PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
DIA County Inn & Suites – Denver, CO
June 10-11, 2008

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Welcome & Administrative
Mike Purcell called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with introductions. Mike Purcell offered comments on the loss of Mark Butler with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the group held a moment of silence.

John Lawson announced that the Program was the recipient of the Cooperative Conservation Award from the Department of the Interior and presented a certificate to Mike Purcell. Lawson asked that the certificate be posted in the Executive Director’s office in Kearney. Lawson mentioned that the former Reclamation Commissioner John Keys, a supporter of the Program, also recently passed away. The group held a moment of silence.

Don Anderson offered comments about Mark Butler and passed around a card for the Governance Committee (GC) to sign for Mark’s family. Anderson also spoke about the recent memorial service for Mark. Anderson provided information about possible charitable entities that Mark’s family thought would be appropriate for donation in lieu of flowers. Anderson also suggested that the GC consider possibly naming a Program land holding or other feature after Mark in the future as a memorial to his legacy for the Program.

Jerry Kenny suggested that the discussion of the recent high flow event be moved to today’s budget item discussion.

Tom Dougherty moved to approve the April 2008 GC minutes; Norm DeMott seconded. The April 2008 minutes were approved.

Program Committee Updates
Water Advisory Committee (WAC)
Frank Kwapnioski (NPPD) provided an update on the latest WAC activities. He summarized recent work related to the Boyle effort on the Water Management Study (WMS). Kwapnioski mentioned the WMS workshop held after the GC meeting in Kearney in February and indicated changes made to the draft WMS Phase I report. The WAC has been working with Boyle on Phase II of the WMS. The WAC held a water tour with Boyle in mid-May followed by a WAC meeting focusing on discussion of the scope of the Phase II alternatives. Boyle will be circulating a set of criteria for ranking various alternatives prior to the scheduled July 16th workshop in Denver to discuss alternative evaluation and selection. The WAC also discussed gage locations on the central Platte and supported installation of gages at both Lexington and Shelton; that effort will be discussed with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their July
meeting before the ED Office moves forward with gage installation. Kwapiszki mentioned that the ED Office and WAC are working on developing a tracking process for depletions plans.

Kwapnioski said the WAC recommends that the Phase I WMS report be approved. **John Lawson moved to approve; Don Kraus seconded. The GC approved Boyle’s Phase I WMS report.**

Deb Freeman asked about Boyle’s evaluation criteria for WMS alternatives. Beorn Courtney said there are four categories: 1) technical feasibility; 2) liability and risk; and two additional categories. Boyle is developing information on the ranking within each category (e.g. 0-5 scale with definitions for assigning a value to each alternative). Kwapiszki said the WAC just discussed general ranking categories with Boyle and that Boyle would take that information and develop categories that would be discussed with the WAC during the July meeting in Denver.

Brian Barels said the Program Document states the alternatives should be consistent with First Increment Water Plan goals – pulse flows, and how they meet First Increment water objectives. Lawson asked if this would be discussed during the July workshop. Kwapiszki said Boyle would provide a proposal ahead of that workshop for discussion, and then it would be discussed at the workshop on July 16th in Lakewood, CO from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the USFWS office.

Lawson reminded the group that Mark Butler had worked on a great deal of modeling to determine how projects could grade out and the group would have to work with Don Anderson and others to pick up Butler’s institutional knowledge and make sure the WMS fits into that process.

**Land Advisory Committee (LAC) Update**

Mark Czaplewski reported the next LAC meeting will be July 14th in Kearney, NE. The Land Interest Holding Entity (LIHE) agreement is now finalized and signed, forming the Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation. The LAC has initiated the land evaluation process and has held two site visits to evaluate potential Program properties. The LAC will discuss those site evaluations at the July meeting and hopefully will be ready to make its first land recommendations. Alan Berryman asked how many parcels are being discussed. Czaplewski said the LAC has seriously discussed fifteen parcels. Berryman said it is important to keep federal dollars in mind and try to find ways to use available funding on potential Program parcels. Czaplewski said the LAC appreciates the need to get going.

