



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for July 2016

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Camp Ashland Water Quality Monitoring

In July I met with the Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) and also began conversations with USGS about NEARNG's desire to add water quality monitoring sites in the two constructed chutes at Camp Ashland beginning as soon as this summer. The chutes were constructed as part of the conservation measures for Western Sarpy Clear Creek. NEARNG has been doing fish and habitat monitoring over the past year in the chutes and surrounding area. Early this year, they also installed a camera with the Platte Basin Timelapse effort to visually document changes within and around the chutes. NEARNG is interested in installing two real time water quality monitoring sites—one in each chute—and would like to include those within our water quality monitoring network. Funding for the sites would come from NEARNG. It is the hope that we can also use this site as a pilot for the development of online interactive tools and education modules integrating the real time data with the imagery.

Nebraska Land Trust

I am continuing to assist the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) with outreach to landowners along the Platte Valley regarding interest in agricultural conservation easements. I am currently assisting NLT with the development of a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant related to pursuing easements along the Platte. The LPRCA would have a role within this effort regarding the development and implementation of an outreach strategy and development of a stakeholder group alongside the NLT's easement acquisition process. Work on the grant will continue into next month.

Events

The Kayak Tour, was originally scheduled for June 7th, but due to high flows we postponed the tour until July 19th. There was a storm in the Elkhorn basin during the weekend prior to the rescheduled date. The river peaked rapidly over night to levels well beyond what we consider safe for the public. Unfortunately the tour was postponed again. We are working with NGPC on finding a possible makeup date in September.

The Water Quality Open is scheduled for Thursday, August 25th at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. Dr. Elizabeth VanWormer of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources will provide the keynote presentation. Her presentation is titled, "We all live downstream: water quality and the health of people, animals and ecosystems. Dr. VanWormer is a veterinarian and wildlife epidemiologist who focuses on the interaction between humans, wildlife and domestic animals with regards to health and environmental stresses. The keynote presentation begins at 10 a.m. with the golf and educational displays on the course starting at noon. If you would like to attend the presentation, please let me know.

We are partnering with Keep Cass County Beautiful and Platte River Rentals on a river clean up on September 8th. We will have people in canoes as well as support from local air boaters to pick up trash from the banks and sandbars between Schramm State Park and Louisville. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. for

lunch and instructions and then put the volunteers on the water between 12 & 1230. Volunteers will also be documenting how much trash and the type of litter they collect. If you are interested in volunteering either on the water or on land to help unload and document please let me know.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Kayak Tour, July 19, 2016. *The LPRCA Kayak Tour has been included as a “Find your Park” event as part of the National Park Service Centennial celebration.*

Water Quality Open: August 25th. Quarry Oaks Golf Course

River Clean Up: September 8th, Louisville

Nebraska Water Center Symposium. October 20th. UNL Innovation Campus.

LPR Summit: October 25th, Oak Ballroom, Schuyler