



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
June 6, 2014

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming Water
Development Commission
Matt Hoobler – Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer’s
Office

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission
Justin Haahr – Alternate, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

None

Power Districts

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

Environmental Entities

John Heaston – Member, The Nature Conservancy

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

Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD

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

Dave Raffety – Alternate, TBNRD Landowner

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

None

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jerry Kenny
Bruce Sackett
Justin Brei
Jason Farnsworth
Tim Tunnell
David Zorn
Chad Smith

Other Participants

None



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time and the group
3 proceeded with introductions.

4
5 Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications, none were requested.

6
7 Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the February 25, 2014
8 meeting.

9
10 **Heaston made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2014 LAC meeting,**
11 **as amended. The motion was seconded by Shadle and passed unanimously.**

12
13 **GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information**

14 *GC Update*

15 Czaplewski updated the LAC on recent GC activities. The GC last met March 11-12 in Kearney,
16 NE. The GC held a short recognition ceremony for Don Ament recognizing his efforts as Chair
17 of the GC in 2013, and for Mike Besson who is retiring. The USFWS gave their annual update
18 on tiered consultations for water projects covered by the PRRIP in 2013. USFWS also presented
19 a report on Program milestone progress, which was discussed at length. Details of this
20 discussion can be found in the March GC minutes and Czaplewski encouraged the LAC to take a
21 look.

22
23 In land items at the GC, they took no action on the proposal to reclassify sandpit acres at
24 2009003 from complex to non-complex. The GC also chose to cease pursuit of tract 1312.

25
26 The next GC meeting is June 10-11, 2014 in Cheyenne, WY.

27
28 *Other Committee Coordination*

29 Sellers and Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC did not meet since
30 the last LAC meeting. There was an ISAC meeting in Omaha, NE on April 22-24, 2014. The
31 ISAC meeting was focused on tern and plover monitoring and research activities. The ISAC
32 chair will be at the GC in June to report to the GC about these topics.

33
34 Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC last met on May 6. Notable items
35 include updates on WAP projects such as the J-2 reregulating reservoir and several water leasing
36 possibilities. The WAC also discussed the application of hydroclimatic indices to predict long-
37 term streamflow conditions. This technique was completed for the North Platte River and work
38 for the South Platte River will begin July 1. The WAC also received an update on wet meadow
39 monitoring that is taking place at tract 2010004 and 2009001. Nebraska DNR then presented
40 their analysis on consumptive use on small reservoirs and sandpit projects. The impact of this
41 analysis on the Program is that PRRIP sandpits are of a net benefit and will require no offset.
42 Next WAC meeting is scheduled for August 12.



45 **Land Management Update**

46 Tunnell gave the LAC an update on recent land management activities. A tract by tract update
47 was detailed in a handout distributed to the LAC.

48

49 **Land Action Items**

50 Sackett introduced tract 1402 – a sandpit property near the city of Grand Island. The evaluation
51 team visited this tract and recommended that the LAC does not pursue this tract any further, with
52 their discussion outlined in the evaluation report.

53

54 **Heaston moved to recommend that the GC cease pursuit of tract 1402. Motion seconded
55 by Rabbe. Motion voted on and passed unanimously.**

56

57 Sackett then discussed the status of Program non-complex land holding acres. Language in the
58 Program Land Plan states that the Program should acquire “no more than 800 acres” of non-
59 complex land. Sackett asked the LAC for guidance on pursuing this further, given that the
60 Program holds in excess of 750 acres of non-complex. Czaplewski said that language in the
61 Land and Adaptive Management Plans further describe the split of non-complex acres to include
62 400 acres of sand and water habitat and 400 acres of palustrine wetland habitat, and that stopping
63 short of that would not be true to the Program’s goals of testing this type of habitat. Shadle
64 echoed Czaplewski’s concerns and stated that the Program is still ~140 acres short of the wetland
65 goal and wants to see that filled. Czaplewski said that in addition, even if the Program goal was
66 fulfilled, opportunities for new tracts should always be considered where the Program could
67 trade away less-desirable properties for ones that better fit the goals.

68

69 Sackett then discussed a wetland tract that exists outside of the Program’s associated habitat area
70 (w/in 3.5 miles of the river), and whether or not this tract could be considered for inclusion in the
71 Program. The LAC was in agreement that, while this tract in particular may not be of interest, it
72 is not impossible to include tracts outside the associated habitats should a high-quality, high-
73 priority tract become available. There was also discussion of the low availability of Land Plan
74 Table 2-type palustrine wetlands within the associated habitats.

75

76 **Public Access Program Review**

77 Heaston updated the LAC on the last meeting of the Public Access Subcommittee. The group
78 evaluated input from a public meeting held March 18, 2014 and discussed changes in use for
79 current PRRRA properties. The group also discussed formalizing the Public Access
80 Subcommittee membership so that members can be rotated and specific groups can be
81 represented. The proposed membership was presented in the subcommittee meeting notes
82 distributed to the LAC. The LAC agreed with the proposed membership structure and that
83 membership should be voted on at the LAC level. Heaston said that formalizing this committee
84 will be a topic for the September GC meeting.

85

86 Heaston then discussed the public meeting and recommendations for the upcoming access
87 season. Key topics were noted in the subcommittee meeting notes. Coming from the
88 subcommittee, the following recommendations were made:



- 89 1. To make no changes to the list of “acceptable uses”.
- 90 2. To add tract 2010004 (1,400 acres) to the list of properties which are available for access.
- 91 3. To allow all “acceptable uses” at all tracts that are a part of the PRRA program. In 2013,
- 92 waterfowl and upland game hunting were only allowed at a subset of the available
- 93 properties as a trial run.
- 94

95 Shadle noted that 2009002 (Bartels) and 2012001 (Sullwold) were not added to the list of

96 available tracts. Subcommittee members said that this was discussed, but access to these tracts is

97 very limited and at this time it is not practical to allow public access.

98

99 **Heaston moved, seconded by LaBonde, to recommend to the GC the following changes to**

100 **the Public Access Program:**

- 101 1. To make no changes to the list of “compatible uses”.
- 102 2. To add tract 2010004 (1,400 acres) to the list of properties which are available for
- 103 access.
- 104 3. To allow all “compatible uses” at all tracts that are a part of the PRRA program,
- 105 subject to ecological and good neighbor policies.

106 **Motion was voted on and passed unanimously. LaGrange abstained for conflict of interest.**

107

108 **Public Forum**

109 Chairman Czapski asked for public comments, none were offered.

110

111

112 **Closing Business**

113 **The next meeting of the LAC was scheduled for July 29, 2014 at 9 a.m. Central Time in**

114 **Kearney, NE.**

115

116 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czapski at 10:45 a.m.