PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)
Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Wyoming Water Development Commission
6920 Yellowtail Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Meeting Attendees

Governance Committee (GC) Table

State of Wyoming
Harry LaBonde – Member (Acting Chair)

State of Colorado
Absent, vote by proxy (Deb Freeman)

State of Nebraska
Jeff Fassett – Member
Jennifer Schellpeper – Alternate

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)
Michael Thabault – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
Chris Beardsley – Voting Member
Brock Merrill – Alternate

Environmental Entities
Bill Taddicken – Voting Member
Rich Walters – Voting Member
Duane Hovorka – Member

Upper Platte Water Users
Dennis Strauch – Member
Bob Mehling – Alternate
George Williams – Alternate

Colorado Water Users
Alan Berryman – Member
Kevin Urie – Alternate
Deb Freeman – Alternate

Downstream Water Users
Don Kraus – Member
Brian Barels – Member
Mark Czaplewski – Voting Member
Kent Miller – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO) Staff
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)
Dave Baasch
Bridget Barron
Patrick Farrell
Bruce Sackett
Chad Smith
Kevin Werbylo

Audience Members:
Lee Failing – Compass
Philip Halteman – Compass
Russ Souchek – Nebraska Wildlife Federation
Justin Haahr – Nebraska Game and Parks Comm.
Jeff Runge – Service
Matt Rabbe – Service
Eliza Hines – Service
Tom Econopouly – Service
Peter Gill – WY Water Development Comm.
Jim Jenniges – NPPD
Tracy Zayac - NPNRD
Mike Drain – CNPPID
Dave Zorn – CNPPID
Barry Lawrence – WY Water Devel. Comm.
Tim Martin – Riverside

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016

Welcome & Administrative

LaBonde called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m. Mountain Time. The group proceeded with introductions. LaBonde said we need to add an action item at the end of today's agenda related to a GC decision coming out of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshop earlier this afternoon. Kenny said he had an additional contract to discuss during the budget update.

Czaplewski moved to approve the March and April GC minutes; Taddicken seconded. **Both sets of minutes approved.**

Program Committee Updates

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC met via conference call on May 23. Items of note include addressing Tract 1602 and an easement offering (tabled by LAC); the Public Access program that will be discussed during the GC meeting tomorrow. There are no scheduled LAC meetings at this time.

Water Advisory Committee (WAC)

Kenny provided an update on the latest WAC activities. The WAC met in Ogallala on May 3. Items of note include discussions on an aerial electromagnetic data collection effort by two NRDs; slurry-lined gravel pits; excess flow analysis; and hydroclimatic indices for the South Platte. The next WAC meeting is August 9 in Ogallala.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Smith provided an update on the latest TAC activities. The TAC met in Kearney on April 20. Items of note included moving two Program publications on to the GC for review and publication approval; support for the Scope of Work for peer review of the whooping crane synthesis chapters and the WEST habitat selection report; and a discussion about PRRA site access closures related to implementation of the spring PRRIP whooping crane monitoring protocol.

Finance Committee (FC)

LaBonde provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC met via conference call on May 17 and discussed potential edits to the PRRIP Procurement Policy. The FC recommended the GC review and approve the revised Procurement Policy that is on the GC agenda for tomorrow.

Program Outreach Update

PRESENTATIONS

- Dave Baasch presented "Investigations into Whooping Crane Use of the Central Platte River" at Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival in Kearney, Nebraska on March 19, 2016.
- Dave Baasch presented on Tern and Plover Breeding Pair Estimators at the annual conference of the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC) on March 23rd, 2016 in Great Falls, Montana.
- Jerry Kenny presented an update on the Program to the North Central Water tour group on March 23, 2016 in Grand Island, Nebraska.
- Chad Smith participated in the Trinity River Basin Science Symposium March 29th to the 31st, 2016 in Weaverville, California. The goal of the symposium is to advance the development and use of a decision support system for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP).

- Jerry Kenny and Kevin Urie presented on the benefits of the Program to the state of Colorado at the South Platte Metro Roundtable in Longmont, Colorado on April 12, 2016.
- Jerry Kenny and Kevin Urie presented on the benefits of the Program to the state of Colorado at the Metro Roundtable in Denver, Colorado on April 14, 2016.
- On June 2, 2016 Dave Baasch and Patrick Farrell led a field trip of summer camp participants from the Edgerton Explorit Center who were studying habitat for threatened and endangered species. The focus was on activities of the Program for the targeted bird species.

EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS

- The Program exhibited at Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival in Kearney, Nebraska on March 19, 2016. We made 284 contacts.
- The Program was a sponsor of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Envirothon State Competition on April 27, 2016 at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The Envirothon has high school teams competing in seven areas of environmental studies; soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, and current environmental policy.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS

- Kevin Werbylo is presenting "Managing the Planform of the Central Platte River through Flow and Sediment Augmentation" at the Rocky Mountain Stream Restoration Conference in Breckenridge, Colorado on July 20, 2016.
- Darren Beck is presenting "Management of Channel Forming Storage Releases and Alluvial Recharge Projects for Habitat Restoration" at the Rocky Mountain Stream Restoration Conference in Breckenridge, Colorado on July 20, 2016.

PRRIP FY16 Budget/Contracts Update

Kenny gave an overview of the status of the FY16 budget, related expenditures, contracts, and land income and taxes.

Smith discussed the multi-year imagery acquisition contract with Quantum Spatial Inc. Czaplewski asked if the results of the bathymetric LiDAR would be discussed with the TAC and WAC. Smith said yes. Barels asked if ground data would be collected this summer as well to compare to the bathymetric LiDAR data. Rabbe asked if this would start coming out of LP-2 funds every year. Smith said no, the annual budget for this contract would show up in the combined G-1/G-2 budget line item. Kenny said there will be unspent funds in LP-2 that can be applied to this line item. LP-2 funds are used for AMP-related implementation items so these line items generally appear in the same portion of the PRRIP budget.

Czaplewski moved to approve the multi-year imagery acquisition contract; Thabault seconded. **Contract approved.**

Kenny discussed the contract with CPNRD for the airborne electromagnetic survey (AEM) and the related purposes and services. Funds for this contract would come through PRRIP budget line item WP-4(b)ii. Miller said the grant related to this work comes from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The AEM flight data is essentially an X-ray of the ground and is highly accurate.

Strauch moved to approve the AEM contract; Beardsley seconded. **Contract approved.** Czaplewski (CPNRD) abstained.

Structured Decision Making (SDM)

Mehling moved and Walters seconded to adopt the following two decisions from the SDM process:

1) *Water will not be used solely for the purpose of tern and plover nest initiation, however tern and plover benefits could be identified as part of the rationale for water releases made for other purposes.*

2) *Implement the C6 Hybrid Approach with the Moving Complex Approach (MCA) for terns and plovers through 2019. This approach includes:*
   - *Flexibility in the acquisition of 60 additional acres of off-channel habitat, including habitat on existing Program land, purchased acres, mine-operator agreements, and/or leased acres of rehabilitated sandpit habitat.*
   - *Maximizing on-channel habitat using the MCA method within a three-year budget of $26,000.*

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016

Welcome and Administrative

LaBonde called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Mountain Time. The group proceeded with introductions.

PRRIP Procurement Policy

Kenny discussed proposed revisions to the PRRIP Procurement Policy.

Beardsley moved to approve the revised PRRIP Procurement Policy; Taddicken seconded. **Revised Procurement Policy approved.**

Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB)

Rabbe discussed the recent listing of the NLEB and the relationship to PRRIP activities in the central Platte. If the GC can adopt the recommendation of avoiding tree removal between July 1-31 then the Program will be in compliance. Thabault asked Rabbe to talk about why the Service is not recommending the Program conduct NLEB surveys. Rabbe said there is only one known person in Nebraska with the permits to survey so getting permits to do the survey would be time consuming and the tree-clearing recommendation is the preferred way forward. Freeman asked about criteria for identifying roost trees. Rabbe and Hines said there is a list of preferred trees. Urie asked if the habitat area includes the entire AHR. Rabbe said yes. Beardsley asked if the Program could still clear things like brush during the time period. Rabbe said the Service can look into that. Hines said they allow cedar clearing during the time period so the Service could add some exclusions to the guidance letter related to this action. Freeman asked if Program staff anticipate needing an option of being able to survey out to remove a tree if there was something that came up that was highly time-sensitive. Baasch said he thinks it will take more than two weeks to get the one person in Nebraska out to do the survey. Hines said they can be flexible depending on the situation. Kenny said Program staff talked about what could possible go wrong and were hard pressed to find anything that would be negatively impacted by waiting two weeks. Thabault said most 4D rules prohibit everything, this rule only prohibits one thing and is very narrow and flexible.

