



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Kearney, NE
November 3, 2015

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming Water
Development Office (by Phone)
Matt Hoobler – Alternate, Wyoming State Engineer’s
Office (by Phone)

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board (by Phone)
Kevin Urie – Alternate, Denver Water (by Phone)

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission (by Phone)
Jennifer Shellpeper – Alternate, Nebraska Dept. of
Natural Resources (by Phone)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR (by Phone)

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)**

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

John Thorburn – Member, TBNRD

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Jerry Kenny
Bruce Sackett
Justin Brei
Jason Farnsworth
Tim Tunnell

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 August 12, 2015
8 meeting.

9
10 **Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from August 12, 2015 LAC meeting. The**
11 **motion was seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**

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

14 *GC Update*

15 Czaplewski updated the LAC on GC activities. The GC last met on September 8-9, 2015 in
16 Kearney, NE. The GC discussed the 2014 State of the Platte Report, which reports progress on
17 adaptive management hypotheses and things the Program has learned so far. Other activities
18 included receiving updates on the 2016 budget, the J-2 reservoir project, and received a PRRIP
19 Land Atlas booklet that shows an overview and detail for PRRIP properties.

20
21 The GC meets next on December 1-2, 2015 in Denver, CO.

22
23 *Other Committee Coordination*

24 Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC met last on October 20 in
25 Ogallala, NE. The WAC discussed Water Action Plan updates and the 2016 budget. Funk
26 lagoon was also discussed as a potential recharge or surface water storage area. Indications are
27 that it is not a viable alternative. The WAC meets next in February 2016.

28
29 Sellers updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC discussed 2016 budget and work
30 plan items, and began discussion on structured decision making as a framework for PRRIP goals
31 and objectives.

32
33 Sackett updated the LAC on recently completed land transactions. PRRIP currently has 12,048
34 acres under control or contracted, which includes land in 8 of the 12 associated habitat bridge
35 segments, and is valued at \$21,060,352.29. Land still needed to fulfill the goals completely
36 includes 154 acres of non-complex land – primarily palustrine wetland habitat.

37
38 **Present Work in Progress**

39 Tunnell distributed the Work in Progress handout and gave the LAC the tract-by-tract update of
40 upcoming work and work that has been completed to-date.

41
42 **5-year O&M Tract Plans**

43 Brei discussed the Operations and Maintenance plans for six PRRIP tracts. These plans include
44 the general operational and annual maintenance budget and activities, but do not include major



45 habitat restoration activities. Major species habitat activities are covered in complex-level plans
46 and span multiple tracts in a complex. O&M plans were presented for tracts 2011002, 2012003,
47 2013001, 2014002, 2015001, and 2015002. General comments include: add old evaluation tract
48 numbers to the plans for reference (4-digit numbers). Update figures A1-A7 for each plan to
49 include new imagery and text. Specific comments include: Speidell – remove all tree clearing on
50 south channel and north side of property; Alda Pit – take out all trees along I-80 and clean up
51 debris/trash from ditch.

52

53 **Rabbe made a motion to approve the O&M plans for 2011002, 2012003, 2013001, 2014002,**
54 **2015001, and 2015002 as amended. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed**
55 **unanimously.**

56

57 **2016 Annual Work Plans**

58 Sackett walked through the 2016 land budget work plan. No edits were given, except to take out
59 money from the line item for tree clearing at Speidell since that work was removed from the
60 O&M plans.

61

62 **Thorburn moved to approve the 2016 annual work plan as amended. Pierson seconded**
63 **and the motion passed unanimously.**

64

65 **Reorganize Officers**

66 **Shadle moved to nominate and unanimously elect Mark Czaplewski as chair of the LAC**
67 **for 2016. Motion seconded by Thorburn and passed unanimously.**

68

69 **Thorburn moved to nominate and unanimously elect John Shadle as vice chair of the LAC**
70 **for 2016. Motion seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.**

71

72 **Public Forum**

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

74

75 **Closing Business**

76 **The next meeting was scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. central time.**

77

78 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 11:25 a.m.