



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**
3 Lake McConaughy Visitors Center – Ogallala, NE
4 May 8, 2012

7 **Meeting Attendees**

9 **Water Advisory Committee (WAC)**

10 **State of Wyoming**

11 Matt Hoobler – Alternate

13 **State of Colorado**

14 Suzanne Sellers - Member

16 **State of Nebraska**

17 Pat Goltl – Alternate

19 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

20 Tom Econopouly – Member

21 Jeff Runge – Alternate

22 Mike George

23 Matt Rabbe

25 **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

26 Mahonri Williams – Member

27 Brock Merrill – Alternate

29 **Downstream Water Users**

30 Cory Steinke – Member (WAC Chair)

31 Duane Woodward – Member

32 Jeff Shafer – Member

33 Mike Drain – Alternate

34 Tyler Thulin

35 Rich Holloway – (call-in)

37 **Colorado Water Users**

38 Jon Altenhofen – Member

40 **Environmental Groups**

41 Bill Taddicken – Member

42 Duane Hovorka – Member (call-in)

43 Larry Hutchinson – Alternate

44 Greg Wingfield

Executive Director’s Office (ED Office)

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

Beorn Courtney

Steve Smith

Matthew Welsh

Bruce Sackett (call-in)

Contractors

Bill Hahn – Hahn Water Resources

Greg Glunz – URS

Pat Engelbert – HDR

Erin Gleason – AECOM

Mike Applegate – Applegate Group



48 **Welcome and Administrative:** *Cory Steinke, WAC Chair*
49 Introductions were made. There were no agenda modifications. **The February 2012 WAC**
50 **Minutes were approved with the modifications by Hallum in the current version.**

51
52 **Choke Point Update:** *Steve Smith, ED Office*

53 Smith provided an update on the current capacity at National Weather Service (NWS) flood
54 stage for the North Platte River at North Platte and the Platte River at Kearney gages. High flows
55 in 2011 caused temporary increases in capacity at both locations, but the increased capacity at
56 both locations has since subsided. No modifications are planned for either rating table at this
57 time.

58
59 Root mass ripping of the phragmites is being planned for this year at North Platte with the
60 objective of loosening roots to allow future high flows to more effectively remove sediment and
61 increase hydraulic capacity. Based on a recommendation from Runge, **the ED Office will**
62 **attempt to coordinate the timing of tillage operations with the USFWS to optimize flow**
63 **conditions.**

64
65 Smith explained that engineering and institutional approaches are being considered to increase
66 hydraulic capacity at NWS flood stage closer to 3,000 cfs at North Platte. Engineering
67 approaches include dredging, bank stabilization, a sediment collector, and jetties and/or dikes.
68 Smith noted that some of these approaches may be cost prohibitive, and permits for in-channel
69 work may be difficult to obtain.

70
71 Institutional approaches (flood-proofing and/or property buyouts) may help support the NWS to
72 increase the flood stage designation, which is currently 6.0 feet. Smith and Kenny met with local
73 NWS staff in North Platte on May 7, 2012, and NWS expressed a willingness to consider a flood
74 stage increase if drainage improvements were completed. NWS told Smith and Kenny that their
75 policy is to set flood stage according to stage when flow leaves the channel (i.e., not based on
76 high groundwater levels). River flows begin to go over-bank at a stage of about 6.5 feet based on
77 hydraulic modeling and NWS observations during 2011 high flows. If flood-proofing projects
78 prompt NWS to raise flood stage to 6.5 feet, then the capacity at North Platte would increase to
79 about 2,400 cfs. Therefore, some level of engineered projects would still be required to achieve a
80 capacity of 3,000 cfs.

81
82 Smith discussed engineering options to achieve higher capacity through the choke point:

- 83 • Dredging approximately 100,000 cubic yards between Highway 83 and the UPRR bridge
84 every 2 to 3 years to maintain 3,000 cfs flood stage capacity. Cost would be about
85 \$500,000 each time dredging was completed.
- 86 • Jetties, in combination with some dredging, would increase flow velocity and result in
87 greater longevity for increased capacity. Cost estimates for dredging 150' pilot channel
88 from Highway 83 to UPRR and installing jetties would be about \$1.3M.
- 89 • Sediment collector may accomplish sediment removal without dredging. A demonstration
90 project on Fountain Creek has been successful in Colorado. Cost of that project was



91 about \$550,000 for installation and \$300,000 for a year of O&M including costs for
92 hauling material off site.

93
94 Drain asked about whether the sediment collector would potentially cause backwater upstream of
95 the device and decrease capacity in another location. Smith said the device could be located
96 upstream of flooded areas to prevent those unwanted effects.

97
98 Smith explained flood-proofing projects recently discussed with NWS, City of North Platte, and
99 Lincoln County. Smith noted that engineering and permitting for the following projects would
100 cost about \$50,000:

- 101 • Re-connecting the ‘State Channel’ in the floodplain west and south of impacted
102 properties along North River Road to divert surface flows to the North Platte River and
103 away from impacted properties. Cost would be about \$20,000 for construction.
- 104 • Installing a culvert and/or ground water pump outlet from Dr. Connell’s property along
105 the north bank of the North Platte River and just east of Highway 83 would minimize
106 flooding on Connell’s property and help improve drainage of high ground water levels at
107 impacted properties along North River Road. Cost would be about \$26,000 for
108 construction.
- 109 • Installing about 12 driveway culverts along north side of North River Road west of
110 Highway 83 would allow the existing road ditch to work more effectively at draining
111 high ground water levels. Water would drain east down Hall School Road about two
112 miles to Whitehorse Creek, where it would return to the North Platte River. Cost estimate
113 for these culverts would be approximately \$30,000.

114
115 NWS is considering developing an MOU with the Program about what the flood-proofing
116 actions (State Channel, Connell outlet, and North River Road culverts drainage to Whitehorse
117 Creek) would provide in terms of increasing minor flood stage to 6.5 feet, where the flow would
118 be 2,400 cfs.

119
120 Another institutional option is to buy out potentially affected properties. Based on the Lincoln
121 County Assessor’s website, Smith estimated total property values of potentially affected
122 properties at \$2.5M (\$2.9M with 20% markup). This would not be a cheap option, and the area
123 of buyout may need to be larger than estimated. Hoobler noted that these values do not include
124 structure removal. Runge thought that FEMA support may be available towards property buy
125 outs.

126
127 Altenhofen is encouraged by the discussion with the NWS, and thinks the expenditure of
128 \$150,000 would be worthwhile to see if the NWS flood stage could be elevated to 6.5 feet. Drain
129 expressed concerns about the NWS reducing the flood stage at a later date. FEMA funds were
130 dispersed to landowners in the area after 2011 flooding was declared a disaster by FEMA.
131 FEMA hazard funding, which requires a 25% local match, may be available for flood-proofing
132 efforts.

133



134 **Altenhofen made the motion to support the expenditure of \$150,000 for institutional**
135 **initiatives.** George agreed with Altenhofen. Steinke suggested that the Program demonstrate the
136 mitigated effects of a flood at a stage of 6.5 feet by making a release. Econopouly asked what the
137 \$150,000 would get the Program. Steinke responded that the expenditure would hopefully
138 compel the NWS to raise the flood stage to 6.5 feet (2,400 cfs), but noted there are no
139 guarantees. Wingfield said the expenditure of \$150,000 was reasonable, and noted that a
140 workgroup would be useful for evaluating the need for more intensive engineering initiatives.
141 **George seconded the motion of support made by Altenhofen to expend \$150,000 on flood-**
142 **proofing efforts, unanimous support.** Drain requested that Kenny outline the risks to the GC
143 that there is no guarantee the flood-proofing projects would result in an increase in flood stage.
144 Kenny suggested that we use TC Engineering and SEH for this work; both firms previously
145 completed work for the Program and were selected through a competitive process at that time.

146
147 Runge inquired about the status of the Kearney choke point investigation. Kenny said the ED
148 Office has been unable to get a contractor to perform the vegetation removal, but the work is
149 budgeted for and planned for 2012. The workgroup will focus on the North Platte choke point,
150 but will also address the Kearney choke point.

151
152 A choke point workgroup was formed with the following WAC members: Econopouly,
153 Taddackin, Steinke, Goltl, Shafer, and Kent Miller.

154
155 **Hydroclimatic Indices:** *Jerry Kenny, ED*
156 Kenny discussed the potential use of hydroclimatic indices for providing longer-term predictions
157 of streamflow conditions in the South Platte, North Platte, and Central Platte basins. There are
158 approximately one-half dozen hydroclimatic oscillations that are the driving force of our
159 weather. Indices include the Multivariate El Niño/Southern Oscillation, the Pacific Decadal
160 Oscillation, and the North Atlantic Oscillation, among others. The periodicity of these indices
161 allows for their use to generate forecasts. The indices have been used to predict spring runoff
162 based on observations in the fall with reasonable success in other river basins, although they tend
163 to be better predictors of extreme conditions.

164
165 Kenny requested input from the WAC regarding the level of interest in evaluating correlations
166 between available hydroclimatic indices and South Platte, North Platte, and Central Platte
167 streamflow conditions. The flood protection section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board
168 (CWCB) is considering pursuing a related investigation, and they have offered to expand the
169 scope of their project to include areas of interest to the Program for a one-time cost of \$25,000.
170 The end product would be a relatively simple tool that the Program could use in the fall to
171 predict runoff in the following spring. Separate relationships for the North Platte, South Platte,
172 and Central Platte would be developed if needed. The predictive tools may be useful for the
173 USFWS in determining how to manage EA releases.

174
175 **The ED Office will post a white paper describing the use of hydroclimatic indices to the**
176 **Program website for review by the WAC and will request feedback.** The white paper was



177 written by John Henz of Dewberry, who has developed similar predictive relationships for other
178 western river basins.

179
180 Altenhofen asked whether the NWS uses hydroclimatic indices for weather and streamflow
181 predictions. Econopouly said the NWS typically limits forecasts to a period of 90 days and bases
182 them on historical statistics, which is much shorter than what was described by Kenny.
183 Altenhofen asked how the hydroclimatic indices predictions would complement the Natural
184 Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) streamflow predictions. Kenny noted that NRCS
185 forecasts are typically provided in the winter and spring, and suggested that NRCS forecasts
186 could be used to refine the earlier hydroclimatic predictions. Altenhofen asked how the new tools
187 would affect the current hydrologic condition assessments. The hydrologic condition
188 assessments provided by the ED Office pertain to a much shorter time period than what would be
189 derived from the hydroclimatic indices. Altenhofen suggested that the Program consider using
190 the Browning Newsletter that provides quarterly predictions of weather and streamflow
191 forecasts.

192
193 Hutchinson inquired about the total project cost. Kenny indicated the total project cost would be
194 \$50,000, with \$25,000 being provided by CWCB and the remaining \$25,000 provided by the
195 Program to expand the original scope and the expenditure would require approval by the Finance
196 Committee (FC). Altenhofen asked whether the tools would need to be periodically updated.
197 Kenny stated that updates would not be required, and noted that the ED Office would download
198 the necessary indices information and provide summaries of forecasted conditions, similar to the
199 current approach for disseminating hydrologic condition information. Shafer expressed concerns
200 over hydroclimatic index methods being applied to the High Plains region. Kenny acknowledged
201 that the indices may be a better predictor for the North Platte and South Platte basins, but noted
202 longer term predictions for those areas would be beneficial for the Program. Drain expressed
203 support given the relatively low project cost. Kenny would like to provide the FC a summary of
204 the WAC's opinion on this matter for their consideration. **Depending on the speed at which**
205 **CWCB advances the project, the WAC may need to vote via email in favor or against the**
206 **expenditure. Alternatively, voting will be conducted at the next WAC meeting in August.**

207
208 **WAP Project Updates:** *Beorn Courtney, ED Office*

209 Courtney provided a brief update on WAP projects that are not being discussed in more detail
210 later in the meeting.

211
212 Wyoming expects to have 4,800 acre-feet available to the Program in 2012 from the Pathfinder
213 Municipal Account. Wyoming will re-evaluate and confirm the yield available for lease to the
214 Program before June 15th.

215
216 A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued for an independent engineering review of the pre-
217 feasibility study completed by Olsson Associates for the J-2 Regulating Reservoir project.
218 Proposals are due on June 7th. The engineering review will be completed before the end of the
219 year at the latest. Runge asked if the project completion date is still in line with earlier estimates.



220 Courtney stated that construction is still expected to be completed by 2015. The operating
221 agreement is still being negotiated, and will hopefully be finalized at the GC meeting in June.
222 Runge noted that it will be helpful to characterize time frames for the J-2 Reregulating Reservoir
223 and chokepoint improvements for consideration at future EA planning meetings such as the
224 target flow planning workshop on May 21, 2012. Steinke noted CNPPID's support for getting a
225 secondary engineering review of the costs and proposed project design. Olsson has provided the
226 final pre-feasibility report to the ED Office, which is being provided to firms interested in
227 proposing on the project. The expected budget for the RFP is \$200,000.
228

