



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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Monthly Report for December 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Recreation Plan

In December I presented a summary of the recreation plan to a portion of the City of Ashland's economic development committee, their Mayor and City Clerk. I also met with a member of the Nebraska Airboat Association and Ashland Fire & Rescue about potential new or improved access on Salt Creek. Additionally, I began setting up a plan for public meetings to "roll out" the Recreation Master Plan in communities up and down the Corridor. We anticipate beginning with meetings in Ashland, Fremont and Columbus. Additional meeting locations and times may be set following those meetings. LPRCA members will be given the dates and specifics of the meetings and are welcome to attend. NGPC and NPS will be helping conduct the meetings as well.

LPR&T In-Kind

Phase 3 of the Cumulative Impact Study was completed last year. Following the completion of that study, the Corps of Engineers has requested that the Lower Platte River & Tributaries Authority be closed out. In order to close it out, all in-kind and federal dollars need to be accounted for by the LPRCA and the Corps. The accounting includes any studies or planning efforts done since the initiation of the authority in 1998. This process began late last year with much more attention being placed on it in November and in December. I am working to have any identification and documentation pulled together by early January to send out to LPRCA members. I had hoped to do that before the end of the year as discussed in last month's report but did not hit that goal. So, again if your NRD or Agency was a signatory on any of the Lower Platte River & Tributaries phases/studies I will probably be in touch soon!

LPRCA GIS

In November, HDR began working on transitioning the LPRCA GIS data currently housed within MapMaker to ESRI ArcGIS Online. The first step was a comprehensive review of the existing data, identifying what needs to potentially be updated as well as potential new data sets. The results of the review were presented to the LPRCA in late November. I met with HDR in early December to discuss needed updates and additions. Once some housekeeping issues are taken care of with the ESRI system and GIS server, the transition of existing ESA and CIS data will begin. We will also be updating the information and adding data sets from the recreation plan, water quality management plan and additional new data layers. The transition should hopefully be complete in late winter.

Water Quality Management Plan

In November and December, I worked with HDR and NDEQ to develop a plan to address the EPA comments on the LPRCA water quality management plan. The plan was initially assumed to be finalized after not hearing comments from EPA for over 12 months due primarily to staff change over and vacant positions. We now feel as if we have a handle on the necessary changes to primarily focus on e-coli/total suspended sediment instead of that in combination with nutrients. There is not new analysis needed but mostly

reorganization of the report and some content revisions. We will still have the valuable nutrient information and the document that provides us a holistic look at where to focus our work to continue to improve water quality in the lower Platte.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, LPNNRD, Wahoo: January 19th, 9:00 a.m.

NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln: January 25-27th.

Nebraska Wildlife Society Conference, Kearney: March 2-4.

NARD Washington DC Conference, Embassy Suites, Washington DC: March 11-16