



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Land Advisory Committee Conference Call Minutes**
3 **Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE**
4 **February 22, 2011**

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7 **Attendees**

- 8 Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District
9 Bruce Sackett - ED Office
10 Justin Brei - ED Office
11 Jason Farnsworth - ED Office
12 Tim Tunnell - ED Office
13 Greg Wingfield - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
14 Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
15 Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming, Wyoming State Engineer’s Office (by phone)
16 Jennifer Schellpeper – State of Nebraska, Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources (by phone)
17 John Shadle - Nebraska Public Power District
18 Jim Jenniges – Nebraska Public Power District
19 Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (by phone)
20 Suzanne Sellers – State of Colorado, Colorado Water Conservation Board

21
22 **Welcome and Administrative**

23 Vice-Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm Central Time and the group
24 proceeded with introductions.

25
26 Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications, none were offered.

27
28 **Recommendation for a TAC Subcommittee**

29 Farnsworth discussed the necessity for assistance to the LAC in determining how best to manage
30 complex buffer and grassland acres, and if or how success in this management should be
31 evaluated. Farnsworth suggested that the LAC recommend that the TAC form a subcommittee
32 that would meet and provide guidance on what species or vegetation targets these acres could be
33 managed for, if anything specific, and how best to evaluate success of these actions. Czaplewski
34 asked if wet meadow discussion would be a part of the subcommittee’s role. Farnsworth said
35 wet meadows would need to be considered where appropriate. LaGrange added that discussion
36 of wetlands may also be appropriate in areas.

37
38 **LaGrange made a motion to request that the TAC form a subcommittee, including LAC**
39 **representation, to address wet meadow, grassland, and wetland restoration targets and**
40 **evaluation of success. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.**

41
42 **Land Offering Reviews of Tracts 1019 and 1018**

43 Sackett reviewed the details of the tract 1019 evaluation report, distributed prior to the February
44 9, 2011 LAC meeting. Tract 1019, located in Hall County, is considered a non-complex off-



45 channel sand and water parcel. Czaplewski said that the timing of operations on this tract is key
46 to whether or not this tract should be pursued. If it is mined at its current rate, it will likely not
47 be of much use during the Program’s First Increment. Merrill asked if this tract would be
48 counted towards the Program’s goal of 400 acres of non-complex habitat. Sackett said that is
49 correct. Wingfield asked about the current locations of “paired design” targets from the adaptive
50 management plan. Farnsworth said right now there are paired nesting habitats at the Cottonwood
51 Ranch complex and the Fort Kearney complex. If acquired this property would likely be
52 considered paired with riverine nesting habitat on the Crane Trust’s Wildrose Ranch of PRRIP
53 property 2010004. Merrill asked about the PACE acronym and obligations mentioned in the
54 evaluation report. Czaplewski said that PACE stands for people, aggregate, community, and
55 environment, and is an organization that works with aggregate mines to restore mines to wildlife
56 habitat after completion of mining activities. On this property, a grant was applied for but was
57 not funded. Sackett said the landowner is environmentally-minded and favorable to the type of
58 work that the Program is doing in the area. Sackett said the landowner has had discussions with
59 the nearby Nebraska Nature Center about placing a nature viewing camera on site.

60

61 **LaBonde made a motion to recommend that the GC approve commencement of appraisal**
62 **and negotiations for tract 1019 as non-complex habitat. Motion seconded by LaGrange**
63 **and passed unanimously.**

64

65 Sackett reviewed the details of the tract 1018 evaluation report. The evaluation team
66 recommended that the LAC decline pursuit of this tract, also being considered as non-complex
67 off channel sand and water habitat.

68

69 **Shadle made a motion to recommend that the GC decline further pursuit of tract 1018.**

70

71 Wingfield said that he supports the motion, and noted that the non-complex and paired design
72 needs are likely covered in this area with the adjacent PRRIP property 2009008.

73

74 **Motion seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.**

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76 **Red Line Changes to the Land Plan Text**

77 The GC had directed the LAC to address potential changes to the Land Plan text to accommodate
78 tiered management plans. Draft versions of the language were presented for the first time at the
79 February 9, 2011 LAC meeting. At that meeting, the LAC requested more time to review and
80 comment on these changes. Prior to this conference call, new drafts reflecting these comments
81 were presented. Farnsworth recommended that the LAC adopt this revised language.

82

83 LaGrange and Wingfield said that language should reflect that tract plans should still contain a
84 restoration component where necessary, or where complex plans are not created. The LAC
85 discussed definitions to be included in the Land Plan Glossary.

86

87 **Contingent on the opportunity to review the final wording changes discussed during the**
88 **call, including the opportunity to respond, Shadle moved to recommend the Land Plan**



89 **language, as amended during the call. Motion seconded by Wingfield and passed**
90 **unanimously.**

91

92 Farnsworth will distribute the final modified language to the LAC after the call.

93

94 **Closing Business**

95 Sackett briefed the LAC that Headwaters Corporation has received a citation for the destruction
96 of a Canada goose nest without a permit. The matter has been referred to legal council and the
97 LAC will be kept advised as appropriate.

98

99 Sackett asked the LAC to gather an evaluation team to review new land offerings for evaluation
100 tracts 1101 and 1102. The ED office will work with the LAC to assemble a team prior to the
101 next LAC meeting.

102

103 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Czaplewski at 2:00 p.m.