



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
May 23, 2016

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Jason Mead – Proxy for Harry LaBonde, Member,
Wyoming Water Development Office

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Kevin Urie – Alternate, Denver Water

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR

Power Districts

Dave Zorn – Member, Central Nebraska Public Power
& Irrigation District
John Shadle – Member (Vice-Chair), 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)

Bruce Sackett
Justin Brei
Tim Tunnell
Jason Farnsworth
Dillon Schroeder

Other Participants

Justin Haahr, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission



1 **Welcome and Administrative**

2 Chairman Czapslewski called the meeting to order at 9:30 am Central Time and the group
3 proceeded with introductions.

4
5 Czapslewski asked for agenda modifications, none were requested.

6
7 Czapslewski asked for the LAC’s recommendation on the minutes of the February 23, 2016
8 meeting.

9
10 **Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2016 LAC meeting. The**
11 **motion was seconded by Urie and passed unanimously.**

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

14 *GC Update*

15 Czapslewski updated the LAC on GC activities. The GC last met on March 9-10 in Kearney, NE.
16 They approved the grassland vegetation monitoring protocol and sole-source contract. Rich
17 Walters presented to the GC on phragmites control in the Platte River. The GC contributed
18 \$100,000 to the effort and will not require 50% matching funds for 2016, as they have in past
19 years. The GC voted to cease pursuit of tract 1505, as well as passed a motion to handle
20 payments to counties affected by lost tax revenue from the J-2 reservoir project.

21
22 The GC also held a conference call on April 12 to discuss the water service agreement for the J-2
23 reservoir. No action was taken on this call and another call on this topic is scheduled for June 1,
24 2016.

25
26 The GC meets next on June 7-8 in Cheyenne, WY.

27
28 *Other Committee Coordination*

29 Sellers updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC met last on April 20. Several
30 manuscripts were approved for publishing and for peer review. The TAC also discussed the
31 dates on Platte River Recreation Access Program signage and closure dates.

32
33 **Land Action Items**

34 Sackett discussed tract 1602, an easement offering on a wetland parcel of land near Chapman,
35 NE being considered as non-complex habitat. The evaluation team has visited the site, but there
36 are questions about the level of management control offered by the easement and as such they
37 have not provided a recommendation. The tract is currently covered by an NRCS WRP
38 easement which may conflict with PRRIP interests. Sackett is working with the owner and
39 property manager as well as the NRCS to sort out the details.

40
41 **Shadle moved to table any decision on tract 1602 until details on the easement are obtained.**
42 **Motion seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**



45 **Public Access Program Review**

46 Rabbe discussed recommendations from the Platte River Recreation Access Program
47 Subcommittee for changes to the Program in the 2016-2017 season.

48
49 **Rabbe moved to recommend that the GC adopt the following changes to the PRRA
50 Program for the 2016-2017 season:**

- 51 • **Enroll three new areas into the PRRA Program for all allowable uses.**
 - 52 ○ **Bartels (2009002) & Sullwold (2012001) as one area open to four users.**
 - 53 ○ **BELF (2015002) & Volentine (2014002) as one area open to four users.**
 - 54 ○ **Spiedel (2015001) open to eight users, except during rifle deer season where
55 five users are allowed.**
- 56 • **Increase capacity at Liehs tract from one user to two users.**
- 57 • **Adopt the current temporary Wyoming tract parking lot location as permanent.**
- 58 • **Modify permission slips to require the signature of only one parent or guardian.**
- 59 • **Add language to the permissions slips and online to indicate users are “highly
60 recommended to mark all blinds and treestands with hunter orange”.**
- 61 • **Modify the Public Access Policy as follows:**
 - 62 ○ **Allow treestands to be left in place from August 16-February 1. Treestands
63 left in place are available on first-come/first-serve basis and users accept all
64 risk of property loss. Treestands left in place outside of the allowed dates are
65 subject to confiscation.**
 - 66 ○ **The use of drones or trail cameras are not allowed on PRRA properties.**

67 **Motion was seconded by Mead and passed unanimously. LaGrange abstained since NGPC
68 administers the program.**

69
70 **Public Forum**

71 Chairman Czaplowski asked for public comments, none were offered.

72
73 **Closing Business**

74 **The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date, but is expected to be held prior to the
75 September GC meeting.**

76
77 **With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplowski at 10:15 a.m.**