



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
2 **Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
3 Wyoming Water Development Commission – Cheyenne, WY  
4 June 10-11, 2014

5 **Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

6 **Meeting Attendees**

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9  
10 **Governance Committee (GC) Table**

11 **State of Wyoming**

12 Harry LaBonde – Member (Chair)

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15 **State of Colorado**

16 Don Ament – Member

17 Suzanne Sellers – Alternate

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19 **State of Nebraska**

20 Jim Schneider – Member

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22 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)**

23 Kirk Schroeder – Alternate

24  
25 **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

26 Gary Campbell – Member

27  
28 **Environmental Entities**

29 John Heaston – Member

30 Bill Taddicken – Member

31  
32 **Upper Platte Water Users**

33 Dennis Strauch – Member

34 George Williams – Member

35  
36 **Colorado Water Users**

37 Alan Berryman – Member

38  
39 **Downstream Water Users**

40 Brian Barels – Member

41 Don Kraus – Member

42 Mark Czaplewski – Member

43 Kent Miller – Member

**Executive Director’s Office (EDO) Staff**

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

Bridget Barron

Jason Farnsworth

Bruce Sackett

Sira Sartori

Chad Smith

Kevin Werbylo

**Audience Members**

Deb Freeman – Colorado Water Users

Brock Merrill – BOR

Mike Drain – CNPPID

Matt Rabbe – Service

Nathan Darnall – Service

Duane Hovorka – Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Tim Martin – RTI

Monte McDonald – RTI

Dave Marmorek – ISAC

Jennifer Hoeting – ISAC

Ned Andrews – ISAC

Adrian Farmer – ISAC



#### **Welcome & Administrative**

LaBonde called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. LaBonde announced that the Pathfinder account is full and that water is available to the Program. The group proceeded with introductions.

*Schneider moved to approve the March 2014 GC minutes; Strauch seconded. Minutes approved.*

#### **Program Committee Updates**

##### *Land Advisory Committee (LAC)*

Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC met via conference call on June 6 and discussed action on Tract 1402 and a report from the Public Access subcommittee. The next LAC meeting is July 29 in Kearney.

##### *Water Advisory Committee (WAC)*

Sartori provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC met on May 6 in Gothenburg and discussed Water Action Plan items, a water service agreement for the Phelps Canal recharge project, water leasing opportunities, an update on the hydroclimatic indices report, the annual flow summary report, the ET monitoring plan for wet meadows, a Nebraska DNR report on sandpit impacts on river flow, and depletions plans. The next WAC meeting is August 12 in Ogallala.

##### *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

Sellers provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC met jointly with the ISAC on April 22-23 in Omaha. The first agenda item was a discussion about PRRIP tern and plover monitoring activities. The rest of the discussion focused on the tern and plover synthesis chapters developed by the EDO. The group conducted a field trip of the lower Platte River on April 23. The ISAC met alone on April 24 and will report their findings later today.

##### *Finance Committee (FC)*

Campbell provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC had a conference call on June 3 and recommended moving the ISR contract on to the GC for approval, approved additional work on the Shoemaker Island FSM project, and approved preparation of manuscripts related to vegetation research on the central Platte that will be brought back to the GC for review and publication approval.

#### **Program Outreach Update**

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Jerry Kenny and Bridget Barron represented the Program at the Missouri River Workshop of America's Watershed Initiative (AWI) Report Card Project held in Rapid City, South Dakota on May 22 and 23, 2014. AWI conducted workshops in each of the sub-basins of the Mississippi River in order to develop a report card for the entire Mississippi River Basin. The draft report card will be presented at the AWI Summit in Louisville, Kentucky on September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 2, 2014.

