



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Governance Committee Special Session Conference Call Meeting Minutes**
3 **October 8, 2010**
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5 **Executive Director’s Office (ED Office)**

6 Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
7 Jason Farnsworth
8 Bruce Sackett
9 Chad Smith
10 Tim Tunnell

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12 **Governance Committee (GC)**

13 John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation, Chair
14 Don Ament – State of Colorado
15 Brian Barel – Nebraska Public Power District
16 Allan Berryman – Northern Colorado
17 Ron Bishop – Central Platte Natural Resources District
18 John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy
19 Kent Miller – Twin Platte Natural Resources District
20 Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming
21 Jennifer Schellpeper – Nebraska DNR
22 Jim Schneider – Nebraska DNR
23 Suzanne Sellers – Colorado Water Conservation Board
24 Dennis Strauch – Pathfinder Irrigation District
25 Michael Thabault – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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27 **Participants**

28 Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte NRD
29 Mike George – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
30 Greg Wingfield – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
31 Harry LaBonde – State of Wyoming
32 Brock Merrill – Bureau of Reclamation
33 Kevin Urie – Denver Water

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35 **Welcome & Administrative**

36 Kenny proceeded with a roll call and Lawson called the meeting to order.
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38 **Land Tract 0918**

39 Sackett provided an update on Tract 0918 and discussed the documents provided to the GC for this
40 meeting. The Program has negotiated a purchase value of \$2.75 million for 1,445 acres. The LAC met
41 today and developed the following motion:

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43 “In recognition of the GC’s consideration of Tract 0918 this afternoon, and in recognition of the
44 exceptional habitat value of Tract 0918, the LAC recommends that the GC approve the purchase of Tract
45 0918 and that it count towards Program objectives. The motion passed unanimously. John Heaston and
46 Ted LaGrange abstained due to their organizations’ past and ongoing interest in the parcel.”
47



48 Sackett said there was discussion in the LAC about the strength or weakness of the current easements on
49 the property. It was determined that there are enough flaws in the easement to have concern about its
50 ability to ensure protection in perpetuity. Thabault asked if some proportion of the existing easement will
51 remain on the land the current property owner will continue to hold. Sackett said yes it is approximately a
52 third of the property the current owner will retain. Thabault asked Heaston what, if any, capability the
53 environmental coalition has to bring any money to bear to partner on acquisition of this property.
54 Heaston said there is currently no fiscal capital available. The Whooping Crane Trust has two tracts of
55 agricultural land they could sell to contribute and there is an outstanding Environmental Trust Grant that
56 will not be decided until next year. The current owner now wants to sell the property before the end of
57 the year. Thabault asked if the environmental coalition will still pursue funds to kick in at a later date.
58 Heaston said that is a possibility but the coalition cannot meet the demands of the seller before the end of
59 the year.

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61 Sackett said this was discussed during the LAC. The LAC decided the Program should buy the property
62 in its entirety then the LAC and GC could decide to do something else with the property at a later time if
63 necessary. Strauch asked if it is a perpetual easement. Sackett said yes. Strauch asked if any of the terms
64 are contrary to the Program. Sackett said no. Barel asked if the easement could go away if the Program
65 buys it. Sackett said that could be discussed with the Trust based on the current value of the easement.
66 Barel asked if the current owner was retaining any buildings. Sackett said yes there is a home site with
67 additional buildings. Barel asked if this was considered in the negotiations. Sackett said yes and this
68 was taken out and left with the sellers.

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70 Purcell moved to approve acquisition; Ament seconded. Schneider said we need to make it clear that this
71 property will count toward Program objectives in the First Increment. Thabault said the U.S. Fish and
72 Wildlife Service decided the full acreage (1,445 acres) will count toward Program land objectives in the
73 First Increment. Heaston abstained. **Motion approved.**

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75 **Closing Business**

76 GC set Monday, October 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central time to discuss the draft FY 2011 PRRIP
77 budget.

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79 Meeting adjourned at 2.30 p.m. Central time.

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81 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from October 2010 GC Special Session Meeting**

- 82 1) Approved acquisition of Land Tract 0918.
83 2) Set Monday, October 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central time for a GC conference call to discuss the
84 draft FY 2011 PRRIP budget.