



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Finance Committee Conference Call Minutes

January 22, 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)

Mike George – Member

Eliza Hines

Environmental Entities

No participants

Colorado Water Users

Kevin Urie – Member

Downstream Water Users

Don Kraus – Member

Brian Barels

Welcome and Administrative

Kenny said the Program would go back to proportionate expenditures in 2013; all 2012 expenditures were through the federal budget. So, there needs to be a “true-up”. Using the proportions, the “true-up” would be about \$3 million. Kenny proposes that we initially just take from the Colorado and Wyoming accounts in 2013 (in an 80%/20% ratio, respectively) until we reach the roughly \$3 million, then calculate it precisely and get everyone on the same page about next steps after that. Sellers and Campbell said they are good with that. Kenny said the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) is good with it as well. Kenny will be writing a brief memo with the actual numbers.

Prescribed Fire Services RFP

Farnsworth discussed the RFP and the status of permit availability for prescribed fires in spring 2013. Since permits seem likely, the EDO developed a quick RFP using the 2012 format. We do not expect

Executive Director’s Office (EDO) & Other Staff

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

Jason Farnsworth

Chad Smith

Consultants

Larry Schulz



approval of the RFP today but wanted to get FC input at this time. The EDO will seek e-mail approval of the RFP at a later time when it is certain the fire permits will be made available. Campbell asked if it is the same RFP as last year. Farnsworth said yes, just the burn unit locations have changed. Campbell asked how much the Program spent last year. Kenny said less than \$150,000. Farnsworth said contractors believe the costs will be less this year.

Urie moved to approve the Prescribed Fire Services RFP; Sellers seconded. RFP approved.

FC Minutes

FC Chair Campbell officially called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m. Central time. Kenny proceeded with introductions.

Schneider moved to approve the November 20, 2012 FC minutes; Campbell seconded. Minutes approved.

Whooping Crane Stopover Site Evaluation Project

Smith discussed the stopover project contract and the recent issue with contract language. Sellers said it seems like since the USGS has agreed to this language before, it gives the Program room to go back to them and say this is something they have agreed to before. Schneider agreed and his position is we should not accept the proposed language from the USGS. The FC unanimously agreed.

Urie moved to approve the whooping crane stopover site research project agreement as presented, with the contract language as it stands in Paragraph 7B. Kraus seconded. Approved.

Contract Updates

Smith discussed the contract amendments for 2013 tern/plover monitoring and 2013 predator trapping. These amendments were erroneously moved through the system and signed before seeking FC approval. The EDO requested support for both contract amendments and Kenny said in the future these will be brought before the FC for discussion and approval before they are signed.

Urie moved to accept the 2013 tern/plover and predator trapping contract amendments; Kraus seconded. Amendments approved.

Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) Amendments & Agreements

Sellers asked about Marmorek's contract and the report requirement. It struck her as a large raise for the Chair/reporting requirement from \$10,000 in 2012 to \$14,000 in 2013. At some point, the Program is going to have to think more carefully about the way these work-loads and rates are calculated because of budget constraints. We may want to be careful about setting a precedent of giving a raise like this. Kenny said we would take that guidance to heart and would communicate expectations to ISAC members about future stipend rates. Kraus asked about the rate increase from 2012 to 2013. Kenny said the daily rate went up \$100/day, and the Chair/reporting additional stipend was tied to a daily rate than just a flat fee of \$10,000. Kenny said he doesn't anticipate an increase in time or daily rate for this function in the future. Sellers said she wondered if he had been generous with his time and advice, but from now on we should be more mindful of cost-cutting throughout the Program. Kenny agreed this was good advice.

Kraus moved to approve the ISAC agreements and amendments; Sellers seconded. Contract amendment approved.

**Independent Science Review Services**

Smith discussed the contract amendment with Atkins. Campbell asked if this amendment is for \$89,000 or \$108,000. Smith said the amendment is actually for \$45,000 – \$89,000 is the total for the original Atkins agreements and two contract amendments, and the \$108,000 is the FY2013 PRRIP budget line item for all costs related to peer review.

Urie moved to approve the Independent Science Review Services contract amendment; LaBonde seconded. Amendment approved.

Database Management System

Farnsworth discussed the contract amendment for the Program's database management system. Kraus asked how the performance is going. Farnsworth said most things are going well, the contractor is now working on resolving all of the issues related to web site performance resulting from the software change late in 2012.

Kraus moved to approve the Database Management System contract amendment; Schneider seconded. Amendment approved.

Closing Business

The next FC meeting is from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central time on February 27, 2013.

FC meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m. Central time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from January 22, 2013 FC meeting

- 1) Approved the November 20, 2012 FC minutes.
- 2) Approved the Prescribed Fire Services RFP.
- 3) Approved the whooping crane stopover site research project agreement as presented, with the contract language as it stands in Paragraph 7B.
- 4) Approved the 2013 tern/plover monitoring and predator trapping contract amendments.
- 5) Approved the 2013 ISAC contract amendments and agreements.
- 6) Approved the Independent Science Review Service contract amendment.
- 7) Approved the Database Management System contract amendment.