LaBonde said there is no action item on the agenda. Rabbe said the Service will have Reclamation send an informal consultation letter to the Service and the Service will concur with that. Getting a general consensus from the GC today on this direction will be satisfactory. LaBonde asked if any GC members are

uncomfortable with this approach. Freeman said the approach is fine but we need clarity on the types of trees. Rabbe and Hines said their letter will provide these details. Williams asked if the Service will come back and ask for two more weeks next year. Rabbe said no because this is based on the life history of the bat. LaBonde said he sees GC consensus to move forward incorporating these provisions into the Program.

PRRIP Peer Review & Publications

Smith discussed the status of joint peer review of the whooping crane habitat selection analysis and the whooping crane habitat synthesis chapters. The GC agreed to review and approve the peer review scope of work and seat the peer review panel via electronic vote over the summer.

Smith discussed several Program manuscripts for possible publication:

Czaplewski moved and Berryman seconded approving publication of the unvegetated channel width manuscript. **Publication approved.**

Czaplewski moved and Walters seconded approving publication of both the peak flow habitat paradigm manuscript and the channel width and nest incidence manuscript. **Publication approved.**

Fassett moved and Berryman seconded approving publication of the flow and tern productivity manuscript. **Publication approved.**

PRRIP Milestones Report

Thabault, Hines, and Rabbe discussed the 2016 PRRIP Milestones Report. Freeman asked if there is an opportunity for GC members to provide written feedback to the Service and if there is a certain period of time to provide that feedback. Hines said yes, Rabbe said he was hoping the Service would receive verbal comments today or written comments in electronic form. The Service anticipates having a final version for the September GC meeting. Thabault said he is hoping to keep comments to areas of clarification or if the Service got anything wrong. Hines said they are looking for constructive comments to better describe anything they are trying to say. Rabbe said there is the potential they could append any comments to the end of the report if that would be useful.

Freeman commented on the characterization of the sub-tasks. The narrative behind the sub-tasks was that they were planning dates but not hard requirements for milestones. Some of the language in the report reads as though they are requirements. These sub-tasks are taken seriously but they are just best efforts to stay on track and they are not to be read as actual milestones or requirements. Hovorka commented on #5, the Land Plan. The acquisition is clearly a check, but the restoration is still a work in progress and that should be added to the report. Thabault said constructive feedback before the 4th of July weekend, that would give the Service time to clean up the report before the September GC meeting. Beardsley asked about the report saying additional information is needed about the Nebraska depletion plan and if that can be cleared up quickly. Runge said their understanding is that a portion of Nebraska's new depletions offsets are tied to the J2 Reservoir and until it is completed it remains uncertain as to Nebraska's share contributing to offsetting new depletions.

Pallid Sturgeon

Runge provided a presentation on pallid sturgeon and issues related to answering Big Question #9 (Do Program flow management actions in the central Platte River avoid adverse impacts to pallid sturgeon in the lower Platte River?). Taddicken said if our operations are undetectable, doesn't that fall in the category of less than 3% change in habitat and thus make it avoid adverse impacts. Runge said no, it just means that we need to get into the gaging area to determine the bounds of uncertainty. Jenniges said the model used says there is 3% change in habitat, but the gauges have 10% error. Runge said no, the 10% error applied in the modeling was based on a "good" rating assigned to the USGS gage where 95% of measured flow had an error of 10% or less. Just because you have potential for large gage error doesn't mean there is not impact. The Service feels the Program needs to elaborate on what impacts are and why the stage change study supports there are no impacts to pallid sturgeon from Program water management.

