PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
Hampton Inn & Suites Conference Center – Scottsbluff, NE
September 13-14, 2011

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Meeting Attendees

Governance Committee (GC) Table

State of Wyoming
Mike Purcell – Member
Harry LaBonde – Alternate

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
Doug Chamberlain – Member

Colorado Water Users
Alan Berryman – Member
John Kolanz – Alternate
Deb Freeman

Downstream Water Users
Brian Barels – Member
Don Kraus – Member
Kent Miller – Member
Mark Czaplewski – Proxy for Ron Bishop, Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO) Staff
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)
Beorn Courtney
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith

Audience Members
Mike Besson – State of Wyoming
Norm DeMott – Former GC Member
Mike Drain – CNPPID
Pat Goltl – Nebraska DNR
Brock Merrill – BOR
Cory Steinke – CNPPID
Diane Wilson – Nebraska Community Foundation

Welcome & Administrative

Schneider called the meeting to order. The group recognized the recent passing of Land Advisory Committee Chair Scott Woodman with a moment of silence. Kenny said Sackett had a condolence card for GC members to sign and flowers were sent to the memorial service.

The group proceeded with introductions. Kenny recognized Norm DeMott, former member of the Governance Committee, and presented him with a congratulatory gift from the GC.

No agenda modifications offered. *Berryman moved to approve the June 2011 GC minutes; Heaston seconded.* **Minutes approved.**

LiDAR/Aerial Photography RFP

Farnsworth discussed the LiDAR/Aerial Photography RFP. He noted the Nebraska DNR wants to include a buy-up option for potentially collecting summer information in a different way, and also to make the RFP a single-year RFP instead of a multi-year RFP. The EDO recommends including the buy-up language as an option, but not make it required in proposals. That will be discussed at the October TAC meeting. That discussion will inform the selection process because proposals will not be submitted until the week after the TAC meeting. The EDO also recommends keeping this a multi-year RFP. The Program reserves the right in all multi-year contracts to terminate the contract each year or change project requirements as necessary.

Smith read the language from Doug Hallum proposed to be inserted in the RFP:
*Alternate 5 a) Acquire digital imagery sufficient to use digital autocorrelation techniques to produce a digital elevation and a model of the vegetation structure at a 6 inch resolution. Ground control may be provided by sharing of control from Sub-project 1 and use of additional points from LiDAR data. Proposal **must** include the estimated vertical accuracy and resolution of the DEM in open and heavily vegetated areas, as well as a description of the vertical accuracy and resolution of the vegetation model. The proposal **must also** include a detailed description of the technique, software and methodology, as well as discuss any necessary differences from **Sub-project 2** imagery.*

Lawson asked what this means. Schneider said DNR staff has concluded this language would help the Program to build a Digital Elevation Model. Purcell asked who made the recommendation. Schneider said Doug Hallum with the DNR. Purcell asked if we are getting 6-inch resolution now. Farnsworth said yes. We use CIR photography in the summer, but Hallum is interested in exploring using the technique described above in the possible alternate language to build a type of vegetation model. Lawson asked if this will be a separate line item. Purcell said proposals will include language for this as possible alternatives, but the Program will decide if and when we want to fund different alternatives. Ament asked about the use of Nebraska coordinate systems. Farnsworth said that is a reference to GIS coordinates and the imagery will be taken in Nebraska so that is why Nebraska coordinates are used.

Purcell moved to approve the RFP as amended; Taddicken seconded. No further discussion. **RFP approved as amended.**

Schneider requested the GC appoint a Proposal Selection Panel. *Heaston moved to approve the panel; Ament seconded.* **Proposal Selection Panel approved:** Farnsworth (EDO), Brei (EDO), Hallum (Nebraska DNR), Besson (Wyoming), Walters (TNC).

IGERT Student Project – Whooping Crane Habitat Selection

C. Smith discussed the IGERT program, the potential student project, and Platte River Program involvement. Ament asked who the experts are that will be interviewed during the student project. Smith noted the list in the draft study plan and said recommendations for additional experts would be welcome. Kraus asked about the relationships between monitoring and the model that would be developed during the project. Smith said Program monitoring would continue and that data would continue to be fed into the model over time to increase its utility as a tool for Program use. Barels asked if we can look beyond Nebraska in developing the model. Smith said that will definitely discuss that with Trevor Hefley at the TAC meeting in October to explore possibilities. Berryman asked if we get the model when the project is over. Smith said yes. Freeman asked why there are expert interviews. Smith said several reasons: 1) understanding the data that will be included in the database; 2) exploring holes in the data that need to be addressed as the model is being built and as assumptions that go into the model; and 3) talking with the experts about the best way to build the model. Barels asked about peer review. Smith said the final model would be peer reviewed.

