PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes
April 19, 2013

Meeting Attendees

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming
Andrea Odell – proxy for Harry LaBonde (Member)

State of Colorado
Suzanne Sellers – Member

State of Nebraska
Jim Schneider – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Gary Campbell – Member
Brock Merrill

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)
Mike George – Member

Environmental Entities
No participants

Colorado Water Users
Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users
Don Kraus – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO)
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)
Chad Smith
Larry Schulz – EDO Consultant

Welcome and Administrative

FC Chair Campbell officially called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Central time. The group proceeded with introductions. No agenda modifications offered.

Schneider moved to approve the February 27, 2013 FC minutes; Kraus seconded. **Minutes approved.**

Grassland Vegetation Monitoring

Smith discussed the draft contract for PRRIP grassland vegetation monitoring.

Campbell moved to approve the grassland vegetation monitoring contract; Odell seconded. **Contract approved.**

PRRIP Indexing

Merrill discussed recent documents related to indexing discussions. Merrill noted he needed to update total expenditures on the spreadsheet, but the primary purpose of the documents is to show the FC the outcome of the potential new indexing procedures. These new procedures reflect a total ceiling of around

$200 million. Odell asked if the land index was based on pricing. Merrill said it is based on DOI construction cost trends (what land is selling for in each state, trends, etc.). Kenny said the index is a composite of several land types and it is what was agreed to in the Program. The 26% increase may not fully reflect the impact of rising ag land prices but it is reflective of general jumps in land prices. Merrill said DOI will eventually catch up with the trend. Odell asked if the Program has nearly reached its 10,000 acre goal. Kenny said yes. Odell said she and Harry LaBonde were talking about what this means for operations and maintenance costs. Merrill said the indexing is only tied to land acquisition, while O&M are caught up in another category. Campbell said 10,000 acres is a floor that has to be met for the Biological Opinion, but we don't have to buy more property after that if we have other priority issues like the water goal. The number plus the indexing is the ceiling for the Program.

Campbell said the DOI Solicitor's office gave the go-ahead on moving forward with this. Sellers asked if there needs to be a motion for the GC. Merrill said if he remembers correctly, a process was presented to the FC and the FC made a motion recommending the GC adopt this process and then it moved on to the GC for approval. Merrill said the numbers need to be updated before going on to the GC. Kenny said there would be another FC meeting just a couple weeks before the June GC. Merrill proposed that he would correct the numbers in the spreadsheet and then present it to the FC at the next meeting for a motion that could go to the GC. Sellers thanked the BOR for taking the time to consider this change. Sellers said she had written language last year for a motion that she would send to Campbell to clean up and bring it back to the FC for discussion at the next meeting.

Closing Business

The next FC meeting is from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Central time on June 3, 2013.

FC meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from April 19, 2013 FC meeting

1) Approved the February 27, 2013 FC minutes.
2) Approved the grassland vegetation monitoring contract.