#### **EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- The Program exhibited at Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival (formerly known as Rivers & Wildlife Celebration) in Kearney, Nebraska on March 22, 2014. We made 206 contacts.
- The Program was a sponsor of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Envirothon State Competition on May 3, 2014. The Envirothon has high school teams competing in seven areas of environmental studies; soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, and current environmental policy. The



91 Program sponsored the wildlife station and for the third year in a row the team from Concordia High  
92 won the wildlife station competition and also won the overall championship.  
93

#### 94 **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS**

- 95 • The Program is a co-sponsor of the Annual Water and Natural Resources Tour, presented by the  
96 Nebraska Water Center, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) and the  
97 Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce. This year the tour is of the Upper Platte River Watershed and  
98 takes place from July 15-18, 2014. Jerry Kenny will also be presenting on the Program to the tour  
99 participants at the Elm Creek Complex on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 100 • Chad Smith will be attending the Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER) in  
101 New Orleans, Louisiana from July 28 – August 1, 2014. Chad will be the moderator of a panel  
102 discussion titled, “Collaborative Adaptive Management”. The panel will include previous ISAC  
103 member Kent Loftin. CEER is a collaborative effort of the National Conference on Ecosystem  
104 Restoration (NCER) and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). Jerry Kenny and Bridget  
105 Barron will also be attending the conference.

#### 106 **MEDIA/OTHER**

- 107
- 108 • On March 12, 2014 the Kearney Hub published an article about the Program titled, “Record-setting  
109 payment made to Platte program, reservoirs project”. Jerry Kenny was interviewed for the article.
- 110 • On March 13, 2014 the Kearney Hub published an article about the Program’s 2013 State of the  
111 Platte report as presented in the Governance Committee meeting. Chad Smith was quoted in the  
112 article.
- 113 • The Program hosted Dr. Jane Goodall and nature photographer, Tom Mangelsen, in the Binfield blind  
114 on March 21, 2014.
- 115 • The Lincoln Journal Star published an article by Jerry Kenny about the Platte River Recreation  
116 Access (PRRA) program in the Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> paper.
- 117 • Distribution of Program lapel pins.

#### 118 **PRRIP FY14 Budget Update**

119 Kenny discussed the status of the FY14 PRRIP budget and associated expenditures and contracts. We are  
120 closing in on spending \$80 million since initiation of the Program. Another item to note on the summary  
121 at the bottom is that we are still taking expenditures from the federal dollars to equalize expenditures with  
122 state dollars. There are about another \$2 million in expenditures from federal dollars before we are back  
123 to strict proportionate expenditures. Schneider asked if J2 expenditures will get paid out soon or will  
124 those funds just sit. Kenny said that needs discussed with the GC and we will discuss it at the end of the  
125 J2 update later today.  
126

127

128 Kenny discussed Program income from land management. The Program is just shy of \$100,000 in  
129 income to date. With increased land values, the Program’s tax burden has increased significantly.

130

131 Smith discussed the multi-year contract with RESPEC for Independent Science Review services.  
132 *Czaplewski moved to approve the contract; Heaston seconded. **ISR contract approved.***

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137 **Kearney Canal**

138 Farnsworth introduced the Kearney Canal sedimentation analysis report. Werbylo provided a  
139 presentation on the report. Kraus asked about the concentration of sediment between years. Werbylo said  
140 the concentration relationship was not reported.  
141

142 **J2 Reservoir Update**

143 Kraus and Drain provided an update on the status of the J2 project. Kraus said all initial contributions  
144 were done on time and according to schedule. Drain said financial reporting is required on an annual  
145 basis but future quarterly reports could include some of that detail. Ament asked about the water rights  
146 petition filing. Drain said they believe they are adding more regulation to existing facilities and not  
147 changing the amount or date of diversion. The Nebraska DNR has to be petitioned for approval. The  
148 Central Platte NRD does have instream flows in the 3-mile section of river that will be bypassed so there  
149 has been consultation with the Central Platte NRD. Ament asked if they were amenable. Drain said yes,  
150 there was a question about reporting and measurement of the amount of flow that is bypassed with annual  
151 reporting. Czaplowski said that is just to track it over time. LaBonde asked if there was any discussion of  
152 when a decision would be made on the petition. Drain said no. Schneider said he does not know either  
153 but it is being processed. Kenny said there is a lot of work going on but most of that is through  
154 consultants. Of the \$20 million set aside, most of that remains intact until land acquisition gets into full  
155 swing. Kraus said he is going to track down what is in the Program account and what has been expended  
156 through June 1. Kraus said there is not a need to send another invoice right now. Schneider said  
157 technically the Program would not have to make another payment for three years. The Nebraska DNR is  
158 budgeting for this similar to the Program but wonders if an amendment to the agreement is required to  
159 start making payments more quickly. Kenny asked if getting an invoice this year would be a benefit.  
160 Schneider said it is not critical but could be helpful. Campbell said having a yearly statement will help  
161 the cause and spending in chunks would be beneficial. Schneider said Nebraska can stage its money  
162 through the NCF if necessary. Kenny said he will discuss this further with the Department of the Interior  
163 and CNPPID and will have a recommendation at the September 2014 GC meeting.  
164

