PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Governance Committee Special Session Conference Call Minutes
April 17, 2009

Executive Director’s Office
Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith
Jason Farnsworth

Governance Committee
Brian Barels – Nebraska Public Power District
Alan Berryman – Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Ron Bishop – Central Platte Natural Resources District
John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy
Ted Kowalski – State of Colorado
Don Kraus – Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
Harry LaBonde – State of Wyoming
John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation
Kent Miller – Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming
Jennifer Schellpeper – Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dennis Strauch – Pathfinder Irrigation District
Kevin Urie – Denver Water
Greg Wingfield – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Participants
Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte Natural Resources District
Larry Schulz – Consultant

Welcome & Administrative
Lawson called the meeting to order and asked Kenny to lead the meeting. The group proceeded with a roll call.

Executive Session
Purcell made a motion to enter executive session to discuss land offerings; Heaston seconded. GC entered Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. Central time.

Schellpeper made a motion to exit executive session; Wingfield seconded. GC exited executive session at 11:25 a.m. Central time.

Program Land Tracts
Purcell made a motion to approve the purchase of the 0804 tract as presented and authorize the deposit check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon
completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively.; Kowalski seconded. **Motion approved.** Kraus and Barels abstained from voting.

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

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

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

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

With no further business, Lawson adjourned the Special Session at 11:39 a.m. Central time.
Summary of Action Items/Decisions from April 2009 GC Special Session

1) GC approved a motion to purchase the 0804 tract as presented and authorize the deposit check be released upon signature of the contract and the closing money be released upon completion of all necessary closing documentation, respectively.

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