



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE
July 14, 2008

Attendees

Scott Woodman, Chair
Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director
Bruce Sackett
Jason Farnsworth
Justin Brei
Chad Smith
Mike Purcell via Phone
Kent Aden
Ted Kowalski
John Heaston
Greg Wingfield
Kirk Schroeder
John Shadle
Brad Mellema
John Thorburn
Larry Reynolds
Laurel Badura
Joe Frank

Welcome and Administrative

Scott Woodman called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with introductions. Woodman asked for agenda modification. Sackett requested that Tracts 0802, 0811 and 0829 be added to the agenda under Discussion of Evaluation Team Recommendation. Agenda approved as modified.

Mark Czaplewski made a motion to approve the April 4, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded by John Heaston. The motion was approved.

Approval of Evaluation Team Recommendation 0804 0815 0803 0811 0829

Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0804 along with comments on the Evaluation Report received via email. Czaplewski made a motion that Tract 0804 be forwarded to the Governance Committee (GC) with a recommendation to proceed with acquisition as a fee simple purchase. The motion was seconded by Greg Wingfield. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

At 9:32 am, Mike Purcell informed the committee that he had to excuse himself from the meeting. Before leaving the call, he informed that committee that Wyoming's would vote in



favor of recommending tracts 0815, 0803, 0811 and 0829 for acquisition. Purcell also approved moving in and out of executive session as long as all discussion within executive session was limited to land details of a confidential nature.

Bruce Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0815 along with comments on the Evaluation Report received via email. John Thorburn requested that Program Staff make a presentation to the committee about sediment augmentation. Chad Smith agreed to present at the next LAC meeting. Larry Reynolds made a motion that Tract 0815 be forwarded to the GC with a recommendation to proceed with acquisition as a fee simple purchase. The motion was seconded by Joe Frank and carried unanimously.

Bruce Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0803. Kirk Schroeder discussed the tract's importance as a key in-holding in an existing habitat complex. Czaplowski made a motion that Tract 0803 be forwarded to the GC with a recommendation to proceed with acquisition of an interest in the property through fee simple purchase, an easement, or through a lease. The motion was seconded by Wingfield and carried unanimously.

Bruce Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0811 along with the identification of issues raised by the land review team. Discussion occurred over the merits of taking an easement only for water right retirement. John Heaston made a motion to forward Tract 0811 to the GC with a recommendation to acquire an easement identical to the one that Central Platte NRD currently holds on the adjacent land owned by this landowner, subject to the approval of the WAC and identifying the fact that no habitat is present on this property for program needs. The motion was seconded by Larry Reynolds. The motion did not carry unanimously. John Thorburn voted in opposition to the motion because it was generally agreed that the tract has little or no value as target species habitat, if left as cropland; and it should not have been approved for "acquisition", since the landowner was only offering a conservation easement, not fee title sale.

Discussion followed of the process to reflect negative votes as per the Land Plan. Emails will be sent to obtain majority and minority views for the GC.

GC Update Discuss Acceleration of Process

Czaplowski gave a brief report on the June 2008 GC meeting and the need to keep moving land along through the evaluation process now that the funding is approved. He relayed that the GC is also cognizant of time constraints that are inherent to the acquisition process and discussed use of an intermediary like TNC, DU, or The Land Trust to expedite land purchases. The GC asked that the LAC make a formal motion regarding the value of the use of intermediaries.

Czaplowski made a motion stating LAC support using intermediaries like the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Conservation Fund and other like entities or organizations as appropriate to support land acquisitions and achieve Program goals. The motion was seconded by Wingfield. The motion carried with seven voting yes, one voting no and two abstaining. The no vote was due to the fact that using an intermediary would increase acquisition cost.



Discussion occurred about the LAC's role in Land Management Plans. It was identified that management plans are parcel specific and will be developed by a joint group of LAC and Technical Advisory Team (TAC) members. The draft management plans will be reviewed by the LAC and forwarded to the GC with comments and concerns for GC approval. Program Staff will develop a flowchart of the management plan development process for presentation at the next LAC meeting.

Overall Platte River Program Update

Jerry Kenny informed the committee that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation is formed and ready to hold land interests.

Sackett informed the committee that the Wyoming Property Management Transfer Agreement has been reviewed by the Wyoming Attorney General and the final document is being reviewed by Program legal council. NPPD legal council is currently reviewing the draft Cottonwood Ranch Management Transfer Agreement.

Public Forum/Closing Business

Woodman asked for public comments. None were offered.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska in the Executive Director's office meeting room on Tuesday, September 9th, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Executive Session

Larry Reynolds moved to go into executive session to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Kent Aden. The motion carried unanimously and the committee went into executive session at 12:48 p.m.

John Thorburn moved that the committee come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Kent Aden and carried unanimously. The committee came out of executive session at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 3:05 p.m.