

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM****Governance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Warwick Denver Hotel – Denver, CO

December 2-3, 2014

Meeting Attendees**Governance Committee (GC) Table****State of Wyoming**

Harry LaBonde – Member (Chair)

State of Colorado

Don Ament – Member

Suzanne Sellers – Alternate

State of Nebraska

Jim Schneider – Member

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Michael Thabault – Member

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Gary Campbell – Member

Environmental Entities

Marian Langan – Member

John Heaston – Member

Duane Hovorka – Alternate

Upper Platte Water Users

Dennis Strauch – Member

Colorado Water Users

Alan Berryman – Member

Kevin Urie – Member

Deb Freeman – Alternate

Downstream Water Users

Brian Barels – Member

Don Kraus – Member

Mark Czaplewski – Member

Kent Miller – Member

Executive Director's Office (EDO) Staff

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director (ED)

Bridget Barron

Jason Farnsworth

Scott Griebling

Bruce Sackett

Sira Sartori

Chad Smith

Seth Turner

Kevin Werbylo

Audience Members

Christine Reed – UNO

Lisa Reynolds – State of Colorado

Brock Merrill – BOR

Cory Steinke – CNPPID

Philip Stuckert – State of Wyoming

Ned Andrews – ISAC

Diane Hoppe – CWCB

Tom Econopouly – Service

Monte McDonald – Riverside Technology

Mike Drain – CNPPID



43 **Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

44

45 **Welcome & Administrative**

46 LaBonde called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. The group proceeded with
47 introductions. Kraus asked if the HDR permitting contract discussion can be moved to Wednesday
48 morning for discussion to give the GC more time to consider the document.

49

50 *Heaston moved to approve the September and November 2014 GC minutes; Kraus seconded. Both*
51 **minutes approved.**

52

53 **Program Committee Updates**

54 *Land Advisory Committee (LAC)*

55 Czaplewski provided an update on the latest LAC activities. The LAC met on October 20 and November
56 17. The committee reviewed budget and work plan items; advanced a motion recommending acceptance
57 of 2015 land work plans for GC approval; and Heaston notified the committee he will no longer be the
58 environmental group representative on the LAC. Czaplewski said the consensus of the group is that there
59 is not a need to replace Heaston as the GC liaison on the LAC. There has not yet been a volunteer to
60 serve as Chair of the Public Access Subcommittee to replace Heaston. There may not need to be a
61 subcommittee at this point but that will be discussed further by the LAC.

62

63 Barels asked what the Program document says about the GC Liaison and maybe the GC needs to appoint
64 that liaison to fulfill the requirements of the Program document. Barels asked if Czaplewski would serve;
65 Czaplewski said yes.

66

67 *Barels moved to appoint Czaplewski as GC Liaison to the LAC; Schneider seconded. Motion approved.*

68

69 *Water Advisory Committee (WAC)*

70 Steinke provided an update on the latest WAC activities. Groundwater depletions for leasing projects
71 needs to be addressed and Jesse Bradly from DNR presented on that at the last WAC meeting.

72

73 *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

74 Sellers provided an update on the latest TAC activities. Several TAC members attended the CAMNet
75 Rendezvous on the Trinity River in California in October. There was good discussion about the structure
76 of the Program relative to other similar programs. Sellers also said the milestones approach of the
77 Program seemed to be a good structure compared to other similar programs that are struggling to report
78 successes and progress toward goals. TAC members participated in the AMP Reporting Session in
79 Omaha in October. The TAC met by phone November 5 to review the draft FY15 Program budget and
80 work plan.

81

82 *Finance Committee (FC)*

83 Campbell provided an update on the latest FC activities. The FC met on November 4 and discussed the
84 draft FY15 Program budget and work plan.

**85 Program Outreach Update****86 PRESENTATIONS**

87 • Scott Griebling and Kevin Werbylo presented at the Sustaining Watersheds Conference in Avon,
88 Colorado on October 8, 2014. Their presentation was titled, *“Impacts of the 2013 Colorado Floods on*
89 *Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat in the Platte River Basin”*.
90 • Jerry Kenny and Bridget Barron attended the America's Watershed Initiative (AWI) Mississippi
91 River Watershed Report Card meeting in Louisville, Kentucky September 30 – October 2, 2014. The
92 draft report card was the focus of the meeting and incorporated assessments from each of the five
93 basin workshops conducted earlier in the year. AWI plans to release the final report card in spring
94 2015.

95
96 Campbell asked who created the Missouri River section of the draft report card. Barron said staff from
97 the University of Maryland did the bulk of the work. Campbell said he would like to have a discussion
98 with the GC about future PRRIP participation in this effort because he has concerns.

99
100 • Chad Smith and David Marmorek were part of a panel, *How to Make Adaptive Management More*
101 *Successful*, at the CAMNet Rendezvous on October 6-8, 2014 in Weaverville, California. David Galat
102 of the ISAC presented a session titled, *Overview of Collaborative Adaptive Management*. Other
103 Program attendees included David Baasch, Matt Rabbe, Suzanne Sellers, and Kevin Uriel. The
104 CAMNet Rendezvous brings together innovative natural resource managers, scientists, policy makers,
105 and citizens to share successes and challenges from programs and projects that are conducting
106 collaborative adaptive management on the ground in order to advance the practice of CAM.

