



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Governance Committee Special Session Conference Call Meeting Minutes**  
October 18, 2011

**Meeting Participants**

**Governance Committee (GC)**

**State of Wyoming**

Mike Purcell – Member

**State of Colorado**

Don Ament – Member

Suzanne Sellers – Alternate

**State of Nebraska**

Jim Schneider – Member (Chair)

Jennifer Schellpeper – Alternate

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)**

Mike George – Alternate

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

John Lawson – Member

**Environmental Entities**

John Heaston – Member

Bill Taddicken – Member

**Upper Platte Water Users**

Dennis Strauch – Member

**Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

**Downstream Water Users**

Don Kraus – Member

Kent Miller – Member

Mark Czaplewski – Proxy for Ron Bishop, Member

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

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

David Baasch

Justin Brei

Jason Farnsworth

Bruce Sackett

**Other Participants**

**Welcome and Administrative**

Kenny proceeded with a roll call and Schneider asked Kenny to introduce discussion topics. Kenny asked for agenda modifications; none offered.

**Whooping Crane Tracking Project**

Kenny led the discussion about the Whooping Crane Tracking Project including the Program's past involvement (contributed \$250,000 during 2009-2010 through the Trust) and June GC meeting discussions indicating the EDO should enter into discussions with the Telemetry Project Team (Core Partners include Canadian Wildlife Service, Crane Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey and Associate partners included Parks Canada, International Crane Foundation, and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) to establish an Agreement with the Project Team that stipulates:

1. The Program would be designated a Core Partner,
2. The Program would lead investigations on whooping crane response to management actions on the Platte River,
3. The Program would have complete access to the Project's database,
4. Program would receive Project Reports and would have an opportunity to provide feedback, and
5. The Project Team would outline budgets for each organization for the duration of the project.

Kenny informed the group that Chad Smith and Baasch (EDO) discussed the guidance the GC and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided with the Project Team in the process of developing the current Agreement and Budget. The Agreement and Budget were reviewed and discussed with the TAC and that the TAC recommended the GC support. Kenny discussed the various components of the Memo the GC was provided and went through the itemized budgets the Project Team provided including the various line items the Program has been asked to contribute money for (totaling \$374,500 for the 2011-2016 period) as well as the in-kind-contributions other Core Partners will make. Kenny stated that the EDO is asking for GC approval of the Agreement and for the expenditure of \$42,000 of the \$125,000 from line item WC-3 (Whooping Crane Telemetry Tracking) during 2011.

Lawson asked if the Program's contributions were all cash and if there were in-kind-contributions the Program would incur as well. Kenny stated the budget only included the Program's cash contributions, but that the EDO would track our in-kind contributions as we move forward. Purcell asked if the EDO was asking for support for the expenditure of \$42,000 during 2011 and support for entering into a long-term contract/agreement with the Project team where the Program's over-all contribution would be \$374,500. Kenny said that the interpretation was correct; however, the Program would be entering into an Agreement with the Project team and not a contract. Purcell noted that the Agreement lacked a signature page and asked what the logistics and mechanism would be for the Community Foundation to pay the bills. Kenny stated that if the GC approves the Agreement and expenditure of funds, the Program would receive and process invoices in the same manner invoices are processed from contractors. Purcell asked if the Community Foundation required a formal contract to process disbursements; Kenny stated the Agreement would serve as the basis for payment.

Purcell moved to approve the Whooping Crane Tracking Project Agreement and Budget with the understanding the Program will expend \$42,000 during 2011 with an estimated Program budget through 2016 of \$374,500; Amend seconded the motion. No discussion or objections; motion approved.

**Directed Vegetation Research Report Peer Review**

Farnsworth indicated there were 2 action items associated with the Vegetation Research Peer Review the EDO was asking the GC to approve, 1) appoint a Vegetation Research Peer Review Panel and 2) approve the Scope of Work and expenditures associated with the Vegetation Research Peer Review process. Farnsworth said the USDA-ARDS Vegetation Research was one of the projects the TAC recommended to have peer reviewed during 2011 so Atkins assembled an 8-person list of potential candidates for the Program to consider. From the 8-person list provided by Atkins, the EDO proposed and the TAC supported a recommendation for a 3-person peer review panel including John Stella, Anne Lightbody, and Andrew Wilcox for the GC to approve. Farnsworth stated the total cost for the Vegetation Research Peer Review would be \$20,000 and would come out of Line Item PD-3 that had a remaining balance of \$85,000.

