



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**  
**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 10, 2008**

**Attendees**

Mark Peyton, Chair  
Jerry Kenny, Executive Director  
Chad Smith  
Mike Besson  
Lisa Fotherby  
Jim Jenniges  
Felipe Chavez-Ramirez  
Mark Czaplewski  
Kevin Urie  
Mike Fritz  
Becky Mitchell  
Susan Kelly  
Don Anderson  
Shay Howlin – WEST, Inc

**Welcome and Administrative**

Mark Peyton called the meeting to order and the group proceeded with a roll call. Kevin Urie moved to approve the March 2008 meetings; Mark Czaplewski seconded. **Minutes from the March 2008 Technical Advisory Committee meeting were approved.**

**Whooping Crane Migrational Habitat Use**

**Tern/Plover Data Analysis**

**Independent Science Review**

Scott McBain discussed his prior experience with independent science review and how the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) should interact with the Program. He suggested several clarifications for the draft ISAC Scope of Work:

- Need to be clear about who is managing the ISAC
- Neither the ISAC nor individual members of the ISAC should independently contact Program members
- All communication with the ISAC should be done through ED Office
- Helpful to include input from TAC and AMWG on how questions are phrased to the ISAC
- Be clear on the range of activities and Program aspects that ISAC will comment on; the ISAC should not be asked to respond to all details of Program work (focus on bigger picture)



Felipe Chavez suggested the tasks in the Scope of Work should be re-worked to ensure the ISAC remains an independent science body. The group discussed changes to the Scope of Work and suggested refinements to the language.

**Chad Smith will incorporate the suggested changes and submit the revised version to the ISAC Selection Panel for final changes before presenting the Scope of Work to the Governance Committee for approval.**

**The TAC recommended Felipe Chavez to represent both the TAC and the Adaptive Management Working Group on the Peer Review Working Group.**

**Program RFPs**

Chad Smith asked for TAC approval of the tern and plover foraging habits study RFP. Greg Wingfield asked about the scope of the study. Jim Jenniges drafted the original version of the RFP and said the idea was to focus on foraging habits but that since the study would likely involve putting radios on birds or other mark-recapture methods that the researchers should try and gather as much data as possible from marked birds. Mike Fritz said this seemed to expand the scope of the study and could result in different proposals for methods. He also said this will require federal and state collection permits and that this should be addressed in all the proposals since it may require that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission review all of the proposals to ensure they incorporate methods that will actually be permitted. Chavez suggested that the Service's Ecological Services team in Grand Island should review the proposals. Smith said that at a minimum, Martha Tacha or Bob Harms from the Service should sit on the proposal selection team. The group also recommended that Smith make it clear to potential contractors that they will have access to existing tern and plover monitoring data.

Jenniges said the potential contractors would benefit from visiting the river in the summer of 2008 before the proposals were due to become familiar with the scale of the study. **The group agreed to push the due date for proposals back to September 1, and Smith will host a pre-proposal meeting in the summer for potential contractors to visit locations on the central Platte. The TAC approved the tern and plover foraging habits RFP.**

**The TAC approved the pallid sturgeon information review RFP.**

There was a short group discussion about the water quality monitoring RFP. Mark Czaplewski said that when Ed Peters conducted his pallid sturgeon work on the lower Platte he developed a water quality monitoring protocol and also obtained monitoring equipment that is now housed with either the Service or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He said the ED Office should try to track down this information and equipment to see if it would be useful. Jenniges asked which parameters would be monitored, and Jason Farnsworth discussed those parameters and how they are integrated into the RFP.



**Further action on the water quality monitoring and wet meadows RFPs was tabled until a later date.**

**Integrated Monitoring and Research Plan**

Lisa Fotherby gave the group an update on the status of the work being completed by the Bureau of Reclamation and WEST on the whooping crane data analysis project. Smith reported that WEST is also completing the tern and plover monitoring data reports from 2006 and 2007.

**The TAC approved the proposal from WEST to analyze tern and plover monitoring data collected during the Cooperative Agreement. Smith will draft a sole-source justification for this selection.**

**Smith requested that TAC members review the latest draft of the geomorphology monitoring protocol and provide comments to him as soon as possible.**

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

The next joint meeting of the AMWG and TAC will be on July 9-10. The meeting is tentatively set for Denver, CO.

Meeting adjourned.