



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for March 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

FY2016 Budget

It's hard to believe that it's already time to put together the FY2016 LPRCA Budget. Time flies! I continued to spend time in March reviewing projects and programs and identifying work and grant applications to be included in the proposed FY2016 Budget. I also sent out a questionnaire to LPRCA members. The goal of the questionnaire is to find out from members their priorities and the LPRCA's potential to help address those; identify the LPRCA proposed projects and how they relate the goals of the LPRCA; and finally to begin the "discussion" of the LPRCA budget. I received 4 questionnaires back by the end of March which was my "deadline" however I'd still love to hear from those organizations/NRDs/individuals that I did not hear from. I will be pulling together a formal budget in April and will present that to the LPRCA members at the Quarterly Meeting scheduled for May 7th at 9 a.m. at LPSNRD.

Water Leaders Academy

For the past several months I have continued to stay engaged with the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy to assist with planning sessions for this year's academy class. In September the Academy class will be held in Omaha. I am working with P-MRNRD to plan a tour as part of the September session. A portion of the tour will be an airboat tour of the Lower Platte River to discuss LPRCA efforts and other important resources/features of the Lower Platte.

NARD Washington DC Trip

I traveled to DC in March for the NARD Washington DC conference. The conference is always a valuable experience to hear from agencies and organizations regarding policy and funding issues on both a federal and state level as well as an opportunity to hear from the Nebraska Delegation. Primary topics this year included the Farm Bill conservation programs, Corps funding, planning and programs, the proposed Waters of the United States rule, the changing demographics of agriculture, and trails and mobility.

Newsletter

At the end of March we began contacting people or organizations for submissions to the next LPRCA newsletter. We are aiming to have our next newsletter out in early May. While we have a number of submissions, please let us know if you have ideas or would like to submit some information for the newsletter.

Recreation Planning

I spent a good deal of March working with the Corps and NGPC on the plan document for the Lower Platte River Recreation Master Plan. Much of the work was focused on developing the recommendations and action items. We expect to have a complete draft by April 6th with distribution to the LPRCA members, other stakeholders and general public following that. We plan to have about a 30 day comment period after which the LPRCA and Corps will incorporate any necessary changes and finalize the report.

Simultaneously we plan to begin to form the recreation advisory committee and work with the National Park Service to layout out the plan for public engagement and initial steps for project implementation. The plan will also be discussed at the LPRCA Quarterly Meeting on May 7 at 900 a.m. at LPSNRD in Lincoln.

Upcoming Events:

NARD Runahoo at Wanahoo 5K and 1 mile Fun Run. Saturday, April 11, Lake Wanahoo, Wahoo.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, May 7, 9:00 a.m. LPSNRD.

LPRCA Kayak Tour. Monday, June 15th, 2015. TBD

Water & Natural Resources Tour: June 23-25, 2015, Republican River Basin.

NeFSMA Annual Conference, Nebraska City, July 29-30

LPRCA Water Quality Open. Thursday, August 27th, 2015. Quarry Oaks Golf Course, South Bend.