PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes
November 4, 2014

Meeting Attendees

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming
Harry LaBonde – Member

State of Colorado
Suzanne Sellers – Member

State of Nebraska
Jim Schneider – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Brock Merrill – proxy for GC Chair Campbell

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)
None

Environmental Entities
None

Colorado Water Users
Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users
Don Kraus – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO)
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)
Jason Farnsworth
Bruce Sackett
Sira Sartori
Chad Smith

Welcome and Administrative

Merrill (proxy for FC Chair Campbell) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Central time. The group proceeded with introductions.

LaBonde moved to approve the August 18, 2014 FC minutes; Schneider seconded. **Minutes approved.**

PRRIP FY15 Draft Budget and Work Plan

Kenny discussed the latest version of the draft FY15 budget and work plan. Merrill said the provisional rate used in GFC-1 is tough to use since everything is based on J-2 expenditures. He recommended Kenny talk to Diane Wilson at the NCF to see if they could use a number based on a more normal budget of $9-$10 million. Kenny agreed and said he would change numbers accordingly for the GC meeting next week if necessary. Sellers asked who the contractor is currently doing the permitting for work at the North Platte choke point.

Kenny said EA. Kraus asked about the scope of the choke point projects and Kevin with CNPPID would like to see is more clearing and vegetation removal. Kenny said that is part of the estimate in the FY15 budget. That is not subject to permitting so that work can be completed as soon as possible in 2015. Kraus said on Page 35 of the work plan he wanted to better understand the projection and summary of the budget. Kenny clarified how the $2.5 million cap for CNPPID is reflected in the Page 35 table and Kraus agreed with the explanation. Kraus said in principle regarding NPNRD water leasing, there are still discussions with the state regarding returning to 1997 levels or better and the competition with producers that exist when trying to restore inflows. This is part of the Integrated Management Planning process.

Kraus said it looks like an aggressive program for next year. In terms of follow up from the AMP Reporting Session, does this draft FY15 budget include any funding for a target flow process? Smith said the ISAC will be recommending to the GC in December that the Program undertake a different process than what they recommended in 2012 and thus there is not a need at this time to build any money into the budget for 2015 to work on target flow-related issues.

Closing Business

Kenny said the need for the next FC meeting would likely not be until January 2015. The FC agreed to schedule a January call when everyone is together in Denver on December 12 for the GC Special Session.

Sellers asked if the work plan and budget would be revised before going to the GC tomorrow. Kenny said yes.

FC meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 4, 2014 FC meeting

1) Approved the August 18, 2014 FC minutes.
2) Agreed to set next FC meeting for January 2015 during GC meeting in Denver on November 12, 2014.