

## Platte River SDM GC Meeting: Pre-reading Cover Note

March 8-9, 2016

### Workshop Objectives

Attached is the agenda and pre-reading for the meeting March 8-9 in Kearney. The objectives of the meeting are:

- Review the decision objectives and performance measures (PMs) and the second round of alternatives and consequences.
- Clarify key trade-offs and information needs.
- Provide direction as required to refine PMs and alternatives and address information gaps; the goal is to ensure that the GC has sufficient information to support a final decision in June.

### Process Update

Recall from the GC meeting in December, the following key outcomes:

- The GC reached agreement on a preliminary set of decision objectives and provided direction on the scope of alternatives and analysis. The direction provided by the GC is summarized in the Decision Charter, distributed in December.
- The decision objectives currently include Pallid Sturgeon and Sediment, however there was uncertainty about whether these would be sensitive to the alternatives under consideration. The GC indicated they wish to review preliminary results in March and confirm whether there is need for further consideration of these objectives.
- The GC confirmed support for the revised work plan, including Compass/EDO developing preliminary decision objectives, PMs and alternatives for TAC review in February.

Accordingly, in preparation for the February TAC meeting, Compass/EDO:

- Developed preliminary performance measures (PMs) for each of the decision objectives, using the selection criteria discussed at the GC meeting.
- Developed models or scoring systems to estimate/calculate the PMs for a range of alternatives.
- Developed a range of alternatives. These include different ways of creating and maintaining on-and off-channel habitat for terns and plovers.
- Estimated the consequences of the alternatives. By examining the results, we identified some interesting outcomes and trade-offs. This led us to propose some new performance measures.
- Selected a subset of the alternatives for presentation to the TAC. The subset was intended to illustrate key outcomes and choices and promote learning. They were not to be interpreted as recommended or preferred in any way.

At the TAC meeting on February 10-11, all of these were reviewed. Models, PMs and alternatives were revised with TAC input and a new set of alternatives (Round 2) was developed for the GC's review.

For context, our work plan through to June includes the following milestones:

**March – GC Meeting** – The GC will review preliminary materials and provide direction on key issues and questions – e.g., key scope questions, critical uncertainties and gaps, new alternatives to examine, and next steps.

**April – TAC Meeting** – The TAC will provide technical input to second round of analysis (refined alternatives and PMs, clarification of key uncertainties or gaps, etc.).

**May – As required, TAC or Subgroup Meeting or Teleconference(s)**. If there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed to inform GC decision making, we may convene issue-specific meetings or calls. It seems unlikely that a full TAC meeting will be achievable.

**June – GC Meeting** – GC meeting to select a preferred alternative.

## Overview of the Pre-reading

In addition to the agenda and this cover memo, the pre-reading is organized into five documents. **Please read the Summary document first.**

1. **Summary (Required)** – This includes a summary table of the Decision Objectives and PMs, a summary of key messages/outcomes from the Round 1 Alternatives as well as a summary of the Round 2 Alternatives, a summary of Results (consequence tables for the Round 2 Alternatives), and Discussion Points for the GC.
2. **TAC Meeting Notes (Required)** – Summary of key outcomes from the TAC meeting.
3. **Performance Measure Info-Sheets (Optional)** – These provide background on each PM including an overview, description of how it is calculated, key uncertainties and assumptions, and results. These will not be covered at the meeting; please get an update from your TAC member.
4. **Alternatives (Optional)** – This includes supplementary information about the Alternatives.
5. **Technical Memos (Optional)** – Summary of expert processes to refine selected uncertain parameters used in modeling. These will not be covered at the meeting.

In addition, EDO will be distributing material from the USFWS, as part of their action items from the TAC meeting.

## Preparing for the Meeting

Please ensure you have completed the pre-reading. Other relevant documents that provide important context include the Platte River SDM Process Guidelines and the Platte River SDM Decision Charter. If you have not already read those, please do so prior to the meeting.

The meeting agenda assumes that participants have read the pre-reading and considered key issues and discussion points in advance. If you have questions or comments, please submit them to EDO. We will use any input received in advance to organize discussion topics at the meeting.



## PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

### Governance Committee (GC) Meeting Agenda

## SDM Workshop

EDO Conference Center – Kearney, NE

March 8, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Central

March 9, 8:30-12:00 Central

### Meeting Objectives

- Review the decision objectives and performance measures (PMs) and the second round of alternatives and consequences.
- Clarify key trade-offs and information needs.
- Provide direction as required to refine PMs and alternatives and address information gaps; the goal is to ensure that the GC has sufficient information to support a final decision in June.

### Agenda – Day 1

Start	Topic	Document(s)
10:00	<b>Workshop Objectives, Agenda and Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop objectives and agenda review</li><li>• Overview of February TAC meeting outcomes</li><li>• Compass/EDO work done to date</li></ul>	
10:30	<b>Decision Objectives and Performance Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of Decision Objectives and Performance Measures</li><li>• This session provides an opportunity for GC members to ask questions, but will not go into the same level of technical detail as the TAC meeting</li></ul>	Summary: Objectives & PMs (Required) PM InfoSheets and Technical Memos (optional)
12:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00	<b>Alternatives and Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Round 1: What we did, what we learned, what the TAC concluded</li><li>• Round 2: Overview of alternatives and consequence tables, clarify key trade-offs and identify information gaps, identify new alternatives</li></ul>	Summary: Alternatives & Results TAC Meeting Notes
2:30	<b>Break</b>	
3:00	<b>GC Discussion Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarify the treatment of Pallid Sturgeon and Sediment</li><li>• Refine PMs (eliminate redundancies) if possible/necessary</li><li>• Provide direction to either narrow the scope of alternatives under consideration, or identify additional information needed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-channel vs off-channel habitat</li></ul></li></ul>	Summary: Discussion Questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flows/use of water for terns and plovers</li> <li>• How much is enough (expanding beyond Program land?)</li> </ul>
<b>4:30</b>	<b>Synthesis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis of key issues and priorities for Day 2</li> <li>• Possible questionnaire on preferences/priorities</li> </ul>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Close</b>

## Agenda – Day 2

<b>Start</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Document(s)</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Re-cap of Day 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of key outcomes and/or issues from Day 1</li> <li>• Agenda updates / adjustments as required based on Day 1</li> </ul>	
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Key Trade-offs and Information Needs</b>  Possible review of questionnaire outcomes and time-limited discussion of key issues  Continue with GC discussion questions from the pre-read. Desired outcomes are either decisions made, or information needs identified, for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you want to continue to consider on-channel alternatives?</li> <li>• Do you want to focus on an MCA approach to on-channel habitat?</li> <li>• Do you want to consider alternatives that use water?</li> <li>• Do you want to consider new land acquisition?</li> </ul>	Summary: Discussion Questions
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Synthesis of GC Direction on Alternatives, PMs and Uncertainties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesize decisions and/or conclusions</li> <li>• Confirm direction on new alternatives, PMs, modeling or uncertainty/info gaps</li> <li>• Identify outstanding questions and issues: by the June meeting you will be making a decision on a preferred alternative</li> </ul>	
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify priorities for the TAC and preparation required for the next TAC meeting</li> <li>• Confirm next steps for Compass/EDO</li> </ul>	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Close (Lunch, followed by regular GC meeting)</b>	