



**39      Welcome & Administrative**

40      LaBonde called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time and the group proceeded with  
41      introductions.

42      Regarding additions to the agenda, Kenny raised the topic of a letter sent to CNPPID from Sen. Deb  
43      Fischer asking some questions about the J2 project. He thought it would be good to get some insight on  
44      the coordination with CNPPID by the Program and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources of the  
45      response to that letter. Kraus said CNPPID will be getting something back to Sen. Fischer by the  
46      beginning of next week. One question regards the use of Executive Session and the Central Board. The  
47      letter references landowner contacts and questions but does not list landowner names. As the specific  
48      response to letters questions were straightforward, the group discussion focused then on the broader  
49      topics of the importance of NDNR communicating with Nebraska's new Governor and new Senator about  
50      the Program, and an increased effort of outreach about the Program including the J2 Project. It was agreed  
51      to take this topic up again after the budget review was completed.

**52      PRRIP FY15 Budget and Work Plan**

53      Kenny provided an introduction to the budget development process that involved extensive input,  
54      discussion, and vetting by the Advisory Committees and the Finance Committee leading up to the Work  
55      Plan and Budget before the GC now. He reviewed in broad terms the draft 2015 Budget in comparison to  
56      the 2014 Budget to provide perspective, emphasizing similarities and differences of particular relevance.  
57      He then outlined the process of review for this session with respect to which sections would be covered  
58      by specific Executive Director's Office (EDO) staff:

- 61      • ED and Committee items – Kenny
- 62      • Land Plan – Sackett and Farnsworth
- 63      • Water Plan – Kenny and Sartori
- 64      • Adaptive Management Plan – Smith and Farnsworth

65      Kenny initiated discussion of latest draft of the FY15 budget and work plan and the current status of  
66      several line items in the budget. The notes from this point forward reflect primarily only those items for  
67      which there were questions or discussions.

68      With respect to ED-3, LaBonde asked if our public messaging success continues to grow or if we have  
69      saturated the market. Barron said there are still many audiences we don't yet reach in the area that we  
70      will continue to work on. We are also broadening the message by reaching out to school-age kids and  
71      other audiences. Kenny said it is also important to continue talking to the audiences that we have always  
72      talked to for message reinforcement while also reaching out to new segments. Strauch asked if the  
73      Program should be working on outreach related to the J2 project. Barron said we assisted in development  
74      of a J2 brochure with Central that has been distributed. Kenny said he had been thinking about this issue  
75      in light of recent media coverage of J2 meetings. The outreach doesn't necessarily have to be strictly J2  
76      but a broader message on the Program and what we are doing (including J2) might be helpful. Strauch  
77      said information about how difficult it is to find projects and how well J2 fits with our needs. Schneider  
78      said that would be a good idea to help explain how the project came into being. Kenny said it would be  
79      good to focus on the retimed water aspect and that it does not have a negative impact on irrigated  
80      agriculture in developing the yield. Alternatives that include drying up farm ground would definitely  
81      cause problems for the local economy. There has been some recent media coverage of Central's public  
82      83      84      85      86      87      88      89      90      91      92      93      94      95      96      97      98      99      100      101      102      103      104      105      106      107      108      109      110      111      112      113      114      115      116      117      118      119      120      121      122      123      124      125      126      127      128      129      130      131      132      133      134      135      136      137      138      139      140      141      142      143      144      145      146      147      148      149      150      151      152      153      154      155      156      157      158      159      160      161      162      163      164      165      166      167      168      169      170      171      172      173      174      175      176      177      178      179      180      181      182      183      184      185      186      187      188      189      190      191      192      193      194      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306      307      308      309      310      311      312      313      314      315      316      317      318      319      320      321      322      323      324      325      326      327      328      329      330      331      332      333      334      335      336      337      338      339      340      341      342      343      344      345      346      347      348      349      350      351      352      353      354      355      356      357      358      359      360      361      362      363      364      365      366      367      368      369      370      371      372      373      374      375      376      377      378      379      380      381      382      383      384      385      386      387      388      389      390      391      392      393      394      395      396      397      398      399      400      401      402      403      404      405      406      407      408      409      410      411      412      413      414      415      416      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974      975      976      977      978      979      980      981      982      983      984      985      986      987      988      989      980      981      982      983      984      985      986      987      988      989      990      991      992      993      994      995      996      997      998      999      990      991      992      993      994      995      996      997      998      999      1000      1001      1002      1003      1004      1005      1006      1007      1008      1009      1000      1001      1002      1003      1004      1005      1006      1007      1008      1009      1010      1011      1012      1013      1014      1015      1016      1017      1018      1019      1010      1011      1012      1013      1014      1015      1016      1017      1018      1019      1020      1021      1022      1023      1024      1025      1026      1027      1028      1029      1020      1021      1022      1023      1024      1025      1026      1027      1028 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85 meetings on local TV stations and the Kearney Hub which was not anti-Program, but demonstrated the  
86 need for us to tell our story better.

