



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
 May 28, 2015

Meeting Attendees

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Chair

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member

State of Nebraska

Jim Schneider – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Brock Merrill – Member

Chris Beardsley – Member

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Eliza Hines – Member

Environmental Entities

Marian Langan – Member

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member

Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users

None

Welcome and Administrative

Kenny listed everyone on the call. FC Chair LaBonde called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Central time.

*Berryman moved to approve the March 17, 2015 FC minutes; Schneider seconded. **Minutes approved.***

OCSW Habitat Restoration

Farnsworth discussed plans for rehabilitating additional tern and plover off-channel nesting habitat at the Broadfoot Newark sandpit through an extension of an existing agreement with Broadfoot Sand & Gravel at this location (MSHA training and the mine site license are key concerns). LaBonde asked if the intent is to create a narrow peninsula for nesting to help manage predators. Farnsworth said yes and that the mined material would be used to create the habitat so the operator will not be marketing the material.

*Schneider moved to approve the agreement extension; Langan seconded. **Agreement extension approved.***



Habitat Complexes Fall Disking

Farnsworth discussed plans for disking channel vegetation in the fall. The scope of the disking may change due to the current high water situation in the central Platte River but the EDO would like to get a contractor in place to do disking if it is still necessary.

Berryman moved to approve the RFQ; Beardsley seconded. Fall disking RFQ approved.

Johns Property Ditch Checks Reconstruction

Farnsworth discussed plans for reconstructing ditch checks at the Johns Property to keep them from blowing out during high flows and also from serving as groundwater drains. The intent is to let the big package and see what kind of bids come in to decide on next steps. This project will also be affected by the current high water in the central Platte. LaBonde asked if the existing dikes that blew out were fully vegetated when they blew out during high flows. Farnsworth said they were not vegetated and were mostly covered with sand and small gravel. LaBonde asked if a geocell can withstand high flows. Farnsworth said yes.

Langan moved to approve the bid package; Schneider seconded. Bid package approved.

Tract 2015001 Farm House Removal

Farnsworth discussed the status of the existing home on the Speidell tract now owned by the Program. There is no use for the house so the EDO is looking for someone to pay the Program to move the house off the property. This is the same procedure used to move the house off the Dyer property. If there is no interest, the house will have to be demolished, burned, and buried on site. Urie asked if there are multiple bids if the Program will take the highest bid. Farnsworth said yes. Urie asked if there is any indication this house might be of interest to someone. Farnsworth said he was not sure. Kenny said there have been a couple inquiries but he is not sure how serious they are.

Urie moved to approve the bid package; Schneider seconded. Bid package approved.

Hydroclimatic Indices Project

Kenny discussed the continued work of Dewberry investigating the potential use of hydroclimatic indices as a means of forecasting streamflow on the Platte. This continues to be a joint project with the CWCB. Kenny noted a couple of minor edits that need to be made to the agreement to fix page numbers and references. LaBonde asked about the completion date of this project. Kenny said roughly January 2016 to match typical forecasting dates. Berryman asked if the EDO will be able to use this tool once it is done. Kenny said yes.

Langan moved to approve the agreement; Urie seconded. Agreement approved.

Closing Business

Beardsley discussed indexing and a proposal from the State of Colorado that has been shared with Reclamation but not the rest of the Program and asked Sellers if she would share that with the rest of the FC in advance of the next call. Sellers agreed.

Labonde asked what river flows were doing near Kearney under this high water. Kenny said in the range of 10,000-11,000 cfs for about a week and a half. There is no significant flooding taking place, the water is staying largely within the historical high banks. Berryman asked about any problems at North Platte. Kenny said because all the water is coming through the South Platte there are no problems. LaBonde asked about impacts on nesting for terns and plovers. Kenny said if flows recede there could be in-channel nesting



potential but we still have to move the snowmelt through so high flows through June into July are a possibility. That would eliminate most nesting opportunity on the channel for the year. Schneider said the Nebraska DNR has content on its Facebook page showing images of the high flows. Labonde and Merrill said Pathfinder has filled, Glendo is into the flood pool, and the Wyoming account is filled. LaBonde said there will likely be a “double allocation” of water from the Wyoming Municipal Lease Account.

The next FC meeting is set for 10:00 a.m. to noon Central time on Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

FC meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from May 28, 2015 FC meeting

- 1) Approved March 17, 2015 FC minutes.
- 2) Approved extension of Broadfoot Sand & Gravel agreement.
- 3) Approved fall disking RFQ.
- 4) Approved Johns property bid package.
- 5) Approved farm house removal bid package.
- 6) Approved Dewberry agreement.
- 7) Sellers agreed to share the latest indexing proposal from Colorado with the rest of the FC before the next scheduled FC meeting.