Lawson moved provide GC support for the concept of providing $25,000 in funding to an IGERT student project and externship; Barels seconded. **Motion of support approved.** Smith said the specific project and funding would be discussed at the October TAC meeting and would be presented later this year to the FC and GC as part of the FY 2012 budget approval process.

Platte River Caddisfly

C. Smith discussed the history of the Platte River caddisfly (PRCF) project. George provided presentation and update on the status of review of the PRCF as a potential listed species. Barels asked about the threats to the species. George said hydrology seems to be a big factor, as well as invasive species like phragmites. Czaplewski asked if the Service's Power Point could be shared with the GC. George said yes. Purcell asked what the Program's research project would help with and how the proposal got to the Program. Kenny said the intent of this is to give the Program a better understanding of our management actions on a species of concern. Our target species actions may have implications for a species of concern, so this research would help identify what those impacts might be to assist with development of future Land Management Plans and associated work plans. Freeman said one of Colorado's questions goes to the utility of this for the Program. We don't know a lot about the PRCF including abundance, distribution, and population dynamics, so what do the results of this research mean with these large knowledge gaps? There is a question about the utility of the results for informing our management actions. Kenny said that is true for even some of our target species and it is fundamental to much of what we are doing to take a strong inference and weight of evidence approach. If we undertake this study and learn tree clearing negatively impacts the PRCF, it does not answer the question conclusively but it points in a certain direction. Freeman said she remembers an earlier presentation where caddisflies were seen in a slough at one time then were not seen later on and there was no indication of what happened.

George discussed the listing process. Kolanz said both species evolved at the same time, so it seems like they should be able to co-exist. He is concerned that a small study could generate data that could be interpreted in a way that interrupts a $300 million program. It doesn't seem a like a small study will get us much. Kenny said the idea of "proceed with caution" includes: 1) PRCF is not very abundant on Program lands, but we could at least learn how to take trees off, not whether or not to take trees out at all; and 2) what we will know with certainty when we are done? – this requires us to use strong inference, and it seemed like this research project was an opportunity to learn something of importance to the Program

and was a good opportunity for very little money regarding management actions where we were taking trees off anyway and just need to take them off in a little different pattern. Farnsworth said we have two properties where we have target species habitat criteria – some are saying take all the trees off for target species, some are saying that could negatively impact other species. We are caught in a pinch-point, so we are hoping to collect some information to inform future policy decisions. Purcell asked who sent letters saying the Program might contribute to listed. Farnsworth said the Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Purcell said we should table this without prejudice until we see final information from the Service and its listing findings. That would give the Program something to build on. This seems to be ahead of the game at this point. Barels said we don't know a whole lot right now but you want a policy decision. It doesn't matter whether this species is listed or continues as a species of interest. The PRCF is on Program lands, so we need a more holistic approach. We should possible ask the ISAC how best to proceed. Schneider asked what the no action alternative is going forward. Purcell moved to table this proposal without prejudice until the Service's listing process is complete. George said he would like more discussion. There is a different issue and that is the EDO is given authority to take action up to $25,000 to provide important information for the Program. With Purcell's motion, that means the GC is taking away the ability of the EDO to take this kind of action. Ament seconded the motion.

Taddicken asked what happens with the tree clearing. Purcell said we would only stop the study until the listing process was complete. Schneider asked for a clarification for the letter in Exhibit C. Can the LMP move forward without the research project? Farnsworth said we developed the McCormick LMP saying trees would be cleared to the slough. The LMP was approved by the GC. After approval, the Service sent the Program a consultation letter that said tree removal impacts could cause problems for the PRCF. The EDO at that point said we need to figure this out, so we will include a buffer around the slough. Kenny said if the research project does not go forward, that means we will leave a buffer around the slough on the McCormick property.