107 EXHIBITS/SPONSORSHIPS

108
109 • The Program exhibited at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on September 9, and 11, 2014 in the
110 Natural Resources Districts building. We made 2,361 contacts over the course of the two days. Due to
111 the muddy conditions at the location, the exhibits were closed on September 10, 2014.
112 • The Program exhibited at the Natural Resources Districts annual conference at the Younes
113 Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska on September 21 through 24, 2014. We made 361 contacts
114 at the conference.
115 • The Program exhibited at the South Platte Forum on October 22 & 23, 2014 in Longmont, Colorado.
116 We made 256 contacts at the event. The Program was also a break sponsor of the event.
117 • The Program exhibited at the joint conference of the Nebraska Water Resources Association and the
118 Nebraska State Irrigators Association on November 23 -25, 2014 in Kearney, Nebraska. We made 83
119 contacts at the conference.
120 • The Program exhibited at the Booseum at the Kearney Children's Museum on October 30, 2014.
121 Children attending the event were given materials to make paper cranes and age appropriate crane
122 fact sheets.

123 UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS/EXHIBITS

124
125 • The Program will be a break sponsor and will be exhibiting at the annual meeting of the Four States
126 Irrigation Council in Fort Collins, Colorado on January 14-16, 2015.
127 • The Program will be exhibiting at Colorado Water Congress in Denver, Colorado on January 28 – 30,
128 2015.
129 • The Program will be attending Water Tables in Denver, Colorado on January 29, 2015. Don Ament
130 will be hosting a table focused on the Program titled, *Partnering is for the Birds*.

131 **OTHER**

132 • The Kearney Hub published articles on the on the J-2 reservoir project on September 11, September
133 13, October 7, November 4, November 7, and November 8, 2014.
134 • On September 27, 2014 the North Platte Telegraph published an article on Program work to increase
135 flows at the North Platte River by Cody Park. Justin Brei was interviewed for the article.

137 **PRRIP FY14 Budget Update**

138 Kenny discussed the status of the FY14 PRRIP budget and associated expenditures and contracts. Smith
139 discussed the draft contract for PRRIP permitting services. Barels asked what permitting would be
140 required. Smith discussed the three categories – sediment augmentation, tern/plover nesting island
141 construction, and wetland activities (berms or other features needed to ensure water remains). Freeman
142 asked how we are strategically looking at how to handle permitting for Program projects and consider
143 packaging items up into a more broad-scale approach. Farnsworth said the Corps previously has been
144 resistant to options like a Regional General Permit or some other tool to tie things together and we have
145 always ended up needing to seek permits for individual projects. Thabault asked if the Corps explains
146 this rationale. Kenny said the amount of information they would require for something like a RGP would
147 be very extensive. Freeman said she was thinking more about how the Program is approaching projects
148 and brainstorming how to present these projects to the Corps. Kenny said the successful approach so far
149 has been to focus on the complex level which is how this work is presented in the scope and the
150 agreement. Freeman asked if the Program is going to have to conduct a separate EIS for these projects.
151 Smith said no and that language will be cleaned up in the final version of the contract; these projects
152 simply tier off alternatives identified in the programmatic EIS for the Program as a whole.

154 **PRRIP FY15 Budget & Work Plan**

155 Kenny discussed the latest draft of the FY15 budget and work plan and small changes since the
156 November 2014 GC Special Session. The work plan language for WP-5, Management Tool, was changed
157 to clarify roles and responsibilities. The budget for IMRP-5 increased to \$403,700.

159 *Schneider moved to approve the FY15 PRRIP budget and work plan; Berryman seconded. FY15 budget
160 and work plan approved.*

162 *Heaston moved to approve the FY15 ED contract; Strauch seconded. FY15 ED contract approved.*

164 **Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) Commentary**

165 Smith discussed the two versions of the State of the Platte Report Cards included in the GC meeting
166 packet. Andrews gave a presentation highlighting ISAC responses to questions and recommendations
167 related to the 2014 AMP Reporting Session.

169 Sellers asked about comparing availability of habitat types and their relative abundance. Andrews said
170 that is likely going to be addressed in the habitat selection analysis being conducted by WEST. Smith
171 said the EDO is thinking through how best to synthesize multiple lines of evidence regarding whooping
172 cranes and how best to push data and related analysis in a way that helps to address Program hypotheses
173 and Big Questions. That will be discussed with the TAC in late January or early February and should
174 help provide a clearer picture of what data. Kraus asked about the big picture and how the GC can be
175 informed as to where we are at in addressing hypotheses and Big Questions. Smith said one
176 recommendation from the ISAC is to track how we are moving through the steps of adaptive management
177 for each Big Question. The EDO intends to work on that and that should give the GC a pretty clear



178 picture as to where things are. The 2014 State of the Platte Report will be another way to provide that
179 information. Campbell and Berryman said it would be good to show the cost implications of things like
180 sediment transport in addition to how long would it take. Smith said the EDO is working on ways to
181 incorporate that information.

