PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Executive Director's Office Conference Room – Kearney, NE
October 2, 2012

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming
Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming State Engineer's Office (via phone)

State of Colorado
Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Kevin Urie – Alternate, Denver Water

State of Nebraska
None

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)
None

Power Districts
John Shadle – Member (Vice-chair), Nebraska Public Power District

Environmental Entities
John Heaston – Member, The Nature Conservancy

Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)
Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD Staff

Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD)
None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD
John Thorburn – Member, TBNRD Staff
Jim Bendfeldt – Alternate, CPNRD Board

Executive Director's Office (EDO)
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Tim Tunnell

Other Participants
Brice Krohn, The Crane Trust

Welcome and Administrative

Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications. No modifications requested.

Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the July 25, 2012 meeting. Rabbe contributed edits to the minutes posted online. Sackett asked for clarification from the LAC whether edits were part of the LAC and should be included as modified. Comments related to Program treatment of Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in land management were addressed. Rabbe said the intent is to be clear that during the MBTA dates, Program should avoid mechanical vegetation removal or perform surveys and document absence of nesting birds. Rabbe will clarify USFWS recommendations regarding MBTA and the Program and the LAC will discuss them at a later date. Sackett also addressed edits related to treatment of existing agreements (ie. NAWCA, USFWS WEA, DU, etc) inherited with Program land purchases. Sackett cautioned against blanket statements (as were presented in the edits to the minutes) forbidding the Program from violating these prior agreements, as situations may arise where keeping them as written is not in the Program's best interest. Modifications to the minutes were agreed upon by the LAC and the Chair asked for approval.

Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2012 LAC meeting, as modified. The motion was seconded by Sellers and passed unanimously.

GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information

GC Update

Czaplewski updated the LAC on recent GC activities. The GC met September 11 & 12, 2012 in Kearney, NE.

The GC learned that Nebraskaland Magazine published an article giving good publicity to the Program and NGPC's Platte River Recreation Access Program, which allows limited public recreational use of Program properties. The GC began preliminary 2013 budget talks, discussing the process and the schedule for approval. The USFWS presented the findings on the Platte River Caddisfly, which was found Not Warranted for listing as threatened or endangered. Ann Castle, Dept. of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science gave an presentation to the GC, praising the Program and discussing the support of the DOI.

The GC gave final approval for acquisition of tracts 1110 and 1203.

The next GC meeting is December 4 & 5, 2012 in Denver, CO.

Other Committee Coordination

Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC and ISAC activities. The TAC is reaching consensus on the Executive Summary document, which describes science findings of the Program in its first five years. It will be presented to the ISAC on October 9 & 10. The ISAC

will also discuss Program target flows. The wet meadow working group met to discuss vegetation monitoring and when and where the Program should monitor.

Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC is focusing on analysis of data collected during the previous groundwater recharge pilot, and preparing for the second iteration of recharge set for this winter. This iteration will focus only recharge through a longer reach of canal, as opposed to canal and pit recharge as was performed last year. The WAC is also working to reach agreement on computational procedures associated with water leasing, where surface water is to be leased but the land continues to be irrigated through groundwater.

Present Work in Progress

Tunnell walked the LAC through work completed, in progress, and upcoming. Details of activities were distributed to the LAC in advance.

Land Offering Reviews

LaBonde moved to go into executive session with LAC members, alternates, and technical staff to review details of land offerings. The motion was seconded by Rabbe. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 3:05 p.m.

Bendfeldt moved to come out of executive session. LaBonde seconded and the motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 3:57 p.m.

LaBonde moved to accept the evaluation team recommendation for tract 1220 as complex land and to recommend the GC pursue appraisal and negotiations. Motion seconded by Bendfeldt and passed unanimously.

Shadle moved to table the exchanges on tract 1212 and 1216 until details of conservation easements can be reviewed. Motion seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.

Bendfeldt moved to recommend that the GC approve the negotiation and sale of tract 1221 to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and to table tracts 1205 and 1223. Motion seconded by Rabbe and passed unanimously.

Platte River Caddisfly Review

Rabbe informed the LAC of the USFWS's finding on the Platte River Caddisfly of Not Warranted for Listing as Threatened or Endangered. As it relates to the Program, target species remain the priority but reducing impacts to the PRCF, where it makes sense, should be kept in mind as the PRCF is still a species of concern.

Review Wet Meadow Discussions

Farnsworth discussed recent conversations within the wet meadow working group on vegetation management in grasslands and assessment of Program impacts to grasslands. The EDO has developed objective statements to address monitoring of grasslands on Program lands. First, the Program will inventory changes in natural vegetation communities. They will keep the

community definitions fairly general, and typically describe approximately five of the most abundant species in the community. The Program will perform this inventory in 2013 and two more times through the first increment. Second, the Program will identify noxious and invasive vegetation on Program properties. These objective statements will be vetted through the WMWG, and then the EDO will seek cost estimates for performing this monitoring to be included in the 2013 budget. Farnsworth noted that this monitoring will allow the Program to track changes, but not necessarily assign this change to a particular management action. This type of connection would require a more intensive research and monitoring effort.

Election of Officers

Shadle moved, Bendfeldt seconded, to nominate Mark Czaplewski as LAC Chair. Sellers moved, Shadle seconded, to cease nominations and pass a unanimous vote to retain Mark Czaplewski as LAC Chair. Motion passed.

Thorburn moved, LaBonde seconded, to nominate John Shadle as LAC Vice-Chair. Sellers moved, LaBonde seconded, to cease nominations and pass a unanimous vote to retain John Shadle as LAC Vice-Chair. Motion Passed.

Public Forum

Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

Other Business

The next meeting of the LAC will be held via conference call at 11 a.m. central time on November 5, 2012 in Kearney, NE.

A LAC meeting was also scheduled for January 23, 2013 at 9 a.m. in Kearney, NE.

Closing Business

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 4:15 p.m.