



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

ED Office Conference Room – Kearney, NE

September 15, 2010

Attendees

Mike Purcell, Chair – State of Wyoming

Jerry Kenny – ED

Chad Smith – ED Office

Jason Farnsworth – ED Office

Bruce Sackett – ED Office

John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation

Mike George – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jennifer Schellpeper – State of Nebraska

Jim Schneider – State of Nebraska

Don Kraus – Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID)

Brian Barels – Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)

Dennis Harmon – State of Colorado

Welcome and Administrative

Finance Committee Chair Purcell called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Central time. No agenda modifications were offered. Lawson moved to approve August 2010 FC minutes; Kraus seconded.

August 2010 minutes approved.

Program Bid Packages

Kenny provided an update on the Cottonwood Ranch and Elm Creek Complex habitat enhancement bid packages. Both packages included conditions related to Corps permit approval. The Corps stated these permits are forthcoming. For the Elm Creek Complex work, a second condition related to the management and monitoring agreement with NPPD which the GC approved yesterday. Both bid packages are now open for bidding and will be awarded once complete.

Purcell asked about the new bid package cost for the OCSW work at Cottonwood Ranch. Farnsworth said the bid package is for construction of tern and plover habitat at Cottonwood Ranch. He said the contractor used a new cost-estimating technique that resulted in a cost estimate that exceeds the budget amount but that also reflects much larger estimates for actual work than we have seen before. If bids come in comparable to past work, we should be able to stay within the remaining budget for the LP-2 line item. If bids come in higher, we will have to come back to the FC to discuss moving funds from another budget line item unless the bid packages open for other work in that line item provide cost savings.

Harmon moved to approve the Cottonwood Ranch OCSW bid package with the condition that there will be Finance Committee approval if budget adjustments are required; George seconded. **Bid package approved.**

Farnsworth said the culvert bid package is ready to go and is for construction of a crossing over Spring Creek to improve access to Cottonwood Ranch for Program activities. Kenny said this project does require a 404 permit. We have not received the permit and there is a lead federal agency question related to this permit that is unresolved. Kenny said there is a conference call with the Corps set for next week to

This document is a draft based on one person's notes of the meeting. The official meeting minutes may be different if corrections are made by the Finance Committee before approval.



discuss this issue. Barels said he knows the Program needs to get over the hurdle, but if it would help to get this project completed this year NPPD would be happy to take the lead on this permit. Kenny said he appreciates this option and will consider it. Kraus said it seems like this is a project that is on a small enough scale to work this issue out without stalling other important work. Kenny said it seems like that may be the reason the Corps chose this project to push on the lead federal agency matter. Purcell said it might be a good argument to show how state contributions with cash and water are actually more than 50% of Program contributions. Lawson said it seems to be more than that and it seems the Corps does not want to accept the Program as an entity like NPPD in acquisition of permits.

Kraus moved to approve the Cottonwood Ranch culvert bid package subject to the resolution of the 404 permitting issues; Schneider seconded. **Bid package approved.**

Closing Business

Upcoming FC meetings:

- November 23, 2010 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central time
- November 30, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to noon Central time

FC meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from September 2010 FC meeting

- 1) Approved August 2010 FC minutes
- 2) Approved the Cottonwood Ranch Off-Channel Sand and Water (OCSW) bid package.
- 3) Approved the Cottonwood Ranch culvert crossing bid package subject to opening the bid package only when the permitting issue is resolved.