



1           **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)**  
2                           **Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
3                           Warwick Denver Hotel – Denver, CO  
4                           December 1, 2015

5  
6                           **Meeting Attendees**

7  
8           **Governance Committee (GC) Table**

9           **State of Wyoming**

10          Harry LaBonde – Member

11  
12          **State of Colorado**

13          Don Ament – Member

14          Suzanne Sellers – Alternate

15  
16          **State of Nebraska**

17          Jeff Fassett – Member (Chair)

18          Jesse Bradley – Alternate

19  
20          **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)**

21          Michael Thabault – Member

22  
23          **Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

24          Chris Beardsley – Member

25          Brock Merrill – Alternate

26  
27          **Environmental Entities**

28          Bill Taddicken – Member

29          Rich Walters – Member

30  
31          **Upper Platte Water Users**

32          Dennis Strauch – Member

33  
34          **Colorado Water Users**

35          Alan Berryman – Member

36          Kevin Urie – Member

37          Deb Freeman – Alternate

38  
39          **Downstream Water Users**

40          Don Kraus – Member

41          Mark Czaplewski – Member

42          Kent Miller – Member

43          Brian Barels – Member

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

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

Dave Baasch

Bridget Barron

Jason Farnsworth

Bruce Sackett

Sira Sartori

Chad Smith

Seth Turner

Kevin Werbylo

**Audience Members:**

Jim Jenniges – NPPD

Mike Drain – CNPPID

Diane Hoppe – GEI

Ed Toms – AECOM (Special Advisor)

Tom MacDougall – RJH

Bob Huzjak – RJH

Lyndon Vogt – CPNRD

David Marmorek – ISAC

Ned Andrews – ISAC

Philip Stuckert – State of Wyoming

Jason Roudebush – Ducks Unlimited

Greg Kernohan – Ducks Unlimited

Duane Hovorka – Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Russ Soucek – Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Tom Econopouly – Service

Lee Failing – Compass

Philip Halteman – Compass



## Welcome & Administrative

Fassett called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Mountain Time. The group proceeded with introductions. Kenny said we needed to add the election of the 2016 GC Chair at the end of business today.

*LaBonde moved to approve the November 2015 GC Special Session minutes; Ament seconded. Minutes approved.*

## Program Committee Updates

### *Land Advisory Committee (LAC)*

Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC met on November 3 in Kearney. Most of the discussion was about the 5-year O&M plans on the GC agenda today. Czaplewski was re-elected as Chair and John Shadle from NPPD was re-elected Vice Chair. The next LAC meeting is February 23, 2016 in Kearney.

### *Water Advisory Committee (WAC)*

Kenny provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC last met on October 20 in Ogallala. There were updates on all WAP projects underway or at various stages of negotiation; an update on the wet meadows project; a discussion of the status of the new look J2 project; introduction of the broad scale recharge concept; Funk Lagoon as a WAP project which does not look promising and will be discussed with the GC in March 2016; an update on the choke point; and finally a discussion of the draft PRRIP FY16 budget. The next WAC meeting will be February 2, 2016 in Ogallala.

### *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

Sellers provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC last met via conference call on October 26 and discussed the draft FY16 budget and work plan. The TAC also participated jointly with the ISAC and GC members at the 2015 AMP Reporting Session.

### *Finance Committee (FC)*

LaBonde provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC met on October 22 to discuss the draft PRRIP FY16 budget and work plan.

## Program Outreach Update

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Jerry Kenny, Jason Farnsworth and Dave Baasch presented an overview of the Program to participants of the Nebraska Water Center – Faculty and Partner Retreat on October 7, 2015.
- Jerry Kenny presented on the Program to Senior College of Central Nebraska on October 8, 2015 in Kearney, Nebraska. Bill Taddicken was also a presenter.
- Jerry Kenny was an invited speaker at the Western Water Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 28, 2015. The panel topic was *Payment for Ecosystem Services* and Jerry presentation was titled, “*Experiences Purchasing Land and Water for Habitat Preservation on the Platte River*”. The goal of the conference was to provide information on management tools and approaches that can improve water managers’ ability to cope with increased variability of drought and flooding.
- The Program was well represented at the 2015 National AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference which was held in Denver, Colorado November 16-19, 2015. Jerry Kenny moderated two sessions on Endangered Species Recovery. In the first session, individual presentations were made by Jerry Kenny (Background and Overview of the Program), Sira Sartori (Program Water Plan), and Chad Smith (Program Adaptive Management Plan). A Panel Discussion focused on “Successes and Challenges of the PRRIP”. Panelists included Alan Berryman, Kevin Urie, Don Ament, Harry LaBonde, Don Kraus,



