



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Conference Call Minutes
 October 26, 2015

Meeting Attendees

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

State of Wyoming

Jeff Geyer – Alternate

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member (Chair)

State of Nebraska

Mike Fritz – Member

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Matt Rabbe – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill – Member

Environmental Entities

Rich Walters – Member

Upper Platte Water Users

None

Colorado Water Users

Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Mark Peyton – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO) Staff

Dave Baasch

Jason Farnsworth

Chad Smith

**PRRIP Draft FY16 Budget and Work Plan**

Smith discussed the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) items in the draft FY16 budget and work plan and also associated FY15 current and projected expenditures. Specific items of discussion included:

- Urie asked how much of the AMP budget will have been spent by the end of the year. Smith said he would address that line-by-line as he walks through the budget.
- Czaplewski asked about the per gallon cost of gas in the estimate for AMP-related equipment. Smith said that would be adjusted to reflect current gas prices.
- Rabbe asked if there was any active sediment augmentation conducted in 2015. Farnsworth said no.
- Czaplewski asked about expenditures for FY15 and how “green” LiDAR factors in. Farnsworth said the Program is having Kucera do a test of green LiDAR this fall to see how it works (the EDO will assess the data over the winter). \$200,000 would be full implementation of green LiDAR and aerial photography in 2016. Czaplewski said that makes sense.
- Rabbe asked about the geomorphology Special Advisor and what product we will get out of that. Farnsworth said Chester Watson does not necessarily produce annual products but he is on-call to provide input and advice on products when we need it. The EDO is also working with a sedimentologist at Colorado State University to help provide advice as we ramp up sediment augmentation in FY16.
- Merrill asked why there was such a jump in USGS costs for tern/plover monitoring. Baasch said the new RFP issued in 2015 assumed a cost decrease going from a 10-person crew to a 6-person crew. That did not happen and costs went up when the new contract with the USGS was negotiated in 2015. Czaplewski said over \$90,000 of the USGS budget is for overhead which seems very high. Baasch agreed but said that high overhead has been an issue in every contract with the USGS. Baasch said there will be banding in 2016 and 2017 but just re-sighting in 2018 and 2019 which will lower the budget in those two years.

Future Meetings & Closing Business

No future TAC meeting was scheduled. Smith said TAC work during the first half of 2016 would focus on the Structured Decision Making process and he will be working with Compass to develop a proposed TAC meeting schedule for January-May 2016 and will get that to the TAC soon.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. Central Time.