165 Campbell asked about the footprint of the dam and whether impounding more water will result in more  
166 water in the account. Drain said he was not sure on exact yield levels but that the initial design was about  
167 12,000 acre-feet and the adjusted design is about 15,000 acre-feet. There may be more opportunity for  
168 storage but the final footprint and modifications to the design are not yet final. LaBonde said we will not  
169 know until there is a final design report. From his perspective, he would be interested in optimizing  
170 storage if it is available so he requested keeping the GC apprised of these potential design changes.  
171 Sellers noted that the J2 project does have a few sentences on an annual report in Section 6 and she is  
172 assuming that is part of the annual report that Campbell referenced. Drain said yes.  
173

174 **Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)**

175 Marmorek provided a presentation on the ISAC report that resulted from the April 2014 ISAC meeting in  
176 Omaha. Kraus asked what kind of nesting islands the ISAC was recommending be constructed in the  
177 channel. Marmorek said islands that have been created but some that would persist even at the highest  
178 flows. Czaplowski expressed concern that approach had been tried before but had not yielded positive  
179 long-term results. Marmorek said the effort to build islands on the Platte should be linked to analyses of  
180 other river systems and what is different between the Platte and those systems. Czaplowski said there has  
181 been a variety of islands built on the Platte and nesting islands on other rivers like the Niobrara are much  
182 different than what we see on the Platte. Kraus asked if the discharge slide for the Niobrara would look  
183 like the one Marmorek showed for the Platte. Farnsworth said on average Platte peaks are in June, on



184 average Niobrara peaks are in April. The Platte peaks come at a time when plover nests have been  
185 initiated and terns are in the middle of nest initiation; higher flows lead to nest inundation. Schroeder said  
186 he disagrees with being able to build nesting habitat on the river. Successful nesting islands have been  
187 built at low cost and led to successful nesting in 2008 and 2009. The difficulty is keeping those islands in  
188 place. One way to build semi-permanent habitat would be to clear wooded islands that are already well  
189 above many high flow events. Taddicken said the key seems to be keeping nesting islands available for  
190 one year for nesting. Schneider said it sounds like the ISAC is suggesting we need to do something  
191 different than what has been done before. Is that going outside of the Adaptive Management Plan?  
192 Marmorek said it is really a question of MCM version 1 versus MCM version 2 – that means, building  
193 islands larger and higher than you may have anticipated.

194

195 *NOTE: Chad Smith from the EDO took the minutes above on this topic. However, Smith engaged in this*  
196 *discussion and while doing so Jennifer Hoeting of the ISAC kindly took as many notes as she could*  
197 *during the discussion. Speakers are identified in places where she knew names. Those notes are*  
198 *provided below:*

199 1. For BQ6: is this for both on-river and off-river sites?

200 Marmorek: Only off-channel sites meet the criteria of suitable habitat

201 2. Czaplewski: \$350,000/year spent to collect those data. Can you get similar accuracy by doing only  
202 the off-site sampling (spotting scope) for about \$50,000/year?

203 Marmorek: Based my experience with other controversial river/animal issues, things work more  
204 smoothly when you have the best possible data upon which to base decisions

205 3. Barels: (scenario slide). Is there a 5<sup>th</sup> scenario? It could be that these birds are feeding a meta-  
206 population in another location. Need to add this 5<sup>th</sup> possibility.