92 Tom Econopouly, Brock Merrill, and Bill Taddicken. In the second session, individual presentations  
93 were made by Sira Sartori (Groundwater Recharge), Mike Drain (Lake McConaughy Environmental  
94 Account), Scott Griebing (Wetlands and Wet Meadows Habitat), and Jason Farnsworth (Flow and  
95 Sediment Augmentation).  
96

#### 97 **EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS**

- 98 • The Program exhibited at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
99 in the Natural Resources Districts building. We made 2,152 contacts over the course of the three days.
- 100 • The Program exhibited at the South Platte Forum on October 28 & 29, 2015 in Longmont, Colorado.  
101 We made 288 contacts at the event. The Program was also a break sponsor of the event.
- 102 • The Program exhibited at the Booseum at the Kearney Children’s Museum on October 29, 2015.  
103 Children attending the event were age appropriate crane fact sheets and coloring sheets.
- 104 • The Program exhibited at the joint conference of the Nebraska Water Resources Association and the  
105 Nebraska State Irrigators Association on November 22 -24, 2015 in Kearney, Nebraska. We made 98  
106 contacts at the conference.  
107

#### 108 **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS**

- 109 • Jerry Kenny will provide an overview of the Program as part of a panel at the Nebraska Power Farming  
110 Show on December 8, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The panel is an educational seminar focusing on  
111 Nebraska’s water resources.
- 112 • The Program will be a break sponsor and will exhibit at the annual meeting of the Four States Irrigation  
113 Council in Fort Collins, Colorado on January 13-15, 2016. This year the meeting will be a joint meeting  
114 between the Four States Irrigation Council and the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance.
- 115 • At the joint meeting of the Four States Irrigation Council and the Ditch and Reservoir Company  
116 Alliance, Jerry Kenny and John Heaston will be presenting on the Program in a session titled, *3-States*  
117 *Memorandum of Understanding*.
- 118 • The Program will exhibit at Colorado Water Congress in Denver, Colorado on January 27 – 29, 2016.  
119

#### 120 **OTHER**

- 121 • After the September 2015 Governance Committee meeting The Kearney Hub and Omaha World  
122 Herald published articles on the increased costs of the J-2 reservoir project. Mike Drain of the Central  
123 Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and Mark Czaplewski of Central Platte Natural  
124 Resources District were interviewed for the articles.  
125

126 Barron distributed a Christmas gift of a two-item charger to each GC member on behalf of Headwaters  
127 Corporation.  
128

#### 129 **PRRIP FY15 Budget Update**

130 Kenny gave an overview of the status of the FY15 budget, related expenditures, and land income and taxes.  
131

#### 132 **FY16 PRRIP Budget and Work Plan**

133 Kenny discussed the latest draft of the PRRIP FY16 budget and work plan, as well as the 2016 EDO contract  
134 and staffing plan.  
135

136 *Strauch moved to approve the PRRIP FY16 budget and work plan; Berryman seconded. **FY16 budget and***  
137 **work plan approved.**



138 Sellers asked if the mileage rate was changed in the ED Contract as was brought up at the GC meeting  
139 regarding the fuel price rate reflected in what is charged for PRRIP use of Headwaters equipment. Kenny  
140 said the equipment fuel rate was updated in the PRRIP FY16 budget and work plan under line PD-18 and  
141 the ED-1 contract reflects the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate. Czaplewski said the Task 2 header  
142 in the ED Contract needs to be changed to 2016 instead of 2014. Kenny said that change would be made.

143  
144 *LaBonde moved to approve the ED Contract with the change in the Task 2 header noted above; Ament*  
145 *seconded. 2016 ED Contract approved.*

