

**Governance Committee Business Meeting
Minutes
December 7, 2005
Country Inn and Suites, DIA
Denver, CO**

Agenda Updates and September 13 Minutes - No changes were made to the agenda and the September 13, 2005 minutes were accepted as written.

Public Comment - No comments were expressed

EIS, BO, ROD Schedule Update

Maryanne Bach provided an updated schedule and noted that they hope to brief the Governance Committee on various sections of each document before printing. The schedule identified included: FEIS in early/mid March 2006, BO distributed in late March or early April, and ROD printing in April.

Update on Extension Document Review by Governors and Secretary

The states noted that they had briefed the governors and that they would be sending letters shortly. John Lawson noted that the DOI will begin working with the Secretary of the Interior for a letter of support. John noted that the schedule as described in the Extension Document should be updated based on the one that Maryanne Bach just provided. The documented will be updated and distributed.

Budget Items

Spring 2006 Whooping Crane Monitoring

Dale Strickland updated the Governance Committee on the budget request for whooping crane monitoring and noted that it is included in the overall Cooperative Agreement budget. The Governance Committee approved the budget request for \$90,000.

2006 Executive Director's Budget

Dale provided a budget for January 1 to September 30, the remaining Cooperative Agreement period. The Executive Director's office will have significant time for AMP work but it is unknown how much time will be needed for Governance Committee meetings and other assigned activities. The Governance Committee approved the budget for \$140,000.

Nebraska Community Foundation Contract

The Governance Committee approved extending the current contract with the Nebraska Community Foundation through December 2006 to allow completion of contracts and budgets at the end of the Cooperative Agreement.

Program Document for Printing

The group discussed the Adaptive Management Plan and decided to have a December 16, 2006 conference call to approve the AMP after further internal review. Comments on the AMP are due by Friday, December 9, and will be distributed to the group.

The Governance Committee approved the following documents for printing and distribution: Program Agreement, Program Document, Finance Document (Attachment 1), Milestones Document (Attachment 2), Land Plan (Attachment 4), Water Plan (Attachment 5), and Structures Document (Attachment 6). The Governance Committee agreed that an index was not needed.

All documents, as approved today, will be provided to USFWS by December 15. The Executive Director's office will review the documents one final time for any editorial and reference issues. After the final review hard copies will be prepared for the January 18, 2006 meeting.