



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**
3 **Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE**
4 **January 29, 2010**

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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 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 Dave Baasch - ED Office
16 Greg Wingfield - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17 Kirk Schroeder - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
18 Matt Steffl - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
19 Ted LaGrange - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
20 Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming (by phone)
21 John Shadle - Nebraska Public Power District
22 Jim Jenniges - Nebraska Public Power District
23 Ted Kowalski - State of Colorado (by phone)
24 David Raffety - Landowner, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
25 John Thorburn - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
26 John Heaston - The Nature Conservancy
27 Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
28 Robert Schanou - Central Platte Natural Resources District
29 Mark Peyton - Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District

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32 **Welcome and Administrative**

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

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36 Woodman asked for agenda modifications and none were provided.

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38 **Wingfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2009 LAC**
39 **meeting. The motion was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.**

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41 **GC Meeting Update**

42 Czaplewski gave an update on GC activities since the LAC last met. The GC met on December
43 1 & 2, 2009 in Denver, CO.



45 Czaplewski reported that the GC approved the 2010 budget, budget work plan, and ED Office
46 contract. The USFWS provided a briefing to the GC on the Platte River Caddisfly. The GC
47 formally turned down Tract 0818, as an acceptable price could not be agreed upon during
48 negotiations with the seller. John Lawson was elected GC Chair for 2010, and Jennifer
49 Schellpeper was elected Vice Chair.

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51 The GC also approved moving to a quarterly meeting schedule, with the next meeting scheduled
52 for March 9 & 10 in Kearney, NE.

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54 **Other Committee Coordination Information**

55 Smith gave a brief update on recent TAC activities. The TAC last met on January 21, 2010.
56 They reviewed and spent time discussing the land management plans that will be discussed later
57 in this LAC meeting. The TAC also approved the concept of the experimental design approach.
58 Specifically, creating experiments to examine concepts fundamental to the Program such as
59 habitat selection and habitat creation and maintenance. They provided feedback on the Least
60 Tern/Piping Plover Monitoring Protocol, the Least Tern/Piping Plover Research Protocol, and
61 the Forage Fish Monitoring Protocol.

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63 Smith informed the LAC of a Program Adaptive Management Plan Reporting Session, scheduled
64 for February 17-18, 2010, in Denver, CO. All interested committee members are invited. The
65 two-day workshop will include reports from all staff, Program partners, and contractors working
66 for the Program on AMP implementation projects, such as species monitoring, Lower Platte
67 stage change study, Sediment augmentation feasibility analysis, and more.

68

69 Farnsworth gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC is working on progressing
70 Water Action Plan alternatives, including options for groundwater recharge, recharge reservoir
71 feasibility, and investigating the economics of water use in the central Platte basin as a basis for
72 possible water management incentives.

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74 **Update on Land Management**

75 Tunnell gave an update on a number of land management activities under way.

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- 77 • Grinding and removal of cleared trees and shrubs from the north side of the Wyoming
78 property (2008001) is about 90% done. Upon completion, the area is planned to be over
79 seeded with commercial native seed mix.
- 80 • Estimates to rework the fences at 2008001 have been received, and the work is planned to
81 take place prior to May 1, 2010.
- 82 • Tunnell is working with CPNRD to plan a prescribed burn for the entire island area
83 between the north and south channels, as well as the area south of the river nearly to the
84 high bank.
- 85 • The Cottonwood Ranch (2008002) habitat enhancement project is still under way. The
86 clearing and leveling of a large island in the channel is about 90% complete. An area of
87 tree clearing south of the channel is about 50% complete. The burning and burying of
tree piles from the proposed off-channel sand & water area is about 75% complete.



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- Tunnell is working with NPPD and CPNRD to plan a late spring prescribed burn for Lloyd Island and a half section of wheatgrass south of the river on 2008002.
 - Quotes have been received to remove trees and clean up ditches, old dilapidated fences on properties 2009001 and 2009004. Work is to be awarded in the next week and completed by April 1, 2010.
 - Bids were solicited from the public for the removal (sale) of the residence and garage located on property 2009003. A bid for \$1,500 was accepted, and the residence and garage will be removed by the bidder by April 1, 2010.
 - The marginal cropland areas on 2009003 are planned to be burned to remove biomass and seeded this spring. The perimeters of the crop areas have been disced in preparation for fire.
 - Cook Construction was the low bidder for IFB 09:08, 2009003 sandpit rehab and tree clearing. Seven bids were received for the work. Work was started on the project on January 21, 2010 and tree removal is already 75% complete. The deadline for completion is April 1, 2010 for tree removal and sand pit rehab and June 1, 2010 for completion of the burning and burial of the tree debris.
 - The abandoned residence on 2009005 was demolished on January 15, 2010. The home contained asbestos, which was removed (and all appropriate paperwork filed) prior to demolition.
 - Tunnell is working with county weed control agencies to schedule noxious weed management for Program properties in the upcoming season.

Land Management Plans

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111 Brei introduced the current version of the complex and tract level land management plans. This

112 is the second time the LAC has seen the documents, and several comments were received and

113 incorporated into the current version. Brei identified a few outstanding philosophical issues that

114 were not able to be incorporated into the plans due to conflicting comments received. A memo

115 identifying these issues was distributed in advance to the LAC. Brei opened the floor for

116 specific comments on the plans and the LAC discussed the plans at length.

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118 Several modifications were made to the plans during discussion. **Heaston made a motion to**

119 **approve all presented Complex, Tract, and Work Plans (Elm Creek Complex Plan and**

120 **Work Plan, incl. 2009002 and 2009005 tract plans; Ft. Kearny Complex Plan and Work**

121 **Plan, incl. 2009001 and 2009004 tract plans; Tract 2009003 O&M Plan and Work Plan;**

122 **2008002 Work Plan) as edited, and forward them to the GC with a recommendation to**

123 **approve. Wingfield seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment/Closing Business

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

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128 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's**

129 **Office on Friday, April 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. central time.**



132 **Executive Session**

133 **Heaston moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical**
134 **staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Czaplewski. The**
135 **motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 11:40 a.m.**

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137 **Wingfield moved to come out of executive session. Merrill seconded and the motion**
138 **carried. The committee came out of executive session at 12:05 p.m.**

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141 **Discussion of Tabled LAC Recommendations**

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

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146 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 12:10 p.m.