PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Water Advisory Committee Meeting Action Item Minutes

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Lake McConaughy Visitors Center, NE

November 12, 2008

Attendance
Frank Kwapnioski – WAC Chair, NPPD
Jerry Kenny – Executive Director, Headwaters Corp
Beorn Courtney – Headwaters Corp
Blaine Dwyer – Boyle/AECOM
Brock Merrill – Bureau of Reclamation
Cory Steinke – CNPPID
Dennis Strauch – Upper Platte Water Users/PID
Don Anderson – US Fish & Wildlife Service
Doug Hallum – Nebraska DNR
Duane Woodward – Downstream Water Users/Central Platte NRD
Greg Wingfield – USFWS
Jennifer Schellpeper – Nebraska DNR
Joe Frank – Colorado Water Users/Lower South Platte WCD
Jon Altenhofen – Colorado Water Users/Northern Colorado WCD
June DeWeese – USFWS
Kent Miller – Downstream Water Users/Twin Platte NRD
Mahonri Willimas – Bureau of Reclamation
Matt Hoobler – Wyoming SEO
Mike Drain – CNPPID
Nate Nielsen – CNPPID
Randy Tullis – Wyoming SEO
Rich Halloway – Tri-Bain NRD
Ted Kowalski – State of Colorado/CWCB

Welcome and Administrative
Introductions; no agenda modifications. The July and September 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

WAC Committee List Update
The ED Office will update and recirculate the WAC Committee list.

May 2008 High Flow Event
The Executive Director’s (ED) Office, Jerry Kenny and Beorn Courtney, provided updates on analysis of the May 2008 high flow event. Program staff will work with Don Anderson and Jon Altenhofen to investigate scenarios for quantifying amounts that could be stored during times of excess to target flows. The May 2008 flow event is of interest because the large excesses at Grand Island were due to local high rain events while flows at the upstream end of the critical
habitat were less than targets.

**Water Management Study (WMS) Phase II Review**

WMS Phase II comments are due to Beorn Courtney by November 17. Blaine Dwyer was in attendance to address questions at this time; Boyle/AECOM will make a formal presentation to the WAC in December.

**FY09 Reservoir Feasibility for Pulse Flow Implementation**

Jerry Kenny presented the need to move forward with reservoir feasibility studies resulting from WMS Phase II, in addition to other alternatives. The Program document says water projects should be able to implement the pulse flow by 2011 and that 25,000 AF reduction in shortages to target flows should be achieved by 2014. Ted Kowalski clarified that this is not a Milestone; the milestone is that the WAP will be implemented and “capable of providing at least an average of 50,000 acre-feet per year of shortage reduction to target flows, or for other Program purposes, by no later than the end of the First Increment.” Frank Kwapnioski suggested discussing this at the next WAC meeting where GC members will be present.

**Conjunctive Management Model**

PowerPoint presentation by Duane Woodward on the Conjunctive Management Tool being sponsored and developed by CNPPID, NPPD, TPNRD, CPNRD, and NDNR. The WAC discussed potential value in using this tool for scenario analyses, feasibility studies, and developing information as input to OPSTUDY (OPSTUDY and the GC would continue to be the yardstick for determining “does it count”). However, the committee needs to better understand how the Program could get involved, what access it would have to the consultants (HDR) who are developing the tools, etc. Jerry Kenny will draft a formal letter to the sponsors to engage in discussions.

Meeting adjourned until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

**November 13, 2008**

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**Water Evaluation Process**

The GC requested the WAC to develop a process to assess how to evaluate water supply opportunities and to determine whether to pursue/acquire. Beorn Courntney presented 2 draft flow charts developed by Program staff as examples of how this process might work; these were a discussion tool to potentially broaden the scope of the assignment to consider similar efforts that will be ongoing for implementing the Water Action Plan. The WAC determined that a sub-committee would work directly with Program staff to advance evaluation of Water Action Plan projects and to work with Boyle/AECOM in using hydrologic tools developed for WMS Phase I and II to evaluate integration of projects and use of both Environmental Account water and excesses to target flows. Recognizing the scope has expanded, Frank Kwapnioski encouraged any additional WAC members interested in this subject to contact the ED Office ASAP to join the sub-committee. The sub-committee will convene in Ogallala in December.

**FY09 Water Plan Budget Update**

Jerry provided an updated preliminary budget for 2009 water-related activities. No changes were recommended by the WAC other than clarification of the Water Action Plan scoping.

**Choke Point Update**

Jerry provided an update on the choke point work and issues with phragmites downstream of the current choke point but upstream of CNPPID’s diversion. The WAC supports cost-sharing with other organizations to remove additional phragmites above the CNPPID diversion.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Additional Business**

Next meeting is the WMS Phase II Workshop prior to the GC meeting (9:30 am to noon) on December 2 in Denver. The next full WAC meeting is scheduled for Jan 20, location TBD. Beorn will circulate dates for a sub-committee meeting in December in Ogallala (will cc full WAC).