- **GC Action:** Appoint ISAC Selection Panel – will discuss at Q4 2025 GC Meeting (December).

4. Proposed 2026 PRRIP GC Meeting Dates:

- Q1 GC Meeting — March 10-11 @ Kearney (later in week, or March 16-17)
- Q2 GC Meeting — June 9-10 @ Cheyenne
- Q3 GC Meeting — September 8-9 @ Kearney (right after Labor Day but avoids Husker Harvest Days the following week)
- 2026 GC Virtual Special Session (FY27 PRRIP Budget & Work Plan) – Monday, November 9, 2026; meeting in Teams
- Q4 GC Meeting — December 1-2 @ Denver (right after Thanksgiving but avoids the Colorado River meeting in Las Vegas the following week)

Meeting adjourned – 12:00 PM Central Time.