Purcell said there will be a lot of opportunity for clearing on Program lands. LaBonde said by the time we get ready to issue contracts for clearing, won't we know the Service's decision? Kenny said we would know by the end of November. LaBonde said waiting won't really impact the progress of Program management actions. Sellers said in Exhibit F there is language that says you can remove trees when the PRCF is in their aquatic stage. She is assuming that language still stands, which seems to contradict the guidance given in the consultation letters that indicted there might be an impact. Farnsworth said Exhibit F is unpublished and this is the best information we could get from the Service and Game and Parks Commission.

Chamberlain said an open-ended motion to table can often be construed as being in effect forever. **Purcell amended the motion to table the research project without prejudice until we see the Service's finding in June 2012. Service (Program signatory) voted no; motion failed.** George asked the GC to discuss what it means to give the EDO authority up to $25,000 for small projects. Kenny said that language in the Procurement Policy also says that even for small amounts there is language in the Procurement Policy that says certain items of a particularly sensitive nature need to be brought back to the GC for review and approval. Schneider said he wants to be clear on what this means for the future of the project. Kenny said it likely means the student will move on to another project.

Barels said we are heading into a new policy direction with a species of concern. The GC is struggling with how to deal with that more than the details of a small research project. It seems like we should use the ISAC to get advice on how to incorporate this species of concern into the Program as a whole. Purcell said before we step off with a student research project, we need to take a more informed approach. George said he likes the idea of having the ISAC give advice on this issue.

George asked about Barels' idea to get advice from the ISAC. Kolanz wondered what that would look like. Barels said we would ask them for advice on how to proceed, what we need to look at, how management actions might affect a species, and what kind of design do we need to learn about potential implications.

Lawson moved to have the EDO, with input from the TAC, prepare a proposal to the ISAC to ask them for technical scientific advice related to the Platte River caddisfly as it pertains to Program management actions to be brought back to the GC no later than June 2012 for review and approval. George seconded. **Motion approved.**

Kenny asked what this means for tree removal. It is a policy decision to avoid tree removal for the benefit of whooping cranes if there are potential PRCF impacts. Lawson asked if we made a policy decision related to the buffer. Kenny said the buffer is not included in the official LMP and if we follow that plan all trees come out. Schneider said the concern is the consultation letters from the Service. *Kenny said he could exert day-to-day operational control to not prioritize that tree clearing until after PRCF issues are more fully vetted at the GC level.* **The GC agreed.**

J-2 Reregulating Reservoir

Kenny discussed the significance of the reservoir project, its role as a Water Action Plan project, and recent project history. Kenny discussed the resolution from September 6 from the CNPPID resolving to work with the PRRIP and the Nebraska DNR to develop an agreement for the project. Kenny asked the GC to develop and support a similar resolution. Ament asked if Kenny had a draft resolution. Kenny said Purcell was developing possible language.

Barels said it needs to be part of the discussions on how to deal with timing of the water and what it means for scoring the project against target flows. Kenny agreed and said that is already being discussed among the parties. George said there has been a lot of discussion about this at the Service's regional office and there is strong support for the project. This is exactly the kind of thing the Program was created for in terms of finding solutions.

Purcell moved: Whereas the J-2 project is the best alternative water supply available to the Program; whereas the Program has evaluated the feasibility of potential water supply projects and the J-2 project has been determined to be most feasible; and whereas the next step is to enter into formal negotiations to develop a sponsorship agreement for the project; the GC should form a committee to begin negotiations of the sponsorship agreement with CNPPID and Nebraska. Ament seconded. **Motion approved.**

The GC appointed the following sub-committee: Schneider (Nebraska), Purcell (Wyoming), Lawson (BOR), Berryman (Colorado), George (USFWS), Heaston (TNC), Kenny and Program staff.

Executive Session

Heaston moved to enter Executive Session to discuss land issues; Czaplewski seconded. **GC entered Executive Session at 4:15 p.m. Mountain time.**

Heaston moved to end Executive Session; Taddicken seconded. **GC ended Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. Mountain time.**

Program Land Tracts & Issues

Heaston moved and Strauch seconded:

- *To approve allowing the ED Office to seek appraisal of and begin negotiations for acquisition of Tracts 0832 and 0901;*
- *To approve allowing the ED Office to continue negotiations on Tracts 1101 and 1102;*
- *To cease further pursuit of Tracts 1105 and 1107;*
- *To approve allowing the ED Office to provide a 14-day offer in writing to Mr. Day to satisfy the boundary dispute at Tract 1020. If that offer is rejected or expires, the GC authorizes the ED Office to pursue construction of fence on the surveyed boundary lines on Tract 1020;*
- *To approve allowing the ED Office to enter into a contract at East 2011001 for excavation of material to construct off-channel sand and water habitat; and*
- *To approve allowing the ED Office to enter into a contract and complete acquisition of Tract 1019.*

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. Mountain time.