Amend made the observation that the proposed and recommended candidates were from the east coast and Montana, and wondered about the relevance of east coast expertise for western rivers. Kenny stated the list was comprised of very qualified candidates, but that the recommended list were the best qualified. He noted also that the affiliations of the proposed candidates represent their current locations, but where they had studied and/or conducted work in the past generally included western rivers/vegetation. Amend agreed and reiterated it was just an observation.

Heaston moved to appoint the proposed 3-person panel (John Stella, Anne Lightbody, and Andrew Wilcox) and approve the scope of work and associated budget of \$20,000. Lawson seconded the motion. No discussion or objections; motion approved.

**LiDAR/Aerial Photography Contract**

Kenny pointed out the LiDAR/Aerial Photography Contract is a multi-year contract requiring GC approval, and, due to contractor proposed budgets, would require a transfer of \$20,400 from Line Item IMRP-2 (AMP Directed Research Projects; \$200,000 available) to Line Item G-1 (LiDAR Implementation; \$75,000 available) to cover costs to be incurred during 2011; also requiring GC Approval.

Brei stated the GC approved the RFP in September, proposals were due 7 October (13 received), selection panel met and selected Kucera International, Inc on 14 October, the selection committee included 3 buy-ups in the contract, and the contract has been reviewed and approved by Kucera. The contract would be for \$449,700 over the term of the contract which would include a total of 7 flights; 1 flight/year (2012-2014) to collect aerial imagery during summer and 1 flight/year (2011-2014) to collect LiDAR and aerial imagery during leaf-off and low flow conditions (November-December). The current budget needed modification because, as a group, the proposals received were all higher than the 2010 flight. In addition, the selection committee selected a buy-up option (hydro-flattening) which was not performed in 2010. Brei stated the EDO is asking for approval of the multi-year contract with Kucera International, Inc, and approval for transferring \$20,400 from Line Item IMRP-2 to Line Item G-1, for a total expenditure of \$95,400 from Line Item G-1 during 2011 for the project. Kenny stated the contract was clear that funding for subsequent years is based on availability of funds and approval to expend the funds. Kenny stated the buy-ups were recommended by the selection committee and vetted by the TAC.

Heaston moved to approve the LiDAR/Aerial Photography Contract and the transfer of \$20,400 from IMRP-2 to G-1 to cover costs for 2011; Krause seconded the motion. No discussion or objections; motion approved.

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.

**Closing Business**

Kenny indicated that at the September GC Meeting the GC assembled a subcommittee to advance the Agreement with CNPPID and Nebraska in regards to the J-2 Reregulating Reservoir. Kraus and CNPPID's legal team provided a draft of the Agreement that was distributed to the GC subcommittee; however, the GC hadn't appointed a chair for the committee. Purcell asked Kenny to name the members of the committee and Kenny indicated Lawson, Purcell, Heaston, Berryman, and George were members of the subcommittee. Lawson recommended Purcell serve as chair and Purcell agreed to do so. Purcell asked the subcommittee to meet via conference call on October 19; 2:30CST; subcommittee members agreed. Kenny will send out conference call information to the subcommittee members.

Kenny asked the group if anyone would be interested in holding a GC Special Session to review the Program's 2012 Budget prior to the December GC Meeting. Conference call meeting set for November 18, 2011 at 10:00CST.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:45****Summary of Action Items/Decisions from 18 October, 2011 GC Special Session Meeting**

1. Approved the Whooping Crane Tracking Project Agreement and Budget with the understanding the Program will expend \$42,000 during 2011 with a combined out-year budget of \$374,500 (including 2011) to be approved annually through 2016.
2. Appointed a 3-person panel (John Stella, Anne Lightbody, and Andrew Wilcox) and approved the Scope of Work and associated budget of \$20,000 for the Directed Vegetation Research Peer Review.
3. Approved the LiDAR/Aerial Photography Contract and the transfer of \$20,400 from IMRP-2 to G-1 to cover costs of collecting LiDAR/Aerial Photography data during 2011.
4. Appointed Lawson to chair the GC Subcommittee selected to review J-2 Reregulating Reservoir Agreement.
5. GC Subcommittee Conference Call Meeting set for October 19 at 2:30CST to discuss the Agreement for the J-2 Reregulating Reservoir.
6. GC Conference Call Meeting set for November 18, 2011 at 10:00CST to discuss the 2012 Program Budget.