Ted Kowalski asked if the LAC would discuss the opportunity to work with The Conservation Fund or a similar entity to help with land purchases, especially quick purchases this year. Czaplewski said that certainly could be on the July agenda. Kraus asked how a group like the Fund could fit into the land evaluation process. Czaplewski said the process does allow that kind of partnership. Kowalski emphasized the need to find ways to move quickly on land deals when possible. Barels said we need to be careful about circumventing the process and need to be sensitive to central Nebraska land owners. Jason Farnsworth said that it is likely that there will be at least two parcels in front of the GC at the August meeting for approval to move forward. Czaplewski said we might need to consider a special meeting or call of the GC to move land
deals forward. Kowalski said that might be a good way to keep things moving. Purcell said if the LAC decides the time is right to move on land deals, then we can pull together a GC call to accommodate those decisions. John Heaston said generally conservation groups have not lost properties due to slow process, so the LAC process should work well.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)/Adaptive Management Working Group
Chad Smith said the next joint AMWG/TAC meeting would be July 9-10 in Kearney, NE, focusing on discussion about the five-year work plan for implementation of the Adaptive Management Plan.

Program Outreach Update
Bridget Barron said the Program was included in a story in the Grand Island paper related to tern and plover use of the Platte and discussion of a recent grant to UNL for the Tern and Plover Partnership. Several stories occurred in late April/early May related to President Bush signing the Program into law. John Lawson was featured in a story in the Casper paper about his work. Kenny was recently interviewed for a story in the August issue of NEBRASKAland.

Barron mentioned the following presentations:
- May 21 presentation – Smith at UNL/USGS climate change conference
- May 6 – Kenny at Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force
- May 20 – Kenny at Colorado chapter of Engineering Companies
- June 17 – Kenny at Colorado Water Education Foundation
- July 28 – Smith at UNL/CAMNet adaptive management short course

Barron handed out fact sheets about various aspects of the Program for use as educational material.

EA Bypass Agreement
Kowalski said the legal ad hoc committee and EA bypass group have a conference call scheduled for June 16th to discuss the status of the bypass agreement. Kowalski said a key issue is who the signatories on the agreement will be. The legal ad hoc and bypass committees will discuss this next week and will have something to discuss with the GC in August. At this point, the USFWS will not be a signatory but will provide a formal statement from the agency as to their interpretation and what they believe they are agreeing to through the bypass agreement. Other outstanding issues remain that will also be discussed.

FY08 Budget Items
Kenny discussed the revised Program budget spreadsheet, changes made from previous versions, and the new columns in the spreadsheet. John Heaston asked if we could add a column that shows remainder of project money for the year to help keep track of what is still available. Purcell clarified that Heaston is talking about including a column that reflects the division of money for various Program aspects that make up the $187 million in anticipated Program funding during the course of the First Increment. Lawson said this is a good point and will
continue to be discussed with the ED Office and the Finance Committee. Lawson also said we
need to work on cost escalation and inflation issues.

Dougherty asked about the process for releasing RFPs and publishing results from monitoring
and research. Smith said the tern/plover foraging habits study RFP includes language about
publishing, and that work is underway to formalize the process of analyzing monitoring and
research data and publishing reports/studies as a result.

Barels said the Program budget has run on an annual calendar year budget as opposed to the
federal fiscal year budget. Barels said there have been questions about resolving the federal
budget cycle, the state budget cycle, and the Program budget cycle. Kenny said we are keeping
very detailed accounting in coordination with Reclamation. Lawson said he is working through
how best to determine how to obligate/spend federal dollars based on what is received as an
appropriation. Barels said we need to budget at a higher level to be able to track long-term
spending and match it with Program needs and appropriation availability. Lawson said he is
working on a cost escalation table to help.

TP-4: Tern/Plover Foraging Habits Study
Kenny discussed the tern/plover foraging habits study and the estimated $120,000 from 2008-
2010. Tom Dougherty moved to approve the RFP and the Proposal Selection Team; Julie
Lyke seconded. The GC approved the RFP and Proposal Selection Team.