146  
147 **Water Action Plan Implementation**

148 *J2 Quarterly Report and Project Update*

149 Kraus said the recent focus has been a re-evaluation of the project. Huzjak gave a presentation on revised  
150 options for the J2 project. Kenny discussed J2 costs, storage volumes, and score volumes. Sellers said land  
151 prices appear to be based on what we paid in the past. Kenny said that is the fair market value for land in  
152 the project area now. What we actually pay will likely be higher than that but used the fair market value to  
153 be consistent. Thabault said he is thinking about the functionality to re-time water back into the river.  
154 Many of the projects currently being discussed are related to groundwater so how do we control that water  
155 to re-time it. Kenny said stored water in a project like J2 has much more controllability. When you  
156 recharge, in rough terms about half of it comes back when it doesn't count to reduce shortages to target  
157 flows and recharged water that returns to the river as a groundwater accretion is considered natural flow  
158 and that water cannot be protected from diversion. Most of the recharge water is downstream of the main  
159 diversions except for the Kearney Canal. If you put in wells to pump water specifically when you need it,  
160 then recharge water can be measured and protected. Thabault asked if pump-back costs are included in the  
161 recharge projects estimates. Kenny said we are still at a high level of investigation of the broad scale  
162 recharge project and that needs to be looked at in the near future. The scores in Document #15 reflect water  
163 finding its own way back to the river. Thabault said he appreciates the need to hit a target but that he is  
164 looking for usable water that is more controllable. Drain said CNPPID has not applied for a protection order  
165 for J2 water. Kenny said if it appears this project will get built then we need to discuss protection options  
166 with the Nebraska DNR or even protecting from Kearney Canal diversion under an agreement with NPPD.

167  
168 Sellers asked if it is important for RJH to present cost per acre foot in an amortized manner. Kenny said  
169 RJH is estimating total cost and everything after that is done by EDO manipulation. We will tighten all  
170 numbers and procedures up so that we are certain of comparing apples to apples. Beardsley asked if he is  
171 understanding correctly that using rough numbers we can get about 86% of the original project yield at an  
172 additional cost of about \$7-9 million. Kenny said yes, the current best estimates indicate that to be the  
173 situation.

174  
175 *Broad Scale Recharge*

176 Kenny discussed the broad scale recharge concept. Merrill asked if the score reflected a discount because  
177 it is further down the habitat reach. Kenny and Sartori said yes. Barelts asked how confident we are that  
178 water put on this land actually gets back to the Platte River. Kenny said that is a fundamental question (are  
179 we getting wet water in the river?) and he has initiated discussions with a new faculty member at UNL that  
180 is interested in helping put tracers in the water to watch movement. Beardsley asked if Kenny had done  
181 any analysis combining a revised J2 option with recharge. Kenny said the best guidance at this point is  
182 Table 2 in Document #15. Strauch asked if the total cost figure in Table 2 is within the current PRRIP  
183 water budget. Kenny said yes. Strauch said if you focus on the cheaper per acre foot cost projects (J2,  
184 broad scale recharge, Pathfinder) you still get close to 60,000 AF in terms of score. LaBonde said he  
185 thought the Pathfinder score of 4,000 AF seems low. Kenny said it has gone through the scoring  
186 subcommittee and has been approved by the GC. Sartori said that is an average number. LaBonde said



187 Table 2 should reflect total score over the life of the project in the First Increment if total First Increment  
188 cost is included. Kenny said that would be evaluated.

189  
190 Thabault said he is starting to look at maximizing flexibility and delivery timing and that should be explored  
191 as these discussions go forward. Sellers asked if the concept of a cost band has been integrated into cost  
192 estimates like those in Table 2. Kenny said not yet but that can be done, though it will make things more  
193 complex. This was an effort to get things focused on thinking through next steps and he knows there is a  
194 need for a much greater level of detail on projects like broad scale recharge as well as cost estimates. Drain  
195 said it looks possible to meet our water goal within the current budget, but we could also not.

196  
197 Huzjak said the guidance needed is how possibly large could the J2 reservoir be so we can do the appropriate  
198 studies. Drain said the risk of looking at something too big is that the land would need to be acquired and  
199 most likely it will be for more than fair market value. If we have to sell that land down the road, we would  
200 likely sell it at fair market value and would eat the extra cost. Sellers asked if we are being asked to allow  
201 RJH to design but CNPPID to not yet acquire land. Huzjak said the challenge is it seems like we have  
202 arrived at the point of having to buy land to even do baseline studies. Whatever size you allow to be studied,  
203 you are essentially allowing seeking acquisition of that land in order to do geotechnical tests and  
204 exploration. Ament asked how much farther down the road we have to get to learn about the efficacy of the  
205 cutoff wall concept. Huzjak said he would need to do deeper geotechnical borings but there will be gaps  
206 in that data because we don't yet have land access except in road right-of-ways and land already acquired.

