



**Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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## **Monthly Report for July 2014**

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **River Obstruction Removal**

The plans to submit an RTP grant to help cover the costs of the removal along with river access at Two Rivers continue to move ahead. The grant will be submitted in early September (deadline September 5<sup>th</sup>). The LPRCA, with Olsson Associates, had been exploring some potential cost savings for the removal of the obstructions. Decreasing the depth of removal was an option that would have resulted in some cost-savings during construction. However, after discussions with the NRDs it was decided that was not a preferred option and would not keep with the merit of the project to improve safety and flood control for the long term. Olsson Associates is preparing an opinion of costs for the removal and boat access point. The RTP grant is being developed in partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

### **Watershed Management Plan**

HDR was finishing up some final graphics at the end of July with delivery of the final draft being made to the LPRCA on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The draft will be sent to NDEQ for their review and can be found on the LPRCA website. I am currently working on 3 grants related to the implementation of the watershed management plan. The first is a 319 application to implement the voluntary septic tank upgrade program, expanded education and outreach, and implementation planning for our priority 1 watersheds. I am working with the Nebraska Watershed Network on collaborating on the education and outreach portion of this grant. The remaining two grants are a 319 and Nebraska Environmental Trust grant being developed in partnership with NARD. The 319 grant will develop a BMP effectiveness database for the 20 most utilized BMPs in Nebraska. The NET grant will develop a web based tool with GIS applications that will allow users to identify and evaluate placement and effectiveness of BMPs to reduce pollutant loads down to the field level. All three of the grants are due on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Recreation Planning Study**

The Corps of Engineers began development of the preliminary economic analysis of recreation in the lower Platte River Corridor in July. The planning study was originally slated to be completed by the end of September but that date has slipped to closer to the end of the calendar year.

At the end of July the LPRCA submitted a grant to the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. If the grant is received, NPS personnel will provide technical assistance to the LPRCA to begin to implement the recreation planning study. The RTCA program also helps identify funding sources and partners. We were notified that we had been advanced as the Midwest regional priority so we hope that we will hear good news from NPS soon!

## **LPRCA Events**

The **Water Quality Open** is planned for Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Oaks. The keynote presentation is planned for 10:00 a.m. with golf beginning at noon. Dr. Carrick Detweiller of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Computer Science and Engineering Department will provide this year's keynote presentation. Dr. Detweiller is leading an initiative to utilize aerial robotic technology within water sensing and sampling. Registration opens on July 10<sup>th</sup> and will be available via mail or on-line at [http://www.lowerplatte.org/what\\_we\\_do/events/water\\_quality\\_open.html](http://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/events/water_quality_open.html).

The **LPRCA Summit** is set for November 6 at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland. Dave Sands of the Nebraska Land Trust, Matt Pillard of HDR and Rachael Herpel of the Rural Futures Institute and Water For Food Institute at UNL have graciously agreed to serve on the steering committee for the event this year. Chuck Schroeder, the Director of the Rural Futures Institute will be the opening speaker for the day. We plan to focus the Summit on challenges and opportunities at the rural-urban interface with particular attention to rural innovation as well as how the work of the LPRCA and our partners can assist communities, counties and individuals in meeting those challenges and seeking opportunities. More information on the event will be available very soon and will be discussed at the LPRCA Quarterly meeting. We would love to hear your ideas.

## **Upcoming Events:**

LPRCA Water Quality Open: August 28, Quarry Oaks

LPRCA Kayak Tour Rain Date: September 17th (Registration full)

NARD Fall Conference: September 28-30, Kearney

Water for Food Symposium: October 19-22, Seattle

Lower Platte River Summit: November 6, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland