



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
November 5, 2012

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming State Engineer’s Office

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water Conservation Board

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS
Kirk Schroeder – Alternate, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

None

Power Districts

John Shadle – Member (Vice-chair), Nebraska Public Power District

Environmental Entities

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)

Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD Staff

Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

John Thorburn – Member, TBNRD Staff
Jim Bendfeldt – Alternate, CPNRD Board

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Tim Tunnell
Justin Brei

Other Participants

None



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czapslewski called the meeting to order at 11:00 am Central Time and the group
3 proceeded with introductions.

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5 Czapslewski asked for agenda modifications. No modifications requested.

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7 Czapslewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the October 2, 2012
8 meeting. It was noted that Pat Gohl was missing from the October LAC meeting roster.

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10 **LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2012 LAC meeting,**
11 **with the roster update. The motion was seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**

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13 **2013 Annual Work Plans**

14 Farnsworth opened discussion the 2013 Annual Work Plans, which were distributed to the LAC
15 in advance. Czapslewski asked that the ED office check the numbers in the expenditures/income
16 for possible calculation errors. Czapslewski also asked that some mention of expected income or
17 recognition of land excesses be considered. Farnsworth will add a statement on page 3
18 highlighting that fact. LaGrange asked what the Special Advisors line consists of. Sackett said
19 special advisors for land are farm management firms that take care of farm administrative things
20 for the Program, such as agricultural/grazing leases, crop insurance, FSA responsibilities, etc.

21
22 The LAC proceeded through the sections of the work plan, organized by complex.

23
24 *Non-Complex Lands*

25 Rabbe asked if phragmites control should be added as a specific line item. Sackett said that is
26 considered a part of noxious weed control line item.

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28 *Plum Creek Complex*

29 No specific comment.

30
31 *Cottonwood Ranch Complex*

32 Shadle asked how the sediment augmentation project is going. Farnsworth said it was
33 challenging this year with very little flow. As a result, there is still sediment staged for transport
34 until higher flows return. The current plan is to attempt to cut channels through the staged
35 sediment to form interim tern and plover nesting areas, and then see how the sediment moves
36 during the SDHF in spring 2013. Shadle asked if there are the grazing is going to be adjusted in
37 2013. Tunnell said that nothing drastic is being changed. Drought impacts to the pastures will
38 be assessed and a possible slight reduction in stocking rate is the only expected change.

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40 *Elm Creek Complex*

41 Brei informed the LAC that the Fox Wet Meadow Excavation project is to begin next week.
42 Farnsworth said PRRIP received good bids for the project and there is money in the 2012 budget
43 to cover seeding after the dirt work is complete. As a result like FK6 will be removed from the
44 2013 budget.



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Shoemaker Island Complex

Sackett said now that the decision on Platte River Caddisfly (of Not Warranted for Listing) has been published by USFWS, the LAC will revisit tree clearing activities in the southern slough in 2013. Farnsworth said the money in line SI10 is for clearing the entire slough. Actual limits of clearing will be discussed when the LAC revisits the issue. Rabbe asked if money should be added to reroute water from the road ditch to the northern meadows. Farnsworth said the ED Office is working on analyzing surface and ground water interactions, and looking for a better understanding before any construction is done. This analysis will take place in 2013 with likely construction in 2014.

Bendfeldt moved to recommend GC acceptance of the 2013 work plan and LAC budget. LaBonde seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Land Offering Review at 2012002

Sackett introduced discussion of the exchange of land at tract 2012002. This includes the acquisition of an easement on tract 1216 and cash in exchange for deed to tract 1212, a buffer area of 2012002. Thorburn asked if the 1216 easement was a set distance from the river. Sackett said the easement would cover the area where the Program cleared trees in 2010, 200 feet from the bank across the property. Shadle said he is not clear on what the LAC is trying to approve. Sackett said he is looking for the LACs support of the habitat value of 1216 and overall improvement of the Program's holdings by the exchange. Shadle said it seems like the disposal of 1212 might produce disturbance to the meadow to the west of 1212, for no apparent gain. Brei said the gain to the Program is perpetual habitat management for 1 mile of river channel. LaGrange asked about the habitat value of the meadow to the west of 1212. Schroeder said there had been some tree clearing and general improvements there in the past, and that it is a decent wet meadow that has seen sandhill crane use. Shadle said NPPD already holds an easement on this tract and believes there is the potential for conflict between NPPD's easement and the proposed conservation easement. Czaplewski said that the option presented is to give up buffer area, realizing there may be a small potential disturbance, but gaining 1 mile of permanent river channel control, where lots of Program work has already occurred and is still occurring. Thorburn said he supports the value of this exchange to the Program, and believes it provides additional benefit within the good neighbor policy by working with this landowner.

Thorburn moved to approve and advance the land exchange at 2012002, being tract 1212 and cash in exchange for a perpetual easement on 1216, on the basis of habitat. Motion was seconded by Labonde. Shadle said that he does not believe the Program will be able to work around NPPD's easement. The motion was voted on and did not pass unanimously.

Brei reminded the LAC that when a motion does not receive unanimous support at the LAC, the LAC is instructed to provide support for their view in support or in opposition of the motion, to the ED office. These viewpoints will be compiled for the GC, who will make their own final determination.



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90 **Other Business**

91 **The next LAC meeting will be held January 23, 2013 at 9 a.m. in Kearney, NE.**

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93 **Closing Business**

94 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 12:30 p.m.