



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Governance Committee Special Session Conference Call Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2010

Executive Director's Office (ED Office)

Jerry Kenny – Executive Director
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith
Tim Tunnell

Governance Committee (GC)

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

Participants

Mark Czaplewski – Central Platte NRD
Mike George – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Greg Wingfield – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Harry LaBonde – State of Wyoming
Brock Merrill – Bureau of Reclamation
Kevin Urie – Denver Water

Welcome & Administrative

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

Land Tract 0918

Sackett provided an update on Tract 0918 and discussed the documents provided to the GC for this meeting. The Program has negotiated a purchase value of \$2.75 million for 1,445 acres. The LAC met today and developed the following motion:

“In recognition of the GC’s consideration of Tract 0918 this afternoon, and in recognition of the exceptional habitat value of Tract 0918, the LAC recommends that the GC approve the purchase of Tract 0918 and that it count towards Program objectives. The motion passed unanimously. John Heaston and Ted LaGrange abstained due to their organizations’ past and ongoing interest in the parcel.”



Sackett said there was discussion in the LAC about the strength or weakness of the current easements on the property. It was determined that there are enough flaws in the easement to have concern about its ability to ensure protection in perpetuity. Thabault asked if some proportion of the existing easement will remain on the land the current property owner will continue to hold. Sackett said yes it is approximately a third of the property the current owner will retain. Thabault asked Heaston what, if any, capability the environmental coalition has to bring any money to bear to partner on acquisition of this property. Heaston said there is currently no fiscal capital available. The Whooping Crane Trust has two tracts of agricultural land they could sell to contribute and there is an outstanding Environmental Trust Grant that will not be decided until next year. The current owner now wants to sell the property before the end of the year. Thabault asked if the environmental coalition will still pursue funds to kick in at a later date. Heaston said that is a possibility but the coalition cannot meet the demands of the seller before the end of the year.

Sackett said this was discussed during the LAC. The LAC decided the Program should buy the property in its entirety then the LAC and GC could decide to do something else with the property at a later time if necessary. Strauch asked if it is a perpetual easement. Sackett said yes. Strauch asked if any of the terms are contrary to the Program. Sackett said no. Barels asked if the easement could go away if the Program buys it. Sackett said that could be discussed with the Trust based on the current value of the easement. Barels asked if the current owner was retaining any buildings. Sackett said yes there is a home site with additional buildings. Barels asked if this was considered in the negotiations. Sackett said yes and this was taken out and left with the sellers.

Purcell moved to approve acquisition; Ament seconded. Schneider said we need to make it clear that this property will count toward Program objectives in the First Increment. Thabault said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided the full acreage (1,445 acres) will count toward Program land objectives in the First Increment. Heaston abstained. **Motion approved.**

Closing Business

GC set Monday, October 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central time to discuss the draft FY 2011 PRRIP budget.

Meeting adjourned at 2.30 p.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from October 2010 GC Special Session Meeting

- 1) Approved acquisition of Land Tract 0918.
- 2) Set Monday, October 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central time for a GC conference call to discuss the draft FY 2011 PRRIP budget.