207 Marmorek: yes, this is not an exhaustive list.

208 Smith: there is a tern meta-population model being created. The program is submitting data to for  
209 this modeling.

210 4. BQ7: mechanically create habitat which persists long enough: clarify about what you mean.

211 Marmorek: want island in the channel that is higher and not vegetated. Needs to be able to  
212 survive high flows.

213 Question: but doesn't the high flow erode them?

214 5. Czaplewski: Aren't you just asking to repeat what has already been done and failed? Almost 30  
215 years ago the crane trust built islands but they failed.

216 Marmorek: not everyone agrees with you.

217 Czaplewski: many islands have been built in the NP. Pursuing semi-permanent human  
218 constructed islands is not feasible.

219 ...discussion about different grain sizes on different river systems.

220 6. If you look at a plot of the discharge of the Niobrara, would the flows look similarly variable?

221 Farnsworth: discussion of timing of peak flow and nesting timing.

222 7. Schroeder: I disagree with Czaplewski about not being to create habitat on the river on Audubon and  
223 Crane Trust property. Difficulty is to maintain these. We should just remove trees from existing  
224 islands.

225 Czaplewski: Habitat was created and it failed.



- 226 Marmorek: debate will continue until the program creates in-channel habitat
- 227 8. Are you suggesting that we should do something different with the islands? Aren't you violating the
- 228 adaptive management agreement?
- 229 9. Do you need to take snow levels into account when determining size of the sandbar to build?
- 230 10. Farnsworth: we have been trying to put the paired design in the river. However, timing is really
- 231 challenging. We can only build in Aug-Nov, but then the next high flow kills off the islands (2013)
- 232 or too dry (2012). Building Aug-Nov only works if there is a lowish peak in June AND there is
- 233 enough water remaining when birds are nesting.
- 234 11. Has all the historical information been collected?
- 235 Smith: yes, we now have a chapter about tern and plover historical use on the river. We also
- 236 have a chapter describing the nesting that has occurred on the river.
- 237 Farnsworth: we are writing a chapter where we describe every nest that has survived along the
- 238 river.
- 239 12. Does the AMP allow us to change how we build habitat? Do we have this flexibility?
- 240 Smith: GC can decide what they want us to do. Do you want to spend resources building things
- 241 that the data suggest that the river cannot do itself? Is so, then you are doing the way of the fully
- 242 mechanical strategy.
- 243 13. Is MCM a hypothesis in the AMP?
- 244 Smith: yes
- 245 14. You've got to build the islands every year.
- 246 Marmorek: there are different kinds of islands with different costs. GC needs to decide which
- 247 one is acceptable given costs and benefits?
- 248 15. Should we build concrete sandboxes? Barges?
- 249 16. Farnsworth: We got off topic. We need to focus on the question: do birds prefer or do better on
- 250 channel or off channel habitat?
- 251 17. BQ7: If you have off-channel habitat and it is maintaining the population, isn't that sufficient? Key
- 252 idea: necessary to maintain.
- 253 18. Schroeder: for a species to survive long term, do you need both on and off channel? If ESA
- 254 protection goes away, will off-channel habitat be maintained? That's why we need to answer BQ7.
- 255 19. Missing idea: sustainability of habitat. We only focus on sustainability of population.
- 256 Marmorek: that's what Farnsworth's papers look at.
- 257 20. Continued discussion about whether the habitat is sustainable – both off and on-channel.
- 258 21. Schneider: Irony here. The river isn't regulated enough. If we had a few more big reservoirs, we
- 259 could time this. I'm not arguing for this, but we don't have enough space to make the right kinds of
- 260 flows happen.
- 261 Farnsworth: need to shift the hydrology to make it more like the Niobrara or the Missouri River.
- 262 In the 1800's the peak happened after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.
- 263 22. Going forward the river is going to have more flash floods and uncontrollable flows. Because of this,
- 264 effort should be focused on off-channel habitat.



