



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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Monthly Report for June 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Two Rivers Obstruction Removal

In June, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission committed additional funds from the Recreational Trail Program to assist with the removal of a portion of the abandoned bridge piers near Two Rivers State Recreation Area. We are extremely grateful as that will go a long way for completing construction. The RTP award required additional NEPA documentation which I completed and submitted at the end of May. During the third week of June we received approval of the NEPA document from the Federal Highway Administration. The project was advertised for bids beginning June 19th in the Omaha World Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. An on-site pre-bid meeting was held at Two Rivers State Recreation Area on June 26th. Three contracting firms were present. There was some concern primarily over turnaround time for the Corps to approve the final construction plans developed by the contractors. We received assurance from the Corps in very early July that they would complete regulatory review of the plans within 10 days of receiving them. A bid opening is planned for Thursday, July 9th at 2 p.m. at LPSNRD in Lincoln. Presuming we receive a bid within the available funds, LPSNRD will consider that bid at their regular July 15th meeting. Once the funds are obligated from FHWA we will be able to execute the contract and allow for mobilization by the contractors. Construction can (and needs to) begin on August 15th.

Recreation Planning

We continued to work with the National Park Service to begin the process of “rolling out” the plan through public meetings during this summer and later this year. We anticipate formalizing the advisory committee in late July as well as the meeting plan for public meetings and schedule of city and county meetings. Those meetings will help us gather input and feedback on our recommendations and utilize NPS expertise as well as local expertise to identify opportunities for new or improved access areas, education and other recreation resources.

Watershed Toolbox

In June I began working with educators from Papio-Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte South NRD and Lower Platte North NRD along with staff from UNL Extension and NDEQ to develop a watershed education and planning toolbox. We have continued working on evaluating the information for both youth and adults. We hope to have the youth portion at least partially assembled by the beginning of school next month with continued additions to come throughout the year. The adult portion will hopefully be partially assembled by early fall and will be begin to be utilized in LPRCA stakeholder meetings in our priority watersheds. It is our hope that the toolbox can be something used by NRDs, and others across the state.

Events

The LPRCA Kayak Tour, originally scheduled for June 15th, was unfortunately postponed. The Platte River at Louisville peaked on Friday, June 12th at 75,000 cfs which is more than ten times the median flow for that time of year. It was obviously not safe to put public on the river. We were able to reschedule the tour for July 21st and look forward to hopefully having a cooperative river and cooperative weather. There will be education provided by the LPRCA, NGPC, Lower Platte Weed Management Area, Nebraska Aquatic Species program, the Nebraska Watershed Network and the Nebraska Land Trust.

The Water Quality Open is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. We thank NEBCO Inc for once again providing major sponsorship of this event. Bruce Dvorak from UNL Nebraska Water Center will provide the keynote presentation at 10 a.m. Dr. Dvorak received a grant from the EPA to assess available technology and needed information for small water systems. Dr. Dvorak plans a very interactive presentation with plenty of time for discussion so even if you aren't planning to golf later that day I encourage you to come to the keynote presentation. The afternoon will be filled with golf and presentations from a variety organizations and agencies on the course.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Kayak Tour. Tuesday, July 21st, 2015. Schramm to Louisville (Make up date)

NeFSMA Annual Conference, Nebraska City, July 29-30

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday August 4th, 9:00 a.m. TBD

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