



# PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

## Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015

### Meeting Attendees

#### Finance Committee (FC)

##### **State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Chair

##### **State of Colorado**

Suzanne Sellers – Member

##### **State of Nebraska**

Jim Schneider – Member

#### **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**

Brock Merrill – Member

Chris Beardsley

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

None

#### **Environmental Entities**

Marian Langan – Member

#### **Colorado Water Users**

Alan Berryman – Member

Kevin Urie – Member

#### **Downstream Water Users**

Don Kraus – Member

#### Welcome and Administrative

FC Chair LaBonde called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Central time. The group proceeded with introductions.

#### COHYST Agreement

Kenny discussed the proposed agreement between the Program and COHYST. Schneider asked where the budget figures came from. Kraus said they looked at what COHYST had available and then needs for the remainder of the year after June 30. Schneider said he does not see the Program benefit for the second part of the work. Kenny said there are specific benefits to the Program of helping Program staff learn how to run the models for Program scenarios. Schneider said he has concerns about COHYST and the history of development of the model. Berryman asked if Nebraska was comfortable with the model at this time. Schneider said he is trying to discourage ongoing tinkering and instead just wants to see the model used to figure out how it works. Sellers asked about the status of the model and if it has been finalized. Schneider said it was peer reviewed and Kraus said it received a largely positive review. Berryman asked how the



Program would use it. Kenny said it would be the tool used by Nebraska and the water users so we want to be able to incorporate our projects and evaluate comprehensive interactions. Sellers asked if there is a situation where COHYST and the state model could compete. Kraus said no they are just trying to solve problems with the model. Schneider said he is fine looking into things to get a better understanding and improve usefulness but at that point it needs to stop because it has been tweaked for 17 years. Kenny said the intent was to complete any tweaks by the end of 2015. Schneider said his concern is Nebraska is basing their New Depletions Plan on one model and the Program would be using another model. LaBonde asked if we are talking about revising one or two models. Kenny said tweaks resulting from this work would be made to Version 2. The decision on which version the Program should ultimately use would benefit from knowing the impact of the planned tweaks, this would improve the defensibility of the decision.

*Schneider moved to approve the agreement; Berryman seconded. Agreement approved.*

**FC meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m. Central time.**

**Summary of Action Items/Decisions from March 18, 2015 FC meeting**

- 1) Approved COHYST agreement.