



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for November 2012

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Section 22—Recreation/Access Planning

The Corps of Engineers provided a draft scope of work for the Recreation/Access planning effort proposed under Section 22 authority in mid-November. NGPC and I provided comments on the draft scope to the Corps. Currently the scope lays out the following items as primary components: public interest surveys to capture interest in water-based recreation and other recreation from individuals that reside outside of the Corridor; inventory of existing recreation areas and structures along the Platte River and major tributaries; incorporation of that data within the NGPC & LPRCA current GIS framework; real estate inventory; investigations and compilation of hydrologic and geomorphologic data to better understand and communicate time of travel between areas of the river as well as timing of duration of paddling. The planning process will result in recommendations for future access areas, improvement of existing recreation/access areas as well as how those can be linked to additional services, and a framework for conveying information to the public. We will continue to work with the Corps & NGPC during December to refine the scope and identify funding parameters. It is anticipated that most if not all of the LPRCA cost share can be accomplished through in-kind services.

319 Grant for Water Quality Planning & Education

In late October I was notified that NDEQ would provide \$100,000 for the grant to develop a watershed management plan for the lower Platte River Corridor. The plan will assist the LPRCA and its members and stakeholders in identifying priority areas for water quality improvement measures as well as projects and efforts to help improve the water quality of the lower Platte. The plan will utilize the CALMIT remote sensing data that is currently being collected through the on-going 319 grant. In November I began working with NDEQ on the development of the project implementation plan for the watershed management plan grant. I hope to have the plan back to NDEQ for their approval in early December. The PIP will then need to be approved by EPA before we receive the funds and continue the process. I anticipate the project will begin with input being collected from the LPRCA members at the strategic planning retreat which I hope to hold in February.

Nebraska Watershed Network

I have begun serving on the External Advisory Board for the Nebraska Watershed Network. The NWN is led by Dr. Alan Kolok of UNO/UN Water Center. The NWN has the goal of collecting information on water quality in urban watersheds and providing education opportunities to middle school, high school and college students as well as the general public. Currently Dr. Kolok operates the Elkhorn River Research Station which is funded by UNO and P-MRNRD. The ERRS has been operational since last April. Dr. Kolok received funding from the University of Nebraska Foundation among others to build a second research

station on the Lied Platte River Pedestrian Bridge which will be named the Platte River Research Station. A meeting was held in November to discuss design, placement, maintenance and other issues with the station. They hope to have the research station operational in mid-2013. It will be a great opportunity to expand the water quality information that we are able to provided to individuals and as an opportunity to link our USGS data with Dr. Kolok's data. The primary benefit will be an opportunity for outreach and education.

Newsletter

The most recent issue of the Platte River Update, the LPRCA Newsletter, was mailed out in early November. The next edition is plan for March/April 2013. Please let me know if you would like additional copies of the current edition or if you have ideas for the upcoming edition.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: January 17th, 9:00 a.m., LPSNRD