



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Kearney, NE
August 12, 2015

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming Water
Development Office (by Phone)

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board (by Phone)

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission (by Phone)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR

Power Districts

John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power
District
Jim Jenniges – Alternate, Nebraska Public Power
District

Environmental Entities

Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary

**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
Dave Baasch
Patrick Farrell

Other Participants

Tim Smith, The Crane Trust



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 May 27, 2015 meeting.
8

9 **Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2015 LAC meeting. The**
10 **motion was seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**

11
12 **GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information**

13 *GC Update*

14 Czaplewski updated the LAC on GC activities. The GC last met on June 9-10, 2015 in
15 Cheyenne, WY. The GC discussed the 2014 State of the Platte Report, which reports progress
16 on adaptive management hypotheses and things the Program has learned so far. The GC
17 approved the new whooping crane monitoring protocol for the upcoming season. The USFWS
18 gave a report on the annual PRRIP-related water consultations. The ED Office gave a
19 presentation to the GC on the ice jam which occurred at the Shoemaker Island complex this
20 winter. The GC approved the Public Access Policy and NGPC contract amendment for 2015.

21
22 The GC meets next on September 8 & 9, 2015 in Kearney, NE.

23
24 *Other Committee Coordination*

25 Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC and ISAC met jointly in July
26 in Kearney, NE. The main topic of discussion at this meeting was review and discussion of the
27 State of the Platte Report. They also discussed how to proceed with geomorphology and in-
28 channel vegetation monitoring into the future. Remote sensing was discussed as a viable
29 alternative to the current on-the-ground transect methodology.

30
31 Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC met last on August 11 in
32 Ogallala, NE. The WAC discussed the process for determining “times of excess” which is when
33 water would be available in excess of target flows and able to be captured for later use. The
34 WAC also discussed refining the process for determination of hydrologic condition.

35
36 Sackett updated the LAC on recently completed land transactions. PRRIP currently has
37 12,114.45 acres under control or contracted, which includes land in 8 of the 12 associated habitat
38 bridge segments.

39
40 **Work Plans**

41 Farnsworth discussed how the current land plan process works and how it might change into the
42 future. PRRIP is in the middle of a lot of habitat decisions at the TAC and GC level that have
43 impacts on how the land is managed. The LAC walked through each tract of land and discussed
44 the key management actions and concepts going forward.



45 DeBoer:

46 Plan is to excavate silt and organic matter from the low portion of the wetland to increase ponded
47 area. At this time, pumping is not part of the plan but will be reconsidered annually.

48

49 Liehs:

50 Wetland project completed. TAC and AMWG will discuss how to implement the flooded
51 cornfield concept into the wetland operations.

52

53 Plum Creek Complex:

54 Sediment augmentation activities are likely to continue. Instead of pumping as in past years,
55 augmentation will likely occur via mechanical means (channel widening and pushing in islands).
56 The question of whether FSM can create habitat has largely been answered, and the GC is in the
57 process of deciding whether to continue to build islands in the channel and, if so, how much to
58 build.

59

60 Cottonwood Ranch Complex:

61 A lot of work has already been completed over the years at this property. It is very close in its
62 current condition to currently identified habitat needs. There may be potential for nesting
63 islands, but primarily the habitat on this tract will be maintained as-is.

64

65 Elm Creek Complex:

66 As with Cottonwood Ranch, much of the major restoration work has already been completed.
67 Some potential for nesting island construction may exist, but mostly maintenance going forward.

68

69 Pawnee Complex:

70 This complex is the newest addition, and no management has taken place. The near future will
71 consist mostly of acquiring land through purchases, agreements, and easements to facilitate
72 future management. Over the next three years, this complex will be a focus for major
73 restoration activities such as channel widening and tree clearing.

74

75 Fort Kearny Complex:

76 This complex is also just coming together and will be a focus over the next five years. There
77 will be challenges here working with and around neighboring landowners, but there is a fair
78 amount of work to be done.

79

80 Shoemaker Island Complex:

81 There are no major restoration activities planned for the future at this complex. Future
82 management will consist primarily of maintaining habitat that has already been constructed and
83 potential minor tree clearing activities.

84

85 Leaman East:

86 No further restoration activities planned. Property will be maintained as OCSW habitat.

87

88 Alda Pit:



89 Habitat was constructed in 2015 and will be maintained as OCSW into the future. As the pit is
90 mined out, more habitat will be claimed and maintained as it becomes available over the next
91 several years.

92

93 **Public Forum**

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

95

96 **Closing Business**

97 **The next meeting was scheduled for November 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. central time.**

98

99 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 11:55 a.m.