



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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## Monthly Report for January 2013

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### Water Quality Monitoring Network Real-time Contaminant Prediction

USGS continued work on compiling and evaluating data related to the Real-time contaminant prediction project currently funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The project builds on the on-going real-time water quality data collection and display effort that the LPRCA & USGS have continued throughout the past 5 years. The project is currently in its second year of funding and USGS is in the final stages of analyzing the data and developing relations that will generally predict when certain loads of contaminants could be expected at gage locations in the lower Platte River. They hope to have a draft final report completed on March 1<sup>st</sup> and then begin developing the website that will display those predictions and related data in real-time. The project should be finalized during late summer or early fall this year.

Additionally, 2013 will be the year to renew our 3-year agreement with USGS for the Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Network. The agreement would continue operation of at least 2 gages on the lower Platte River or a tributary. The gages would continue to monitor turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, e-coli and other selected contaminants. Additionally the proposed renewal would include continue the operation of a nitrate sensor at Louisville which began last year.

### 319 Grant for Water Quality Planning & Education

In mid-January we received a response from EPA regarding our 319 grant application to fund the development of the watershed management plan for the Lower Platte River. The EPA had a few minor comments and questions regarding a few budget items and also related to the fact that the lower Platte River Corridor is not a "traditional watershed". NDEQ submitted a response to EPA at the end of January. The application requested \$100,000 for the plan development. 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.

### Cumulative Impact Study

Phase 3 of the Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) is coming to a close. USGS is continuing to draft the final report for the sediment budget analysis portion of the phase. The hope is to have the report to the Corps and LPRCA for review next month. Additionally, we continued work on the conceptual ecological model. We are close to finalizing the draft of the model to be included within this phase. The CEM will be an on-going effort but it is the framework for developing an assessment tool to better understand and predict impacts of changes within the river and floodplain on endangered species habitat. Currently I am working

with Jeff Greenwald (USACE) on the draft summary report for Phase 3. We will begin working on closing out the in-kind accounting for the CIS hopefully during February so that the project can be closed out this spring.

**Upcoming Events:**

LPRCA Coffee Shop Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Church Street Café, Valley

NARD Washington DC Conference: March 10-13

LPRCA Strategic Planning: TBD (late March-Early April)

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: April 23rd, 9:00 a.m., LPSNRD