- 265 23. Marmorek: story from Columbia River. Barging fish vs not: people argued which method had better  
266 fish survival. Pit tags showed that Barged fish survived ½ as well. Until the data were there, no one  
267 accepted the conclusions.
- 268 24. Which population are we trying to maintain? Are we creating a population sink by putting islands in  
269 the river that then get washed away? Is this smart?
- 270 FWS: We can get even more birds with both habitat types. We need more data to answer that  
271 question.
- 272 Farnsworth: we need a management objective that is concrete.
- 273 25. Smith: Good discussion.
- 274 26. Czaplewski: this was a good discussion that needed to happen at the GC.
- 275 27. Schneider: is it true that what we thought was limiting isn't limited? We need some original  
276 thinking.
- 277 28. Trend line shows that as habitat increases, bird numbers increase.
- 278 29. Schneider: arguments for both sides of whether on/off channel habitat is limiting?
- 279 30. Marmorek: why do birds tend to go to some off-channel places but not others?
- 280 31. Do birds go to the newest habitat that eventually gets discovered by turtles and predators?
- 281 32. Schneider: should we do a paired study where we create different types of off-channel habitat to  
282 investigate which types the birds prefer?
- 283 33. If FSM doesn't work, should we be doing MCM?
- 284 Again, this point was argued (see point 7).
- 285 Smith: I hope we can move the papers to peer review. Can move to 2 thumbs down on question 1.
- 286

287 **Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. Mountain Time.**

288

289 **Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

290

291 **Welcome and Administrative**

292 LaBonde called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Mountain Time and the group proceeded with  
293 introductions.

294

295 **Platte River Recreational Access (PRRA) Program**

296 Haahr gave a presentation on PRRA Program in 2013 and plans for 2014. Ament asked how much  
297 trespass citations cost. Haahr said up to \$250, more than one violation will lead to a person being banned  
298 from further access. Hovorka asked about the total number of users. Haahr said around 300 users.  
299 Schroeder said the Service really appreciates all the effort put into making the access program a success  
300 and they strongly support expanding the access program. Haahr said there is a public meeting in March  
301 every year to discuss the program. LaBonde said it would be interesting for the GC to hear some of the  
302 concerns raised at the public meeting. Haahr said the main item was complaints from neighbors of the  
303 Johns Tract and the Wyoming Tract that would prefer not having public access to PRRIP sites next to  
304 their land. Several people came to the public meeting to voice their support for the program. Sackett said  
305 there was some concern voiced about rifle deer hunting and public safety issues. Heaston said there are  
306 also complaints about making access by foot only instead of vehicles. Schroeder said he and Taddicken  
307 were recently at a conference in West Virginia about public outdoor recreation opportunities and the  
308 PRRA is a model being used to develop similar programs in other states.



309 Barel's asked if the group has considered a buffer to keep users away from private property boundaries to  
310 enhance the Good Neighbor Policy. Heaston said we could include that in the list of good practices that  
311 accompany the permission slips. Otherwise, it would require marking all the boundaries and we do not  
312 have the resources to do that. Barel's said adding it to the list of good practices would be a good first step.  
313 Barel's asked if on the land where we allow waterfowl hunting we own both sides of the river. Heaston  
314 said no. Barel's said that is often a problem on the Platte with sheriff departments because of the "thread  
315 of the stream" property issues. Schroeder said we have not had complaints about waterfowl hunters being  
316 off property so far. Heaston said rifle deer hunting is the activity that seems to raise the most concerns.

317

### 318 **Platte River Habitat Partnership**

319 Heaston discussed the idea of creating a more formal partnership to deal with vegetation management and  
320 other in-channel activities with the Program and several other entities. The request of the Program is to  
321 use money the Program is already spending for cost share on phragmites spraying to contribute to this  
322 effort. Farnsworth said the phragmites effort is winding down because of the large spraying effort that  
323 has occurred but we don't want to stop management because it will come back. While spraying phrag is  
324 good, the Program is looking at management on this 90-mile stretch of river and looking at what has  
325 happened in the channel. The objective is to maintain a wide, unvegetated channel and over time channel  
326 widths have declined especially when vegetation management is not completed. The idea is to broaden  
327 out from just vegetation management to expanding channel conveyance. This would help to expand the  
328 potential for land to "count" during the Second Increment given that the acquisition of 10,000 new acres  
329 may not be likely. Heaston said this would provide a standard to present to a landowner as options for a  
330 project. This is money the Program is already spending. Heaston's proposal is asking for permission to  
331 leverage that funding in a grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust to build this new  
332 partnership and related channel metrics. Taddicken asked Schroeder what it cost to do this kind of work  
333 on a large scale in the past. Schroeder said the average cost to run a disk for a 50-mile stretch was about  
334 \$3,000 per mile.

