



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for May2012

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PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Lukas Partners finished conducting the Public Opinion Survey during the second week of May. 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. Lukas Partners will be sending me a draft report during the first week of June. I and members of the LPRCA committee will meet with Lukas Partners during middle to late June to discuss the report before it is finalized. I look forward to the results and to using that information to help all of the LPRCA members and the LPRCA has a whole to shape our message and programs going forward.

Thermal Imagery for Nonpoint Source Pollution Detection

A full flight of the length of the entire lower Platte River, with focused imagery on 50 feet onto the bank and 50 feet into the river, was conducted. Additionally, imagery was 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. CALMIT is currently QA'ing and processing the collected data.

NARD Basin Tour

I spent a bit of my time in May assisting NARD staff with planning an airboat tour as part of the NARD Basin Tour on June 11th and 12th. On the afternoon of the 11th, I'll be helping take a group of NARD Tour participants from Platte River Landing to Hormel Park and back. We plan to make stops near the Fremont Well field, Wood Cliff, and then up to Hormel Park. We'll discuss many on-going projects and other unique features along the way. I look forward to being part of the tour!

NDEQ Popcorn Presentation

On May 16th, I presented to staff of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality as part of their monthly "Popcorn Presentations". I provided an overview of the LPRCA and lower Platte River as well as highlighting a number of our current efforts including those focused on water quality. I enjoyed the opportunity to update a wider portion of the NDEQ staff and thank Joe Francis & Julie Ward for extending the offer and helping to coordinate the event.

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 19th and July 24th. Save the date cards were mailed out in early May and an advertisement will appear in the June *Prairie Fire* newspaper. We began organizing presenters during that later part of May. In early June I'll be working with Craig Wacker of NGPC to identify this year's kayak route.

Water Quality Open: The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 30th at Quarry Oaks. We'll hope to get registration information out in early June and then open registration in early July. I'm still looking for a keynote presentation so feel free to send me your ideas or suggestions! We'll also be asking for presenters around the course so please let me know if you are interested or have ideas.

Lower Platte River Summit: I continued preliminary planning for the Summit during April which is tentatively set for October 18th in Fremont. We'll hope to have a second meeting of the steering committee in early June. We'll also be more firmly identifying tour stops in June. 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