

Technical Advisory Committee

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

July 19, 2007

Hotel Boulderado, Boulder, Colorado

Craig Dewey, Jerry Kenny, Chad Smith, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Lisa Fotherby, Martha Tacha, Mike Fritz, Jim Jenniges, Mark Butler, Mark Peyton, Clayton Derby, Dale Strickland, Mike Besson, Becky Falkerson, Ted Kowlaski.

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Minutes – No changes to May minutes, approved.

3) Updates

- a. Whooping Crane Data Analysis – Clayton Derby provided an update. The BOR has provided a cost estimate to evaluate three methods of estimating water elevations at whooping crane use sites. The methods include HECRAS, Mannings equation, and direct changes based on the closest gage. The BOR would conduct a pilot analysis of 10 WC sites before the method for all sites is selected and the BOR is direct to proceed. A proposal will be provided to the FC and GC at their next meetings to have the BOR conduct the pilot study along with the budget necessary to complete the remaining 99 sites with HEC-RAS, with understanding that the entire budget would not be needed if a method other than HEC-RAS is selected. Estimate 16 days to complete entire HEC-RAS (\$872/day).
- b. Tern and Plover Monitoring – Jim Jenniges reported that he monitored 35 tern nests and 16 plover nests on sandpits in his region. Martha Tacha reported that at 5 islands built at the Dinan tract there have been 10 tern and 2 plover nests. On the Dipple tract there were 2 tern nests and 1 plover nest that fledged 4 young. Nests at Dipple were found via the airboat survey. Mark Peyton reported on Lake McConaughy, there were 217 plover nests and 16 tern nests.
- c. Forage Fish Monitoring – The Districts will be implementing the forage fish monitoring protocol at several sites on August 8 and 10. The NGPC, FWS, and others were asked to participate and provide input on the protocol methods.
- d. Vegetation Mapping – Felipe reported that crews are conducting surveys.
- e. Lower Platte River Stage Change Study – This effort will be put on hold until further discussions with the GC regarding sequencing of activities.

4) Spring 2007 Whooping Crane Monitoring Report

Mark Peyton distributed the draft report for review. Comments were submitted by Lisa, Mark Peyton, and Martha Tacha. The report was accepted with revisions.

- 5) **Geomorphology Monitoring Protocol** – A detailed discussion was scheduled for the August 21-22 workshop in Denver.
- 6) **Vegetation Monitoring Protocol** - In channel vegetation portion will be worked on along with the geomorphology protocol in August.
- 7) **Tern and Plover Foraging Project** – Jim Jenniges had distributed a RFP for comments prior to the meeting. Comments were submitted by Mark Czaplewski and Kevin Urie. Jim will incorporate the comments and any others provided before the RFP is distributed again.
- 8) **LiDAR** – It was noted that the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture is flying a large portion of central Nebraska south of the river in 2008. There was discussion regarding whether or not the Program should try to augment this effort to include the Program study area. Lisa and Jerry will draft a proposal for review.