335

336 Taddicken asked how this work would be related to Program management. Farnsworth and Heaston said  
337 it would be tied to Program management objectives and also tied to best practices according to the  
338 location of any property in question on the river and what is necessary in that location. Taddicken asked  
339 if you have an idea of landowner participation upstream of Kearney. Heaston said we have had a lot of  
340 positive feedback about other actions available beyond just spraying. Schroeder asked if the position to  
341 be filled for this work would be able to coordinate work no matter the location. Heaston said yes. It  
342 would be a continuation of the work being done by Rich Walters. Taddicken asked if the money would  
343 be used to fund a full-time position and related activities. Heaston said yes. LaBonde asked about  
344 timing. Heaston said grant applications are due at the beginning of September and the money would be  
345 available in spring 2015.

346

347 Schneider said it makes sense not to give up ground we have already gained through spraying. But, he  
348 does not want this to become a slippery slope that we go too far and then are locked into maintaining the  
349 whole channel from Lexington to Chapman forever. Schroeder said large-scale clearing started with the  
350 Trust in the 1980's and the work has continued and scaled up since then. Schroeder said the point is more  
351 power to those entities but that is not what this Program is all about. Kraus asked who the partners are  
352 and what the proposal will look like. Heaston said the grant would be administered by the RBJV and  
353 TNC would host the position. The purpose is to match and build on Program funds that are already  
354 committed. Berryman asked about the duration. Heaston said it would be a three-year grant. Kraus  
355 asked if would be Program dollars in 2014 or 2015. Farnsworth said we would continue to allocate about





356 \$200,000 a year in future budgets and that would be the Program's match that would be leveraged into  
357 this new effort.

358  
359 Williams asked if spraying phrag sterilizes the soil. Farnsworth said that generally happens, but if you  
360 don't loosen the soil up around the roots species like canarygrass and spurge will come back. Strauch  
361 asked if our dollars will go toward spraying only. Heaston said those entities would be involved in this  
362 partnership so the partners would be the same but the funding would be directed at activities beyond just  
363 spraying. Williams asked if chemicals leach into the water and affect crops downstream. Heaston said all  
364 the chemicals are labeled for aquatic use and water quality monitoring is conducted. Farnsworth said  
365 spraying generally occurs after irrigation diversions are over.

366  
367 Berryman asked what is being looked for today. Heaston said he wants to start writing the grant  
368 application for submission prior to the next GC meeting. Kenny said what Heaston is looking for is GC  
369 approval to use Program monies in the future as match in this grant application. Funding has come  
370 through WP1-b in the past and this year there is \$100,000 in the budget for this item. In the future, the  
371 thinking is to move this to a \$200,000 level in FY15 and beyond. Schroeder said he would like to make  
372 sure the Service has a chance to discuss this further to make sure things happening on a parallel track with  
373 other entities are coordinated. LaBonde wanted to clarify that Heaston is asking for a cash match and not  
374 just an in-kind activity match. Heaston said both if staff time is used but the primary thing now is the  
375 matching cash of \$200,000. Schroeder asked if the grant coming from the Program will be eligible.  
376 Farnsworth said the activities will be off Program lands and will be the same thing we have done the last  
377 several years. Campbell said his concern is the limitation on matching federal dollars with federal dollars  
378 (Program funds going toward a possible NRCS grant). Heaston said that is not what is being proposed.  
379 Campbell said we could also consider budgeting those dollars with state money within the Program to  
380 help with this idea.