207  
208 Taddicken said he does not see how we cannot go with the full size single reservoir (14,700 AF) footprint  
209 now because even the east boundary could shrink due to concerns from the cemetery. Beardsley said he  
210 does not understand why we need to look at the larger size. Miller said the downstream NRDs agree.  
211 Taddicken asked how much we lose if the eastern boundary gets pushed back. Berryman said the longer  
212 we use the water the more value we get out of stored water. Those costs are so much less that we need to  
213 look larger if we are thinking this water will be useful into a Second Increment. LaBonde said he is inclined  
214 to look at the bigger footprint and then build whatever size we can within that footprint. Thabault said it  
215 strikes him that we should be looking at the larger footprint to maximize our options now and be able to  
216 shrink if necessary in the future with an understanding that selling land might result in some "sunk" cost.  
217 Sellers said the CWCB leadership and the Colorado team have not had a chance to talk about whether now  
218 is the decision point on which to buy land and we need time to process and discuss that. Drain asked if that  
219 means we need to postpone this decision. Sellers said she is not ready to recommend approval for buying  
220 land. Kraus said there is an agreement to put the current contracted project in abeyance until we settle on  
221 a new path forward. A break was requested to allow sidebar discussions.

222  
223 After break, Kenny said there were two threads of conversation one focused on footprint and one on  
224 reservoir size. Looking at the larger footprint was not committing to the larger reservoir capacity and the  
225 two concepts were getting intertwined. There was thought as to moving in the direction of directing  
226 CNPPID to explore the larger footprint but think of a reservoir of some size within that footprint. The  
227 existing contract with CNPPID could be easily amended to remove further consideration of Area #2 because  
228 the existing contract would still cover the larger footprint and allow exploration of reservoir size as part of  
229 the design process. Miller asked if that ultimately means something within the 10,500 AF size because that  
230 is in budget. Kenny said yes, within that larger footprint develop a reservoir that provides the largest score  
231 within the available budget. Kraus said the current agreement has an estimated cost of X dollars. That  
232 might need to go out, or be edited, etc. Miller said based on the discussion of the downstream water users  
233 and the State of Nebraska they agree with Kenny's approach. Taddicken said that is along the lines of what  
234 the environmental groups were thinking. Berryman said there are concerns about the perception of buying  
235 more land than we need even though the risk in dollars is relatively low in the larger perspective. Beardsley



236 asked if there is a way to pay a contingency for access instead of buying the land. Drain said based on  
237 working with the landowners the answer is no.

238  
239 *Miller moved to authorize the Executive Director to begin negotiations to modify the existing water service*  
240 *agreement with CNPPID for the J2 Reregulating Reservoir Project to do the following:*

- 241 • *Eliminate further consideration of Reservoir Area 2.*
- 242 • *Consider design options for a single maximum-sized reservoir within the existing available PRRIP*  
243 *budget.*
- 244 • *Lift the prior GC direction to pause land acquisition for the project.*

245

246 *LaBonde seconded. Motion approved, Kraus abstained.*

247

248 *Making the Counties Whole*

249 Kenny discussed issues related to paying taxes related to lands purchased for the J2 project. Ament asked  
250 why we don't just pay whatever we cost them in terms of lost taxes. Kenny said once CNPPID acquires  
251 the land they don't get a tax bill so we don't know what the cost will be. This memo describes a way to  
252 index into the future so we can calculate a reasonable tax payment back to the counties where the land for  
253 J2 is purchased. Ament asked if there is an auditor that can help figure all that out. Sackett said school  
254 districts decide their boundaries and counties decide their budget boundaries. Miller said the CPI approach  
255 at least gives counties an assurance the Program is paying attention to potential tax increases over time.

256

257 Barel's said he does not like the CPI approach and we should say "adjustment" factor instead of "escalation"  
258 factor. We should adjust based on the tax rate for the land classification because we might get a situation  
259 where the tax rate goes down but we are locked in through the CPI to pay more. The adjustment should be  
260 based on the change in assessment based on the type of land in question. Kenny said houses, different land  
261 uses, and similar factors complicate that approach, but that we could just assume all land as irrigated corn  
262 ground and pay for lost taxes based on that. Barel's and Czaplewski noted use of the rate of irrigated crop  
263 ground would be simplest and should reflect the higher end of the property tax scale. Ament voiced his  
264 support for that approach as satisfying his concerns.

265

266 *Miller moved to direct the Executive Director to implement the process described in Document #16*  
267 *(Compensation for Lost Tax memo), as so modified by the GC to replace use of the CPI with adjustments*  
268 *based on irrigated corn land and to replace the word "escalation" with "adjustment", to initiate the*  
269 *process of "making the counties whole" relative to the J2 Reregulating Reservoir Project; Taddicken*  
270 *seconded. Motion approved.*

271

272 *Water Service Agreement*

273 Kenny discussed the proposed extensions to the two water service agreements for the Elwood and Phelps  
274 County Canal recharge projects.

