



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes

February 27, 2013

Meeting Attendees

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming

Harry LaBonde – Member

State of Colorado

Suzanne Sellers – Member

State of Nebraska

Jim Schneider – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Gary Campbell – Member

Brock Merrill

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

No participants

Environmental Entities

No participants

Colorado Water Users

Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users

Don Kraus – Member

Welcome and Administrative

FC Chair Campbell officially called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Central time. Kenny proceeded with introductions. No agenda modifications offered.

LaBonde moved to approve the January 22, 2013 FC minutes; Schneider seconded. Minutes approved.

Sediment Augmentation Contract Change Orders

Smith discussed three change orders related to existing contracts for sediment augmentation at the Plum Creek and Cottonwood Ranch complexes. Sellers asked if we are learning which method is most cost effective. Smith said mechanical manipulation at Cottonwood Ranch has proved cheaper over sand pumping so far. Kraus asked if the spring round of implementation is necessary. Smith said yes – the Program will learn more about the effectiveness of the two methods in terms of actually removing sediment, and as both methods progress the Program will also learn more about the true comparison of costs.



Kraus moved to approve the sediment augmentation contract change orders; Sellers seconded. **Change orders approved.**

Grassland Vegetation Monitoring RFP

Smith discussed the RFP for grassland vegetation monitoring. Campbell asked if this would establish the baseline for future evaluation of vegetation. Smith said yes.

LaBonde moved to approve the grassland vegetation monitoring RFP; Urie seconded. **RFP approved.**

Water Quality Monitoring Contract Amendment

Farnsworth discussed the contract amendment for 2013 water quality monitoring and the focus of water quality monitoring efforts this year.

Urie moved to approve the water quality monitoring contract amendment; Kraus seconded. **Contract amendment approved.**

Wet Meadows Hydrology Monitoring

Kenny discussed the procurement process for items related to wet meadows hydrology monitoring. Kenny said there while debate continues about some of the larger aspects of the wet meadows hydrology monitoring project, there are items that have unanimous support that are moving forward without RFPs and associated selection processes because each piece alone is less than \$25,000. However, taken together they add up to about \$66,000 so Kenny wanted to inform the FC about what was happening. This total cost is well under the budget line item for this project in 2013 (IMRP-2). Kenny then discussed each item – monitoring wells, weather stations, and water level monitoring equipment. Campbell asked about the shallow wells and the cost. Kenny said 27 shallow wells for about \$19,000. Kraus asked if water level monitoring will be installed by April. Kenny said yes. Kraus asked if telemetry will be a separate piece. Kenny said yes, we will come back to the FC to approve a RFP when it is ready.

Indexing

Sellers provided an update on the status of discussions related to indexing. She said Colorado is waiting to hear back from the BOR. Campbell said the issue is in front of the solicitor now, but it doesn't become an issue unless and until a project like the J-2 reservoir comes up and the federal funds are not there to cover the full cost at the time.

Closing Business

Kenny asked Campbell if there are any immediate ramifications for the Program if the sequester goes forward. Campbell said the direction he has received is essential travel only and he and Merrill will be at the March GC meeting. But, when possible, he is pushing Merrill to participate in other Advisory Committee meetings by webinar and conference call if possible to reduce travel costs. Kenny asked if that was only for out-of-state travel. Campbell said no it applies to all travel. Kenny said there is a request for a field tour at the conclusion of the GC meeting in March so we need to get a head count of who will attend. Kenny said Smith would be sending a message soon to the GC to get an idea of who plans to participate.

The next FC meeting is from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Central time on April 19, 2013.

FC meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. Central time.

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.



Summary of Action Items/Decisions from February 27, 2013 FC meeting

- 1) Approved the January 22, 2013 FC minutes.
- 2) Approved three (3) sediment augmentation change orders.
- 3) Approved the grassland vegetation monitoring RFP.
- 4) Approved the 2013 water quality monitoring contract amendment.