Hines said the one-page overview provided by the Service includes a list of sequenced uncertainties. These are the issues the Service would like to focus on but they want to address those questions at the TAC. Barels asked about Program operations that cause these potential impacts. Runge said largely it would be diverting excess to target flows. Barels asked how New Depletions Plans cause impacts since they include offsets. Runge said diversions in excess to target flows would not be offset. Thabault said pallids are a covered species by the Program. For the birds, we have done a good structured job of addressing uncertainties through adaptive management. We are not currently using this kind of structured approach for pallid sturgeon. These are off-ramp questions that can be addressed in a workshop of independent experts to help us get a more structured answer to these questions. The stage change study is a piece of evidence but it seems like pallid sturgeon are being swept under the rug based on that one study.

Freeman said the Program had mapped out an approach to look at this through a hydrologic lens to see if there is a threshold that would require more investigation. There seems to be issues around the stage change study and some differences of opinions, but the Service is proposing a very different approach. This is analytically very different from what the Program had crafted in terms of moving forward. Thabault said he does not disagree, but this is a species-centric Program and Program effects for the fish don't stop at the bottom of the 90-mile reach. We might actually be improving conditions for pallids but we don't have enough information to say that. Williams said years ago the only sturgeon found in the target area were hatchery-tagged sturgeon and he wondered if we are getting reproduction from those tagged fish. Thabault said whether they were hatchery raised is not relevant in terms of the ESA. Runge said there has been documented migration in and out of the lower Platte River. Recent fish found in the Platte are different from the hatchery-raised fish previously released into the Platte. Hines said we know they are using the Platte but we don't yet know how they are using the Platte. Runge said that use of the Platte includes hatchery and wild fish, as well as different life stages.

Taddicken said a few GC meetings ago there was a motion that was not passed saying we would monitor new research and understand any implications for the pallid sturgeon and Program actions. Thabault said he is asking the GC to convene an independent panel related to pallid sturgeon and these questions to help us move forward. He is requesting the GC reconsider the motion to have this independent workshop. Barels said the Program document says we will consider new information, but we need to determine the process for considering that new information. Czaplewski asked Smith to comment on what the ISAC has already said about this. Smith said the ISAC, through David Galat, said the policy issue related to "avoiding adverse impacts" versus "testing the assumption" of providing benefits to pallid sturgeon needs addressed.

Kraus said we started with a goal to test the assumption that the Program could take actions to benefit the pallid sturgeon. We need to step back and see what we were hoping to do. The flow issues seem to be priority and the stage change study was intended to get at that question. Hovorka said he appreciates the Service brining this forward and it could be very helpful to the GC in thinking how to move forward with pallids. Thinking back to the Cooperative Agreement, we had quite a bit of science and hypotheses related to the birds and that was written in the Program Document. When we looked at the pallids, we did not know much about the species or use of the Platte. Part of the agreement was to move forward with the Program and we will figure out issues related to the pallids as we go along. The stage change study was a first step but with new information we know more about the pallids today and the potential for the Program to provide benefits to the species.

Berryman said the Program Document includes similar language regarding learning about new information and we need to consider this as we move forward. Kraus said it would be good to get the ISAC involved in this process. Barels asked if we need to have experts answer questions, or if we need to answer the questions. Freeman said the list of questions from the Service needs to be refined. Barels said the Downstream Water Users and other GC members need time to process all of this information. Thabault said this is not a "hair on fire" issue. The Service was tasked with bringing their thoughts to the table and they did that. Taddicken said the GC wants to see again the thoughts from the ISAC on pallids and a possible workshop. Thabault said it would be good to work with the ISAC prior to the September GC meeting to get their thoughts on paper on how this would look and what would be beneficial for the Program. Czaplewski asked Runge for some details related to his presentation on issues of habitat impacts and gage error. *Runge agreed to provide the requested details explaining some of the numbers/percentage calculations used in his presentation.*

At the GC's request, Kenny and Smith agreed to prepare for the September GC meeting:

- ISAC input on the proposed workshop, important questions, and recommendations for steps forward.
- A compilation of past GC, ISAC, and TAC discussions and motions related to the pallid sturgeon issue.
- A compilation of Program work products and conclusions related to pallid sturgeon.

J2 Reservoir Project

Kraus discussed the quarterly J2 Reservoir Project report. LaBonde asked about tasks for the next quarter and said work remains underway on revising the J2 Water Service Agreement.