275

276 *Berryman moved to approve the two water service agreement extensions; LaBonde seconded. Water*  
277 *service agreement extensions approved; Miller, Czaplewski, Kraus abstained.*

278

279 *2016 Environmental Account (EA) Annual Operating Plan (AOP)*

280 Kenny discussed the EA AOP and pointed out the reference to pallid sturgeon in the May 20-June 20 EA  
281 release. Program monitoring is applicable to target flows related to channel maintenance, wet meadows,  
282 terns/plovers, whooping cranes, etc. but the EDO is not doing monitoring to assess impacts on the pallid  
283 sturgeon. Czaplewski said the mention of the pallid sturgeon in the AOP seems to ignore the best science



284 of the Program. Thabault said the position of the Service has always been if we have the opportunity to  
285 improve the situation for pallids we should do so. To the extent we have EA water to use, the Service  
286 believes this is a legitimate use of the water. The Program should have a broader discussion about pallids.  
287 Bradley asked why the number for pallids isn't 3,700 cfs like in the Nebraska New Depletion Plan as  
288 opposed to the >3,000 cfs listed in the EA AOP. Barels said the 3,700 number is what was agreed to  
289 through the Program document and the depletion plan. Thabault agreed to go back and talk to Eliza Hines  
290 at the Service to rectify the discrepancy.

291

#### 292 *Elm Creek Memo*

293 Kenny discussed the comparison between the Elm Creek Project and the J2 Project as potential WAP  
294 projects. At this time, there is no compelling story to sell that the Elm Creek Reservoir should be evaluated  
295 again as a potential WAP project. This is part of an ongoing effort to continue to evaluate all potential  
296 WAP projects for screening purposes. Freeman asked how J2 is being characterized by way of minimum  
297 score. Kenny said all projects are evaluated by their ability to reduce shortages to target flows and their  
298 ability to provide SDHF, but also standard metrics such as the ability to permit a project. Freeman said she  
299 suggests ultimately that alternatives are going to get measured against what the defined Purpose and Need  
300 for the project is and it is helpful to articulate differences amongst projects in conformance to their ability  
301 to satisfy the Purpose and Need.

302

#### 303 **Trans-basin Diversion Project**

304 Miller said the Tri-Basin NRD and the Lower Republican NRD have entered into an agreement for a project  
305 that would take excess Platte flows through the CNPPID canal system and a pipeline to the Republican  
306 basin. There is an agreement to develop the project but there is not an agreement with CNPPID to move  
307 water through their system. Miller said the Platte basin NRDs told the sponsors the only way they will  
308 support the project is if it is true excess flows. Miller said the sponsors said that was their intent. Kenny  
309 asked if the Program would always get first bite at the flows ahead of the trans-basin diversion as target  
310 flows don't have a water right? Taddicken said there is no excess water in the Platte if we already are not  
311 meeting target flows.

312

#### 313 **Colorado Template BA**

314 Urie discussed recent efforts between the Service and Colorado to clean up some language in the previous  
315 template document. Freeman said the template was an attachment to some pages in the Water Action Plan  
316 (WAP). Their suggestion is to substitute in this new language and pull out the old language. Barels asked  
317 if the "applicable language" referenced in the current Program Document is clarified by the updated  
318 template. Freeman explained that yes the new template does define that language.

319

320 *Ament moved to approve substitution of the revised Colorado Template BA language into the Program*  
321 *document thus revising the Final Program Document; LaBonde seconded. Motion approved.*

322

#### 323 **Land Plan Implementation**

##### 324 *Speidell Land Transfer*

325 Kenny discussed the proposed transfer that relates to work being done by the Program at the North Platte  
326 choke point. Freeman asked why we are deducting these lands from Endangered Species Act (ESA)  
327 consideration. Kenny said because the Corps said you cannot use Program lands for mitigation that count  
328 for both the ESA and the Clean Water Act (CWA). Freeman asked if the Corps is making this a permit  
329 requirement. Kenny said yes. Freeman said this is not an acquisition but is making an enhancement.  
330 Thabault said the check will have to not come from federal dollars.



