



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Kearney, NE
August 12, 2015

Meeting Participants

1	<u>Land Advisory Committee (LAC)</u>	41	<u>Executive Director's Office (EDO)</u>
2	State of Wyoming	42	Jerry Kenny
3	Harry LaBonde – Member, Wyoming Water	43	Bruce Sackett
4	Development Office (by Phone)	44	Justin Brei
5		45	Jason Farnsworth
6	State of Colorado	46	Tim Tunnell
7	Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water	47	Dave Baasch
8	Conservation Board (by Phone)	48	Patrick Farrell
9		49	
10	State of Nebraska	50	
11	Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game &	51	<u>Other Participants</u>
12	Parks Commission (by Phone)	52	Tim Smith, The Crane Trust
13			
14	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)		
15	Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS		
16			
17	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)		
18	Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR		
19			
20	Power Districts		
21	John Shadle – Member, Nebraska Public Power		
22	District		
23	Jim Jenniges – Alternate, Nebraska Public Power		
24	District		
25			
26	Environmental Entities		
27	Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe		
28	Sanctuary		
29			
30	Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural		
31	Resources District (CPNRD)		
32	Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD		
33			
34	Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural		
35	Resources District (TBNRD)		
36	Dave Raffety – Alternate, TBNRD Landowner		
37			
38	Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD		
39	None		
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**Welcome and Administrative**

Chairman Czaplewski called the meeting to order at 9:30 am Central Time and the group proceeded with introductions.

Czaplewski asked for agenda modifications, none were requested.

Czaplewski asked for the LAC's recommendation on the minutes of the May 27, 2015 meeting.

Shadle made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2015 LAC meeting. The motion was seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.

GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information*GC Update*

Czaplewski updated the LAC on GC activities. The GC last met on June 9-10, 2015 in Cheyenne, WY. The GC discussed the 2014 State of the Platte Report, which reports progress on adaptive management hypotheses and things the Program has learned so far. The GC approved the new whooping crane monitoring protocol for the upcoming season. The USFWS gave a report on the annual PRRIP-related water consultations. The ED Office gave a presentation to the GC on the ice jam which occurred at the Shoemaker Island complex this winter. The GC approved the Public Access Policy and NGPC contract amendment for 2015. The GC meets next on September 8 & 9, 2015 in Kearney, NE.

Other Committee Coordination

Farnsworth updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC and ISAC met jointly in July in Kearney, NE. The main topic of discussion at this meeting was review and discussion of the State of the Platte Report. They also discussed how to proceed with geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring into the future. Remote sensing was discussed as a viable alternative to the current on-the-ground transect methodology.

Kenny updated the LAC on recent WAC activities. The WAC met last on August 11 in Ogallala, NE. The WAC discussed the process for determining "times of excess" which is when water would be available in excess of target flows and able to be captured for later use. The WAC also discussed refining the process for determination of hydrologic condition.

Sackett updated the LAC on recently completed land transactions. PRRIP currently has 12,114.45 acres under control or contracted, which includes land in 8 of the 12 associated habitat bridge segments.

Work Plans

Farnsworth discussed how the current land plan process works and how it might change into the future. PRRIP is in the middle of a lot of habitat decisions at the TAC and GC level that have impacts on how the land is managed. The LAC walked through each tract of land and discussed the key management actions and concepts going forward.

DeBoer:

Plan is to excavate silt and organic matter from the low portion of the wetland to increase ponded area. At this time, pumping is not part of the plan but will be reconsidered annually.

Liehs:

Wetland project completed. TAC and AMWG will discuss how to implement the flooded cornfield concept into the wetland operations.

Plum Creek Complex:

Sediment augmentation activities are likely to continue. Instead of pumping as in past years, augmentation will likely occur via mechanical means (channel widening and pushing in islands). The question of whether FSM can create habitat has largely been answered, and the GC is in the process of deciding whether to continue to build islands in the channel and, if so, how much to build.

Cottonwood Ranch Complex:

A lot of work has already been completed over the years at this property. It is very close in its current condition to currently identified habitat needs. There may be potential for nesting islands, but primarily the habitat on this tract will be maintained as-is.

Elm Creek Complex:

As with Cottonwood Ranch, much of the major restoration work has already been completed. Some potential for nesting island construction may exist, but mostly maintenance going forward.

Pawnee Complex:

This complex is the newest addition, and no management has taken place. The near future will consist mostly of acquiring land through purchases, agreements, and easements to facilitate future management. Over the next three years, this complex will be a focus for major restoration activities such as channel widening and tree clearing.

Fort Kearny Complex:

This complex is also just coming together and will be a focus over the next five years. There will be challenges here working with and around neighboring landowners, but there is a fair amount of work to be done.

Shoemaker Island Complex:

There are no major restoration activities planned for the future at this complex. Future management will consist primarily of maintaining habitat that has already been constructed and potential minor tree clearing activities.

Leaman East:

No further restoration activities planned. Property will be maintained as OCSW habitat.

Alda Pit:

Habitat was constructed in 2015 and will be maintained as OCSW into the future. As the pit is mined out, more habitat will be claimed and maintained as it becomes available over the next several years.

Public Forum

Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

Closing Business

The next meeting was scheduled for November 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. central time.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 11:55 a.m.