



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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Monthly Report for March 2013

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

LPRCA Strategic Planning Meeting

The strategic planning retreat will be held on Thursday, April 4th from 10 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m. at the LPSNRD office in Lincoln. The retreat will provide an opportunity to discuss LPRCA efforts and accomplishments over the last three years, hear from all of the LPRCA members on respective issues and priorities within each member's organization, and define goals and priorities for the LPRCA for the next three years including budget priorities. Additionally we will spend a portion of the afternoon focusing on gathering input and ideas regarding the Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Platte River Corridor.

319 Grant for Water Quality Planning & Education

In March the Lower Platte South NRD, on behalf of the LPRCA, approved the agreement with NDEQ to fund the development of the watershed management plan for the lower Platte River. 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 Watershed Management Plan and its associated data will be incorporated within the Environmental Suitability Assessment. The plan will also utilize data from the ESA, Cumulative Impact Study, Water Quality Monitoring Network and other data sources during its development. HDR will be assisting with the development of the plan. One of the first steps in the plan's development will be to utilize the LPRCA Strategic Planning Meeting (April 4th) to gather input from LPRCA members as well as to help in defining the goals and objectives for the plan. The plan should be finalized in summer of 2014.

Water Quality Monitoring Network

In March, the Lower Platte South NRD, on behalf of the LPRCA, approved the agreement with USGS for continuation of the Water Quality Monitoring Network for three more years. The agreement funds real-time data collection and display via the website <http://ne.water.usgs.gov/lowerplatte/> for gage locations at the Platte River at Louisville, Salt Creek at Ashland and the Elkhorn River at Waterloo. Data such as temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, e-coli and other selected contaminants are collected and displayed. Additionally this new agreement also continues the continuous nitrate data collection at Louisville that began last year. This has been one of the LPRCA's priority efforts and we are glad to continue collecting and making water quality data available to all stakeholders.

Website

During February and March, we have been interviewing web-design and marketing firms to gather ideas and cost estimates for a large update of the LPRCA website. We have had a great website for a number of

years now but with our “rebranding” that has occurred over the past few years as well as our increasing diversity of projects, events, and resources I feel that it is a great time to reevaluate and expand our existing website. We will begin working with a selected firm in early April.

Kayak Tour

The LPRCA and NGPC have set the date for the 2013 LRPCA Kayak Tour for Tuesday, May 21st. We anticipate the schedule of the event being similar to the past and will be making a decision on the route as we get closer to the event. While this is several months earlier than the tour has been held in the past, we feel moving it up will provide the best opportunity to hold the tour given the forecast for continuing drought. If the river conditions are better than anticipated it may be possible to hold a second tour later in the year. Registration for the tour will begin on April 30th. Registration details will be coming soon.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Strategic Planning: April 4th, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., LPSNRD

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

LPRCA Kayak Tour: May 21st, 8:00-1:30, TBD