



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Lake McConaughy Visitors Center & Water Interpretive Center – Ogallala, NE
February 4, 2009

Attendees

Mark Peyton, Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (Chair)
 Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
 Chad Smith – ED Office
 Justin Brei – ED Office
 Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte Natural Resources District
 Martha Tacha – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Mike Fritz – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 Jim Jenniges – Nebraska Public Power District
 Mike Besson – State of Wyoming
 Lisa Fotherby – Bureau of Reclamation
 Mark Sherfy – USGS

Welcome and Administrative

Mark Peyton called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with a roll call. No agenda modifications were suggested. Mark Czaplewski moved to approve the minutes of the January 2009 TAC meeting; Jim Jenniges seconded. **Minutes approved.**

Tern/Plover Foraging Habits Study

Mark Sherfy of the USGS attended the meeting and discussed the tern/plover foraging habits study design. Key topics of discussion and next steps include:

- Productivity effort overlap – Study could be good check for Program monitoring protocol; **Program will continue implementing monitoring protocol at same time foraging habits study is ongoing.**
- Site access – **NPPD will have to accompany USGS at Johnson sandpit any time USGS needs to be inside the gate** (sandpit is leased, not owned, by NPPD); NPPD can grant USGS access to Lexington and Blue Hole sandpits; **Mark Czaplewski will work with Sherfy to determine possibility of working at Broadfoot South sandpit at Kearney; Sherfy will need to talk with Bill Taddicken at Rowe Sanctuary to ensure access to the Dinan Tract and Triplett Trail for riverine nesting; ED Office will provide Sherfy with a shape file of conservation lands.**
- USGS will use temporary blinds to house personnel and equipment for observation; USGS will follow same protocol as used on the Missouri River; **Mike Fritz said the NGPC will coordinate with Martha Tacha and the USFWS ensuring the state and federal permits for this study will allow that activity; Jenniges said he would talk to Sherfy about this possibility at the Johnson sandpit.**
- **ED Office and Sherfy will work on communication issues** – weekly written reports on field activity, basic spreadsheet with what the USGS is finding.



- Sherfy needs housing for six people from mid-April through the end of July; **ED Office will help coordinate.**
- Sherfy asked about data collection and reporting and ensuring compatibility with Program-collected data; **ED Office and Sherfy will work together ensure data compatibility.**

Forage Fish Monitoring Protocol

The TAC discussed the current forage fish monitoring protocol, the results of related data analysis, and the prospects for future implementation of the protocol and potential changes to the protocol. The TAC agreed to the following approach:

- **Chad Smith and Jenniges will continue data analysis** from existing monitoring data, including the Program protocol, data from the Districts' monitoring pre-Program, and data from Chadwick & Associates monitoring that occurred pre-Program.
- The **ISAC will be asked about the objectives of the protocol**, its relationship to Program and AMP objectives and priority hypotheses, and provide advice on how best to proceed.
- **The TAC assumes the monitoring protocol will be implemented in the summer of 2009;** changes to monitoring locations, timing of effort, and other protocol details will be considered for implementation in 2009.
- Recommendations related to the results of data analysis and the relationship of that analysis to priority hypotheses will be discussed in detail by the TAC before being forwarded on to the Governance Committee.
- The ED Office and TAC will explore possibilities for publishing a paper(s) related to the forage fish monitoring protocol and the related data analysis.

Program Data Ownership and Publication

The TAC discussed issues related to Program data ownership and how that data should be presented in the form of publications and other public distribution.

Smith suggestions:

- Data is public, but to the extent possible publication and public distribution of conclusions related to Program progress toward goals/objectives and the relationship between management actions, adaptive management experiments, and priority hypotheses are at the sole discretion of the Program.
- Contractors are now generally bound by the following language in all Program contracts: "It is understood that the results of this work may be available to the Consultant for publication and use in connection with related work. Authority to utilize such results for publication and related use by the Consultant must be obtained by the Consultant in writing from the Program after full disclosure to and coordination with the Program's Technical Point of Contact."
- The ED Office will explore publication options for Program data/information. Issues related to the AMP, IMRP, and associated monitoring and research will be discussed with the TAC and AMWG prior to publication; publication draft will be reviewed by the AMWG and TAC.
- ISAC review of Program publications will be sought as appropriate.
- In addition to ED Office staff, Program participants will be sought as authors/co-authors.