229 **Groundwater Recharge Project Scoring:** *Beorn Courtney, ED Office and Bill Hahn, ED Office*
230 *Special Advisor*

231 The ED Office and Hahn have been evaluating the potential score of groundwater recharge
232 operations along with Phelps Canal, using information obtained during the feasibility study
233 demonstration project. The feasibility study showed that groundwater recharge operations will
234 need to be coordinated based on observed groundwater levels. The ED Office and Hahn will
235 continue to evaluate groundwater management projects that may be able to mitigate high
236 groundwater levels and improve the efficiency of recharge operations. Today, the ED Office is
237 soliciting WAC input on moving forward with a fall 2012 recharge project.
238

239 The numerical model that was developed for the pre-feasibility study was calibrated using field
240 data from the demonstration project, and the revised model is being used to predict return flows
241 for preliminary project scoring. Hahn stated that the model has provided reasonable predictions
242 and attributes the differences between model and observed levels to pumping conditions being
243 imported from the COHYST model, and the cell size used in the model. The model is better a
244 predictor of water levels over a larger area than at a particular point such as a monitoring well.
245 While the timing and volume of return flows could be evaluated using the Alluvial Water
246 Accounting System (AWAS) model, the numerical model also provides water level information
247 that will be critical for evaluating operational thresholds to mitigate high groundwater levels.
248

249 The preliminary scoring analysis was based on recharge operations being conducted during the
250 entire non-irrigation season from October through April. The recharged volumes were based on
251 the availability of excesses to target flows, as determined using the OpStudy hydrology dataset at
252 Grand Island. Excesses are available more often in December and January than other non-
253 irrigation months. Hahn evaluated whether recharge operations could be timed to maximize
254 accretions at times of shortages to excess flows. The analysis shows that water recharged in
255 January and February is more likely to accrue at times with shortages, but the "efficiency" only
256 ranges from about 30% to 45% across all non-irrigation months. Drain suggested that water be
257 recharged whenever it is available since the range of monthly efficiency values is not very large.
258 Courtney noted that operations may be simplified by starting recharge in October so that an ice
259 cap could be built up.
260

261 Courtney reviewed scoring questions that have been identified by the ED Office. The
262 preliminary scoring analyses have been based on the methods used for the J-2 Regulating



263 Reservoir, although at a monthly time-step instead of daily, resulting in a score of 1,840 acre-feet
264 at Grand Island prior to any discounting. During the scoring of the J-2 Regulating Reservoir,
265 USFWS indicated that score discounts would be required for water projects that do not benefit
266 the entire Overton to Duncan reach. If recharge terminates at the Phelps Canal mile 9.7, then the
267 return flows accrue approximately 1.5 miles downstream of Overton, on average. Using the
268 Overton to Grand Island reach (downstream extent of the WMC Loss Model) results in about a
269 2% score reduction, or about 1,800 acre-feet on average. Extending recharge east will result in
270 further downstream returns but prorating to Duncan would result in a lower percentage score
271 reduction. It may be possible to limit score reductions by having Tri-Basin NRD use the return
272 flows that accrue below Overton for their offset requirements as opposed to WAP projects.
273

274 The ED Office completed a preliminary evaluation of the effects associated with diverting excess
275 flows to groundwater recharge on the score of the J-2 project. Preferentially diverting flows to
276 groundwater recharge may reduce the J-2 reservoir score by about 2% but an optimized scenario
277 still needs to be modeled. As more WAP projects are implemented, it will be increasing difficult
278 to assign scores to individual projects. The ED Office hopes that COHYST 2010 will allow for
279 the scoring of multiple projects.
280

281 Drain does not believe scoring decisions are a responsibility of the WAC, and suggested that a
282 sub-committee of the GC be formed to address scoring questions identified by the ED Office.
283 Altenhofen noted that water leasing has similar scoring questions. **The ED Office will request**
284 **that the GC form a scoring sub-committee at their June meeting.**
285

286 Steinke said that it would be easier for CNPPID to support recharge projects if groundwater
287 management projects were also in place to provide mitigation of high groundwater levels if
288 necessary. Monitoring wells installed for the demonstration project could be used to monitor
289 water levels. Wingfield asked about objectives for 2012 and Kenny said that sufficient
290 background information has been obtained through the feasibility study and demonstration
291 project, and it is time to start reducing shortages to target flows. If recharge operations are
292 extended from the Phelps Canal 9.7 mile return to the 13.2 mile return, then additional
293 monitoring wells may be required and Hahn may need to expand the area covered by the
294 numerical model.
295