PRRIP First Increment Extension

LaBonde discussed the latest draft of the First Increment Extension Proposal. He would like GC members to put on the table today additional revisions, items to add, etc. so that the GC could take an action at the September or December GC meeting to endorse a plan for action after 2019. The next step after that is to get approvals and move through the appropriations process. LaBonde asked Kenny to discuss changes made by the EDO to the Extension proposal. Kenny said the EDO used the Extension document provided by the signatories and made a few modifications largely aimed at providing some details about how to accomplish what was laid out by the signatories.

General discussion points on the draft Extension Proposal:

Thabault – Service did a redline strikeout and that will be provided to EDO. The Service wants to make sure there is connection between their red X and our milestones listing. Keep options for another bridge segment on the table (targeting Gibbon to Shelton); will request a higher level of commitment to choke point issues; Kenny asked for definition of what that means; is there an opportunity to support research on pallid sturgeon through the adaptive management program; Urie asked about the Missouri River program and whether is looks at pallids on the Platte; Thabault said they looked at all possible hypotheses for pallids

and the importance of the Platte to that; it did not come out as a top-tier priority for the Missouri program; Barels said the hypotheses looked at whether the Platte is essential to the Missouri; it did not shake out as a high priority, but generally looking at the Platte is outside the Corps' purview; maybe money saved on tern/plover monitoring can be spent on pallid sturgeon items.

Berryman – flow release for pallid sturgeon seems ahead of its time and should focus more on central Platte; concerned about language regarding "benefit physical processes", need to focus on target species.

Taddicken/Walters/Hovorka – need a working group working on this in an intense session; 10 years is a long time and the plus-ups don't meet 10 years of continuing on; consensus was if we go 10 years we need to focus on 150,000 acre feet instead of the range of 130,000-150,000; ultimate goal at end of Second Increment was 29,000 acres so 1,500 acres in 10 years won't meet the rub of 10 years; concur with Thabault about not focusing on complexes we have already and look at Gibbon-Shelton segment; find a way to give value to 10 years, not just a slight bump in course; add dates with milestones to show progress; see progress on negotiating a Second Increment and include milestones for that; Kraus said J2 should be online by 2022 so 10 years will be here before you know it when you also count for analysis; LaBonde said the original proposal was developed before all the latest issues related to J2 and now that project has been pushed back, thus he might argue for a longer period of time than 10 years; Taddicken said he is worried about ever getting an agreement on J2 so using the 10 year time period would keep the pressure on, the environmental entities are not happy with the position Central is taking on the J2 project; Fassett said it will be important to keep looking at the whole range of water options; he is with LaBonde on probably needing a longer Extension; Barels said we need to have a good sound science argument for the Second Increment; that is going to mean more time to get answers, peer review, etc. in order to have information to convince people what is necessary for a Second Increment; Thabault said there is tension between best available versus best attainable; if there is not a solid plan to bring the Water Plan together there won't be an Extension, there will be re-initiation; needs to be acknowledgement that everything is being done to pull Water Plan together with solid assurances and commitments; Berryman asked about the inclusion of conservation lands; Thabault said the Service remains concerned about crediting conservation lands; Freeman said her recollection was the 10,000 acres were identified in the context of the conservation lands being out there.

Strauch – is our land goal going to 11,500 or 12,000, or is it staying at 10,000 acres; Thabault said the Service wants to plus-up the land acreage goal for the Extension; there is a reasonable supplementation of the land piece that will offset continued project impacts; Strauch said we already have about 12,000 acres, so is it moving those acres to other places or are we talking about more total acres than that; Thabault said those discussions need to be had, but the concept of adding additional Program acres is valid; Barels asked if that is in addition to Jeffrey Island; Thabault said in addition to that; Kraus asked about the SDHF release; Kenny said it was included in the documentation from the signatories; Thabault said their edits include striking the SDHF release (later clarification – Smith asked if this meant no SDHF releases, Thabault said instead it meant likely more than one SDHF).