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Welcome and Introduction

Schneider called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with a roll call.

Program Committee Updates

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC last met on August 26. Most of the discussion items were covered by the GC during yesterday's session. The Public Access Policy will be implemented this upcoming hunting season and will be overseen by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The next LAC meeting will be October 26 in Kearney.

Water Advisory Committee (WAC)

Steinke provided an update on the latest WAC activities. Most of the WAC items were covered by the GC yesterday. Work is just beginning on the groundwater recharge pilot project. There was a presentation about the North Platte choke point and there appears to be an unending supply of sediment that is always going to be a problem with channel capacity in that area. High flows this year may have helped to some degree in terms of flood stage. Doug Hallum discussed Nebraska's Integrated Management Plan. Barels asked about the future of the choke point issue. Kenny said at this point we will wait to see what the National Weather Service does with flood stage and will re-evaluate capacity in the area is after the high flow recedes and regroup from there. EDO staff is looking at how important the 10-year period of the previous analysis is in terms of understanding the situation at the choke point – did that 10-year period bias our conclusions? The Program document says we will not violate NWS flood stage. So far, we have taken that to mean not exceeding the lowest level of NWS flood stage, but the

NWS has different levels of flood stage and we are exploring what it would mean to consider exceeding the lowest level but not the moderate or high level of flood stage (without causing damage). Miller asked what the highest level of flood stage is at the choke point. Kenny and Steinke were not sure what the exact number is. Miller said we have to be careful about how we portray the impacts of flooding because flooding of grass at Cody Park also means certain homes in the area are probably having impacts as well. Purcell asked how critical it is to our operation to get 3,000 cfs through the choke point. Kenny said we are trying to get 6,000-8,000 cfs to Grand Island, so if we can achieve that goal with less at North Platte that would work. It also depends on what kind of year we get out of the South Platte. The important thing is to be able to meet flow targets in the central Platte to test the FSM management strategy and if we can do that with less through the choke point that would be great. Sellers asked if the EDO had looked into the availability of aerial photos in the area to corroborate the NWS flood records. Kenny said we have topography and a detailed model in the reach so those are tools that allow us to investigate aspects of the area thoroughly. Looking at the choke point was precipitated by impacts to homes upstream of Highway 83. Thanks to efforts in the area, those homes were out of the path of high water this year or at least those areas stayed drier a lot longer than they would have. Sellers asked if there were homes flooded this June. Miller said yes; water was higher than it ever has been. Sellers asked if structures were flooded. Miller said yes and it was flowing water, not just high groundwater levels. Sellers asked if there was flooding in the last month or so. Miller was not sure. Sellers said the NWS estimation of flows shows there was 3,000-4,000 cfs during the last month.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Besson provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC last met on August 10. Topics of discussion included:

- Updates on all final 2010 monitoring and research activities.
- Direction on peer review for the rest of 2011
- Update on the tern and plover habitat availability analysis
- Discussion of the LiDAR/aerial photography RFP
- Discussion of proposed Platte River caddisfly research
- Update on the whooping crane telemetry project
- Update on the compilation of the whooping crane database
- Discussion of the proposed IGERT student project on whooping crane habitat selection
- Update on Program permits for sediment augmentation and other channel activities
- Results of the June wet meadows workshop
- Status of AMP documents and a hypothesis tracking tool

The next TAC meeting is October 5-6 in Kearney.

Finance Committee (FC)

Purcell provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC had three conference calls on July 8, July 21, and August 25. Topics includes the Public Access Policy implementation agreement, amendment to the groundwater recharge contract, groundwater recharge earthwork bid documents and water delivery agreement documents, CNPPID water service agreement, landowner agreement related to the groundwater recharge project, whooping crane monitoring contract, and the LiDAR/aerial photography RFP. The FC will next meet on November 9 to discuss the FY 2012 budget and will also meet on October 18.

