



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Executive Director’s Office Conference Room – Kearney, NE
January 15, 2013

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Andrea Odell, proxy for Harry LaBonde – Member,
Wyoming State Engineer’s Office

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Kevin Urie – Alternate, Denver Water

State of Nebraska

Jesse Bradley – Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – USBOR

Power Districts

John Shadle – Member (Vice-chair), Nebraska Public
Power District
Mark Peyton – Member, Central Nebraska Public
Power & Irrigation District
Jim Jenniges – Alternate, Nebraska Public Power
District

Environmental Entities

John Heaston – Member, The Nature Conservancy
Jonas Davis – Alternate, Ducks Unlimited

**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

Mark Morten – The Crane Trust



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:05 am Central Time and the group
3 proceeded with introductions.
4

5 Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications. Sackett asked that the Land Offering Reviews and
6 previous meeting minutes be covered first to get the action items covered while a quorum was
7 present. Czaplewski agreed.
8

9 Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the November 5, 2012
10 meeting, which included changes by John Shadle prior to the meeting.
11

12 **Heaston made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2012 LAC meeting,**
13 **as amended. The motion was seconded by Merrill and passed unanimously.**
14

15 **Land Offering Reviews**

16 **Shadle moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical**
17 **staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Heaston. The motion**
18 **carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:09 a.m.**
19

20 **Merrill moved to come out of executive session. Peyton seconded and the motion carried.**
21 **The committee came out of executive session at 10:14 a.m.**
22

23 Tract 1209, which was tabled at a previous LAC meeting, was presented by Sackett. The owner
24 reports that the permit to mine was received by the county, and the owner does not believe a 404
25 permit is required. Sackett said this tract is now being offered as 80 acres, which include the
26 added southern 40 acres. Rabbe recommended that the LAC take no further action at this time.
27 He believes the Program should not factor into the current owner's ongoing permitting process,
28 which may assist the conversion of wetland/grassland area to sand pit.
29

30 Sackett then presented tract 1227 for discussion. Jenniges called attention to the large power
31 lines that cross the western portion of the tract. Jenniges discussed the marking and potential for
32 installation of impact detectors, and said that NPPD would want to be involved in management
33 discussions related to these power lines if the tract is acquired.
34

35 **Thorburn moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1227 to**
36 **the GC with a recommendation to commence appraisal and negotiations as complex**
37 **habitat. Bendfeldt Seconded.** Rabbe commented that acquisition of this tract crosses over a
38 tipping point, and he believes acquiring this tract comes at the cost of potential future purchases.
39 **John Heaston abstained. The LAC did not reach a consensus on this motion.** A memo will
40 be compiled for the GC with justification in support of and in opposition to the motion. Brei
41 requested LAC input to be emailed to him by Friday, January 18. The GC will address this tract
42 at their March 12-13 meeting.
43
44



45 **GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information**

46 *GC Update*

47 Czaplewski updated the LAC on recent GC activities. The GC met December 4 & 5, 2012 in
48 Denver, CO. The GC approved the 2013 PRRIP budget and work plan. A couple other major
49 topics of discussion were the 2012 State of the Platte report and Program target flows. The GC
50 elected Don Ament as Chair and Harry LaBonde as Vice-chair for 2013. In land-related items,
51 the GC approved proceeding with appraisal and negotiations on tract 1220 as complex habitat,
52 approved a sale of excess land at 1221 to Nebraska Game & Parks Commission – subject to final
53 approval of terms, voted to exchange a first right of refusal on tract 1219 in exchange for
54 extinguishing an easement held on the property.

55

56 The next GC meeting is March 12 & 13, 2013 in Kearney, NE.

57

58 *Other Committee Coordination*

59 Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC meets next on February 12, and
60 will be discussing calculation procedures for potential water leasing activities. Also, at the
61 request of the TAC, the WAC will be discussing a study plan for wet meadow hydrology which
62 will look at the interaction between the river, precipitation, ground water, etc.

63

64 Kenny and Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC met on January 14.
65 They discussed the wet meadow hydrology study plan, the habitat availability assessment, and
66 wet meadow vegetation monitoring. Farnsworth mentioned that the Adaptive Management Plan
67 Reporting Session is in Omaha on April 22 and 23, 2013. This reporting session is where
68 contractors and Program participants present information gained through monitoring and
69 research and how it applies to the Program’s “Big Questions”. This information is being
70 synthesized in the State of the Platte Report. Farnsworth distributed copies of the 2012 report to
71 the LAC, and said that similar reports could be expected each year.

72

73 **Present Work in Progress**

74 Tunnell walked the LAC through work completed, in progress, and upcoming. Details of
75 activities were distributed to the LAC in advance.

76

77 **Update on Vegetation Monitoring**

78 Farnsworth provided the LAC with an update on the plan for vegetation monitoring. This plan
79 was discussed at the TAC as well. The wet meadow working group wants the Program to
80 monitor change over time on certain Program lands. The TAC discussed the study plan details,
81 such as frequency, data collection methods, etc. The current plan is to conduct the monitoring in
82 2013, and repeat every three years in June or July each time. An RFP will be produced using the
83 information gained from the TAC, and a contractor will be selected to perform the work.

84

85 **Public Forum**

86 Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

87

88



89 **Other Business**

90 **The next LAC meeting will be held March 26, 2013 at 9 a.m. in Kearney, NE.**

91

92 **Closing Business**

93 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 11:00 a.m.