



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Governance Committee Special Session Conference Call Minutes**
3 April 17, 2009
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5 **Executive Director’s Office**

6 Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
7 Bruce Sackett
8 Chad Smith
9 Jason Farnsworth

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11 **Governance Committee**

12 Brian Barels – Nebraska Public Power District
13 Alan Berryman – Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
14 Ron Bishop – Central Platte Natural Resources District
15 John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy
16 Ted Kowalski – State of Colorado
17 Don Kraus – Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
18 Harry LaBonde – State of Wyoming
19 John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation
20 Kent Miller – Twin Platte Natural Resources District
21 Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming
22 Jennifer Schellpeper – Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
23 Dennis Strauch – Pathfinder Irrigation District
24 Kevin Urie – Denver Water
25 Greg Wingfield – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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27 **Participants**

28 Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte Natural Resources District
29 Larry Schulz – Consultant

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31 **Welcome & Administrative**

32 Lawson called the meeting to order and asked Kenny to lead the meeting. The group proceeded
33 with a roll call.
34

35 **Executive Session**

36 Purcell made a motion to enter executive session to discuss land offerings; Heaston seconded.

37 **GC entered Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. Central time.**
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39 Schellpeper made a motion to exit executive session; Wingfield seconded. **GC exited executive**
40 **session at 11:25 a.m. Central time.**
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42 **Program Land Tracts**

43 Purcell made a motion to approve the purchase of the 0804 tract as presented and authorize the
44 deposit check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon



45 completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively.; Kowalski seconded. **Motion**
46 **approved.** Kraus and Barels abstained from voting.

47
48 Heaston made a motion to approve the purchase of the 0839 tract as presented and authorize the
49 deposit check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon
50 completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively. Also, latitude will be granted
51 for the ED Office to make a determination about proper disposal of the peninsula of land
52 extending into the Cottonwood Ranch property contingent on available NPPD funds to acquire
53 that peninsula at the time of closing. Schellpeper seconded. **Motion approved.** Barels abstained
54 from voting.

55
56 Sackett provided the GC with an update on two parcels of land that have been recently closed.
57 One property is 185 acres near the Wyoming property that will remain under a farming lease this
58 year. The second property is 138-140 acres near Elm Creek adjacent to NPPD’s Kearney Canal
59 Diversion. Kowalski asked if the ED Office would send out a press release about recent
60 Program land acquisitions. Kenny said that would happen soon.

61
62 Kowalski asked how the flow routing test went. Wingfield said EA releases ended Wednesday
63 night and additional flows would start to decline later this afternoon. The flow routing test went
64 very well and continues to provide very useful information. The river did brush up against flood
65 stage at North Platte but stayed within those limits. Kenny agreed things had gone very
66 smoothly and the Program would learn a great deal from the flow routing test. Wingfield said
67 water accounting will show some EA water went down the canal instead of bypassing all of it
68 just to be conservative. The out-of-pocket costs for EA bypass should be less than the projected
69 \$120,000. Kraus said there was a small clip from the KNOP television station in North Platte
70 that showed high water in Cody Park. Kenny said he and Wingfield might appear on KNOP this
71 evening. Wingfield said he and Don Anderson have numerous pictures to document flows at
72 North Platte. Miller asked Wingfield to e-mail some of those pictures. Barels said maybe a
73 better way would be to make a presentation at the next GC meeting. Miller agreed, but wanted
74 Wingfield to go ahead and send a couple of images to the full GC. Barels asked if we are
75 realizing any benefits from Program work at the choke point. Kenny said we are seeing a benefit
76 in that flow paths and patterns have improved at the upstream end of the property, but until
77 actions are taken downstream this fall we will not see any improvement in flow corresponding to
78 flood stage based upon the upstream work. Next year, we will see the full capacity increase.

79
80 Kenny said he really appreciated the GC acting quickly to assemble this Special Session and
81 tackle Program land tract issues. Acting quickly on land transactions is important for the
82 Program to retain credibility with local landowners.

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84 With no further business, Lawson adjourned the Special Session at 11:39 a.m. Central time.

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89 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from April 2009 GC Special Session**

- 90 1) GC approved a motion to purchase the 0804 tract as presented and authorize the deposit
91 check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon
92 completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively.
- 93 2) GC approved a motion to purchase the 0839 tract as presented and authorize the deposit
94 check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon
95 completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively. Also, latitude will be
96 granted for the ED Office to make a determination about proper disposal of the peninsula of
97 land extending into the Cottonwood Ranch property contingent on available NPPD funds to
98 acquire that peninsula at the time of closing.