

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM****Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes**

November 23, 2010

**Attendees**

Mike Purcell, Chair – State of Wyoming  
Jerry Kenny – ED  
Chad Smith – ED Office  
Jason Farnsworth – ED Office  
Bruce Sackett – ED Office  
Beorn Courtney – ED Office  
Justin Brei – ED Office  
Larry Schulz – ED Office Consultant  
John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation  
Suzanne Sellers – Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Dennis Harmon – State of Colorado  
Jennifer Schellpeper – State of Nebraska  
Jim Schneider – State of Nebraska  
Don Kraus – Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID)  
Mike George – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Welcome and Administrative**

Finance Committee Chair Purcell called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Central time. No agenda modifications were offered. Harmon moved to approve September 2010 FC minutes; George seconded. **September 2010 minutes approved.**

**PRRIP Science Review Services**

Smith discussed the proposal to seek non-competitive selection of PBS&J for assistance with recommending panelists for several PRRIP peer review panels in 2011. Purcell asked what the cost of PBS&J's services were in 2008 when they recommended ISAC members and members for several peer review panels. Smith said that contract was for \$70,000 and PBS&J came in under budget. Kenny said the EDO is seeking approval and recommendation to bring forward to the GC for their approval the non-competitive selection of PBS&J for science review services. Kraus so moved; Schneider seconded.

**Motion approved.****Groundwater Recharge Project**

Kenny said the Action Item Summary Sheet should show there is \$1,420,000 available in this line item in the FY 2010 budget to cover the costs associated with this contract. Courtney discussed the contract and tasks associated with this project. Schellpeper asked if the optional work tasks won't go forward until discussed with the Work Group, where that language is in the contract. Courtney said we could add that kind of language in Task 4; Schellpeper agreed. Purcell said he already sees that language in Section 4.7. Courtney said she will look for or add language that says optional tasks will not be completed until ED Office and Work Group approval is received. Lawson said there is language in Exhibit 2 that discusses separate authorization is required for optional tasks. Courtney said we will add that language to the Scope of Services. Schellpeper said it should also state that the Work Group will be part of the approval process. Kraus asked what the "Work Group" is. Schellpeper said it is the Technical Work Group



mentioned in Section 1. Purcell said that means the Work Group can approve the additional tasks without coming back to the GC. Courtney said that is the intent.

Schellpeper said the contract states payment shall not exceed \$263,000. Courtney said that has been changed to \$267,800. Schellpeper said the summary states the WAC Technical Work Group had seen and approved the contract language and asked if that is the case. Courtney said the Scope of Work was presented by the contractor at the Work Group meeting. That meeting also included a discussion of budget as well as a field visit. The Scope of Work and budget were then updated, working with the ED Office, to include the direction agreed upon during the field visit. The Work Group has not seen the final contract language. Kraus asked about the estimated completion time. Courtney said spring 2011, but the contract leaves a lot of room for completion by the end of 2011.

Kenny said the EDO is seeking approval of the contract with the modifications discussed today:

- Separate authorization from the ED Office and Technical Work Group is required before optional tasks are initiated.
- Wording of contract payment changed to \$267,800.

Lawson so moved; Schneider seconded. Kraus abstained from voting. **Motion approved.**

#### **Database Management System Development & Maintenance**

Kenny discussed the need for the amendment to finish out 2010 and allow the contractor to move forward in 2011, contingent on GC approval of the FY 2011 budget. Farnsworth said this Scope of Services covers general system run-time, maintenance, and system improvements from November 2010 through December 2011. Brei noted that an updated version of the contract was distributed today that provides the correct contract amount (increase of \$500 from the previous version). Kenny said there is enough money in the approved budget for 2010 that will cover the 2010 work. The remainder will be covered by the 2011 budget, if approved.

Lawson said there seems to be an error in saying this is the first amendment. Kenny agreed and said this will be fixed. Lawson asked about Page 12 and the costs, particularly what costs are one-time and what costs will be more continuous in 2012 and beyond. Kenny said we will add the comment that everything under this scope will be completed by the end of 2011. Schellpeper asked if there is an expiration date on the contract that has been extended from the first contract. Farnsworth said the first contract was a three-year contract that expires at the end of 2011, which will then trigger re-negotiation. Purcell asked if this is in the contract. Kenny said it is in the original contract. Brei said it is also mentioned in this amendment.

Kenny said the EDO is seeking approval of the contract, with corrections noted today:

- Note this is the second amendment.
- Modify Section 6 to say all work will be completed by the end of 2011.

Schneider so moved; Kraus seconded. **Motion approved.**

#### **FY 2011 PRRIP Budget & Work Plan**

Kenny discussed highlights from the FY 2011 budget, work plan, and ED Contract Exhibit B. The EDO will be adding a new line item, LP-7, for Public Access Management with a dollar amount of \$50,000.

There will be additional input and recommendation on this at the next LAC meeting. The EDO does not

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exactly know what the result of that discussion will be, but believes it is prudent to build some budget capacity for this in 2011. There was also a new item added, PD-20, for Wet Meadow Restoration design services at the Fox Tract. An additional item added was for annual LiDAR Implementation, G-1, at a cost of \$75,000. Lawson asked about TP-1. In 2009, we budgeted \$100,000 but now we are recommending \$300,000. All of the out-years now show \$100,000, but does this mean all of the out-year budgets will not be adjusted upward? Kenny said we have been focused on getting an accurate 2011 budget but we will take a look at the out years with a critical eye. Purcell asked what was projected for this year. Kenny said about \$17 million, and we will end up spending about \$10 million. In 2011, there will be more land acquisition and probably also Water Action Plan items. Kraus asked if we have a contract with the USGS for the tern and plover monitoring in TP-1. Smith said no. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows banding, the EDO will come back to the FC and GC for approval of a non-competitive selection of the USGS to assist with the monitoring, largely because of their experience on the central Platte and because of their Master Banding Permit. If the Service does not allow banding, the EDO will likely recommend that the Program just hire 3-4 summer technicians to assist with the monitoring, meaning there will be much less spend in that line item in 2011.

Kenny said we are asking for approval and a recommendation to move the FY 2011 budget, FY 2011 work plan, and FY 2011 ED Contract Exhibit B on to the GC for their approval. Kraus so moved; Lawson seconded. **Motion approved.**

Kraus asked if the TAC had weighed in on banding of terns and plovers. Smith said there have been numerous discussions but no formal decision has been reached. That is because we are waiting to hear from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on whether banding will be allowed.

#### **Closing Business**

The FC meeting scheduled for November 30, 2010 was cancelled. Purcell asked Kenny to bring hard copies of the budget spreadsheet and work plan to the December GC meeting. Kenny agreed. Schellpeper asked if there would be estimated expenditures for 2010 presented to the GC in December. Kenny said yes.

**FC meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Central time.**

#### **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 23, 2010 FC meeting**

- 1) Approved September 2010 FC minutes
- 2) Approved and recommended to the GC for approval the non-competitive selection of PBS&J for science review services.
- 3) Approved the Groundwater Recharge Project contract, with modifications.
- 4) Approved the Second Amendment to the Database Management System Development & Maintenance contract, with modifications.
- 5) Approved and recommended to the GC for approval the FY 2011 budget, FY 2011 work plan, and FY 2011 ED Contract Exhibit B.
- 6) Kenny agreed to bring hard copies of the budget and work plan to the December 2010 GC meeting, and also provide estimated 2010 expenditures at the GC meeting.