296 Steinke noted that it will take time to obtain the necessary permanent permits from NDNR, and
297 expects that a one-year temporary permit will be required for 2012 recharge operations.
298 Woodward said that NDNR is working on implementing an expedited permitting process for
299 recharge projects that will hopefully be completed before fall 2012. Drain said that CNPPID's
300 concerns related to recharge could probably be addressed in the operating contract with the
301 Program. Kenny asked if diversions to recharge would be limited to excesses to target flows, or
302 would include EA releases. Drain believes the legal issues that encumbered the use of EA
303 releases for recharge have been addressed, and believes the end use of EA releases will be as
304 directed by the EA Manager. Leased water from Pathfinder Reservoir could also be used for
305 recharge since it can be added to the EA.



306 Woodward stated that many canal companies are interested in conducting recharge operations
307 next fall as part of their depletion plan offsets. Altenhofen would like to continue discussions
308 about the Program leasing surplus accretions from NDNR. Goltl said that NDNR is still
309 summarizing 2011 recharge operations. Woodward viewed a Draft 2011 recharge summary at a
310 Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project (PBHEP) meeting last week. **Woodward will send a**
311 **copy of the Draft summary to Kenny, but asked that the summary not be provided to the**
312 **entire WAC until finalized by NDNR.** Goltl believes approximately 80,000 acre-feet and
313 120,000 acre-feet were recharged in the spring and fall, respectively, but river accretions values
314 are still being refined.

315
316 **The WAC supports the development of an agreement with CNPPID for 2012 recharge**
317 **operations and supports extending recharge to mile 13.2. CNPPID will file a temporary**
318 **recharge permit application with NDNR. The ED Office will work with Hahn to determine**
319 **if additional monitoring wells would be required and Hahn will evaluate whether the model**
320 **area needs to be expanded to the east.**

321
322 **Surplus Land and Water Leasing:** *Beorn Courtney and Matt Welsh, ED Office*

323 Courtney explained that the 2012 start date for Nebraska Water Leasing identified in the 2009
324 WAP Update was postponed until 2016 during the 2012 budget approval to ensure adequate
325 funding for the J-2 Regulating Reservoir. While the water leasing implementation date has been
326 postponed, the ED Office has continued to work with the Water Leasing Workgroup to develop
327 analysis methodologies. The methods that have been developed to date also apply to situations
328 where the Program must decide whether water associated with historically irrigated surplus lands
329 should be reserved for WAP projects. The GC is requesting input from the WAC on one surplus
330 land situation, which will be presented today.

331
332 Members of the Land Advisory Committee (LAC) and WAC have discussed the development of
333 a “decision tree” that could be used to expedite the evaluation of water associated with surplus
334 land sales and other land transactions. Courtney explained the decision tree process and
335 associated WAC hydrological review. A critical step of the decision tree requires input from the
336 scoring sub-committee that will be requested at the June GC meeting, so no recommendation on
337 the decision tree process was requested from the WAC at this time.

338
339 Welsh provided an overview of the surplus land project at the Broadfoot-Newark property
340 southeast of Kearney. The surplus land includes 117 acres that were historically irrigated using
341 groundwater. The PBHEP offset calculator indicates that if the parcel was retired from irrigation,
342 then the average annual accretion to the Platte River would be 29.3 acre-feet/year, based on the
343 50-year depletion percentages from the COHYST model. If Central Platte NRD were interested
344 in acquiring the water for their Water Bank, then they would base the transaction on the
345 accretion value from the PBHEP calculator.

346
347 In the process of evaluating water leasing projects that involve future groundwater irrigation, the
348 Water Leasing Workgroup requested that the ED Office complete continuous long-term analyses



349 that showed the accretion to the river at an annual time step. The accretion from the surplus land
350 dry-up would increase over time and yield accrues downstream of Kearney so input on how to
351 score the project is needed from the scoring sub-committee. **The scoring questions will be**
352 **addressed with the GC scoring sub-committee.**

353
354 The surplus land was appraised in April 2012, and the land value is \$2,400 more per acre when
355 water is included in the sale. Based on the yield of 0.25 acre-feet/acre (29.3 acre-feet/year ÷ 117
356 acres) and a price difference of \$2,400, reserving the water for WAP projects would cost
357 approximately \$9,600/acre-foot, which does not include any price increases for score discounts.
358

