



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for January 2012

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Thermal Imagery Flights

In January NDEQ provided LPRCA with a contract to utilize \$140,000 of remaining 319 funds for thermal imagery flights to detect non-point source pollution in the Lower Platte River Corridor. The contract was approved by the Lower Platte South NRD Board. Once the contract has been returned from NDEQ, CALMIT will begin the flights of the corridor. The project will encompass flights of the entire reach of the lower Platte River as well as Ginger Cove, Wood Cliff and the South Bend Area. Once this data has been collected and reviewed we will seek additional funding for education/outreach and a cost-share program with landowners/developments where non-point source contamination may be detected. We hope to begin the flights during the first week of February.

Water Trail

I met with Michelle Stryker of NGPC in January to discuss funding possibilities and further collaboration on the Lower Platte River Water Trail. NGPC currently has funds available through the RTP program that could potentially be used for a motorized/non-motorized access area. Additionally, we discussed further canoe/kayak access points and improvements that could be made to existing access areas. Over the next several months I will be working with LPSNRD and NGPC personnel to outline the proposed access areas and improvements which can be used as a guide for continued expansion and development of the water trail on the lower Platte. I will also be exploring the feasibility of securing the RTP funds for a potential access area.

River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers

In January a meeting was held between the three NRDs and OA. We discussed the proposed revised design that utilizes a series of temporary bridges and in-river/sand bar work to remove the obstructions that was discussed by the LPRCA, OA, USFWS and USACE in early December. The NRDs requested OA to investigate some modified design and costs for the removal effort. OA will be sending the design to USACE in early February and we will schedule a meeting with USACE and USFWS following that.

I also discussed any funding assistance that may be available from the Boater Safety Program with NGPC personnel. I will be meeting with NGPC in early February to discuss any funding opportunities and what the parameters may be to utilize those funds.

Quarterly Meeting

The LPRCA Quarterly Meeting was held on Thursday, January 19th at the Lower Platte North NRD. A wide range of topics was discussed. Topics included the river obstruction removal, update on floodplain mapping by DNR, Land Suitability Analysis, Conceptual Ecological Model and Cumulative Impact Study, Nebraska Land Trust, the Sandbar Monitoring Study and the Water Trail as well as a variety of other topics. The next Quarterly Meeting will be Thursday, April 19th at 930 a.m. at NDEQ's Van Dorn Facility in Lincoln.

Newsletter

The Newsletter was finalized and printed in January. The Newsletter is in process of being mailed out and should be received by the stakeholders of the Lower Platte River Corridor by the first week of February. I look forward to having the newsletter out and about! Look for a new name and a new design!

Upcoming Events:

NARD Conference: March 11-14, Washington DC

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: April 19, NDEQ Van Dorn Facility, Lincoln

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