Purcell asked if anyone opposed dropping the TP-4 budget from $85,000 down to $40,000 for
FY08. Kraus said he did not have a problem, but that there are other options. Lawson said a key
is that the federal government does not carry over large sums of money, so the proposal is to
follow that kind of process. Don Kraus moved to approve; Dennis Strauch seconded. The
GC approved lowering the TP-4 budget line item from $85,000 to $40,000.

WMV-3: Central Platte River Vegetation Monitoring
Kenny discussed moving $45,000 from TP-4 to this new budget line item. Funds would be to
get contractor on board to help revised monitoring protocol, develop budget and monitoring plan,
and ultimately implement monitoring. Purcell asked for a motion to approve adding line item
WMV-3 to the budget at a funding level of $45,000. John Heaston moved for approval; John
Lawson seconded. The GC approved.

PD-4: Contract for Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) Implementation Modeling
Workshop
Kenny discussed the sole-source justification for Dr. Drew Tyre to lead a Rapid Prototyping
workshop in July to do some simple modeling related to AMP implementation. The contract
would be for no more than $10,000 for Dr. Tyre to lead the workshop. John Heaston motioned
to approve the contract; Brian Barels seconded. The GC approved.

LP-2(a) – 2008 Cottonwood Ranch Enhancement Activities
Kenny discussed the 2008 Cottonwood Ranch enhancement agreement for 2008. Kenny said the only difference from past agreements is the paragraph stating that the Program has liability insurance that will cover any potential downstream impacts related to enhancement activities. Kenny said we need GC approval of the proposed enhancement activities, proposed budget, and form of the agreement. Kowalski asked what would be left in LP-2(a). Kenny said the available budget would cover maintenance and enhancement activities in both 2007 and 2008. Lawson said to be sure to adjust the actual amount of obligations in LP-2(a) and LP-2(b). Dennis Strauch moved to approve the contract; Jennifer Schellpeper seconded. The GC approved.

ISAC-1 & PD-3: ISAC/Peer Review Panels

Smith provided an update on the process to select contract help with finding members for the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee and five peer review panels. The proposal teams Sustainable Ecosystems Institute and PBS&J will be interviewed on June 19th in Lincoln, NE.

G-1: LiDAR Implementation

Kenny discussed the status of LiDAR acquisition. A group of partners coalesced last fall around a need for topographic data; LiDAR was generally understood to be the best form of data. Acting together, the partners could get high-quality services at a lower price. The consortium is the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture; the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; the Program; the State of Kansas; and the USGS Nebraska Science Center. Several avenues were explored for evaluating and selecting potential contractors. The USGS has a list of approved contractors, but decided to first estimate what it would cost for the USGS to manage the process. The estimate was significantly higher than expected. Another contractor from the Corps of Engineers list offered an estimate that was also higher than expected. The team then worked through a more comprehensive Department of Interior list of contractors and ended up with a cost estimate more in line with expectations. Kenny said it is likely that we can get LiDAR from North Platte to Chapman for the approved budget amount of $250,000. The contractor of choice for flying LiDAR is Merrick; Dewberry will be brought on as a contractor to manage LiDAR data acquisition and processing.

There will be a MOU between all the parties. Funding will be passed through the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. The intent is to fly LiDAR this fall with leaves off, no snow, and low water conditions. Kenny asked the GC to approve proceeding on this path, and also to provide any advice on additional GC or Program involvement with the ED Office in the process. Purcell asked what the total budget is for the full project. Kenny said it would be about $2.5 million; 20,000 square miles will be flown, and Program data will be collected on about 200 square miles. Kowalski asked where Merrick and Dewberry were based. Merrick is based in Aurora, CO; Dewberry has an office in Colorado but is headquartered in Virginia.