**TAC discussion:**

- How fast does data get posted to the Program database? – need to consider QA/QC, protocol for how/when data is made available to the public; maybe give contractor access to data first, public later.
- **Seek GC approval of process for publishing data.**
- Don't release data/reports/publications until reach final version; includes publication and presentations; keep draft reports within Program Advisory Committees.
- University contracts with students (M.S. or PhD) or other entities – FWS/NGPC have regulatory requirements related to listed species and associated information that have to be met before publication; have to keep constant access to data and don't let it get tied up for a long period of time while a publication/study is being completed.
- Publications should have appropriate acknowledgments for Program participants/staff, funding, assistance, etc.
- Using data housed in database for general science publication (not about the Program specifically or conclusions related to hypotheses) will happen; attempt to give Program participants the chance to at least review and comment on a draft.
- If ED Office is made aware that data is going to be used, TAC should be alerted as well to provide opportunity for review and comment if desired.
- Data sensitivity about particular T&E species locations; NGPC does not give this specific information out; consider incorporating NGPC/FWS guidelines for specificity of information about T&E species (such as UTM coordinates of ILT/PP nest sites).
- Publication process for Program data should be tied to process for posting/making available data on the Program web site; may be different levels of access and available information on the web site.
- Program should not post real-time T&E species locations.

Smith will use results of this discussion to draft data ownership and publication guidelines for TAC review and comment prior to seeking GC approval.

The TAC agreed that Lisa Fotherby can move ahead with submitting her paper on Platte River planform and phragmites for the EWRI Conference.

Aerial Photography

Justin Brei discussed the current Program aerial photography protocol and potential changes that might be recommended by the ED Office. Brei discussed the protocol requirement of black-and-white photography every other year and why that was included in the protocol. Jenniges said that was to provide contrast in bedforms. Mike Besson said cost was a factor as well. Brei said the main suggested change would be to get CIR during the late May/early June time period each year to provide data on available tern/plover nesting habitat during the nest initiation time period. Czaplewski said there are also other reasons for photography in the protocol that extend beyond just channel measurements that need to be considered as the protocol is revised. **Brei said he will revise the protocol and will seek TAC review and comment.**

**Closing Business**

The 2009 TAC meeting schedule is:

- April 22 – Denver, CO (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mountain time) – check on Rockies game (away game in Arizona that day)
- June 17 – Kearney, NE (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central time)

Meeting adjourned.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from February 2009 TAC meeting

- 1) TAC approved minutes of January 2009 meeting.
- 2) Action Items related to tern/plover foraging habits study:
 - Program will continue to implement tern/plover monitoring protocol during course of USGS tern/plover foraging habits study.
 - NPPD will have to accompany USGS at all times at Johnson sandpit.
 - Czaplewski will work with Sherfy at USGS to see if access can be obtained at the Broadfoot South sandpit for foraging habits study activities.
 - ED Office will put Sherfy in touch with Bill Taddicken at Rowe Sanctuary to ensure access for foraging habits study at Dinan Tract and Triplett Trail.
 - ED Office will provide shapefile of tern/plover nesting locations to Sherfy.
 - Fritz/Tacha will ensure state and federal permits for study allow use of temporary blinds for observation purposes.
 - Jenniges will coordinate with Sherfy about temporary blinds at Johnson sandpit.
 - ED Office will continue to coordinate weekly phone calls and/or e-mails during tern/plover monitoring season and will include Sherfy; ED Office and Sherfy will develop database/Excel spreadsheet to track bird locations and activity during the study/monitoring season.
 - ED Office and Sherfy will ensure data compatibility.
- 3) Action Items related to forage fish monitoring protocol:
 - The protocol will be implemented in the summer of 2009; potential changes in effort and timing will be considered prior to implementation.
 - ED Office and Jenniges will conduct additional data analysis.
 - ISAC will be asked about protocol objectives and relationship to AMP.
- 4) Smith will use results of this discussion to draft data ownership and publication guidelines for TAC review and comment prior to seeking GC approval.
- 5) The TAC agreed that Lisa Fotherby can move ahead with submitting her paper on Platte River planform and phragmites for the EWRI Conference.
- 6) Brei said he will revise the protocol and will seek TAC review and comment.