



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for August 2014

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

The LPRCA Quarterly Meeting was held Tuesday, August 5th at Mahoney State Park. A presentation on the Nebraska Invasive Species Program was given by Allison Zach, the Program's Coordinator. Presentations were also given on the Watershed Management Plan, the River Obstruction Removal and access development at Two Rivers, the development of a BMP Assessment Tool and database, and LPRCA events. Additional updates were given on each NRD's Integrated Management Plan as well as the Lower Platte River Basin Plan, and updates on WRDA related NRD projects. Following the adjournment of the meeting, members of the LPRCA toured Lincoln Water System's new horizontal collector wells.

The next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Papio-Missouri River NRD.

Watershed Management Plan

HDR delivered the final draft to the LPRCA on August 1st. The draft was sent to NDEQ following its receipt and review by LPRCA. NDEQ provided comments to the LPRCA and HDR during the last week of August. Those comments were addressed and submitted to NDEQ. NDEQ needs to internally approve the plan prior to sending it on to EPA. LPRCA will be submitting our final report to NDEQ in early September. The draft Watershed Management Plan can be found on the LPRCA website.

The LRPCA 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.

River Obstruction Removal

The LPRCA and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission submitted an RTP grant during the first week of September. The grant would help cover the costs of the removal along with river access at Two Rivers continue to move ahead. We are hopeful that this may allow us to complete a long term project and while also beginning to improve access opportunities to the Platte River

LPRCA Events

The **Water Quality Open** was held Thursday, August 28th at Quarry Oaks. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Carrick Detweiller of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Computer Science and Engineering Department. Dr. Detweiller discussed the work he has done through leading an initiative to utilize aerial robotic technology within water sensing and sampling. The presentation was very well received with a good discussion session. Thirty-six foursomes then spent the day on the course where we had presentations by the Nebraska Invasive Species Program, USGS, the Department of Natural Resources, the Nebraska Land Trust, and the Daugherty Water for Food Institute and the Nebraska Watershed Network. It was once again, a successful and popular event!

The **LPRCA Summit** is set for November 6 at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland. Dave Sands of the Nebraska Land Trust, Matt Pillard of HDR and Rachael Herpel of the Rural Futures Institute and Water For Food Institute at UNL have graciously agreed to serve on the steering committee for the event this year. Chuck Schroeder, the Director of the Rural Futures Institute will be the opening speaker for the day. We plan to focus 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. Registration will be available in mid-September. Look for even more details coming then!

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Kayak Tour Rain Date: September 17th (Registration full)

NARD Fall Conference: September 28-30, Kearney

Water for Food Symposium: October 19-22, Seattle

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