



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Governance Committee Draft FY 2011 Budget & Work Plan Conference Call Meeting
Minutes
October 18, 2010

Executive Director's Office (ED Office)

Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
Bridget Barron
Beorn Courtney
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith

Governance Committee (GC)

John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation, Chair
Don Ament – State of Colorado
Brian Barels – Nebraska Public Power District
Allan Berryman – Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte Natural Resources District
John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy
Don Kraus – Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District
Kent Miller – Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming
Jim Schneider – Nebraska DNR
Suzanne Sellers – Colorado Water Conservation Board
Dennis Strauch – Pathfinder Irrigation District
Mike George – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Participants

Brock Merrill – Bureau of Reclamation
Nancy Martin – Bureau of Reclamation

Welcome & Administrative

Kenny proceeded with a roll call and Lawson called the meeting to order.

Draft FY 2011 PRRIP Budget & Work Plan

Kenny discussed the draft FY 2011 PRRIP budget spreadsheet and work plan document. The proposed budget for 2011 is larger from 2010 largely due to potential increased in the Water Plan budget. Sellers asked if Kenny will provide a breakdown of each employee's time for the PRRIP versus other projects. Kenny said that will be included in the ED contract which will also be discussed and approved during the December GC meeting. The contract will show only estimated time for the PRRIP, not for other non-Program work. Czaplewski asked if ag operation numbers on LP-4 are affected by any income. Kenny said they are not influenced by an income reduction – they represent checks we anticipate having to write. Income numbers are being pulled into a land operation summary report that will be presented at the March 2011 GC meeting. Ament asked if the Land Plan special advisors are from one firm or people from various firms with different areas of expertise. Kenny said they are from one firm now but additional specialty expertise may need to be added in 2011. Sellers said it is a large increase from 2010

This document is a draft based on one person's notes of the meeting. The official meeting minutes may be different if corrections are made by the Governance Committee before approval.



48 and wondered what the justification is. Kenny said we are getting used to working with that area of
49 expertise and we learned in 2010 how we could better utilize that expertise and relieve the burden from
50 EDO staff. Farnsworth said we will have over 7,000 acres we need to manage day-to-day operations on
51 and the single EDO staffer working on this is over-taxed. Ament asked if this management includes
52 farming practices and wildlife management. Kenny said it is primarily farming practices – ag chemicals,
53 fertilizer, etc. As EDO staff interacts with science side of things, we want to turn some of this crop group
54 into grassland and we need to start paying attention to chemicals and other matters now to improve our
55 success later with things like grassland restoration. Sellers asked if Kenny could provide more details
56 budget-wise on how this line item will be spent – particular firm, what tasks they will be doing, additional
57 experts that may be necessary, etc. **Kenny said the EDO will provide that and will include some of**
58 **that detail in the work plan.**

59
60 Sellers asked about the 2010 numbers for WP-1(a) and (b) – was that all spent in 2010 and did we meet
61 those budget estimates? Kenny said we spent \$400,000 for WP-1(b) and will end up spending most of
62 \$50,000 in WP-1(a). Sellers said if you add these numbers plus the estimated numbers we will exceed the
63 \$1 million originally budgeted for this kind of task. Kenny said that number was developed prior to the
64 appearance of Phragmites in the system so that is the reason the initial estimate is under what the Program
65 is spending at this point. Sellers asked if Kenny thinks these costs will extend beyond 2011. Kenny said
66 he hopes we find and implement a solution to the choke point so that WP-1(a) will be complete at least by
67 2012. By that time, the main channel should be cleared but it is hard to predict whether maintenance will
68 be necessary throughout the First Increment (WP-1b). It is likely that we will focus on Program land
69 maintenance and rely more on others to take care of their own land.

70
71 Lawson asked about the FY 2010 budget for WP-6 and how much of that budget has been spent so far
72 this year. Kenny said we have obligated about \$600,000. Lawson asked if there would be a substantial
73 additional obligation before the end of the year. Kenny said no. Lawson asked if a chunk of money
74 would be brought over to FY 2011. Kenny said no. Lawson said we must be foregoing something.
75 Kenny said we are scaling back after thinking longer and harder about the situation and trying to build on
76 what other people have learned. Also, some items have moved up to WP-4 in FY 2011 because they are
77 moving forward into implementation. **Kenny said the EDO would provide additional detail for the**
78 **Water Plan special advisors line item in the work plan.**

79
80 Lawson asked if any of the money from LP-2 would be carried over to 2011. Kenny said likely not.
81 Work at Cottonwood Ranch is obligated, as is out-of-channel activities at Elm Creek so most of that work
82 will likely be completed by the end of this year. Farnsworth said we have obligated probably close to
83 around \$800,000. We have been getting very good bid prices which helps to hold costs down.

84
85 Sellers asked about G-5, geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring, and why the budget went
86 up substantially from 2010. Kenny said this is the first time we are including data analysis and reporting
87 for the contractor, and we have never had the contractor compile the maps and atlases before. In addition,
88 the contractor's annual monitoring costs continue to go up each year.

89
90 Kenny said we have spent most of the budget for AMP special advisors for our sediment transport and
91 geomorphology advisors, as well as a little for ecological statistics. **The EDO will provide additional**
92 **detail in the work plan for this line item.** Sellers asked about which concept was being tested through
93 IMRP-4. Kenny said it is a Proof of Concept approach to testing the Flow-Sediment-Mechanical strategy.



95 Sellers asked if the ISAC could just meet two times a year instead of three. **Kenny said the EDO would**
96 **provide additional detail on why three meetings are necessary in 2011.** Sellers asked if there were
97 less peer reviewed documents in 2010. Kenny said 2010 was a light year for peer review.
98

99 Lawson asked how much of the FY 2010 budget will be spent. Kenny said probably something close to
100 \$9-\$10 million. Kenny said some of the work plan descriptions would be enhanced with detail (special
101 advisors, ISAC). The next level of input would be during the two scheduled FC meetings in November.
102 The final budget and work plan will be distributed prior to the December GC meeting and final approval
103 will be sought during that meeting. Lawson asked if there will be a final draft of both documents for the
104 FC meeting on November 23. Kenny said yes, so we need comments back to the EDO by November 12.
105 There will be a joint distribution of the final draft of the budget and work plan to the FC and GC prior to
106 the November 23 FC meeting.
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108 **Closing Business**

109 Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Central time.
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111 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from October 2010 GC Draft FY 2011 Budget & Work Plan** 112 **Conference Call**

- 113 1) EDO agreed to provide additional detail in the FY 2011 work plan regarding EDO Special Advisors
114 for the Land Plan, Water Plan, and Adaptive Management Plan.
- 115 2) EDO agreed to provide additional detail in the FY 2011 work plan regarding the need for three ISAC
116 meetings in 2011.