



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Technical Advisory Committee Conference Call Minutes**  
January 9, 2015

**Meeting Participants**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Table**

**State of Colorado**

Suzanne Sellers – (Chair)

**State of Wyoming**

Barry Lawrence – Member

**State of Nebraska**

Mike Fritz – Alternate

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

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Brock Merrill – Member

**Environmental Entities**

Rich Walters – Member

**Upper Platte Water Users**

**Colorado Water Users**

Kevin Urie – Member

**Downstream Water Users**

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Mark Peyton – Member

Jim Jenniges – Member

**Executive Director’s Office (EDO)**

Chad Smith

Jason Farnsworth

Dave Baasch

Staci Cahis

**Other Participants**



### **Welcome and Administrative**

Sellers called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with a roll call.

### **Tern and Plover Monitoring RFP, Protocol, and Selection Panel**

Smith led the discussion and summarized the purpose of the conference call which was to discuss the tern and plover monitoring RFP, get support to modify the tern and plover monitoring protocol, and make a recommendation for TAC members to serve on the selection panel.

- Smith – RFP want to get a TAC recommendation for the Finance and Governance committee to approve the RFP.
- Smith – Another primary purpose of the conference call is to make sure we address concerns brought up via email by the downstream water users.
- Smith – Primary changes to the protocol involve the removal of outside monitoring at Program owned and managed sites. Suggested changes will result in a reduced crew size (6 versus 10 person crew) and lower costs to implement the monitoring protocol.
- Baasch – Analyses of 2013 and 2014 inside and outside data indicate inside monitoring appears to result in more accurate and higher counts of nests, broods, and fledglings.
- Jenniges – It appears the biggest differences occur when there are more than 20 nests; Baasch agreed.
- Baasch – There are site specific differences between methods as well. There are Program sites (Broadfoot South, Leaman, Cottonwood Ranch Islands, etc) that are very difficult to monitor from outside the nesting area due to uneven terrain and a lack of elevated vantage points to search for nests from.
- Czuplewski – Broadfoot south is very difficult to monitor from outside the nesting area and Leaman OCSW is very difficult to locate nests because of the color of the substrate and a lack of debris to allow one to locate nests more easily.
- Baasch – More debris (bricks, branches, etc.) were placed at Leaman to help located nests.
- Jenniges –High intensity inside monitoring may result in better data, but it is not sustainable over the long term. Fine continuing inside monitoring through 2018, but we need to continue to collect data from inside and outside the nesting area to develop a better estimate of an adjustment factor to be used to adjust counts when only outside monitoring occurred.
- Baasch – With a 6 person crew plus Cahis, we could probably collect outside data at a site or two each year and rotate to different sites each year so we collect data at all sites.
- Jenniges – Offered to monitor Broadfoot South from outside the nesting area during 2015; Baasch said the Program’s crew could monitor Leaman OCSW and potentially another site from outside the nesting area as well.
- Fritz – Why the big increase in nests at Leaman OCSW and Blue Hole during 2015?  
Czuplewski – river flow, time Leaman has been available for nesting, etc. Baasch – terns are a colonial bird and it could be as simple as a lot of terns happened to find these 2 sites and nest.
- Smith – The TAC seems to be fine with the RFP, but some details may need to be ironed out in the protocol to address sites where both inside and outside monitoring will continue to occur; all agreed.



- **Selection Panel:** Jenniges, Peyton, Urie, Rabbe, Smith, and Baasch. **Urie moved to recommend the GC approve the recommended selection panel; Jenniges seconded the motion; all supported motion.**
- Baasch – Plan to notify Virginia Tech (Dan Catlin), USGS-NPWRC (Mark Sherfy), and Nebraska Game and Parks Committee (Joel Jorgensen) so they are aware the RFP will be forthcoming. Asked for additional organizations that should be notified; none offered.

### **Summary of Decisions from November 2014 TAC Conference Call Meeting**

- 1) TAC agreed the RFP should be distributed for GC and FC approval.
- 2) TAC recommended the GC approve a selection panel that included: Jenniges, Peyton, Urie, Rabbe, Baasch, and Smith.