



1                   **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
2                   **Water Advisory Committee Meeting Action Minutes**  
3                   **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Lake McConaughy Visitors Center, NE**

4  
5                   **January 20, 2009**

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7                   **Attendance**

8 Frank Kwapnioski – WAC Chair, NPPD  
9 Jerry Kenny – Executive Director, Headwaters Corp  
10 Beorn Courtney – ED Office/Headwaters Corp  
11 Jason Farnsworth – ED Office/Headwaters Corp  
12 Laura Belanger – ED Office/Headwaters Corp  
13 Cory Steinke – CNPPID  
14 Dennis Strauch – Upper Platte Water Users/PID  
15 Don Anderson – US Fish & Wildlife Service  
16 Doug Hallum – Nebraska DNR  
17 Duane Hovorka – National Wildlife Federation  
18 Duane Woodward – Downstream Water Users/Central Platte NRD  
19 Jennifer Schellpeper – Nebraska DNR  
20 Jim Hall – Colorado DNR (phone)  
21 Jon Altenhofen – Colorado Water Users/Northern Colorado WCD  
22 Kent Miller – Downstream Water Users/Twin Platte NRD (phone)  
23 Mahonri Williams – Bureau of Reclamation (phone)  
24 Matt Hoobler – Wyoming SEO (phone)  
25 Mike Besson – Wyoming Water Development Office  
26 Mike Drain – CNPPID  
27 Rich Holloway – Tri-Bain NRD (phone)  
28 Ted Kowalski – State of Colorado/CWCB (phone)

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30                   **Welcome and Administrative**

31 Introductions; no agenda modifications. **The November WAC Action Items were approved.**

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33                   **May 2008 Natural High Flow Event**

34 Jason Farnsworth reported on the May 2008 event. He provided an overview of the draft report  
35 which was prepared for the GC and provided to the WAC prior to the meeting.

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37 Jason noted that during the event, National Weather Service (NWS) flood stages were exceeded  
38 at the three USGS gages in the associated habitat reach: Overton, Kearney and Grand Island.  
39 Inconsistencies were found between USGS and NWS rating curves and Jason suggested that this  
40 be further investigated.

41  
42 Jason stressed the importance of not just looking at amount of sand in the river, but also in  
43 focusing on what could be considered habitat (in-channel surrounded by water). To this aim, the  
44 ED Office is working on ways to incorporate newly developed minimum habitat requirements



45 into future evaluations.

46

47 Downstream of Kearney, there is a lot of channel maintenance being undertaken so in order to  
48 identify what is intentionally being done by other organizations versus flow, we need to  
49 coordinate with the USFWS and the other organizations that are doing the work. The Platte  
50 River Habitat Partnership is developing a dataset of ongoing and past activities. Maintenance and  
51 updating of this dataset will be very important.

52

53 **Jason will look at the data to better quantify flows in the river during the event between the**  
54 **Brady and Cozad area.**

55

56 Beorn Courtney noted that there is an Adaptive Management Work Group pulse flow planning  
57 workshop coming up on May 5 and 6, 2009. They will be planning for several years and would  
58 like input from the WAC. **Cory Steinke, Don Anderson, and Mike Besson said they would**  
59 **attend. Jennifer Schellpeper will try to attend if available. Someone from the ED Office**  
60 **water resources group will also try to attend.**

61

#### 62 Nebraska Depletion Plan Update

63 Jennifer Shellpeper provided an overview of the Nebraska Depletion Plan reporting that was  
64 provided to the GC in December 2008. As indicated in the December 2, 2008 report, additional  
65 information is forthcoming and Jennifer reported that the information she previously planned to  
66 provide in February 2009 will actually be provided in April 2009 with the other information.

67

68 Beorn clarified that the GC did not ask the WAC for a formal review of this plan but that the ED  
69 Office requests the WAC to review depletion plan reporting and provide feedback as it submitted  
70 rather than holding off until a formal request is made by the GC; however, no action is required  
71 by the WAC. Frank Kwapnioski will report to the GC on the WAC discussion but no action  
72 items will be identified regarding Nebraska's depletion plan at this point. If asked by the GC to  
73 take additional action, the WAC will do so.

74

#### 75 Water Action Plan Subgroup Update and Consultant Workplan

76 Beorn provided an update on the Water Action Plan Subgroup (WAPS); the subgroup is meeting  
77 this afternoon to discuss the Water Action Plan (WAP) and how the Water Management Study  
78 ties in. The WAC needs to focus on getting a project in place to make a pulse release while  
79 moving forward on the WAP.

80

81 The ED Office created a workplan, which was circulated prior to the meeting, to extend  
82 Boyle/AECOM's WMS Phase II contract. The scope is for AECOM to train the ED Office on  
83 the WMS spreadsheet tool and to complete the sensitivity analyses which were recommended in  
84 Phase I. **The ED Office will circulate the Boyle/AECOM scope of work with deliverables**  
85 **and an estimated schedule to the WAC once it is ready.** The ED Office will then keep the  
86 WAPS informed regarding how this work is proceeding. **The WAC agreed to the workplan**  
87 **with a \$20,000 budget and Jerry will recommend it to the Finance Committee in its meeting**  
88 **next week.**



89  
90 Once the ED Office is up to speed on the WMS spreadsheet tool, they will begin working with  
91 CNPPID to better understand their system and operations. **The ED Office is developing a list**  
92 **of questions for Cory and Mike.**

93  
94 **Additional Business**

95 Beorn noted that there was an error in the electronic WAC/WAPS meeting date document which  
96 was circulated electronically prior to the meeting. The October GC meeting is in Kearney, not  
97 Ogallala. The group began discussing the proposed meeting schedule but then decided to wait  
98 until the afternoon WAPS meeting to finalize it. **Note that changes were made during the**  
99 **WAPS meeting and an updated list of meetings was emailed.**

100  
101 The next meeting of the WAC is a conference call on March 17 at 9 AM Mountain time. This  
102 meeting will be followed by a WAPS subgroup meeting at the Lake McConaughy Visitor's  
103 Center.