PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Executive Director's Office – Kearney, NE
June 1, 2011

Attendees

Scott Woodman, Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District, landowner
Mark Czaplewski, Vice Chair, Central Platte Natural Resources District
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director
Bruce Sackett - ED Office
Justin Brei - ED Office
Jason Farnsworth - ED Office
Tim Tunnell - ED Office
Kirk Schroeder - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Matt Rabbe – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Matt Steffl – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Ted LaGrange – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Harry LaBonde - State of Wyoming, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Jennifer Schellpeper – State of Nebraska, Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources
John Shadle – Nebraska Public Power District
Brock Merrill - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (by phone)
Suzanne Sellers – State of Colorado, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Rich Walters – The Nature Conservancy
Jonas Davis – Ducks Unlimited
Mark Morten – The Crane Trust

Welcome and Administrative

Chairman Woodman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Woodman asked for agenda modifications. None were provided.

LaBonde made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2011 LAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Czaplewski and passed unanimously.

GC Meeting Update

The Governance Committee has not met since the last LAC meeting. The GC meets next on June 14 & 15, 2011 in Cheyenne, WY.

Other Committee Coordination Information

Farnsworth gave a brief update on recent TAC activities. The TAC met last on May 11. The TAC is working with the ED office to rebid several monitoring contracts that expire this year.

These monitoring contracts will be rebid as 4-year contracts. The ED office and members from the TAC and LAC are meeting on June 20 & 21 in Kearney to discuss grassland/wet meadow restoration targets.

Kenny gave an update on recent WAC activities. The WAC met last on April 26 in Ogallala, NE. Feasibility studies are ongoing for the J-2 Reregulating Reservoir alternative and have concluded for the Elm Creek Reservoir alternative. Elm Creek Reservoir has significant issues and is not likely to advance further at this point. J-2 Reregulating Reservoir continues to look promising. Groundwater recharge pilot projects and feasibility investigations are also ongoing. Sackett is handling all landowner contacts for those projects and guiding interactions in adherence with the Program's Good Neighbor Policy.

Executive Session

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 LaGrange. The motion carried and the committee entered executive session at 9:10 a.m.

Czaplewski moved to come out of executive session. LaBonde seconded and the motion carried. The committee came out of executive session at 10:38 a.m.

Discussion of Land Offerings at 1103 and 1104

Discussion of details of these offerings was held in executive session. Sackett said guidance received in executive session is that no further pursuit of 1103 is required. For 1104, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service indicated that, in their opinion, it is already adequately protected and if purchased it would not count towards the Program's 10,000 acre First Increment milestone. As such, the LAC felt that it should be watched, but not pursued any further at this time.

Discussion of Conservation Easement at 2010004

Sackett informed the LAC he had recently been contacted by hunters who have previously had access to hunt on 2010004. Sackett relayed that, at least in this first year, the property would not be hunted as the Program continues to construct its policy on public access. In addition, the easement currently held by The Crane Trust does not allow hunting other than by the owner (and subject to restrictions within the easement). In the past, two hunters have built two large deer hunting structures that they would like to remove. Sackett said that these towers were bought with the property and are property of the Program. Sackett asked the LAC if they had any issues allowing that hunter to remove these structures. The LAC had no problem with that, as the Program would likely end up paying to remove them in the future.

Public Access Contract

The LAC was provided with a copy of the current draft contract with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for implementation of the Program's public access policy on Program lands. Kenny said that for the budgeted amount, one NGPC staff member would be positioned in Kearney and assigned to enforcement of the policy on Program lands. A major advantage of policy administration by NGPC is that they are able to provide the backing of law enforcement. Kenny

said that with the LAC's support, he will bring this agreement to the GC and FC for approval. Steffl said that position Kenny described is currently advertised and the Kearney office of NGPC, including law enforcement, are prepared to enact this agreement. Schellpeper gave Kenny a few suggested revisions. Kenny also said the ED office had some suggested revisions for NGPC. Kenny thanked the LAC for their input. The policy will continue to be refined and brought to the GC.

Present Work in Progress

Tunnell distributed a document to the LAC describing work completed, planned, and in progress on Program properties and discussed the activities tract by tract.

Discuss 1020 Boundary Issue

Sackett briefed the LAC on the current status of the boundary issue with tract 1020, a neighbor to Program property 2009008. The EDO has completed a survey and drafted documents outlining a proposed three way transfer that should resolve the issue. Broadfoot Sand & Gravel (prior owner of 2009008) will give the Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation a parcel of land between 2009008 and Highway 10, and the owner of tract 1020 will receive the PRRIF land located inside of his existing fence.

Sellers moved to recommend that the GC proceed with the proposed trade solution at Program property 2009008 and tract 1020. Motion seconded by LaBonde and passed unanimously.

Land Exchange at 2009008

Sackett provided some details on NGPC negotiations in executive session. Sackett informed the LAC that at this point, these negotiations do not hold much promise and the Program is beginning to form other options for disposal of the portions of 2009008 identified as excess. This is primarily the eastern pivot-irrigated crop field. The Program will keep the gravity-irrigated crop field directly adjacent to the actively mined sand pit as this mining operation will continue eastward into this field. There are also irrigated acres associated with the parcel to be disposed of, and ED staff will look into the value of retiring the water right and report back on both recommended actions of disposition of land and water rights at a future meeting.

Public Forum/Next Meeting

Chairman Woodman asked for public comments, none were offered.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Executive Director's Office on Friday, August 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. central time.

Closing Business

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Woodman at 12:20 p.m.