Kowalski said procedure should dictate that the GC needs to approve this kind of activity as a sole-source project, and the scope of the project and size of the budget obligation means the GC should provide approval now but get written justification from the ED Office for this in August. Lawson asked about the MO and what kind of contracting mechanism is being utilized. He asked if the MOU is the contracting agreement and how it fits into the partnership. Purcell said
the MOU is with the partners in this agreement and will specify that the RBJV is the contracting entity. Lawson asked who the budget line item for this effort is obligated to – RBJV, or Merrick/Dewberry? Kenny said the money will go to the RBJV. Lawson said the motion should be about the MOU, since that will serve as our contract. Barels said the MOU would come to the Finance Committee for approval because the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) will be signing on behalf of the Program.

Purcell said the motion would be for the Program to enter into the consortium for implementation of LiDAR, with the understanding that the consortium may enter into sole-source contracting and the Program agrees to accept the contracting procedure of the partners in the consortium. The final MOU will be approved by the FC. Kowalski said that motion is good, but should also include written justification for the GC as to why and how this process was entered into. Purcell asked if Kenny’s presentation in the minutes was good enough. Kowalski said he wanted something in writing, and in the minutes would work. Kowalski moved to approve; Dougherty seconded. The GC approved.

LiDAR justification presentation text from Jerry Kenny

The following is a summary of the LiDAR acquisition process initiated in the fall of 2007.

A consortium of project partners coalesced in the fall of 2007 around the common need of obtaining topographic data covering various portions of central and south central Nebraska. Further, each partner had independently arrived at the conclusion that LiDAR was the preferred method for obtaining the topographic data, that economies of scale could be achieved if the data were collected by a common contractor, and that consistency among the datasets would be ensured by use of a common contractor. In other words, a better product could more easily be obtained at a lower cost by acting in concert in selection of a contractor.

The consortium of partners consists of:

- The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
- The State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
- The State of Kansas joined to acquire some data in the Republican Basin
- Personnel from the United States Geological Survey – Nebraska Division have served as advisors through the process because of their experience and expertise in LiDAR acquisition.

The consortium of project partners have explored several potential contractor selections and contracting mechanisms. The options explored were:

United States Geological Survey – This mechanism included project cost estimate development by USGS staff followed by submittal of scope of work to prequalified contractors. The contractor who could most closely match the cost estimate (lowest) would be selected to perform the work. All of the project partner’s monies would be paid to USGS who would take a percentage and pay the contractor. The group abandoned this mechanism after the USGS cost...
estimate was on the order of four times greater than preliminary estimates provided by area contractors.

United States Army Corps of Engineers – This contracting process is similar to the USGS mechanism except that the consortium could select a contractor based on predetermined rates. However, the USACE contractor rates were also significantly higher than preliminary estimates provided by area LiDAR contractors.

Acquisition Services Directorate (ASD) – This contracting mechanism, available through the Department of the Interior, allows the consortium to contract with LiDAR providers who have won IDIQ contracts through the DOI. The ASD IDIQ contracts include previously negotiated rates, which are significantly lower than the USGS and USACE rates. A top-tier ASD contractor (Merrick) can perform the LiDAR work at a cost of approximately half of the USACE rates and one quarter of the USGS estimate.

Based on the cost comparisons and State of Kansas experience utilizing Merrick through the ASD contracting mechanism, the consortium has decided to pursue LiDAR acquisition contracting utilizing Merrick through the ASD IDIQ contract. In addition, the group decided to also retain the firm of Dewberry through the GSA contracting process to perform program management and QA/QC for the LiDAR project. The management and QA/QC costs will roughly equal 10% of total project costs. Dewberry is the industry leader in LiDAR program management and QA/QC and is considered to be invaluable in making sure that the LiDAR acquisition contractor (Merrick) collects and delivers a quality product.

