



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**
3 **Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE**
4 **November 18, 2009**

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7 **Attendees**

8 Scott Woodman, Chair, Landowner, Central Platte Natural Resources District
9 Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District
10 Jerry Kenny, Executive Director
11 Bruce Sackett - ED Office
12 Justin Brei - ED Office
13 Jason Farnsworth - ED Office
14 Tim Tunnell - ED Office
15 Chad Smith - ED Office
16 Greg Wingfield - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17 Matt Steffl - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
18 Ted LaGrange - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
19 Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming
20 John Shadle – Nebraska Public Power District
21 Joe Frank - State of Colorado, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (by phone)
22 David Raffety – Landowner, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
23 John Thorburn - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
24 John Heaston - The Nature Conservancy
25 Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
26 Kent Aden – Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District

27
28 **Welcome and Administrative**

29 Chairman Scott Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:05 am Central Time and the group
30 proceeded with introductions.

31
32 Woodman asked for agenda modifications and none were provided.

33
34 **LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2009 LAC**
35 **meeting. The motion was seconded by Wingfield and approved.**

36
37 **GC Meeting Update**

38 Czaplewski gave an update on GC activities since the LAC last met. The GC met on October 13
39 & 14 in Kearney, NE.

40
41 Czaplewski reported that the GC spent a lot of time discussing budget in preparation for
42 December approval. In the only LAC-related action at the October GC meeting, the GC
43 approved a motion to move forward with an appraisal of Tract 0818 and for the ED Office to
44 develop a recommendation for GC approval for further action after reviewing the appraisal.



45 The GC also planned to convene a special session via conference call later today, November 18.
46 The special session is to address the appraisal of Tract 0818.

47

48 The next scheduled meeting of the Governance Committee will be held December 1-2, 2009 in
49 Denver, CO.

50

51 **Election of Officers**

52 **Shadle made a motion to retain Scott Woodman as Chairman, and Mark Czaplewski as**
53 **Vice Chairman, and to close the nominations. LaBonde seconded. Motion approved.**

54

55 **Other Committee Coordination Information**

56 Smith gave a brief update on TAC activities. Much of the specific science items are covered in
57 the land plans to be discussed later in the meeting. Those land plans reflect the current thinking
58 for actions and experiments at the TAC. Smith informed the LAC of a Program Adaptive
59 Management Plan Reporting Session, tentatively set for February 17-18, 2010, in Denver, CO.

60 All interested committee members are invited. The two-day workshop will include reports from
61 all staff, Program partners, and contractors working for the Program on AMP implementation
62 projects, such as species monitoring, Lower Platte stage change study, Sediment augmentation
63 feasibility analysis, and more.

64

65 Kenny gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC met on November 17. The WAC
66 reviewed the results of the feasibility investigations for potential Program reservoir projects. The
67 WAC also received an update to the Program's Water Action Plan created in 2000.

68

69 Czaplewski asked where the WAC stood on easements for water rights to meet water goals.

70 Kenny said that the discussions in the WAC have mainly focused in other areas. If landowners
71 approach the Program, those will be considered, but at this time the Program does not intend to
72 actively seek out water rights acquisitions.

73

74 **Update on Land Management**

75 Tunnell gave a report on current land management activities. He reported that the Cottonwood
76 Ranch island clearing is around two-thirds complete, and appears to be moving on schedule. On
77 the Wyoming property, the Program is currently seeking estimates for fence repair and
78 replacement work to be completed this winter. On Program properties 2009001 and 2009004, a
79 Request for Quotes was issued for some tree clearing and fence cleanup activities and the quotes
80 are due by December 15. That work will be completed in early 2010. On Program property
81 2009001, work is wrapping up on a few infrastructure items, including a storage container to
82 house the Program's Argo and ATV. On Program property 2009003, the Invitation for Bid has
83 been released for habitat enhancement activities. There is a site showing for interested
84 contractors on Monday, November 23 at 1pm, and the public bid opening for that project is
85 December 7. At the North Platte "choke point" Tunnell said contractors have disked two side
86 channels upstream of the Highway 83 bridge, and shredding is underway from the Highway 83
87 bridge to the North & South Platte confluence. This vegetation removal work is being performed



88 under the supervision of the weed management areas, with the Program providing matching
89 funds on a \$1 for \$1 basis.

90
91

92 Land Management Plans

93 Farnsworth introduced the current drafts of the land management plans. Based on input from
94 past meetings, these plans include more detail, and incorporate the concept of the complex
95 management plan in addition to tract-specific land management plans. Generally, the placement
96 of work items in these plans is guided by where the work would take place – i.e. on a single tract,
97 or across several tracts in a complex.

98

99 Some concerns were expressed with regard to the need for more specific objectives. Shadle said
100 they were looking for more detail on experiments, specifically in the Elm Creek Complex, to
101 assess impacts to NPPD's Kearney Canal Diversion. Smith said that these plans represent the
102 foundation of TAC discussions to date on experimental design, and the details will be worked
103 out by the TAC as part of the experimental design process. Czaplewski said the plans represent a
104 good draft, but we should indicate the need or make allowances for future amendment as
105 experimental details are outlined, and pass those plan amendments through the LAC as well.

106

107 LaBonde asked that there be some mention in these complex plans about the intent for further
108 acquisitions in the complex. This would give some indication of the maturity of the complex
109 (i.e. do we have enough land?). Sackett said that in a willing seller / willing buyer program, he
110 would rather not set visible priorities that reveal specific Program acquisition targets. LaBonde
111 said that this is a planning document, and believes it should include at least a general statement
112 of whether we think the complex is complete or not.

113

114 LaGrange and others covered several specific comments within the text of the plans.

115

116 Wingfield said that extenuating circumstances have rendered them unable to approve the plans at
117 this time and request more time to review and comment. There was general agreement among
118 the committee to this point. As a result, no action was taken on these draft plans. The committee
119 agreed upon an extended final review and comment period. Comment will be received on these
120 plans until Friday, January 8, 2010, at which time they will be incorporated for review and
121 approval at the January LAC meeting. The LAC set the next meeting for January 29, 2010 in
122 Kearney, NE. The TAC will be given the opportunity to comment during this time as well.

123

124 At 12:00 noon, the committee broke for lunch, returning at 12:30 p.m.

125

126 Land Exchange Plan

127 Sackett introduced the latest version of the land exchange plan, built from recommendations
128 from past LAC meetings and the ad hoc exchange committee. **Heaston made a motion to**
129 **approve the exchange plan and recommend the plan's approval to the Governance**
130 **Committee. Czaplewski seconded and the motion passed.**

131



132 **Public Comment/Closing Business**

133 Chairman Woodman asked for public comments, none were offered.

134

135 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's**
136 **Office on Friday, January 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. central time.**

137

138 **Executive Session**

139 **Wingfield moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical**
140 **staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by LaBonde. The motion**
141 **carried and the committee entered executive session at 12:38 p.m.**

142

143 **Wingfield moved to come out of executive session. Heaston seconded and the motion**
144 **carried. The committee came out of executive session at 1:10 p.m.**

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146

147 **Discussion of Tabled LAC Recommendations**

148 Sackett brought forth four tracts which had been tabled at previous LAC meetings. These tracts
149 were presented to remind the LAC of their status, and to give the LAC the opportunity to act on
150 them should they desire. No action was taken on any of the four tracts.

151

152 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 1:15 p.m.