359 Drain said the water should be sold with the surplus land, and noted that water could be
360 purchased at another location at a later time if needed. Drain said that the GC has intentionally
361 postponed other WAP projects with much lower unit costs. Runge, George, and Hutchinson feel
362 the GC should consider retaining the water from the surplus since it would not require any
363 additional expenditures. George noted that the Program hasn't had the opportunity to buy other
364 water, and feels that reserving this water would start accretions to the river now while other
365 projects are pursued. George is not comfortable making a recommendation to sell the water with
366 the surplus land. Kenny noted that water is available to be purchased elsewhere, so that money
367 generated by the sale of the water near Minden could be used to purchase water closer to the
368 upstream end of the associated habitat reach. The Program recently purchased irrigated land
369 upstream near Elm Creek as part of a habitat acquisition. **The WAC recommended the ED**
370 **Office provide the economic summary to the GC to assist with their decision.**

371
372 **Federal Depletions Plan Update:** *Matt Rabbe, USFWS*

373 Rabbe reviewed the federal depletions plan packet that had been provided to the WAC prior to
374 the meeting. Hoobler said the first Wyoming project with a federal nexus will likely be initiated
375 in 2012.

376
377 **Nebraska Depletion Plan Update:** *Pat Goltl, NDNR*

378 Goltl provided a summary of the two documents that were provided to the WAC prior to the
379 meeting. The forecast of net effects assumes that the J-2 Regulating Reservoir will be online in
380 2014. NDNR is still developing robust accounting procedures that will be finalized in the next
381 couple of months. Altenhofen inquired whether the Program would be able to lease any of the
382 accretions in excess of post-1997 depletions. Woodward noted that Nebraska also needs to
383 achieve a fully-appropriated status, so there are not as many excesses as suggested in the NDNR
384 depletion plan reports.

385
386 **Wyoming Depletion Plan Update:** *Matt Hoobler, Wyoming State Engineer's Office*

387 Hoobler reviewed the 2011 Wyoming Depletions Report that was provided to the WAC prior to
388 the meeting. Hoobler discussed municipal water sales for oil and gas development. Temporary
389 Water Use Agreements, which are essentially dry-up agreements, have been used to ensure no
390 expansion of water use. Municipalities have also been selling water for oil and gas operations.
391 Hoobler discussed laws against transporting water across state lines. The municipalities of Elk



392 Mountain and Saratoga have switched from surface water supplies to non-hydrologically
393 connected groundwater. The supply conversion now produces an accretion to the river.
394

395 **Colorado Depletion Plan Update:** *Suzanne Sellers, CWCB & Jon Altenhofen, Northern*
396 *Colorado Water*

397 Sellers reviewed the North Platte Annual Accounting that was provided to the WAC prior to the
398 meeting. The new industrial use water right for 108 acre-feet per year is scheduled to be
399 dismissed. Altenhofen reviewed the Colorado Plan for Future Depletions for the South Platte
400 basin that was provided during the meeting. Population growth has average 2% per year; the
401 original estimate was 1.5% per year. No changes to the calculation assumptions are proposed.
402 Runge asked whether Colorado would provide a summary of Tamarack I operations. Altenhofen
403 offered to provide a separate summary of Tamarack I accretions along with the 2012 summary
404 next year. The trial for the Tamarack water rights case is schedule for July 2012.
405

406 **Additional Business:** *Cory Steinke, WAC Chair*

407 The draft 2012 meeting schedule was discussed. **The next WAC meeting is scheduled for**
408 **August 14, 2012, from 9:30 am – 3 pm (Mountain Time) at the Lake McConaughy Visitors**
409 **Center.** No changes were requested.
410

411 **Action Items**

412 General WAC

- 413 • Vote regarding support of expenditure of \$25,000 for hydroclimatic indices investigation
414 via email, if needed.
- 415 • CNPPID will file a temporary recharge permit application with NDNR.
416

417 ED Office

- 418 • Attempt to coordinate the timing of tillage operations at the North Platte choke point with
419 the USFWS so that EA releases may be timed to aid the phragmites removal effort.
- 420 • Post hydroclimatic indices white paper to the Program website for review by the WAC.
- 421 • Request the formation of a scoring sub-committee at the June GC meeting.
- 422 • Coordinate with Hahn to determine if additional modeling and monitoring wells would be
423 required to expand Phelps Canal recharge operations to the return at mile 13.2.
- 424 • Provide the surplus land economic summary to the LAC and GC to assist with their
425 decision of whether to reserve the water for WAP projects.
426