



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Land Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
May 23, 2016

Meeting Participants

Land Advisory Committee (LAC)

State of Wyoming

Jason Mead – Proxy for Harry LaBonde, Member,
Wyoming Water Development Office

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member, Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Kevin Urie – Alternate, Denver Water

State of Nebraska

Ted LaGrange – Member, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Matt Rabbe – Member, USFWS

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)

Brock Merrill – Member, USBOR

Power Districts

Dave Zorn – Member, Central Nebraska Public Power
& Irrigation District
John Shadle – Member (Vice-Chair), Nebraska Public
Power District

Environmental Entities

Andrew Pierson – Member, Audubon Rowe Sanctuary

**Local Nebraska Rep. – Central Platte Natural
Resources District (CPNRD)**

Mark Czaplewski – Member (Chair), CPNRD

**Local Nebraska Rep. – Tri-Basin Natural Resources
District (TBNRD)**

None

Local Nebraska Rep. – Joint CPNRD/TBNRD

John Thorburn – Member, TBNRD

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Bruce Sackett
Justin Brei
Tim Tunnell
Jason Farnsworth
Dillon Schroeder

Other Participants

Justin Haahr, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission



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 February 23, 2016 meeting.

Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2016 LAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Urie and passed unanimously.

GC Update and Other Committee Coordination Information

GC Update

Czaplewski updated the LAC on GC activities. The GC last met on March 9-10 in Kearney, NE. They approved the grassland vegetation monitoring protocol and sole-source contract. Rich Walters presented to the GC on phragmites control in the Platte River. The GC contributed \$100,000 to the effort and will not require 50% matching funds for 2016, as they have in past years. The GC voted to cease pursuit of tract 1505, as well as passed a motion to handle payments to counties affected by lost tax revenue from the J-2 reservoir project.

The GC also held a conference call on April 12 to discuss the water service agreement for the J-2 reservoir. No action was taken on this call and another call on this topic is scheduled for June 1, 2016.

The GC meets next on June 7-8 in Cheyenne, WY.

Other Committee Coordination

Sellers updated the LAC on recent TAC activities. The TAC met last on April 20. Several manuscripts were approved for publishing and for peer review. The TAC also discussed the dates on Platte River Recreation Access Program signage and closure dates.

Land Action Items

Sackett discussed tract 1602, an easement offering on a wetland parcel of land near Chapman, NE being considered as non-complex habitat. The evaluation team has visited the site, but there are questions about the level of management control offered by the easement and as such they have not provided a recommendation. The tract is currently covered by an NRCS WRP easement which may conflict with PRRIP interests. Sackett is working with the owner and property manager as well as the NRCS to sort out the details.

Shadle moved to table any decision on tract 1602 until details on the easement are obtained. Motion seconded by LaGrange and passed unanimously.



Public Access Program Review

Rabbe discussed recommendations from the Platte River Recreation Access Program Subcommittee for changes to the Program in the 2016-2017 season.

Rabbe moved to recommend that the GC adopt the following changes to the PRRA Program for the 2016-2017 season:

- **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.**
- **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 treestands with hunter orange”.**
- **Modify the Public Access Policy as follows:**
 - **Allow treestands to be left in place from August 16-February 1. Treestands left in place are available on first-come/first-serve basis and users accept all risk of property loss. Treestands left in place outside of the allowed dates are subject to confiscation.**
 - **The use of drones or trail cameras are not allowed on PRRA properties.**

Motion was seconded by Mead and passed unanimously. LaGrange abstained since NGPC administers the program.

Public Forum

Chairman Czaplewski asked for public comments, none were offered.

Closing Business

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date, but is expected to be held prior to the September GC meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Czaplewski at 10:15 a.m.