87  
88 Kenny said the budget on ED-3 is a little higher than in previous years because of this need to tell our  
89 story, and one aspect of this was increasing the budget on the time-lapse project. Our contributions on  
90 that project to date have been on equipment. Next year, our funds will go toward interviews, capturing  
91 additional video imagery, and developing a PBS-quality documentary to tell the story of the Platte with a  
92 strong emphasis on the conservation lands of the Platte and the Program's role. Kenny suggested GC  
93 members visit the time-lapse project's web site to see examples of what they are doing with imagery thus  
94 far. Here is the project web site link: <http://plattebasintimelapse.com/>.

95  
96 Uri asked if the proposed \$150,000 in the LP-3 budget covers taxes for all Program lands. Sackett said  
97 yes. Campbell asked if the value of selling land is factored into the budget anywhere. Sackett said no.  
98 Kenny said this is entirely expenditures, that is why we have added to the GC agenda a discussion of any  
99 income that comes back to the Program.

100  
101 With respect to WP-4 (f) i, J2 Regulating Reservoir. The question was asked by Kenny as to what was the  
102 preference with regard to showing the funds from the budget stand point, as they would not actually be  
103 expended until 2017 or early 2018. Options being the current presentation of the remaining balance  
104 shown as equal increments over three years starting in 2015, one big lump sum in 2017, or some other  
105 way. This is largely a matter of preference for Federal funds coming through the Bureau of Reclamation.  
106 Campbell said it works for the BOR to show the J2 expenditures as-is (spread out over three payments in  
107 2015, 2016, and 2017).

108  
109 With regard to water leasing potentials, Sellers asked if any the water leases will be coming before the  
110 GC in December for approval. Kenny said no, none of them are far enough along at this point and price  
111 negotiation in particular still needs to occur.

112  
113 With respect to the Adaptive Management Plan, Campbell asked in regard to line item PD-22 (Sediment  
114 Augmentation Implementation) if the GC would have a discussion in December about sediment issues,  
115 sediment augmentation, and ways forward for the Program. Smith said that would be a good time to at  
116 least start the discussion. Schneider said in regard to line item PD-11 (AMP Reporting) he has had  
117 conflicts with the AMP Reporting Session the past couple of years and really wants to attend in the future.  
118 The GC should be more involved with this, so getting the date on the calendar soon would help ensure  
119 better GC attendance. Smith agreed and said he would try to propose dates during the December 2-3,  
120 2014 GC meeting in Denver. Czaplewski asked in regard to line item PD-3 (AMP & IMRP Peer Review)  
121 why we would invest money in pallid sturgeon experts for review of possible life-history conceptual  
122 ecological models given where we are at in the Program. Smith said they were included in the proposal  
123 to develop species conceptual models because the pallid sturgeon is a Program target species but it will be  
124 up to the GC to decide whether to include it.

125  
126 **Public Comment**  
127 No public comments were made

128  
129 **Future Meetings & Closing Business**  
130 Schneider said NDNR had recently talked with Sen. Fischer about the Program, what was happening, and  
131 the J2 project. There was positive discussion about the tax issue and the fact that the Program will be



132 paying taxes for lands that are part of the project. In meeting with a landowner, issues related to how  
133 Program money is sent through the NCF, the quality of the report to FERC, and other issues were raised.  
134 There also doesn't seem to be an understanding generally that the J2 project is the result of a lengthy  
135 evaluation of many alternatives. LaBonde asked if it would be valuable to put together the planning  
136 history that went into selecting the J2 project and providing that to Sen. Fischer. Schneider said yes and it  
137 wouldn't necessarily have to be targeted to Sen. Fischer but also for anyone interested in the Program  
138 generally and the project specifically. Kenny said he could have a draft informational letter ready for GC  
139 review at the December GC meeting. Campbell said that information would be helpful, but also discuss  
140 the larger benefits of the Program including for water users in the three states.

141

142 Next GC meeting:

143 • December 2-3, 2014 @ Denver, CO at the Warwick Hotel

144

145 **Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. Mountain time.**

146

147 **Summary of Action Items/Decisions from November 2014 GC meeting**

148 1) Directed the EDO to edit the draft FY15 PRRIP work plan and budget as described above for  
149 discussion and approval at the December 2-3, 2014 GC meeting.

150 2) Kenny agreed to put together a draft letter for the GC detailing the history of Program water projects  
151 and how the J2 project came to be.