The preliminary cost estimate for LiDAR acquisition and processing for the Platte River channel from Chapman to Lexington (an area of 134 sq. mi.) is on the order of $130,000. Our data will provide 1 foot contours (+/- 6 inch or 0.7 m GSD), whereas the other areas will be mapped at a 2 foot contour interval. Once program management and data storage costs are tallied, there should be approximately $60,000 to $80,000 additional dollars available based on the Program’s FY 2008 LiDAR budget. We are now in the process of developing additional acquisition areas for the reach from Lexington to North Platte. These will be added to the current acquisition reach and as much LiDAR will be acquired as possible utilizing the current budget. The LiDAR will be collected this fall and should be in-hand by late spring 2009.

The State of Nebraska is working on a draft MOU that will allow all of the partners to distribute their funding to the USFWS, which is the only entity among the consortium partners able to enter into a contract through the ASD. The consortium will meet again in mid-June to discuss the MOU and begin coordination with Dewberry to develop a scope of work and contract. Based on the discussions and coordination over the last six months, I am confident that the group has made wise and fiscally responsible decisions both in pursuing the ASD contracting process and in hiring Dewberry to manage the project.

G-5: Central Platte River Geomorphology Monitoring/Geomorphology Research
Smith discussed the status of the geomorphology monitoring protocol and RFP. Lawson suggested that there be an update for this budget line item at the August GC meeting that reflects how the $40,000 will be obligated for geomorphology monitoring and the $10,000 for geomorphology research.

**PS-1: Pallid Sturgeon Information Review**
Smith provided an update on the status of selecting a contractor to complete the pallid sturgeon information review. Kraus asked what happened if the selection team comes up with a split vote or one person does not support selection of a particular contractor. Czaplewski was a part of the Proposal Selection Team and discussed his view of the process and how differing opinions were handled during the process. Kenny said the Procurement Policy is not detailed on how to overcome split votes – it just says the highest ranked proposal that can do the work gets selected. Kenny said within those guidelines, the process worked this time. Kraus said it didn’t seem to be a large objection on this process, but it could be a problem in the future. Purcell said his process in Wyoming is to direct the selection team to ensure that the selected contractor can do a credible job, even if it is not their top selection. Czaplewski and Kevin Urie said it was helpful to get the questions clarified and factor that into the final selection, including making sure the contract reflects Program needs and the RFP scope and not a different scope in the proposal.

**WQ-1: Platte River Water Quality Monitoring**
Beorn Courtney updated the GC about the status of the WQ monitoring RFP. We received five proposals in response to the RFP. The Proposal Selection Team is reviewing the proposals and will have a conference call on June 18th to rank proposals and will hold interviews in Denver on June 26th.

Kenny said on this proposal, we will need some guidance from the WAC and TAC to clarify what we want to accomplish with water quality monitoring to help pin down details for the selected contractor.

**WP-3: Test Flow Routing Model/2008 EA Augmented Pulse Flow Pilot Study**
Smith provided a Power Point presentation showing some of the results of the recent heavy rains in central Nebraska and the related high flow event on the central Platte. The presentation is available on the Program website (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org). To summarize:

- The rain event of May 22-23, 2008 and the associated runoff and high flows on the central Platte roughly constitute a 10-year event on the river; similar high flows were last seen in June of 1995.
- Peak discharge was 10,400 cfs at Overton on May 25; 13,300 cfs at Kearney on May 26; 11,800 cfs at Grand Island on May 27.
- Unfortunately, the high flows did not appear to influence phragmites on most of the river.

Kenny discussed a potential Program monitoring response and data collection effort related to the high flow event that would require funding out of the WP-3 budget line item.
• Aerial photography in late June (Gothenburg to Chapman) for $15,000
• Transect surveys (Cottonwood Ranch, Uridil, Rowe Sanctuary) by Paul Kinzel, USGS for $20,000
• Additional Bureau of Reclamation transects (15-20) surveyed through three local survey crews for about $30,000
• Water surface elevation data on lower Platte by HDR Team for $10,000

$65,000 for central Platte and $10,000 for lower Platte = $75,000 total.