Program Outreach Update

PRESENTATIONS

- Jerry Kenny presented to the Kearney Chapter of the Kiwanis about the Program and progress to date on June 22, 2011.
- Steve Smith presented on the Program and use of the hydraulic model for habitat availability analysis to the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association on June 23rd, 2011 in Ashland, Nebraska.
- Beorn Courtney, Mike Drain and Bill Hahn presented to the AWRA Summer Specialty Conference in Snowbird, Utah on June 29, 2011. Their topic was, "Enhancing Platte River Flow in Nebraska through Intentional Recharge".
- Chad Smith helped lead a workshop on adaptive management at the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) in Baltimore, Maryland on August 1, 2011.
- Chad Smith moderated a panel discussion on adaptive management and the science/policy link at NCER.
- Bruce Sackett presented on PRRIP: Real Estate Methods of a Willing Buyer Willing Seller Acquisition Program at NCER on August 4, 2011.
- Chad Smith presented on the Program as part of a day-long symposium on adaptive management at the American Fisheries Society meeting in Seattle on September 6, 2011.
- Jerry Kenny and Chad Smith provided a Program Status Report to an assembly of Environmental and Conservation Groups on September 8, 2011 at the Whooping Crane Trust near Alda, Nebraska.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS

- The Program is exhibiting at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 13, 14 and 15, 2011 in the Natural Resources Districts tent. Husker Harvest Days is recognized as the World's Largest Totally Irrigated Working Farm Show™ and features the most extensive state-of-the-art information and technology available for today's agricultural producers.
- Jerry Kenny will be presenting to the Upper Platte River Basin Meeting at the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference on September 27, 2011 in Kearney, Nebraska on Current Activities of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and the J2 Water Action Plan Project.
- The Program will be exhibiting at the 22nd Annual South Platte Forum in Longmont, Colorado on October 19-20, 2011. Suzanne Sellers of Colorado will be making a presentation on the Program and its benefits to Colorado.
- Chad Smith is presenting on Adaptive Water Management at the 2011 Joint Annual Convention of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association & Nebraska Water Resources Association in Kearney, Nebraska on November 21 & 22, 2011.
- Jerry Kenny will be presented to the Nebraska Section of Agricultural Engineers at their annual meeting in Grand Island, Nebraska on October 21.

EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS

- The Program sponsored a break at the Nebraska Grazing Conference August 9 & 10, 2011 in Kearney, Nebraska. Program informational material was also available at the conference.
- The Program participated in the new teacher welcome through the Kearney Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber assembles welcome bags for all new teachers in the Kearney school system from grade school to college. Eighty PRRIP promotional pens and flag sets were donated for the welcome bags.

- The Program is a sponsor for the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education 2011 Annual Conference in Nebraska City, Nebraska on September 22 – 24, 2011. NACEE educates teachers and natural resource professionals about environmental education programs, new environmental research and educational resources from across the state.

Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) Update

Kenny introduced Diane Wilson with the NCF. Wilson provided an update on NCF activities for the Program. Purcell said it was good to hear about the relationship that has been built between the NCF and the Program. Wilson said it is a great working relationship. Kenny agreed and said that also includes the communication with the BOR. Kenny said a new aspect is development of the ASAP system with BOR funding. Wilson said it is a new payment processing system for federal agencies and it is a "just in time" fund request system. Funds can be accessed overnight. Kenny said that replaces the system that had been in place the past year and a half that was a manual monthly estimation of probably expenditures. The "just in time" system seems to be working very well. Wilson agreed. Kenny and Wilson said this will eliminate the accrual of interest on the federal funds. Sellers said there is currently a joint contract between Colorado, Wyoming, the federal government, and the NCF. It sounds like the BOR contracting office may be uncomfortable extending that contract through a modification. We might need to have separate contracts with all entities with the NCF. Wilson said that will increase their lead time to get things in order before the current agreement expires next year.