Kraus – we were trying to lay out a schedule and get something firm by the end of this year; what does everyone think about that; Kenny said we didn't add a schedule to this because we needed to have this discussion but now we can start building a schedule and a budget; Thabault said we should get this nailed down by the end of the year. Fassett asked if we need a committee or more focused group to meet more regularly to get this done; Beardsley said budget will be a big issue; he needs to hear greater from the states about what the in-kind contributions will be because that will be a big influence on where Reclamation will come down on this so we need to get the budget formulation process started.
Fassett – has the Service had any early thinking about NEPA, EIS, and the BO; Thabault said he hasn't talked to Reclamation about the NEPA and EIS pieces; on ESA if everyone is in alignment the Section 7

items should be straight-forward; Freeman asked what form the Section 7 items would take; Thabault said there has not been a lot of thought about it, but it would likely be an amendment that would include an effects analysis of the new items; the result would be a continuation of the incidental take statement; Hines said we need to think about examining target flows as to whether that would be covered by an amendment.

Kraus – the current document says we can look at target flows; Rabbe said it is not that we don't want to look at target flows, the language about "updating the AMP" might be bigger than an extension.

Freeman said we need to work through these changes in a small group; Barels said that is fine as long as the whole GC is invited because everyone needs to understand the language and the changes.
LaBonde proposed that the EDO draft a new document based on comments today and the edits from the Service and then schedule a meeting to discuss the revised document; the full GC needs to be at that meeting; the next review meeting should be in the middle of July.

Barels asked if there is a timeframe in the Nebraska New Depletion Plan that has been exceeded; we need clarity from the Service as to what the needs are; Runge said they are on track but it just not final yet so that is where we need to be to check the box.

The GC agreed to the following schedule for moving forward with the Extension Proposal:

- All comments from GC members provided to the EDO by June 17.
- The EDO will revise the Extension Proposal and distribute it to the GC by July 1.
- The GC will meet on July 26-27 @ Denver, CO to discuss the latest draft of the Extension Proposal.

Platte River Recreational Access (PRRA) Program

Haahr provided a presentation on the PRRA Program in 2015-2016.

Hovorka moved and Thabault seconded to accept the Land Advisory Committee (LAC) recommendation to adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2016-2017 season as discussed:

1) *No motorized vehicles may be used on PRRA available properties.*
2) *The use of drones or trail cameras are not allowed on PRRA properties.*
3) *Allow portable tree stands to be left in place from August 16-February 1. Portable Tree stands left in place are available on first-come/first-serve basis and users accept all risk of property loss. Portable Tree stands left in place outside of the allowed dates are subject to confiscation.*
4) *Strike "stands" from the reference in the "Fishing and Hunting" section.*

Motion approved.

Hovorka moved and Thabault seconded to accept the Land Advisory Committee (LAC) recommendation to adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2016-2017 season under Access Agreement Appendix A and Appendix B:

- *Enroll three new areas into the PRRA Program for all allowable uses.*
  - *Bartels (2009002) & Sullwold (2012001) as one area open to four users.*
  - *BELF (2015002) & Volentine (2014002) as one area open to four users.*
  - *Spiedel (2015001) open to eight users, except during rifle deer season where five users are allowed.*
  - *The Pawnee Complex and Spiedel Tract may not use centerfire rifles.*
- *Increase capacity at Liehs tract from one user to two users.*
- *Adopt the current temporary Wyoming tract parking lot location as permanent.*

- *Modify permission slips to require the signature of only one parent or guardian.*
- *Add language to the permissions slips and online to indicate users are "highly recommended to mark all blinds and portable tree stands with hunter orange".*

Motion approved.

Public Comment

Labonde asked for public comment. None offered.

Executive Session

Strauch moved to enter Executive Session; Beardsley seconded. **GC entered Executive Session at 12:37 p.m. Mountain Time.**

Berryman moved to end Executive Session; Beardsley seconded. **GC ended Executive Session at 1:51 p.m. Mountain Time.**

PRRIP Executive Session Motions

Strauch moved and Taddicken seconded to acknowledge and confirm approval of the sale of Tract 1501 for the appraised value. **Motion approved.**

Thabault moved and Czaplewski seconded to approve an eight-year lease of #1008 at a value acceptable to the Executive Director. Barels said he wondered if we needed to put a cap on what an acceptable lease price would be. Sackett said a typical lease rate would range from $10-$50 per acre. Kenny said he would bring anything back to the GC that was outside of that range. **Motion approved.**

Future Meetings & Closing Business

Freeman asked if we need to set up another First Increment GC-level discussion in August. The GC set **August 17, 2016 in Denver, CO** as another Extension Proposal discussion session.

