



# PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

## Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes

October 24, 2013

### Meeting Attendees

#### Finance Committee (FC)

##### **State of Wyoming**

Andrea O'Dell – Alternate

##### **State of Colorado**

Suzanne Sellers – Member

##### **State of Nebraska**

Jesse Bradley – Member

#### **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Gary Campbell – Member

Brock Merrill

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

Mike George – Member

#### **Environmental Entities**

Marian Langan – Alternate

#### **Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

#### **Downstream Water Users**

Don Kraus – Member

#### Welcome and Administrative

FC Chair Campbell officially called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Central time. The group proceeded with introductions.

*George moved to approve the September 11, 2013 FC minutes; Kraus seconded. Minutes approved.*

#### PRRIP FY2014 Budget and Work Plan

Kenny discussed the latest draft of the FY14 work plan and budget. He asked for insight, direction, and other related input from the FC – no decisions on the work plan and budget today. Campbell said there may be an opportunity for substantial savings in the NCF fees line item for 2014. Merrill said he has been talking with Diane Wilson at the NCF about this. Kenny said Merrill and Wilson will help him develop an update estimate for this line item.

Campbell asked what the target acreage is for the palustrine acres. Kenny said we are using 240 acres because we often have to buy more than what we actually need. Campbell said for the GC meeting in

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November the ED Office needs to come with a table clearly explaining what acres still need to be acquired and how many acres of each type. Kenny agreed.

Campbell asked about the discrepancy between the budget spreadsheet number for PD-18 and what is reflected in the work plan for that line item. Kenny said the work plan table needs to be updated to reflect the estimate of \$80,000 for FY14. Campbell said we have not been spending the full \$10,000 on the gages, so he asked Kenny to re-assess whether we really need to estimate that each gage is \$10,000 or if it is something less. Kenny said it should be roughly \$40,000 each year, but he will double-check. Campbell asked about the extent of peer review and whether the 8 documents listed in the work plan are really the documents that will be reviewed. Smith gave a summary of recent discussions within the Program and with the ISAC regarding peer review and publication. The peer review line item and the PD-21 line item (publication) will be the subject of discussion at a TAC meeting on October 30 and at the GC meeting in November to provide clearer guidance on what documents the Program wants to peer review and/or publish.

Kraus asked about PD-13 and what recommendation might be coming regarding future augmentation. Smith said final reporting from the pilot study is nearly complete, but the basic summation is that for the foreseeable future, the recommendation will be to

Kraus asked about the status of the federal budget and funding. Campbell said his gut feeling is that recent events point toward the latest federal budget piece of the Program's overall budget being on the high side. That is going to make the GC discussion in November very important, and we should be thinking about what is most important to fund in FY14.

#### **Closing Business**

The next FC meeting will tentatively be at the conclusion of the November 20 GC meeting in Denver, if necessary.

Kenny asked if there would be any opportunity at the end of the year to "sweep" up unused federal monies. Campbell said it was not likely, but there is always something that might pop up.

**FC meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m. Central time.**

#### **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from October 24, 2013 FC meeting**

- 1) Approved the September 11, 2013 FC minutes.



# PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

## Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes

September 11, 2013

### Meeting Attendees

#### Finance Committee (FC)

##### **State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Alternate

##### **State of Colorado**

Suzanne Sellers – Member

##### **State of Nebraska**

Jesse Bradley – Member

#### **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Gary Campbell – Member

Brock Merrill

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

Mike George – Member

#### **Environmental Entities**

Marian Langan – Alternate

#### **Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

Kevin Urie – Alternate

#### **Downstream Water Users**

Don Kraus – Member

Brian Barels

#### Welcome and Administrative

FC Chair Campbell officially called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. Central time. The group proceeded with introductions.

*LaBonde moved to approve the August 21, 2013 FC minutes; Berryman seconded. Minutes approved.*

#### North Platte Choke Point

Brei discussed the bid package for work to be done at the North Platte choke point. Kenny said we are asking for approval of the bid package to get the work done before the end of the year. Brei said construction would start the last week of October. Kenny said the contract is part of the bid package so upon letting of the bid, we will not be coming back to the FC for any further approvals. We plan to enter into a contract with TC Construction of North Platte to provide local construction oversight for less than \$10,000. Kraus asked if this bid package says the Program is the engineer. Brei said yes. Kraus said on

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Page 3 of 6 there is a reference to NPPD that should be fixed. Brei said the change would be made in the final version. LaBonde asked if all of the work is taking place on public right of way. Kenny said the county will take care of all permission issues. Brei said all but a very small portion is in the county right of way.

*Berryman moved to approve the bid package; Kraus seconded. Bid package approved.*

#### **Phelps Canal Recharge**

Kenny discussed the Phelps Canal recharge water service agreement. This is identical to previous agreements as part of the pilot demonstration. This is an additional one-year agreement. The potential cost to the Program is \$25/acre-foot and is based on excess flow. The Program will only pay for what is actually diverted. Urie asked what the potential maximum could be. Kenny and Kraus said the max is usually 15,000 acre-feet and it will be split so the Program would only get 7,500 acre-feet. Kenny said CNPPID has already filed an application for a temporary permit.

*LaBonde moved to approve the water service agreement; Bradley seconded. Water service agreement approved.*

#### **Closing Business**

The next FC meeting is from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central time on October 24, 2013.

**FC meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. Central time.**

#### **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 11, 2013 FC meeting**

- 1) Approved the August 21, 2013 FC minutes.
- 2) Approved the North Platte choke point bid package.
- 3) Approved the Phelps Canal recharge water service agreement.