Kenny asked the GC for approval to spend WP-3 funds on the items identified above totaling roughly $75,000. Kwapiaski asked about whether this was a one-time survey event or if it would be necessary multiple times throughout the First Increment. Kenny said this was a one-time monitoring response and that monitoring of similar events in the future would be accomplished through implementation of Program monitoring protocols such as the geomorphology and vegetation monitoring protocols, as well as scheduled aerial photography.

Don Anderson asked if the ED Office had coordinated with Lisa Fotherby about opportunities to capture data that would help to calibrate the SedVeg model. Kenny and Smith discussed the coordination that had occurred relative to Fotherby’s thoughts about data collection.

Tom Dougherty moved to approve the ED Office spending $75,000 out of the WP-3 line item for this high flow event data collection effort; Brian Barels seconded. The GC approved.

Don Ament asked Kenny to make attempts to find partners like the USGS, USACE, or others to help with this effort. Kenny said he was working with the USGS on one set of transect re-surveys and would pursue those kind of partnerships if available.

Meeting adjourned until 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

Welcome and Administrative
Mike Purcell called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with a roll call.

Wyoming Property Update
Bruce Sackett and Jason Farnsworth gave an update on the status of the Wyoming property sponsorship agreement and recent land management activities on the property. Farnsworth provided a Power Point presentation showing recent tern/plover nesting island development and boat ramp construction. A draft lease agreement between the Program and the State of Wyoming has been submitted to Mike Purcell for review.

Program Database
Farnsworth provided the GC with an update on the status of development of both the Program database management system and the website. He showed the group screen shots of the latest version of the website. The technical team from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working on the database and website are on schedule and doing good work. Farnsworth reported that he is working closely with the FWS team to ensure they stay on schedule. Jerry Kenny said that a priority related to this project for the next round is providing easy and central access to hydrologic/gage data on a real time basis. Purcell asked about the data transfer from WEST, Inc. Farnsworth said he is traveling to Cheyenne this afternoon to pick up all hard-copy files from WEST and key documents will be scanned and available on the Program website.

**Invasives Species Update**

Farnsworth gave an update on Program activities related to phragmites control efforts in conjunction with the Platte Valley Weed Management Association. Farnsworth mentioned that the State of Nebraska has now declared phragmites as a noxious weed which may ultimately require landowner control. The Weed Management Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Program, and others submitted a grant application under LB 701 to spray and remove phragmites. The group received $300,000 in funding for the year, so spraying and removal actions are being planned for this fall that will involve helicopter spraying of much of the main channel upstream of Elm Creek. Farnsworth is also coordinating with UNL and others to keep tabs on phragmites related research.

Purcell asked about the status of the choke point project. Kenny said high flows were downstream of the choke point, so there was no high flow through the area. The island will be removed as will the sprayed phragmites yet this year. Greg Wingfield mentioned that the effort that will be undertaken to collect data related to the high flow event may provide useful information related to impacts on phragmites in areas downstream of Elm Creek that have received extensive management over the years (vegetation clearing, diskng, etc.).

**Depletions Plan Tracking**

Beorn Courtney talked about development of a tracking inventory for information coming in related to individual depletions plans. Wyoming and Colorado information has been entered into an Excel spreadsheet because that information has already been submitted. Information is being entered according to guidelines in the Program document. This effort will provide information as to when information will be received, what information will be received, the titles of information to be submitted, and additional information of importance. The intention is to have one sheet per depletions plan, and then a general tracking sheet of all information received to date. When information is received, the ED Office will update this tracking sheet and will distribute it, along with the information received, to the WAC for review. Kenny said this effort is an inventory and procedural checklist at this time. A WAC meeting will be convened prior to the WMS workshop in July to discuss depletions plans and other issues.