PRRIP Budget Items

Kenny provided an update on the current status of the FY 2011 Program budget. Chamberlain asked about the 2010 budget and what happens to money that is not spent. Kenny said Colorado funds sit in the NCF fund; Wyoming funds sit in a Wyoming fund; federal government funds are set aside and are still available. Purcell said Wyoming owes 3.21% of the total budget and makes quarterly payments each year based on the annual budget less any carryover in its NCF account from the previous year. Chamberlain said he just wondered what happens to money that are not expended. Kenny said from the perspective of the Program, if money is not obligated or spent that money goes away and every year is a new year. Kenny said unliquidated obligations carry over to the new year. Chamberlain asked why the 2011 budget shows an increase over the 2010 budget. Kenny said because of more work and more projects. Chamberlain asked if there is any documentation about how much carryover money there is in the various state and federal accounts. Kenny said Wyoming and BOR are keeping track of that; only Colorado is visible because that money is in the NCF account.

Kenny discussed the preliminary draft of the FY 2012 budget. Kolanz asked if the individual permit for sediment augmentation and/or channel actions at Elm Creek would serve as a model for a regional general permit. Kenny said that is the hope. Purcell asked if the new federal process has streamlined accessing federal funds and suggests if we should less conservative up front with budgeting. Kenny said the ASAP system does help with day-to-day operations, and also will help to access the federal funds behind the BOR wall that have accumulated over time. In some ways, the challenges are dealing with perceptions but it is also dealing with the mechanics. Chamberlain asked if there are limitations to how much the budget can increase each year, and what the limitation is down the road. Kenny said the limitation is $187 million during the First Increment. There is nothing codified that says a certain amount each year. The limitations are good sense and the practicality of projects. Purcell asked about new money. Kenny said that is the proposed budget for the next year. Purcell said the concern is the accumulated federal funds and the expenditure history of the Program. If Kenny and Lawson can work out how to deal with the accumulated funds, that is the main issue that needs to be sorted out. Chamberlain asked if the federal

contribution is reduced, would the state contributions increase. Kenny said no, the contribution limits are fixed. Purcell said get the full federal funding strategy worked out with Lawson before coming to the FC with the next version of the 2012 budget.

Public Comment

Schneider asked for public comment. None offered.

Future Meetings & Closing Business

Upcoming GC meetings:

- December 6-7, 2011 in Denver, CO at the Warwick Hotel in downtown Denver

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. Mountain time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 2011 GC meeting

1) Approved June 2011 GC minutes.
2) Approved LiDAR/aerial photography RFP as amended.
3) Appointed a Proposal Selection Panel for the LiDAR/aerial photography RFP: Farnsworth (EDO), Brei (EDO), Hallum (Nebraska DNR), Besson (Wyoming), Walters (TNC).
4) Approved motion of support for Program funding of $25,000 for an IGERT student project at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
5) Directed the EDO, with input from the TAC, to prepare a proposal to the ISAC to ask them for technical scientific advice related to the Platte River caddisfly as it pertains to Program management actions to be brought back to the GC no later than June 2012 for review and approval.
6) Directed the EDO to not prioritize tree clearing near the sloughs at the McCormick and Binfield properties until after PRCF issues are more fully vetted at the GC level.
7) So moved: Whereas the J-2 project is the best alternative water supply available to the Program; whereas the Program has evaluated the feasibility of potential water supply projects and the J-2 project has been determined to be most feasible; and whereas the next step is to enter into formal negotiations to develop a sponsorship agreement for the project; the GC should form a committee to begin negotiations of the sponsorship agreement with CNPPID and Nebraska.
8) Appointed a sub-committee to develop an agreement for the J-2 project: Schneider (Nebraska), Purcell (Wyoming), Lawson (BOR), Berryman (Colorado), George (USFWS), Heaston (TNC), Kenny and Program staff.
9) Approved:
    - Allowing the ED Office to seek appraisal of and begin negotiations for acquisition of Tracts 0832 and 0901;
    - Allowing the ED Office to continue negotiations on Tracts 1101 and 1102;
    - Ceasing further pursuit of Tracts 1105 and 1107;
    - Allowing the ED Office to provide a 14-day offer in writing to Mr. Day to satisfy the boundary dispute at Tract 1020. If that offer is rejected or expires, the GC authorizes the ED Office to pursue construction of fence on the surveyed boundary lines on Tract 1020;
    - Allowing the ED Office to enter into a contract at East 2011001 for excavation of material to construct off-channel sand and water habitat; and
    - Allowing the ED Office to enter into a contract and complete acquisition of Tract 1019.