Upcoming 2016 GC meetings:

- **July 26-27, 2016** @ Denver, CO (discuss Extension Proposal)
- **August 17, 2016** @ Denver, CO (discuss Extension Proposal)
- **September 13-14, 2016** @ Kearney, NE
- **November 15, 2016** @ Denver, CO (GC Special Session on FY17 Budget)
- **December 6-7, 2016** @ Denver, CO

Upcoming 2016 ISAC meetings:

- 2016 AMP Reporting Session – **October 18-20, 2016** @ Omaha, NE

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from June 2016 GC meeting

1) Approved the March 2016 GC minutes.
2) Approved the April 2016 GC minutes.
3) Approved the multi-year imagery acquisition contract with Quantum Spatial Inc.
4) Approved the AEM contract with CPNRD.
5) Adopted the following two decisions from the SDM process:

- Water will not be used solely for the purpose of tern and plover nest initiation, however tern and plover benefits could be identified as part of the rationale for water releases made for other purposes.
- Implement the C6 Hybrid Approach with the Moving Complex Approach (MCA) for terns and plovers through 2019. This approach includes:
  - Flexibility in the acquisition of 60 additional acres of off-channel habitat, including habitat on existing Program land, purchased acres, mine-operator agreements, and/or leased acres of rehabilitated sandpit habitat.
  - Maximizing on-channel habitat using the MCA method within a three-year budget of $26,000.

6) Approved the revised PRRIP Procurement Policy.
7) Approved publication of the unvegetated channel width manuscript, the peak flow habitat paradigm manuscript, the channel width and nest incidence manuscript, and the flow and tern productivity manuscript.
8) Directed the EDO to prepare for the September GC meeting:
   - ISAC input on the proposed pallid sturgeon workshop, important questions, and recommendations for steps forward.
   - A compilation of past GC, ISAC, and TAC discussions and motions related to the pallid sturgeon issue.
   - A compilation of Program work products and conclusions related to pallid sturgeon.
   - A short explanation from the Service (Runge) regarding gage errors and potential habitat impacts in the lower Platte River.
9) Agreed to the following schedule for moving forward with the Extension Proposal:
   - All comments from GC members provided to the EDO by June 17.
   - The EDO will revise the Extension Proposal and distribute it to the GC by July 1.
   - The GC will meet on July 26-27 and again on August 17 @ Denver, CO to discuss the latest drafts of the Extension Proposal.
10) Accepted the Land Advisory Committee (LAC) recommendation to adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2016-2017 season as discussed:
   - No motorized vehicles may be used on PRRA available properties.
   - The use of drones or trail cameras are not allowed on PRRA properties.
   - Allow portable tree stands to be left in place from August 16-February 1. Portable Tree stands left in place are available on first-come/first-serve basis and users accept all risk of property loss. Portable Tree stands left in place outside of the allowed dates are subject to confiscation.
   - Strike “stands” from the reference in the “Fishing and Hunting” section.
11) Accepted the Land Advisory Committee (LAC) recommendation to adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2016-2017 season under Access Agreement Appendix A and Appendix B:
   - Enroll three new areas into the PRRA Program for all allowable uses.
     - Bartels (2009002) & Sullwold (2012001) as one area open to four users.
     - BELF (2015002) & Volentine (2014002) as one area open to four users.
     - Spiedel (2015001) open to eight users, except during rifle deer season where five users are allowed.
     - The Pawnee Complex and Spiedel Tract may not use centerfire rifles.
   - Increase capacity at Liehs tract from one user to two users.
   - Adopt the current temporary Wyoming tract parking lot location as permanent.
   - Modify permission slips to require the signature of only one parent or guardian.
   - Add language to the permissions slips and online to indicate users are “highly recommended to mark all blinds and portable tree stands with hunter orange”.

12) Acknowledged and confirmed approval of the sale of Tract 1501 for the appraised value.
13) Approved an eight-year lease of #1008 at a value acceptable to the Executive Director.