



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE

October 8, 2010

Attendees

Scott Woodman, Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District, landowner
 Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District
 Jerry Kenny - Executive Director
 Bruce Sackett - ED Office
 Justin Brei - ED Office
 Jason Farnsworth - ED Office
 Tim Tunnell - ED Office
 Greg Wingfield - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Jennifer Schellpeper - State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
 Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
 Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming
 John Shadle - Nebraska Public Power District
 Jim Jenniges – Nebraska Public Power District
 Mark Peyton – Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District
 John Thorburn - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
 David Raffety - Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, landowner
 Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (by phone)
 Joe Frank – State of Colorado (by phone)
 John Heaston – The Nature Conservancy

Welcome and Administrative

Chairman Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:04 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Woodman asked for agenda modifications. Czaplewski asked that an update be given on tract 0918. Sackett said that update would be handled in executive session.

LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2010 LAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Wingfield and passed unanimously.

GC Meeting Update

Czaplewski gave the LAC an update on the latest GC and FC activity. The GC discussed the bid packages and management agreements for the Elm Creek and Cottonwood Ranch habitat enhancement work. These packages were approved in form, but the necessary permits are still outstanding. During discussion of these agreements, the GC talked about whether or not acres under management agreements should count towards Program land objectives. The GC asked



the ED Office to compile a memo covering the Land Plan and Program interests in land for the GC. This topic will also likely be discussed by the LAC if the GC deems it necessary.

The GC was given an update on Program land expenditures, which are likely to increase sharply through the end of the year and be on track with the 2010 budgeted funds. The GC approved appraisals and negotiations for the west half of tract 1001, as well as developing background information on the entirety of 1001 if the landowner will not divide the offering. The GC approved the tract 1009 trade (boundary fix at 2009008), declined pursuit of tract 1002, approved the easement for tract 0805, and approved an extension of the deadline for land management plan approval for tracts 2009006, 2009007, 2009008, and 2010001 until the March 2011 GC meeting.

The GC meets next on December 7 & 8, 2010 in Denver, CO.

Other Committee Coordination Information

Farnsworth gave a brief update on recent TAC activities. The TAC had two workshops in September. One focused on whooping crane monitoring, and one focused on tern & plover monitoring. These meetings included discussion of what took place last season, and plans for upcoming monitoring seasons.

Kenny gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC is still focused on feasibility investigations for the Elm Creek and J-2 reservoirs, and have released an RFP for groundwater recharge feasibility investigations. Responses to the RFP are due today, October 8, 2010.

Update on Land Management

Tunnell distributed a document to the LAC that provided a tract-by-tract update of ongoing, planned, and completed management activities.

Executive Session

Czaplewski moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Wingfield. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:34 a.m.

Heaston moved to come out of executive session. LaBonde seconded and the motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 11:35 a.m.

Public Comment/Next Meeting

Chairman Woodman asked for public comments, none were offered.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's Office on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. central time.

**Outdoor Recreation Policy Discussion**

Heaston gave a progress update for the recreation policy ad hoc committee. Heaston said they first compiled a list of what constituted access. To set some boundaries for their discussion, they set a ground rule that there would be no unrestricted access. The committee then removed access during target species blackout periods (T&P nesting season, WC migration periods). The committee then laid out possible uses and how they fit with those restrictions. The committee also considered four options for management of the recreation policy and pros and cons for each. The summary document for this discussion was provided to the LAC.

Discussion of Management Plans for LAC Recommendation on Tracts 2009006, 2009007, 2009008, & 2010001

Sackett gave an overview of the current status of land management planning. As discussed in the GC update, the GC extended the deadline for approval of these plans until the March 2011 GC meeting. Draft plans for tracts 2009006, 2009007, 2009008, and 2010001 are posted to the website for LAC review. The LAC is requested to return comments on these by **October 29, 2010**. The TAC will also be notified and given a review period, though TAC approval of management plans is not required. Comments given on the land plans will be incorporated and final drafts brought forward for approval at the December 1, 2010 LAC meeting. LaGrange provided initial comment that NGPC would like to see language added for conversion of cropland areas to grassland, similar to past management plan language.

Discussion of Land Exchange 1017

Sackett discussed the proposed trade on tract 2009008. The landowner owns land southeast of the lake on 2009008, and claims access to the lake. The land exchange proposed for 1017 would be to work with a gravel miner to create a pond for the southeast landowner on another portion of their property, and in exchange the Program would receive the parcel of land that borders the 2009008 sandpit lake, and thus close off all access points. Sackett said discussions with the landowner are still ongoing, as well as talks with gravel miners to assess options and costs. A proposal will be brought before the LAC before any action is taken.

Discussion of Land Reviews at 1007, 1008, 1010, 1014, and 1016

Sackett introduced the tracts for LAC consideration. Evaluation reports for these tracts were posted for LAC review.

Czaplewski moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1007 to the GC with a recommendation to commence appraisal and negotiations. Motion seconded by Wingfield and passed unanimously.

Wingfield moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1008 to the GC with a recommendation to commence appraisal and negotiations. Motion seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.



130 **Wingfield moved to recommend that the GC commence appraisals and negotiations for**
131 **tract 1010 and define a minimal amount of land to retain and to designate the remaining**
132 **portion as excess. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.**
133

134 **LaBonde moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation and forward tract 1014 to**
135 **the GC with a recommendation to cease pursuit of this tract. Motion seconded by**
136 **Czaplewski and passed unanimously.**
137

138 **Heaston moved to recommend that the GC cease pursuit of tract 1016. Motion seconded**
139 **by LaGrange and passed unanimously.**
140

141 **In recognition of the GC's consideration of tract 0918 later today, and recognizing the**
142 **exceptional habitat value of this tract for the Program, the LAC recommends that the GC**
143 **approve the purchase of, and the crediting of all acres towards Program objectives for,**
144 **tract 0918. Moved by LaBonde, seconded by Czaplewski and passed unanimously.**
145 **Heaston abstained due to TNC's past & ongoing interest in the property.**
146

147 **Closing Business**

148 **With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 12:15 p.m.**