



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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Monthly Report for June 2012

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Lukas Partners and LPRCA representatives met in June to go over the results and draft report of the Public Opinion Survey. I believe both the survey and focus groups provided us interesting and useful results to continue to help shape the direction of the LPRCA and how we connect with the stakeholders of the corridor. Lukas Partners will be delivering the revised final report in early July. They will also present the results at the August Quarterly meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

Thermal Imagery for Nonpoint Source Pollution Detection

A full flight of the length of the entire lower Platte River, with focused imagery on 50 feet onto the bank and 50 feet into the river, was conducted in May. After preliminarily processing the data from the original flight two additional flights were conducted in June to try additional instruments and angles. While we have some “useable” data from the original flights additional flights will be conducted to try to capture more refined data. The flights will occur after leaf off and when the water temperature has dropped. The very warm and dry weather increased the temperature of the water to a point where it is difficult to identify clearly the points where there may be warm water discharge. The next flights will be done with a helicopter at a lower and slower speed to refine the data even further.

NARD Basin Tour

On June 11th, I assisted NARD staff with an airboat tour of a portion of the lower Platte. About 35 directors and guests from throughout the state spent the afternoon viewing the river between Platte River Landing near Valley and Fremont. It was a great day and I appreciated the invitation to help plan and lead the tour.

Events

I continued to place much of my focus on planning the Kayak Tour, Water Quality Open and the LPRCA Summit.

Kayak Tour: Registration for the kayak tours opened at 9 a.m. on June 28th. By 9:20 a.m. both scheduled tours were full with 50 people on the waiting list. I continue to be so impressed with the enthusiasm for this event. Unfortunately as we are all too well aware, the Platte River is currently experiencing near record low flows due to the prolonged heat and extremely dry weather. A decision was made at the very beginning of July to postpone the tours until September 19 & 20. We began notifying the participants and attempting to get them registered for the day in September that would work for them. Now, all that is left is to hope for rain for this and many, many more reasons.

Water Quality Open: The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 30th at Quarry Oaks. Registration information was mailed out at the beginning of July and registration will remain open until August 20th or until full which is usually fairly fast. Mike Archer of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Surface Water Unit will be providing the keynote presentation on sturgeon distribution throughout during the high flows and floods of 2011.

Lower Platte River Summit: I continued preliminary planning for the Summit during June which is set for all day October 18th in Fremont. We held a second steering committee meeting in June and began lining up more tour stops, presentations and sponsorship and publicity items. Mike Forsberg has agreed to be the keynote presenter and will begin the Summit at 9:30 a.m. He will be followed by two shorter presentations and then an afternoon of touring project sites and unique resources in the Corridor. Registration will be open in late August or early September. I look forward to another great day focusing on the many efforts and issues within the Lower Platte River Corridor. Look for more details soon!

Upcoming Events:

UNL Water Tour: July 17-20, Missouri River

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: August 21, LPNNRD

LPRCA Water Quality Open: August 30, Quarry Oaks

LPRCA Kayak Tour (rescheduled): September 19 & 20

LPRCA Summit: October 18, 2012, Fremont Opera House, Fremont, NE

UNL Water Science, Policy & Law Conference: November 13 & 14, Lincoln