



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**
3 **Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE**
4 **October 8, 2010**

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7 **Attendees**

- 8 Scott Woodman, Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District, landowner
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 Greg Wingfield - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
16 Jennifer Schellpeper - State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
17 Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
18 Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming
19 John Shadle - Nebraska Public Power District
20 Jim Jenniges – Nebraska Public Power District
21 Mark Peyton – Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District
22 John Thorburn - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
23 David Raffety - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, landowner
24 Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (by phone)
25 Joe Frank – State of Colorado (by phone)
26 John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy

27
28 **Welcome and Administrative**

29 Chairman Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:04 am Central Time and the group
30 proceeded with introductions.

31
32 Woodman asked for agenda modifications. Czaplewski asked that an update be given on tract
33 0918. Sackett said that update would be handled in executive session.

34
35 **LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2010 LAC meeting.**
36 **The motion was seconded by Wingfield and passed unanimously.**

37
38 **GC Meeting Update**

39 Czaplewski gave the LAC an update on the latest GC and FC activity. The GC discussed the bid
40 packages and management agreements for the Elm Creek and Cottonwood Ranch habitat
41 enhancement work. These packages were approved in form, but the necessary permits are still
42 outstanding. During discussion of these agreements, the GC talked about whether or not acres
43 under management agreements should count towards Program land objectives. The GC asked



44 the ED Office to compile a memo covering the Land Plan and Program interests in land for the
45 GC. This topic will also likely be discussed by the LAC if the GC deems it necessary.

46
47 The GC was given an update on Program land expenditures, which are likely to increase sharply
48 through the end of the year and be on track with the 2010 budgeted funds. The GC approved
49 appraisals and negotiations for the west half of tract 1001, as well as developing background
50 information on the entirety of 1001 if the landowner will not divide the offering. The GC
51 approved the tract 1009 trade (boundary fix at 2009008), declined pursuit of tract 1002, approved
52 the easement for tract 0805, and approved an extension of the deadline for land management plan
53 approval for tracts 2009006, 2009007, 2009008, and 2010001 until the March 2011 GC meeting.

54
55 The GC meets next on December 7 & 8, 2010 in Denver, CO.

56
57
58

59 **Other Committee Coordination Information**

60 Farnsworth gave a brief update on recent TAC activities. The TAC had two workshops in
61 September. One focused on whooping crane monitoring, and one focused on tern & plover
62 monitoring. These meetings included discussion of what took place last season, and plans for
63 upcoming monitoring seasons.

64
65 Kenny gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC is still focused on feasibility
66 investigations for the Elm Creek and J-2 reservoirs, and have released an RFP for groundwater
67 recharge feasibility investigations. Responses to the RFP are due today, October 8, 2010.

68

69 **Update on Land Management**

70 Tunnell distributed a document to the LAC that provided a tract-by-tract update of ongoing,
71 planned, and completed management activities.

72

73 **Executive Session**

74 **Czaplewski moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and**
75 **technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Wingfield.**
76 **The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:34 a.m.**

77

78 **Heaston moved to come out of executive session. LaBonde seconded and the motion**
79 **carried. The committee came out of executive session at 11:35 a.m.**

80

81

82 **Public Comment/Next Meeting**

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

84

85 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's**
86 **Office on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. central time.**

87



88 **Outdoor Recreation Policy Discussion**

89 Heaston gave a progress update for the recreation policy ad hoc committee. Heaston said they
90 first compiled a list of what constituted access. To set some boundaries for their discussion, they
91 set a ground rule that there would be no unrestricted access. The committee then removed access
92 during target species blackout periods (T&P nesting season, WC migration periods). The
93 committee then laid out possible uses and how they fit with those restrictions. The committee
94 also considered four options for management of the recreation policy and pros and cons for each.
95 The summary document for this discussion was provided to the LAC.

96

97 **Discussion of Management Plans for LAC Recommendation on Tracts 2009006, 2009007,**
98 **2009008, & 2010001**

99 Sackett gave an overview of the current status of land management planning. As discussed in
100 the GC update, the GC extended the deadline for approval of these plans until the March 2011
101 GC meeting. Draft plans for tracts 2009006, 2009007, 2009008, and 2010001 are posted to the
102 website for LAC review. The LAC is requested to return comments on these by **October 29,**
103 **2010.** The TAC will also be notified and given a review period, though TAC approval of
104 management plans is not required. Comments given on the land plans will be incorporated and
105 final drafts brought forward for approval at the December 1, 2010 LAC meeting. LaGrange
106 provided initial comment that NGPC would like to see language added for conversion of
107 cropland areas to grassland, similar to past management plan language.

108

109 **Discussion of Land Exchange 1017**

110 Sackett discussed the proposed trade on tract 2009008. The landowner owns land southeast of
111 the lake on 2009008, and claims access to the lake. The land exchange proposed for 1017 would
112 be to work with a gravel miner to create a pond for the southeast landowner on another portion of
113 their property, and in exchange the Program would receive the parcel of land that borders the
114 2009008 sandpit lake, and thus close off all access points. Sackett said discussions with the
115 landowner are still ongoing, as well as talks with gravel miners to assess options and costs. A
116 proposal will be brought before the LAC before any action is taken.

117

118 **Discussion of Land Reviews at 1007, 1008, 1010, 1014, and 1016**

119 Sackett introduced the tracts for LAC consideration. Evaluation reports for these tracts were
120 posted for LAC review.

121

122 **Czaplewski moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1007**
123 **to the GC with a recommendation to commence appraisal and negotiations. Motion**
124 **seconded by Wingfield and passed unanimously.**

125

126 **Wingfield moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1008 to**
127 **the GC with a recommendation to commence appraisal and negotiations. Motion seconded**
128 **by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**

129



130 **Wingfield moved to recommend that the GC commence appraisals and negotiations for**
131 **tract 1010 and define a minimal amount of land to retain and to designate the remaining**
132 **portion as excess. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.**
133

134 **LaBonde moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1014 to**
135 **the GC with a recommendation to cease pursuit of this tract. Motion seconded by**
136 **Czaplewski and passed unanimously.**
137

138 **Heaston moved to recommend that the GC cease pursuit of tract 1016. Motion seconded**
139 **by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**
140

141 **In recognition of the GC's consideration of tract 0918 later today, and recognizing the**
142 **exceptional habitat value of this tract for the Program, the LAC recommends that the GC**
143 **approve the purchase of, and the crediting of all acres towards Program objectives for,**
144 **tract 0918. Moved by LaBonde, seconded by Czaplewski and passed unanimously.**
145 **Heaston abstained due to TNC's past & ongoing interest in the property.**
146

147 **Closing Business**

148 **With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 12:15 p.m.**