



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

LEAD. ORGANIZE. INSPIRE. The voice of the Lower Platte.

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Monthly Report for September 2014

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

River Obstruction Removal

The LPRCA and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission submitted a RTP grant during the first week of September. The LPRCA received some comments back from the RTP grant administrator on the last day of September. The LPRCA will address the comments—most of which are fairly straightforward—during early October. The RTP Committee will meet on November 14 to review the grants and ask questions of the sponsors. We should be notified following that meeting of any support we will receive from the RTP program.

Watershed Management Plan

The LPRCA submitted 3 grants related to the implementation of the watershed management plan during the first week of September. The first was a 319 application to implement the voluntary septic tank upgrade program, expanded education and outreach, and implementation planning for our priority 1 watersheds. The remaining two grants were a 319 and a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant developed in partnership with NARD. The 319 grant will develop a BMP effectiveness database for the 20 most utilized BMPs in Nebraska. The NET grant will develop a web based tool with GIS applications that will allow users to identify and evaluate placement and effectiveness of BMPs to reduce pollutant loads down to the field level. HDR is finalizing the edits to the WMP and will resubmit to NDEQ in early October.

LPRCA Events

The **LPRCA Summit** is set for November 6 at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland. Registration opened in September. Registration forms and on-line registration are both on the LPRCA website. Cost of registration is \$20 until October 28th. The LPRCA received a Public Information and Education (PIE) grant from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences/Nebraska Environmental Trust in September. The PIE grant will assist the LPRCA in covering costs of the event. The focus of the Summit on challenges and opportunities at the rural-urban interface with particular attention to rural innovation as well as how the work of the LPRCA and our partners can assist communities, counties and individuals in meeting those challenges and seeking opportunities. The schedule for the day will be as follows:

8:30 a.m. Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Keynote Presentation: Chuck Schroeder, Executive Director Rural Futures Institute

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Panel Discussion on rural/urban land use issues including recreation, industry, development, water quality, and other topics

11:00 a.m. Break out session of "Plainsopoly"

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Tour of portions of the Lower Platte

Stop 1: Kennedy Easement near Louisville in Sarpy County

Presentations by: representatives of the Kennedy Family; Dave Sands, Executive Director, Nebraska Land Trust; Western Sand & Gravel

Stop 2: Plattsmouth Municipal Building & Cass County Museum

Presentations by Charles Jones, Plattsmouth Main Street Assoc; Harlan Seyfer, Cass County/Plattsmouth Historian; Tour of Cass County Museum

4:30 p.m. (approx.) Arrive back at Camp Carol Joy Holling for hors d'ouerves and discussion

5:30 p.m. Event concludes

Hope to see many of you there!

Kayak Tour

On September 17th, the LPRCA held the "make-up" date for the Kayak Tour that was postponed due to weather earlier this year. It turned out to be a gorgeous fall day and we had plenty of water due to the September rains throughout the area. Participants had a quick trip on the water due to the flows. Following the paddle from Schramm to Louisville, participants heard about Nebraska's threatened and endangered species from Carey Grell, NGPC; DNR's INSIGHT from Jessie Wietjens of DNR; and about water quality concerns from Chris Madden of the Nebraska Watershed Network. I also provided some information about LPRCA projects and efforts. There was a lot of great discussion by the diverse group of participants and all in all was another successful opportunity to engage people in the lower Platte River and the LPRCA.

Upcoming Events:

Water for Food Symposium: October 19-22, Seattle

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: October 21, P-MRNRND, 9:00 a.m.

Lower Platte River Summit: November 6, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland