



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)

Finance Committee (FC) Virtual Meeting

Monday, January 4, 2021; 1:00-2:00 PM CST

Meeting held online via MS Teams

Finance Committee (FC)

State of Wyoming

Brandon Gebhart (2021 FC Vice Chair)

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Brock Merrill

State of Colorado

Jojo La (2021 FC Chair)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Matt Rabbe

Tom Econopouly

State of Nebraska

Tom Riley

Environmental Entities

John Denton (Ducks Unlimited)

Upper Platte Water Users

n/a

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman

Downstream Water Users

Devin Brundage

Executive Director's Office (EDO)

Jason Farnsworth, ED

Justin Brei

Chad Smith

Tim Tunnell

Kevin Werbylo



WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE

Introductions – Chair Jojo La called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM Central Time. La greeted the group and asked Tom Riley to introduce himself since he is new to the group. Riley provided a brief introduction.

Agenda – Ament asked for a modification to the agenda to add discussion of re-naming the Pawnee Complex to the Jerry Kenny Complex. Farnsworth said we should discuss that at the end after the Executive Session.

Minutes:

FC Motion: *Merrill moved and Berryman seconded to approve the July 16, 2020 FC Virtual Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.*

FC Officers – La discussed the recent history of FC Chairs and Vice Chairs.

FC Motion: *Merrill nominated La as 2021 FC Chair and Gebhart as 2021 FC Vice Chair; Brundage seconded. La and Gebhart appointed 2021 FC Officers.*

FC Action Item Table – Farnsworth previewed the items to be discussed with the FC during the virtual meeting today.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Werbylo discussed the bid package for rehabilitation of the Lexington Pit and the plan for rehab activities and construction administration. Riley submitted several Qs to the EDO via email prior to the FC meeting. Werbylo addressed those items:

- The bond forms in the bid package will have the project names changed accordingly.
- The version of the EJCDC guidelines used may be getting out of date, after this project one of our Special Advisors can go through our bid package/bid set to update them as necessary to the latest version of the EJCDC.
- In the past we have not done stamping and sealing of these drawings, we can start doing that. Justin Brei of the EDO can do that in Nebraska, Werbylo can start doing that as well.

Werbylo said the project will not be bonded, we will choose a contractor we are comfortable with. Gebhart asked if the selection process is laid out for those submitting bids. Werbylo said we will do our best to select the contractor that provides the best prices, where we will have to make a judgment call is the length of time estimated by the submitted bidding contractors. Brei said we will be looking for contractors with access to the right equipment (dozers, scrapers, etc.) and their hourly rates. Farnsworth said we likely will only get a couple bids, anybody submitting a bid needs to have current MSHA certification to work on active mines/pits.

La mentioned recent email traffic with the TAC regarding the application of pre-emergent herbicide and tree clearing. Farnsworth provided the following update:

- Program research suggests a relationship between nest success and the prevalence of predator perches close by. In this case, most of the trees are on neighboring property and the EDO is beginning to work with those neighbors to see if we can develop management agreements to clear those trees.



- In relation to vegetation control, Jenniges of NPPD suggested we should spray the site and let it sit for a year or two. Farnsworth said regardless of how long we wait we will be pushing material around and will expose a new seedbed so our preference is to do the dirt work and come back in with spraying and spot application as necessary to control the vegetation.

FC Motion: *Riley moved and Econopouly seconded to approve the Lex Pit rehab bid package as amended based on comments from Riley and responses from the EDO. Bid package approved.*

WEBSITE/DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Brei discussed the 2021 contract amendment for DJ Case and the PRRIP website and database and ongoing work on the PRRIP financial management database (operational now, will finalize that database and ensuring full operationality in 2021). Econopouly asked if we know if we get interested public visiting the website. Brei said we get statistics of website visits but we cannot determine if those are public visits or visits by Program participants. DJ Case could be a helpful partner in how to determine this information and improve public engagement through the website. La asked about user surveys. Brei said we asked them to include that in their 2021 budget to survey Program participants in terms of website content and use. La asked how DJ Case prices line up with similar contractors. Brei said there rates are competitive and consistent with the marketplace. Farnsworth said the other benefit of DJ Case is they work regularly with natural resources clients so they have good suggestions for content that can be beneficial to the Program. Riley asked how long this contract goes. Brei said this is the third year, the original contract does not have an end date beyond annual extensions.

FC Motion: *Gebhart moved and Merrill seconded to approve the 2021 DJ Case contract amendment. Contract amendment approved.*

PRRIP FY21 BUDGET

Budget Cheat Sheet – Farnsworth discussed the proposed new format for the PRRIP budget “cheat sheet” (compressed financial summary) that is used at each GC quarterly meeting. Econopouly said the new format looks great. He suggested changing “Expended” to “Budgeted” to avoid having zeroes in the spreadsheet. Farnsworth agreed. La said this new format will be very helpful to Colorado for tracking finances over time. Gebhart said he likes the new format as well and also would like to see “Budgeted” with or in place of “Expended.”

FC MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP

Action Items & Meeting Feedback – None.

Next FC Meeting – Farnsworth said the EDO will look to schedule the next FC meeting in late February.

FC MEETING END

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM Central Time.

Summary of Action Items/Decisions from January 4, 2021 FC Virtual Meeting

- 1) Approved July 16, 2020 FC virtual meeting minutes.
- 2) Appointed Jojo La as 2021 FC Chair and Brandon Gebhart as 2021 FC Vice Chair.
- 3) Approved Lex Pit rehab bid package.
- 4) Approved DJ Case 2021 contract amendment.