



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for February 2013

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

319 Grant for Water Quality Planning & Education

In February we received final approval from the EPA and NDEQ regarding our 319 grant application 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. Approval from the LPSNRD Board will be needed during March. HDR Inc will be assisting the LPRCA with the plan development. 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. One of the first steps in the plan's development will be to utilize the LPRCA Strategic Planning Meeting (anticipated to be held in early April) to gather input from LPRCA members as well as to help in defining the goals and objectives for the plan. Stay tuned for more details.

Nebraska Environmental Trust Grants

The LPRCA submitted two grants to the Nebraska Environmental Trust last fall. The first grant requested assistance from the Trust for the removal of river obstructions near Two Rivers State Recreation Area. That request received preliminary approval from the Trust Board in February. The total award is for \$354,000 for one year which represents 45% of the project costs. The second application requested assistance for expansion of the sandbar dynamics study currently being carried out by USGS and LPSNRD. That application also received preliminary funding for \$151,000 over three years.

Recreation Planning

I met with NGPC in February to discuss the proposed scope of work and in-kind estimates for the water based recreation plan development. The Corps of Engineers has given early indication that they will have some funds available to assist the LPRCA and NGPC in the development of the plan for the lower Platte River. The plan will look at potential areas to improve or expand river access, improve or expand associated recreation facilities and also steps needed for the development of a water trail on the lower Platte. We hope to have a better indication from the Corps this month and potential to begin that work in 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.

Upcoming Events:

NARD Washington DC Conference: March 10-13

LPRCA Strategic Planning: TBD (Early April)

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

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