Kenny said another issue is that losses (conveyance and other) of flows to the critical habitat reach can be tracked with existing tools, but that there have been suggestions in the Program document and in the Wyoming and Colorado depletions plan reporting that the tools could be
improved or a new tool could be developed. Kenny said it would take time and resources to evaluate the tool and what other options might be available or be developed. Purcell said that this issue may not be as sensitive as in the past and questioned whether the Program still needed to investigate developing a comprehensive water tracking/accounting system. John Lawson talked about efforts to account for all the water and that prior work on this left the issue to be addressed with the existing tools, but that there could be discussion down the road about the best approach. Alan Berryman said it would be worth discussing but Colorado is not ready to throw their tracking system out. Don Anderson said it is worth keeping on a future WAC agenda. He talked about issues that could be discussed, including things like real-time tracking needs. Jennifer Schellpeper said Nebraska has a daily accounting/tracking process which includes the Environmental Account water. Purcell said one issue is how states get credit for water, and that influences how money is invested. Brian Barels said this effort is tied to crediting and Water Action Plan efforts, so that we are not quite there yet on some of these issues.

Ted Kowalski said we had talked about efforts to allow North Platte depletions with South Platte offsets at the last GC meeting. SPWRAP has voiced support for a funding arrangement to address the issue, and Colorado is going to take the issue to North Platte water users. Then, Colorado may want to amend its depletions plan and there may be a need to amend the federal depletions plan.

Purcell said the spreadsheet form overuses the word “tracking” and it should be called a compliance log or something else to avoid using the word “tracking”. Kenny and Courtney said revisions would be made. Purcell asked what the GC guidance to the WAC is on a comprehensive water tracking effort. Don Kraus said the priority should be the Boyle report and the WMS. Purcell agreed. The GC agreed that the current focus of the WAC should be the Phase II WMS and that water tracking/accounting may or may not be considered down the road. Frank Kwapnioski said that the spreadsheet was just intended to be an inventory of information.

George Williams asked if there was a Program release of water this year. Kenny and Purcell said there was discussion, budgeting, and planning, but no release was made.

Schellpeper said that Governor Heineman and the NRDs agreed last week to a funding mechanism for the Nebraska new depletions plan. Anderson asked about the status of Integrated Management Plans (IMPs). Schellpeper said they are waiting on the Overappropriated Basin overall plan before moving into the individual IMPs. The IMPs have to be done by September 2009, so drafts are expected in spring of 2009. Dennis Strauch asked about the funding mechanism, and Schellpeper said it is specifically for the Program-related new depletions plan.

Public Comment
Purcell asked for public comment; none was offered.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations
The next GC meetings will be:
August 12-13, 2008 at the Hampton Inn Convention Center in Scottsbluff, NE
October 7-8 meeting in Kearney, NE
December 2-3 meeting in Denver, CO

Meeting adjourned.

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from June GC meeting**

1) GC approved April 2008 minutes
2) GC approved the Water Management Study Phase I report from Boyle Engineering.
3) GC approved the RFP for TP-4 (tern/plover foraging habits study) and the composition of the Proposal Selection Team as recommended by the ED Office
4) GC approved reducing available budget for TP-4 to $40,000
5) GC approved creating new FY08 budget line item of WMV-3 (Central Platte River Vegetation Monitoring) and establishing a budget of $45,000 for FY08 (available funds moved from TP-4)
6) GC approved sole-source contract with Dr. Andrew Tyre of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for Structured Decision Making workshop in July related to Adaptive Management Plan implementation
7) GC approved plan for 2008 Cottonwood Ranch enhancement activities, estimated budget for enhancement activities, and form of the agreement between the Program and NPPD
8) GC approved Program entering into consortium for implementation of LiDAR, with the understanding that the consortium may enter into sole-source contracting and the Program agrees to accept the contracting procedure of the partners in the consortium; GC agreed that the final MOU related to this effort will be approved by the Finance Committee
9) GC approved spending $75,000 out of the available funds in line item WP-3 (Test Flow Routing Model/2008 EA Augmented Pulse Flow Pilot Study) for data collection efforts related to the recent high flow event on the Platte in central Nebraska
10) GC asked ED Office to change depletions plan spreadsheet to remove work “tracking” and re-name it with “information inventory” or another word/phrase
11) GC agreed that the current focus of the WAC should be the Phase II WMS and that water tracking/accounting may or may not be considered down the road