



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

3125 Portia St.  
PO Box 83581  
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

p: 402.476.2729  
f: 402.476.6454

[www.lowerplatte.org](http://www.lowerplatte.org)

## Monthly Report for February 2012

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **Land Suitability Analysis**

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the LSA was held in February. Representatives from a county planning office, the NRDs, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, UNL, and the Nebraska Land Trust met to begin to help provide us ideas and feedback for the development of predictive or future scenarios. Including “unknowns” in any situation can prove to be difficult, so much discussion focused on how projected future land use could be included within the existing model or if a separate model needed to be included. Suggested options included overlaying projected growth or development plans from counties or communities within the study area with the current land use included within the ESA and LSA; to developing a priority analysis for each feature (e.g. agriculture, land preservation, water supply, recreation); and finally to focus the future scenarios only on areas where the highest suitabilities for each feature overlay one another. HDR will be investigating the feasibility and effectiveness of each option. We will be presenting information from the meeting and HDR’s work following the meeting to the TAC over the next month or so. We hope to have the scenarios fully developed by summer. The viewer can be found at <http://nrdmapmaker.org/lpresa/>.

### **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tom Mountford (LPNNRD), Gerry Bowen (P-MRNRD), Glenn Johnson (LPSNRD) and I interviewed three firms regarding their qualifications to carry out the public opinion survey for the LPRCA. Lukas Associates was selected and on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we met as a group with representatives of the firm to discuss the specific scope of work—survey questions, focus group locations, cost etc. Currently Lukas Associates is preparing their budget and we are working with them on the methodologies that we would like to have as part of the survey. We plan to have the scope of work approved during March and begin work on the formal development of the survey following the approval. Lukas Associates hope to begin the survey before Memorial Day.

### **NDEQ/CALMIT**

Several things impeded quick progress on the Thermal Imagery Flights in February. First, we had a return of winter weather to Nebraska and second we were asked by EPA and NDEQ to develop a Quality Assurance plan to include within the project implementation plan. That plan was developed and will be submitted to EPA for final approval during the last week of February. CALMIT was able to acquire the additional necessary instruments for the flight and develop their plan for data collection during the delays. We hope to have them up flying by the first or second week of March.

### **NET Grants**

We had both good and bad news from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. First the good news—the second year of funding for real-time contaminant prediction on the lower Platte was fully authorized. Second the not so good news—we did not receive funding for the sandbar dynamics monitoring study. We hope to revise and resubmit that grant later this year.

**Upcoming Events:**

NARD Washington DC Conference: March 11-14, Washington DC

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at NDEQ's Van Dorn Facility, 2717 South 8th, Ste 4 (South side of Bldg), Lincoln, NE

River Management Society Symposium: April 23-27, 2012, Asheville, NC