



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Kearney, Ne – Executive Director’s Office**  
 April 20, 2016

**Meeting Participants**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Table**

**State of Colorado**

Suzanne Sellers – (Chair)

**State of Wyoming**

Jeff Geyer – Alternate

**State of Nebraska**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)**

Matt Rabbe – Member

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Brock Merrill – Member

**Environmental Entities**

Rich Walters – Member

**Upper Platte Water Users**

**Colorado Water Users**

Kevin Urie – Member

**Downstream Water Users**

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Jim Jenniges – Member

Mark Peyton – Member

**Executive Director’s Office (EDO)**

Chad Smith

Jason Farnsworth

Dave Baasch

Patrick Farrell

**Other Participants**

Andrew Pierson (Rowe)

Kevin Marks (Colorado)

Jeff Runge (FWS)

Andrew Caven (Trust)

Carol Flaute (NDNR)

Amy Zoeller (NDNR)

Tom Econopouly (FWS)

Mike Drain (CNPPID)



### Welcome and Administrative

Sellers and Smith called the meeting to order and asked for agenda modifications; none offered.

### TAC Minutes

Sellers asked the group if there were any suggested changes for the February 9, 2016 TAC Minutes. **Jenniges moved to approve the February 9, 2016 TAC minutes as edited in the meeting packet; Czaplewski seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

### Program Publication

Smith led the discussion and informed the TAC the ISAC reviewed the Unvegetated Channel Width manuscript and their suggestions were incorporated and that the EDO received no comments from the TAC. **Czaplewski moved to recommend the GC approve publishing the Unvegetated Channel Width manuscript; Jenniges seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

Smith led the discussion and informed the TAC the Service provided email comments on the Peak Flow Habitat Paradigm manuscript indicating they did not share the EDO position regarding pre-development conditions on the central Platte River related to tern and plover use and productivity. The TAC discussed the manuscript and the Service comments regarding the manuscript. Sellers asked if the Service comment suggested they did not support publication; Rabbe said the comment was to be a note for the record regarding the Service's perspective about some of the information included in the manuscript. Jenniges and Baasch asked if there was any data that the manuscript was in conflict with or if the EDO failed to include any data the Service was aware of; Rabbe said there weren't. Runge stated the Service position was articulated during the review of the Tern and Plover document peer review. Rabbe said he couldn't see any implications publishing the manuscript on management. Jenniges said the manuscript could have substantial implications going forward because if it was available during the development of Program hypotheses, might have changed some of the FSM related hypotheses. Smith said, similar to the Stage Change Study, his concern is with the implications of the Service's perspective going forward given the GC already approved accepting the Tern and Plover Chapters and the peer review as final. Walters and Czaplewski said the Service has used the same limited data in the past when writing the EIS and having the manuscript published should be considered best available science as well. Smith stated the document will be published as a Program document and on its behalf not as an EDO document. **Jenniges moved to recommend the GC approve publishing the Peak Flow Habitat Paradigm manuscript; Czaplewski seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

### Program Peer Review

Smith asked the TAC for input on the Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis Chapter Peer Review Scope of Work and the Expertise for the peer review panel; Smith suggested seeking a whooping crane ecologist, ecological statistician, and riparian vegetation. Rabbe asked for additional time for the Service to review questions in the Scope of work; Smith asked the TAC to provide comments and specific questions by May 4<sup>th</sup>. **Czaplewski moved the TAC recommend the GC approve the Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis Chapter Peer Review Scope of Work that includes questions posed by the Service prior to May 4<sup>th</sup>; Jenniges seconded the motion; all supported the motion.**

Smith informed the TAC the EDO developed a memo regarding additional 8 *post hoc* whooping crane habitat selection analyses. Jenniges asked if the memo was new or a revised version of the previous memo regarding how channel width measures were made; Baasch said it was a new memo. Smith asked the TAC for an email vote to determine if the TAC supports appending the memo to the peer review package by May 4<sup>th</sup>.



Smith discussed including the WEST Whooping Crane Habitat Selection Report to the scope of work for the Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis document peer review. Jenniges said the peer reviewers need the WEST Report to get the background information for the model used in the chapters. **The TAC recommended we have the same peer review panel review of Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis Chapter as well as the WEST Report.**

#### **Platte River Recreational Access Program**

The TAC discussed recent discussions about modifying the dates on the signage for the PRRA to coincide with the updated migration window used in the Program's Whooping Crane Monitoring Protocol. Rabbe said the Program's BO includes the dates of March 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup> so changing the dates to an earlier date would be more conservative than what's in the BO. Jenniges suggested we remove the dates from the signs and simply include seasonal closures may apply. Rabbe said the next step would be to seek LAC support.

#### **Closing Business**

Baasch informed the TAC he posted the WEST Whooping Crane Habitat Selection Report and the 2015 Stopover Study Report to the Program website. Jason informed the TAC the EDO has been analyzing tern and plover data and is developing an off-channel nest site selection report, off-channel LTPP survival report, and a productivity versus flow report.

#### **Summary of Decisions from the February 2016 TAC Meeting**

1. The TAC accepted the February 9, 2016 TAC minutes as final
2. The TAC recommended the GC approve publishing the Unvegetated Channel Width manuscript
3. The TAC recommended the GC approve publishing the Peak Flow Habitat Paradigm manuscript
4. The TAC recommended the GC approve the Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis Chapter Peer Review Scope of Work that includes questions posed by the Service prior to May 4<sup>th</sup>
5. The TAC recommended we have the same peer review panel review the Whooping Crane Habitat Synthesis Chapter and the WEST Report.