331 *Strauch moved and Beardsley seconded to:*

- 332 • *Approve returning the calculated attributable share value to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service utilizing*  
333 *non-federal dollars to allow for continued work on a wetland restoration at the Speidell tract.*  
334 • *Approve moving 25 acres off Program ESA calculations and into Program CWA calculations.*  
335

336 **Motion approved; Downstream Water Users abstained.**

337

338 *Speidell Clean-Up*

339 Farnsworth discussed the Speidell tree pile clean-up sole source. Urie asked where large stumps will be  
340 burned and buried. Farnsworth said it is in their scope to exclude them from grinding but instead burn and  
341 bury the large stumps.

342

343 *Strauch moved to approve the sole-source; Berryman seconded. Clean-up sole source approved.*

344

345 *Prescribed Fire RFP*

346 *Labonde moved to approved the Prescribed Fire RFP; Beardsley seconded. RFP approved.*

347

348 *Land Tract O&M Plans*

349 *Ament moved to approve all six O&M plans; Berryman seconded. O&M plans approved.*

350

351 **Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) Commentary**

352 Marmorek gave a presentation summarizing ISAC responses to PRRIP questions posed during the 2015  
353 AMP Reporting Session.

354

355 **Public Comment**

356 Kenny asked for public comment. None offered.

357

358 **Future Meetings & Closing Business**

359 Upcoming 2016 GC meetings:

- 360 • **March 8-9, 2016 @ Kearney, NE**  
361 • **June 7-8, 2016 @ Cheyenne, WY**  
362 • **September 13-14, 2016 @ Kearney, NE**  
363 • **November 15, 2016 @ Denver, CO (GC Special Session on FY17 Budget)**  
364 • **December 6-7, 2016 @ Denver, CO**

365

366 Upcoming 2016 ISAC meetings:

- 367 • ISAC meeting in conjunction with the **March 2016** GC meeting in Kearney, NE  
368 • 2016 AMP Reporting Session – **October 18-20, 2016 @ Omaha, NE**

369

370 *Kraus moved to elect Don Ament, State of Colorado, as 2016 GC chair; LaBonde seconded. Ament*  
371 **electd.**

372

373 **Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. Mountain Time.**

374

375 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from December 2015 GC meeting**

- 376 1) Approved the November 2015 GC minutes.  
377 2) Approved the PRRIP FY16 budget and work plan.  
378 3) Approved the 2016 ED Contract as amended.





- 379 4) Authorize the Executive Director to begin negotiations to modify the existing water service  
380 agreement with CNPPID for the J2 Reregulating Reservoir Project to do the following:
- 381 • Eliminate further consideration of Reservoir Area 2.
  - 382 • Consider design options for a single maximum-sized reservoir within the existing available  
383 PRRIP budget.
  - 384 • Lift the prior GC direction to pause land acquisition for the project.
- 385 5) Directed the Executive Director to implement the process described in Document #16 (Compensation  
386 for Lost Tax memo), as so modified by the GC to replace use of the CPI with adjustments based on  
387 irrigated corn land and to replace the word “escalation” with “adjustment”, to initiate the process of  
388 “making the counties whole” relative to the J2 Reregulating Reservoir Project.
- 389 6) Approved the extension of the Phelps County Canal groundwater recharge water service agreement.
- 390 7) Approved the extension of the Elwood groundwater recharge water service agreement.
- 391 8) Approved substitution of the revised Colorado Template BA language into the Program document thus  
392 revising the Final Program Document.
- 393 9) Approved returning the calculated attributable share value to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
394 utilizing non-federal dollars to allow for continued work on a wetland restoration at the Speidell tract  
395 and approved moving 25 acres off Program ESA calculations and into Program CWA calculations  
396 relative to the Speidell tract.
- 397 10) Approved the Speidell tree pile clean-up sole source.
- 398 11) Approved the multi-year prescribed fire RFP.
- 399 12) Approved six Program land tract O&M plans.
- 400 13) Set GC meeting dates for 2016:
- 401 • March 8-9, 2016 @ Kearney, NE
  - 402 • ISAC meeting in conjunction with the March 2016 GC meeting in Kearney, NE
  - 403 • June 7-8, 2016 @ Cheyenne, WY
  - 404 • September 13-14, 2016 @ Kearney, NE
  - 405 • 2016 AMP Reporting Session – October 18-20, 2016 @ Omaha, NE
  - 406 • November 15, 2016 @ Denver, CO (GC Special Session on FY17 Budget)
  - 407 • December 6-7, 2016 @ Denver, CO
- 408 14) Elected Don Ament, State of Colorado, as the 2016 GC Chair.