



1                   **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
2                   **Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
3                   **Executive Director’s Office – Kearney, NE**  
4                   **January 15, 2009**

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7    **Attendees**

- 8    Scott Woodman, Chair  
9    Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair  
10   Jerry Kenny, Executive Director  
11   Bruce Sackett  
12   Chad Smith  
13   Justin Brei  
14   Harry LaBonde  
15   Greg Wingfield  
16   June DeWeese  
17   John Shadle  
18   John Heaston  
19   John Thorburn  
20   Kent Aden  
21   Ted LaGrange  
22   Larry Reynolds  
23   Tim Tunnell  
24   Jim Jenniges  
25   Brock Merrill via phone  
26   Jason Farnsworth via phone  
27   Joe Frank via phone

28  
29  
30   **Welcome and Administrative**

31   Scott Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:10 am Central Time and the group proceeded  
32   with introductions. Woodman asked for agenda modifications and none were provided. The  
33   agenda was approved without modification.

34  
35   Harry LaBonde made a motion to approve the November 4, 2008 minutes without revision. The  
36   motion was seconded by John Heaston and approved.

37  
38   **GC Meeting Update**

39   Mark Czaplewski gave a brief update on the December GC meeting held in Denver, Colorado.  
40   Czaplewski reported that the GC approved the recommended members to the Independent  
41   Science Advisory Committee (ISAC), and the membership of peer review panels to review  
42   specific Program monitoring and research efforts and protocols.



44 Tract 0815 was approved for purchase by the GC. The GC also approved proceeding with  
45 negotiations for tracts 0805, 0839, and 0847. Czaplewski reported that tract 0813 was not  
46 approved by the GC.

47  
48 The Governance Committee approved the Program's 2009 budget. In addition, Don Ament was  
49 elected to serve as chairman, and John Lawson to serve as vice-chairman for 2009.

50  
51 **Approval of Evaluation Team Recommendation 0819**

52 Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0819. Discussion of Tract 0819 centered around possible  
53 acquisition as non-complex habitat and the rights of access to the lake that the current owner  
54 intended to retain. If the landowner intended to retain rights of access to the water, then Tract  
55 0819 would lose value to the Program. Jim Jenniges made a motion to proceed with negotiations  
56 and to investigate issues of access to the water, and the motion carried unanimously.

57  
58 **Approval of Evaluation Team Recommendation 0845**

59 Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0845. Mark Czaplewski made a motion to accept the  
60 Evaluation Team recommendation and forward Tract 0845 the GC with recommendation to  
61 purchase the tract as complex habitat. The motion was seconded by Greg Wingfield and carried  
62 unanimously.

63  
64 **Approval of Evaluation Team Recommendation 0849**

65 Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0849. Tract 0849 includes non-complex and excess  
66 acres, and the LAC discussed options for dealing with those acres. They discussed the proximity  
67 of the property to existing NGPC public access property, and the potential for land trades with  
68 NGPC. Sackett and Heaston also discussed the benefit of available trade lands in brokering  
69 deals for other potential Program lands. The excess acres include certified irrigated acres, and  
70 could also be evaluated for Program use by the WAC.

71  
72 Harry LaBonde made a motion to adopt the Evaluation Team recommendation to purchase  
73 of Tract 0849 as non-complex sand pit habitat, with the excess acres acquired only as trade land  
74 or for water banking pending WAC review. The motion was seconded by Jim Jenniges and  
75 passed with unanimous approval.

76  
77 **Approval of Evaluation Team Recommendation 0850**

78 Sackett presented an overview of Tract 0850. Jim Jenniges made a motion to accept the  
79 Evaluation Team recommendation and forward the tract to the GC with a recommendation to  
80 purchase Tract 0850 as complex habitat. The motion was seconded by Mark Czaplewski and  
81 subsequently approved. John Heaston abstained.

82  
83 **Update on Land Management**

84 Bruce Sackett presented 5-year management and enhancement plans for the Wyoming Property  
85 and Cottonwood Ranch. Discussion followed about the order of presentation of future  
86 management plans to the LAC and the TAC. It was acknowledged that with sponsorship  
87 agreements in progress, these properties are a special case, but it was asked that staff follow the



88 flow chart process more closely for future properties. Jason Farnsworth indicated that the  
89 updated flow chart does not include an order, just that both committees be solicited for comment,  
90 and that the TAC does not formally approve management plans.

91  
92 John Thorburn expressed concerns that the plans should include better coordination with weed  
93 management groups and other agencies with similar interests to the Program.

94  
95 The LAC requested more time to review the Wyoming and Cottonwood Ranch plans, and that  
96 they be passed through the TAC as well before final LAC approval. The LAC was requested to  
97 return comments on these plans by January 29, 2009. The plans will also be distributed to the  
98 TAC for comment. These plans will be returned to the LAC for approval at the March 11, 2009  
99 meeting.

100

101 **Land Bank and Good Neighbor Policy**

102 Sackett introduced the concept of land banking for the Program, and emphasized the importance  
103 of available trade lands in a negotiation. Harry LaBonde expressed concerns of tying up dollars  
104 in these trade lands, and that the focus must remain on acquiring habitat lands. Greg Wingfield  
105 indicated a need for flexibility to dispose of land intended for a complex where a complex was  
106 not able to be formed. Holding this land for trade may allow acquisition of land in areas more  
107 beneficial to the Program.

108

109 John Heaston made a motion to request GC approval for the LAC to develop a Land Trade  
110 category and process for their review and approval. Harry LaBonde seconded the motion and it  
111 passed unanimously.

112

113 Sackett then led a discussion of the Program's Good Neighbor policy. Ted LaGrange indicated  
114 the value that neighboring landowners can have in the planning stage of the management and  
115 restoration process. Section IV of the Program Land Plan provides guidance for the Good  
116 Neighbor policy. Sackett indicated that staff and contractors will continue to keep neighbors  
117 educated, informed, and involved with planned activities on Program lands.

118

119 **Sediment Augmentation**

120 Chad Smith gave a brief update on the process of sediment augmentation. Currently, the 5-year  
121 plan for sediment augmentation is to achieve sediment balance in the river just upstream of  
122 Cottonwood Ranch. Methods for achieving this may include use of the soon to be acquired Tract  
123 0815, or partnerships with sand & gravel operations on the river. In 2009, the Program will hire  
124 a contractor to study options for feasibility of sediment augmentation on the Platte River.  
125 Currently, the plan is to start sediment augmentation activities in the field in 2010.

126

127 **Complex Size**

128 Greg Wingfield gave a short presentation of the USFWS views on the size of a habitat complex.  
129 He indicated that the USFWS feels there are still habitat needs in every reach in the associated  
130 habitats. The USFWS believes that the Kearney to Minden reach is approaching a complete  
131 complex, if several of the tracts currently in negotiations are acquired. Wingfield reiterated that



132 the Program must still use its best efforts to work in all reaches, and to continue to explore  
133 easements as a protection option in reaches where purchase options are limited and not much  
134 habitat is protected.

135

136 **Public Comment/Closing Business**

137 Woodman asked for public comments. None were offered.

138

139 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's**  
140 **Office on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. CST.**

141

142 **Executive Session**

143 Harry LaBonde moved to go into executive session to review details of land offerings. The  
144 motion was seconded by Greg Wingfield. The motion carried unanimously and the committee  
145 went into executive session at 12:47 p.m.

146

147 Greg Wingfield moved that the committee come out of executive session. The motion was  
148 seconded by LaBonde and carried unanimously. The committee came out of executive session at  
149 1:40 p.m.

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151 The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 1:47 p.m.