182

J2 Regulating Reservoir Update

184 Kraus introduced Huzjak from RJH who gave a presentation on the status of the J2 project. LaBonde
185 asked how many landowners will be part of negotiations. Huzjak said 11. Freeman asked if all
186 permitting would be done concurrently (FERC, construction permits, etc.). Huzjak said yes.

187

188 Sellers asked if the GC can get a copy of the presentation from today's meeting. Kenny said yes they
189 would be posted on the web site today.

190

191 Kenny discussed recent communications regarding the J2 project. LaBonde said he had recently been
192 contacted by the office of Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer and that he was still attempting to get connected
193 with a staffer in Sen. Fischer's office to respond. Miller said the Twin Platte NRD and the Central Platte
194 NRD would not be sending a letter similar to the letter sent by the Tri-Basin NRD.

195

196 Miller said the J2 history document was really good and he is likely to share it, but it should identify who
197 wrote the document. Hovorka asked if the Program gets water credit for the 1,000 acres that would be
198 coming out of production. Steinke said knowing the market that will be hard to deal with in the
199 negotiations especially in regard to swap lands. Hovorka asked if Central anticipates having to use
200 eminent domain. Steinke said the goal is to use willing sellers. Kraus said that is always the goal but no
201 tools have been taken off the table. Campbell asked how many negative comments have been negative.
202 Drain said there were just under 100 comments received, the number of commenters was much smaller.
203 Most of the comments are from the affected landowners. Schneider said Kenny might add a monetary
204 component to the buy-and-dry option in the J2 history document to help make the point about the cost
205 effectiveness of J2.

206

Hydroclimatic Indices

207 Kenny introduced the work that has been done on hydroclimatic indices in the Platte River basin. Henz
208 and Smirnov from Dewberry gave a presentation on the results of their work to predict potential impacts
209 of climate change on runoff in the Platte River basin. Barels asked why the analysis does not look at fall
210 precipitation. Henz said some budget constraints, but also this is just the beginning of the project and
211 with more time additional time periods can be included. Barels asked if there has been any looking at
212 areas further upstream to see if there are better correlations with snowpack. Henz said they are hoping to,
213 they did not have enough resources at this time to complete those analyses. Drain asked at what point you
214 look out too far ahead and the correlations no longer are strong enough to make good predictions. Henz
215 said that tends to happen in October and November because of the influence of hurricanes, typhoons, and
216 tropical storms.

217

218 **Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.**



220 **Wednesday, December 3, 2014**

221

222 **Welcome and Administrative**

223 LaBonde called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Mountain Time and the group proceeded with

224 introductions.

225

226 *Kraus moved to elect Campbell as GC Chair for 2015; Ament seconded. Campbell elected.*

227

228 *Ament moved to elect Schneider as GC Vice Chair for 2015; Kraus seconded. Schneider elected.*

229

230 **PRRIP Permitting Services**

231 *Kraus moved to approved the contract with HDR for 2014-2016 Permitting Services; Berryman*

232 *seconded. Contract approved.*

233

234 **Water Service Agreement**

235 Kenny discussed the Water Service Agreement with Central for Phelps Canal groundwater recharge. He

236 recommended taking this up again in March because of recent changed circumstances and the temporary

237 agreement now in place can stay in place until a final formal agreement can be presented to the GC in

238 March 2015 for consideration.

239

240 Schneider said the NDNR has been working on how to address the water pricing situation. The NDNR

241 recently met with an economist from Duke University (David McAdams) and he is now under contract

242 with the NDNR to help work through some of the challenges of pricing water and setting up a related

243 market. Schneider said he hopes NDNR has something ready to launch in fall 2015. LaBonde asked if

244 we could get him to talk to the GC. Schneider said he would try to get him to attend the March meeting.

245

246 **Public Comment**

247 LaBonde asked for public comment. None offered.

248

249 **Executive Session**

250 *Heaston moved to enter Executive Session; Schneider seconded. GC entered Executive Session at 8:18*

251 *a.m. Mountain time.*

252

253 *Ament moved to end Executive Session; Berryman seconded. GC ended Executive Session at 9:55 a.m.*

254 *Mountain time.*

255

256 **Future Meetings & Closing Business**

257 Upcoming 2015 GC meetings:

258 • March 17-18, 2015 @ Kearney, NE

259 • June 9-10, 2015 @ Cheyenne, WY

260 • September 8-9, 2015 @ Kearney, NE

261 • December 1-2, 2015 @ Denver, CO

262

263 2015 AMP Reporting Session:

264 • October 13-15, 2015 @ Denver, CO

265

266 **Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. Mountain Time.**



267 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from December 2014 GC meeting**

268 1) Approved the September 2014 and November 2014 GC minutes.
269 2) Appointed Mark Czaplewski as GC Liaison to the LAC.
270 3) Approved the FY15 PRRIP budget and work plan.
271 4) Approved the FY15 ED contract.
272 5) Appointed Gary Campbell as 2015 GC Chair.
273 6) Appointed Jim Schneider as 2015 GC Vice Chair.
274 7) Approved the contract for 2014-2016 Permitting Services.