



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

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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   Kirk Schroeder - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
16   Matt Rabbe – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
17   Matt Steffl – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
18   Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
19   Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming, Wyoming State Engineer’s Office  
20   Jennifer Schellpeper – State of Nebraska, Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources  
21   John Shadle – Nebraska Public Power District  
22   Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (by phone)  
23   Suzanne Sellers – State of Colorado, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
24   Rich Walters – The Nature Conservancy  
25   Jonas Davis – Ducks Unlimited  
26   Mark Morten – The Crane Trust

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29   **Welcome and Administrative**

30   Chairman Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time and the group  
31   proceeded with introductions.

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33   Woodman asked for agenda modifications. None were provided.

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35   **LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2011 LAC meeting. The**  
36   **motion was seconded by Czaplewski and passed unanimously.**

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38   **GC Meeting Update**

39   The Governance Committee has not met since the last LAC meeting. The GC meets next on  
40   June 14 & 15, 2011 in Cheyenne, WY.

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42   **Other Committee Coordination Information**

43   Farnsworth gave a brief update on recent TAC activities. The TAC met last on May 11. The  
44   TAC is working with the ED office to rebid several monitoring contracts that expire this year.



45 These monitoring contracts will be rebid as 4-year contracts. The ED office and members from  
46 the TAC and LAC are meeting on June 20 & 21 in Kearney to discuss grassland/wet meadow  
47 restoration targets.

48  
49 Kenny gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC met last on April 26 in Ogallala,  
50 NE. Feasibility studies are ongoing for the J-2 Reregulating Reservoir alternative and have  
51 concluded for the Elm Creek Reservoir alternative. Elm Creek Reservoir has significant issues  
52 and is not likely to advance further at this point. J-2 Reregulating Reservoir continues to look  
53 promising. Groundwater recharge pilot projects and feasibility investigations are also ongoing.  
54 Sackett is handling all landowner contacts for those projects and guiding interactions in  
55 adherence with the Program’s Good Neighbor Policy.

56  
57 **Executive Session**  
58 **LaBonde moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical**  
59 **staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by LaGrange. The**  
60 **motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:10 a.m.**

61  
62 **Czaplewski moved to come out of executive session. LaBonde seconded and the motion**  
63 **carried. The committee came out of executive session at 10:38 a.m.**

64  
65 **Discussion of Land Offerings at 1103 and 1104**  
66 Discussion of details of these offerings was held in executive session. Sackett said guidance  
67 received in executive session is that no further pursuit of 1103 is required. For 1104, the U.S.  
68 Fish & Wildlife Service indicated that, in their opinion, it is already adequately protected and if  
69 purchased it would not count towards the Program’s 10,000 acre First Increment milestone. As  
70 such, the LAC felt that it should be watched, but not pursued any further at this time.

71  
72 **Discussion of Conservation Easement at 2010004**  
73 Sackett informed the LAC he had recently been contacted by hunters who have previously had  
74 access to hunt on 2010004. Sackett relayed that, at least in this first year, the property would not  
75 be hunted as the Program continues to construct its policy on public access. In addition, the  
76 easement currently held by The Crane Trust does not allow hunting other than by the owner (and  
77 subject to restrictions within the easement). In the past, two hunters have built two large deer  
78 hunting structures that they would like to remove. Sackett said that these towers were bought  
79 with the property and are property of the Program. Sackett asked the LAC if they had any issues  
80 allowing that hunter to remove these structures. The LAC had no problem with that, as the  
81 Program would likely end up paying to remove them in the future.

82  
83 **Public Access Contract**  
84 The LAC was provided with a copy of the current draft contract with Nebraska Game & Parks  
85 Commission for implementation of the Program’s public access policy on Program lands. Kenny  
86 said that for the budgeted amount, one NGPC staff member would be positioned in Kearney and  
87 assigned to enforcement of the policy on Program lands. A major advantage of policy  
88 administration by NGPC is that they are able to provide the backing of law enforcement. Kenny



89 said that with the LAC’s support, he will bring this agreement to the GC and FC for approval.  
90 Steffl said that position Kenny described is currently advertised and the Kearney office of  
91 NGPC, including law enforcement, are prepared to enact this agreement. Schellpeper gave  
92 Kenny a few suggested revisions. Kenny also said the ED office had some suggested revisions  
93 for NGPC. Kenny thanked the LAC for their input. The policy will continue to be refined and  
94 brought to the GC.

95

96 **Present Work in Progress**

97 Tunnell distributed a document to the LAC describing work completed, planned, and in progress  
98 on Program properties and discussed the activities tract by tract.

99

100 **Discuss 1020 Boundary Issue**

101 Sackett briefed the LAC on the current status of the boundary issue with tract 1020, a neighbor to  
102 Program property 2009008. The EDO has completed a survey and drafted documents outlining a  
103 proposed three way transfer that should resolve the issue. Broadfoot Sand & Gravel (prior owner  
104 of 2009008) will give the Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation a parcel of land  
105 between 2009008 and Highway 10, and the owner of tract 1020 will receive the PRRIF land  
106 located inside of his existing fence.

107

108 **Sellers moved to recommend that the GC proceed with the proposed trade solution at**  
109 **Program property 2009008 and tract 1020. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed**  
110 **unanimously.**

111

112 **Land Exchange at 2009008**

113 Sackett provided some details on NGPC negotiations in executive session. Sackett informed the  
114 LAC that at this point, these negotiations do not hold much promise and the Program is  
115 beginning to form other options for disposal of the portions of 2009008 identified as excess.  
116 This is primarily the eastern pivot-irrigated crop field. The Program will keep the gravity-  
117 irrigated crop field directly adjacent to the actively mined sand pit as this mining operation will  
118 continue eastward into this field. There are also irrigated acres associated with the parcel to be  
119 disposed of, and ED staff will look into the value of retiring the water right and report back on  
120 both recommended actions of disposition of land and water rights at a future meeting.

121

122 **Public Forum/Next Meeting**

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

124

125 **The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director’s**  
126 **Office on Friday, August 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. central time.**

127

128 **Closing Business**

129 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 12:20 p.m.