381  
382 *Ament moved to endorse allocating \$200,000 per year in Program funds from line item WP1-b for the*  
383 *next three Program fiscal years (FY15-FY17) to be considered as matching funds in the grant application*  
384 *to the Nebraska Environmental Trust subject to Finance Committee approval of the final grant*  
385 *application and distribution of the final grant application to the GC; Campbell seconded. Kraus asked*  
386 *what the role of the Program and staff time is in this endeavor. Heaston said it wouldn't change from*  
387 *what is being done now, meaning some time to help develop priorities and objectives for the activities.*  
388 *Farnsworth said it is largely providing technical assistance like we are doing now and the Program's*  
389 *consideration for staying involved in this activity include focusing on Lake McConaughy to Chapman;*  
390 *spraying and vegetation removal and management; and applying management in a science framework*  
391 *according to Program management objectives. Heaston abstained from voting. Motion approved.*

392  
393 **Public Comment**

394 LaBonde asked for public comment; none offered.

395  
396 **Executive Session**

397 *Schneider moved to enter Executive Session; Williams seconded. GC entered Executive Session at 9:42*  
398 **a.m. Mountain time.**

399  
400 *Heaston moved to end Executive Session; Berryman seconded. GC ended Executive Session at 10:15*  
401 **a.m. Mountain time.**

402



403 **PRRIP Executive Session Motions**

404 *Czaplewski moved to approve the LAC recommendation to cease pursuit of Tract 1402; Heaston*  
405 *seconded. Motion approved.*

406

407 *Heaston moved and Schneider seconded to approve the LAC recommendation for the Platte River*  
408 *Recreation Access Program including:*

- 409
  - *Continue all prior parts of the agreement.*
  - 410 *No change in the list of compatible uses.*
  - 411 *All complex lands be able to be used for all compatible uses subject to ecological and good*  
412 *neighbor policies.*
  - 413 *Add Tract 2010004, the Binfield property.*

414 **Motion approved.**

415 *Heaston moved to put further discussion of the water storage contract with CNPPID on the next FC*  
416 *agenda; Strauch seconded. Czaplewski said in light of the nature of the agreement the NRDs abstain.*  
417 *Kraus abstained. Hovorka said the Program owes CNPPID an answer instead of just saying go back and*  
418 *fix it. Barels said this agreement may also have effects on other agreements between NPPD and Central*  
419 *and they will have other discussions with Central about that. Motion approved.*

420

421 **Future Meetings & Closing Business**

422 *Campbell suggested sending a Doodle poll for the first week of August for an additional FC meeting to*  
423 *address the items discussed at the GC meeting today. Kenny said a Doodle poll would be distributed.*

424

425 *Czaplewski said there has been some discussion at least among parties in Nebraska about trying to wrap*  
426 *up GC meetings in one day when the agenda is on the lighter side. Campbell said the difficulty is the*  
427 *Kearney meeting for the BOR because it will always require an overnight. Schneider said it is worth*  
428 *considering in the future when that is a possibility.*

429

430 *Upcoming 2014 GC meetings:*

- 431
  - *September 9-10, 2014 @ Kearney, NE*
  - 432 *December 2-3, 2104 @ Denver, CO*

433

434 **Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. Mountain Time.**

435

436 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from June 2014 GC meeting**

- 437
  - 1) *Approved the March 2014 GC minutes.*
  - 438 *Approved the multi-year contract for Independent Science Review services.*
  - 439 *Endorsed allocating \$200,000 per year in Program funds from line item WP1-b for the next three*  
440 *Program fiscal years (FY15-FY17) to be considered as matching funds in the grant application to the*  
441 *Nebraska Environmental Trust subject to Finance Committee approval of the final grant application*  
442 *and distribution of the final grant application to the GC.*
  - 443 *Approved the LAC recommendation to cease pursuit of Tract 1402.*
  - 444 *Approved the LAC recommendation for the Platte River Recreation Access Program including:*  
445
    - *Continue all prior parts of the agreement.*
    - 446 *No change in the list of compatible uses.*



- 447       • All complex lands be able to be used for all compatible uses subject to ecological and good  
448       neighbor policies.
- 449       • Add Tract 2010004, the Binfield property.
- 450   6) Approved putting further discussion of the CNPPID water storage contract on the next FC agenda.