



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

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7 **Attendees**

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

27
28 **Welcome and Administrative**

29 Chairman Scott Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:10 am Central Time and the group
30 proceeded with introductions.

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32 Woodman asked for agenda modifications and none were provided.

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

36
37 **GC Meeting Update**

38 Mark Czaplewski gave an update on GC activities since the LAC last met. The GC met on
39 August 11 & 12 in Denver, CO and held a conference call on August 31.

40
41 Czaplewski reported that the GC asked for the opportunity to review the final easement
42 documents and terms before full approval of Tract 0805. On the August 31 conference call, the
43 GC approved the purchase of tract 0903. The GC also voted to move to a quarterly meeting
44 schedule in 2010.



45 The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held October 13-14, 2009 in Kearney,
46 NE.

47

48 **Update on Land Management**

49 Tim Tunnell introduced the draft management plans that were distributed to the LAC prior to the
50 meeting and requested comment. These plans were developed with guidance from a working
51 group meeting held July 27, 2009. Comments discussed by the LAC centered mostly around the
52 lack of detail in the draft plans. Wingfield said that the LAC needs to approve the land
53 management plans, and the plans should include at least enough detail to facilitate that effort.
54 LaBonde agreed the plans need more detail, and that the place for that detail is likely in the
55 annual work plans. Smith said those details are still being developed by the TAC and AMWG,
56 and will continue to be hammered out over the next 6-8 months. LaBonde said the first year
57 plans should typically include activities like surveying and maintenance activities while the later
58 work plans would include restoration activities. It should be made clear that years 2-5 are
59 subject to change due to science needs, but known activities should be included as they are
60 currently scoped out. Farnsworth said these initial drafts were spurred by the need to develop the
61 Program's 2010 budget. Actual land management plan approval is not necessary until April
62 2010. Thorburn said plans should include more detail on agricultural management practices
63 when warranted. These would include potential implementation of things like crop rotations,
64 irrigation plans, fertilization plans, and best management practices.

65

66 Wingfield reminded the LAC of the need to include time for USFWS consultation on land
67 management plans prior to final approval. This process consists of submittal of a letter to the
68 USFWS expressing no expectation of take citing actions in the management plan, and receiving
69 a letter of concurrence from the USFWS. LaGrange said the same issue may arise with state
70 listed species. LaGrange will pursue clarification on the process with state participants.

71

72 Heaston said the Program should create a list of standard practices to be performed on Program
73 lands that could be approved by the State and USFWS on a regional basis, to allow basic
74 Program activities to occur before a finalized management plan. Similar models may be
75 obtained from environmental groups already performing restoration in the central Platte.
76 Wingfield said that many practices are already identified in the document that the draft
77 management plans refer to in the methods sections ("Habitat Management Methods for Least
78 Terns, Piping Plovers, and Whooping Cranes").

79

80 **Other Committee Coordination Information**

81 Smith gave the LAC an overview of how the TAC and AMWG are tackling adaptive
82 management plan objectives. The broad categories of AMP experimentation include: habitat
83 selection, paired experimental design, flow-sediment-mechanical test sites, wetlands and wet
84 meadows, and conservation monitoring. Smith then walked the LAC through the central Platte
85 reach, covering how the AMWG sees current Program properties/complexes fitting into the
86 AMP picture.

87

88 **Public Comment/Closing Business**



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

90

91 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's**
92 **Office on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. central time.**

93

94 **Executive Session**

95 **John Heaston moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and**
96 **technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Mark**
97 **Czaplewski. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 11:24 a.m.**

98

99 **Mark Peyton moved to come out of executive session. Mark Czaplewski seconded and the**
100 **motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 12:24 p.m.**

101

102

103 **Discussion of Evaluation Team Recommendations**

104 *Tract 0818*

105 **Larry Reynolds moved to forward tract 0818 to the GC with a recommendation to approve**
106 **commencement of appraisals and negotiations. The motion was seconded by Harry**
107 **LaBonde.**

108 Wingfield referenced the evaluation team recommendation and said the USFWS cannot support
109 consideration of the river portion of tract 0818 as complex habitat. Reynolds and LaBonde
110 provided clarification that the motion on the table did not include a recommendation to classify
111 tract 0818 as complex or non-complex, and the motion was voted upon.

112 **The motion did not carry unanimously. In accordance with the Program document, a**
113 **memo outlining views for and against the motion will be provided to the Governance**
114 **Committee in place of a LAC recommendation.**

115

116 *Tract 0917*

117 **Harry LaBonde moved that the LAC postpone consideration of 0917 until such time that**
118 **the GC has taken final action to purchase or not to purchase tract 0818. Motion carried.**

119

120 *Tract 0918*

121 **John Heaston moved to table tract 0918 pending discussions with the Platte River**
122 **Whooping Crane Trust and other environmental groups concerning this tract. Motion**
123 **carried.**

124

125 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 1:10 p.m.