



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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## Monthly Report for April 2012

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Lukas Partners began conducting the Public Opinion Survey during the third week of April. Stakeholders and residents of the lower Platte River Corridor were called and asked an approximately 8-10 minute survey. Additionally, stakeholders and public officials were contacted to participate in four focus groups. The focus groups will be conducted during the first two weeks of May in Columbus, Fremont, Ashland and at Mahoney State Park. Water Quality and supply, recreation, development and general awareness of the LPRCA and its partners is the primary focus for the survey. I look forward to the results and to using that information to help all of the LPRCA members and the LPRCA has a whole shape our message and programs going forward.

### **Thermal Imagery for Nonpoint Source Pollution Detection**

Pilot flights were flown during early and mid-April by CALMIT. A full flight is scheduled for the first week of May. The flight will cover the length of the entire lower Platte River with focused imagery on 50 feet onto the bank and 50 feet into the river. Additionally, imagery will be taken over the Fremont State Lakes area to supplement the NDEQ project focused on treating a portion of the lakes for toxic algae. The flights of the housing areas will be done this fall.

### **Sandbar Study**

LPSNRD approved a second year of funding for the USGS-led study of sandbar dynamics in the lower Platte River. The study was conducted last year from Salt Creek to the mouth. This year, LPSNRD agreed to support the expansion of the study to include surveys and analysis of sandbar location, area, persistence and geometry from Fremont to the mouth. USGS conducted a full survey in late April. A second study will be conducted in late June or early July. Additionally they continued to finalize the data and report from last year and began pulling together a time-lapse video of the sandbar formation from last year. We look forward to this next year of work and a hopefully successful submission for additional funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this fall.

### **River Management Society Symposium**

I attended the River Management Society's National Symposium in Asheville North Carolina during the last week in April. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the development and funding of water trails and access sites. I look forward to utilizing the knowledge and connections gained for work on the lower Platte River water trail with NGPC.

### **Events**

I continued to place much of my focus turns to planning the Kayak Tour, Water Quality Open and this year, the return of the LPRCA Summit.

**Kayak Tour:** The Kayak Tour will be held on two days this year, July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope that adding a second day will allow us to better meet the demand from the public that we have experienced the past two years and also allow more members and partners of the LPRCA to experience a day on the river. Look for a save the date card in early May; registration will open June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Quality Open:** The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Oaks. We'll hope to get a save the date card out during May and open registration in early July. I'm still looking for a keynote presentation so feel free to send me your ideas or suggestions!

**Lower Platte River Summit:** I continued preliminary planning for the Summit during April which is set for October 18<sup>th</sup> in Fremont. We'll hope to have a second meeting of the steering committee in late May following a very positive meeting of the committee (John Schmitz (Fremont Parks & Rec), Matt Pillard (HDR), Jana Sittler Hafer (NE Land Trust), and Pat O'Brien (NDEQ/NARD)) in early April. I look forward to another great day focusing on the many efforts and issues within the Lower Platte River Corridor. Look for more details soon!

**Upcoming Events:**

Water for Food Conference: May 30-June 1, Lincoln

NARD Basin Tour of the Lower Platte: June 11-12

LPRCA Kayak Tour: July, TBD

UNL Water Tour: July 17-20, Missouri River

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: August 21, LPNNRD

LPRCA Water Quality Open: August 30, Quarry Oaks

LPRCA Summit: October 18, 2012