



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Executive Director's Office Conference Room – Kearney, NE**  
**February 25, 2014**

**Meeting Participants**

**Land Advisory Committee (LAC)**

**State of Wyoming**

John Wade (for Harry LaBonde) – Member, Wyoming  
Water Development Commission (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)**

None

**Power Districts**

John Shadle – Member (Vice-chair), Nebraska Public  
Power District

**Environmental Entities**

John Heaston – Member, The Nature Conservancy

**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  
Jim Bendfeldt – Alternate, CPNRD Board Member

**Executive Director's Office (EDO)**

Jerry Kenny  
Bruce Sackett  
Justin Brei  
Jason Farnsworth  
Tim Tunnell  
David Zorn

**Other Participants**

None

**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications, none were requested.

Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the November 26, 2013 meeting, which included modifications made by USFWS.

**Urie made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2013 LAC meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.**

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

Czaplewski updated the LAC on recent GC activities. The GC last met December 3 and 4 in Denver, CO. The GC received updates on the schedule and planning for the J-2 Reservoir project. The 2014 PRRIP budget was approved, totaling \$25.5M. The GC approved 2014 ISAC membership. There was discussion of the potential delisting of the least tern and how that would affect the Program. The GC discussed how the Program currently schedules management actions around the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, how it interferes with certain target species management actions, and how regulatory agencies handle the Act with the Program and other entities. The EDO and the USFWS will work together to find the best way to enact management actions necessary for target species while still staying within the law.

In land items at the GC, the trade proposal for tract 1227 was approved. The GC approved tract 1217 for a sale at auction. Tracts 1223, 1205, and 1311 were approved for sale as excess as well. The GC considered the offering of tract 1301 and chose to cease pursuit of this tract.

The next GC meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Kearney, NE.

***Other Committee Coordination***

Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC had a workshop focused on whooping cranes on February 19. Among many items, they discussed whooping crane habitat availability assessment results, the whooping crane telemetry project, and the cost/benefit for continuing annual monitoring efforts at the same scale. In April, the ISAC will meet in Omaha and a tour of lower Platte River sites is being scheduled.

Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC held a conference call on February 4. Notable items include discussion of next steps for groundwater recharge from Phelps Canal, status updates on the North Platte chokepoint projects, and a lot of focus on calculations and procedures for various water leasing opportunities. Next WAC meeting is scheduled for May 11 and is focused on depletions plans reporting.



Czaplewski asked if there is any update on the J-2 reservoir project. Kenny said a landowner meeting was held to start discussions between CNPPID and the landowners for acquisition of property. The GC will receive a quarterly project update from CNPPID on March 11.

### **Land Management Update**

Tunnell gave the LAC an update on recent land management activities. Tunnell said it has been a slow time of year with the poor weather. Some minor fencing activities are going on at tract 2010004, as well as some island building work on tracts 2010004 and 2009002 that is on hold awaiting better river conditions. Tunnell said that there will be no prescribed fire on Program properties this spring. At the direction of the GC, the EDO and USFWS need to come together on a way for management activities to occur during the MBTA window, and as of right now burning outside that window is not beneficial for achieving Program management goals. There is a potential that some fall burning may occur.

### **Land Offering Reviews**

**Thorburn moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Bendfeldt. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:25 a.m.**

**Bendfeldt moved to come out of executive session. Thorburn seconded and the motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 10:19 a.m.**

### **Land Action Items**

**Heaston moved to recommend that the GC cease pursuit of tract 1312. Motion seconded by Thorburn.**

LaGrange stated that the tract appears to lack suitable soils for supporting wetland function. Also, there are powerlines on the north boundary. In addition, being able to modify the drains on the property boundary is important to any wetland project on the site, and the drains appear to be on or shared with neighboring tracts.

**Motion voted on and passed unanimously.**

### **Public Access Program Review**

Justin Haahr from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission gave a presentation to the LAC covering results from the 2013 Platte River Recreation Access Program. The presentation included results of surveys completed users of the Program. Overall, the response was very positive.

The public access subcommittee is assembling after the LAC to form recommendations for changes to the program in 2014.

### **Public Forum**

Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.



88 **Closing Business**

89 **The next meeting of the LAC was scheduled for June 6, 2014 at 9 a.m. Central Time via**  
90 **conference call.**

91  
92 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 10:55 a.m.