



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Kearney, NE

February 23, 2016

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

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)

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

Mark Peyton – Member, Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (by Phone)

Jim Jenniges – Alternate, Nebraska Public Power District (by Phone)

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

Tim Tunnell

Dave Zorn

Other Participants

Justin Haahr, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Andrew Furman, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission



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 November 3, 2015
8 meeting.

9
10 **Rabbe made a motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2015 LAC meeting. The**
11 **motion was seconded by Pierson 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 December 1-2, 2015 in
16 Denver, CO. The GC approved the 2016 PRRIP budget and work plan. Other items of interest
17 included removing from further consideration “Area 2” of the J-2 reservoir project. The J-2
18 project is now investigating a single cell project to fit within a smaller footprint and within
19 budget. Also, the GC authorized a process whereby the counties – within which J-2 reservoir
20 land is purchased – will be compensated for lost tax revenue when these tracts are purchased by
21 CNPPID. The base rate will be the taxes last paid by the previous owner, with annual
22 adjustments made based on tax rates for irrigated cropland. PRRIP has no legal obligation to
23 provide this compensation, but is doing so voluntarily under the Good Neighbor Policy.

24
25 The GC meets next on March 8-9, 2016 in Kearney, NE.

26
27 *Other Committee Coordination*

28 Sellers updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC met last on February 9-11, 2016.
29 The TAC accepted the 2014 least tern & piping plover monitoring report and the 2015 fall
30 whooping crane monitoring report. The TAC also approved a sole source memo to hire a
31 consultant for vegetation monitoring on Program properties. The TAC then participated in a
32 two-day workshop on Structured Decision Making (SDM). The TAC will assemble next with
33 the GC on March 8-9 to participate in a joint SDM workshop.

34
35 Sackett updated the LAC on recently completed land transactions. PRRIP currently has 12,048
36 acres under control or contracted, which includes land in 8 of the 12 associated habitat bridge
37 segments, and is valued at approximately \$21,000,000. This includes 11,378 acres of Complex
38 land, 645 acres of Non-Complex land, and 25 acres of land used to mitigate Clean Water Act
39 actions. Land still needed to fulfill the goals completely includes 155 acres of non-complex land
40 – primarily palustrine wetland habitat.

41
42 **Land Action Items**

43 Sackett discussed the evaluation team review and recommendation of tract 1505, a parcel of land
44 on the river south of Kearney being considered as complex habitat.



45
46 **Thorburn moved accept the evaluation team recommendation and to recommend that the**
47 **GC decline to further pursue acquisition of tract 1505. Motion seconded by Rabbe and**
48 **passed unanimously.**
49

50 Sackett then discussed tract 1601, a reoffering of tract 1211, which was previously looked at by
51 the Program in the summer/fall of 2012. The landowner is offering a no-build easement to the
52 Program, over a smaller portion of the tract, where the previous offering was as a fee title sale.
53 There were concerns with the tract as potential habitat when it was examined in 2012, and all are
54 still valid. The tract, as it exists, has limited development potential due to the fact that there is
55 one access from county roads, no services and limited development potential for sewer and
56 water, and it has already shown to be breached during flood events.
57

58 **Thorburn moved to recommend that the GC decline to further pursue any acquisition at**
59 **tract 1601. Motion seconded by Hoobler and passed unanimously.**
60

61 **Public Access Program Review**

62 Justin Haahr and Andrew Furman from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission gave a
63 presentation covering user survey results from 2015 for the Platte River Recreation Access
64 Program. Only one major issue came up in 2015, and that was a harassment issue with a
65 neighbor to one of the PRRA properties. A user of the access program has filed a formal
66 complaint against the neighbor through law enforcement and it is being investigated. PRRIP and
67 NGPC are holding a public meeting to receive comments on the PRRA on March 1, 2016 and 6
68 p.m. at the Executive Director’s Office Conference Center. The recreation access subcommittee
69 will hold their next meeting on March 7 to discuss the comments received as well as develop
70 recommendations for the LAC to consider.
71

72 **Public Forum**

73 Chairman Czaplowski asked for public comments, none were offered.
74

75 **Closing Business**

76 **The next meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. central time.**
77

78 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplowski at 10:25 a.m.