



## Monthly Report for July 2009

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Airboat Tour:** The LPRCA Airboat Tour originally scheduled for Thursday, July 16 was unfortunately cancelled. Concerns over liability for the airboat operators were raised during the several weeks preceding the event. Unfortunately an agreement that satisfied all parties involved could not be reached in that timeframe. All presenters and planned participants were called by me, Ryan Bjerke, or other LPSNRD staff by late Monday afternoon to notify them of the cancellation. I look forward to continuing to work with the airboat operators to find a resolution that provides protection to all involved and look forward to both alternative and future airboat tour plans. I hope to possibly schedule some smaller/shorter trips even later this summer or early fall.
- **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA):** On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Technical Advisory Committee for the Land Suitability Analysis model met at the Lower Platte South NRD office. The Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives of the NRDs, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, United States Geologic Survey, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Nebraska Land Trust, and Seldin Development Company. The meeting was very successful and helped us refine and advance the factors and features within the LSA model. We will continue to refine the model based on the input of the committee that day. We will also be having some follow up with the Committee to resolve a few unfinished items from the meeting. Additionally we will plan to kick off more of the outreach effort related to the ESA project in the upcoming month.
- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** The agreement between the NRDs, DNR and NGPC for the scoping of Phase III of the CIS has now been signed and I am in process of distributing copies of the agreement to all parties involved. We are now waiting on some staff rearrangements at the Corps of Engineers before really moving forward. I am hoping to get a meeting scheduled to begin the actual scoping portion either in late August or early September.
- **2009 Water Quality Open:** The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 3 at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. I have almost finalized the demonstrations for the day and Dr. Alan Kolok will be the keynote speaker. We opened registration on July 16<sup>th</sup> and already have close to ten teams and a number of sponsors. I will be working on finalizing the logistics for the event in the upcoming weeks and look forward to another very successful event.
- **Water Quality Monitoring Network:** I am currently working with USGS to develop a proposal to be submitted to the Nebraska Environmental Trust. If we would receive the grant, we would be able to expand the capacity and capability of the current water quality monitoring program funded by the LPRCA and USGS. Suspended sediment, e-coli and possibly 2-5 other chemicals would begin to be monitored at the established gage sites. Additionally, we would be able to develop equations that would allow us to predict the concentrations of those chemicals and provide that data to stakeholders and the general public in real-time.
- **LPRCA Retreat:** The LPRCA Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday September 9, 2009. We will be meeting in Memorial Hall at Camp Ashland. I spent time this month reviewing past retreat outcomes and developing the agenda and logistics for the day. I look forward to spending the day laying out plans and goals for the LPRCA in the future.
- **Market to Market Relay:** I spent some time working with the race organizers this month and finalizing the description of the Corridor that will be included in the race booklet this year. They most likely will also be using LPRCA photos. I am excited to use this forum as an opportunity to raise race participants' awareness of the resources that they are running through and the LPRCA.
- **Drought Ready Communities:** Plans continue to roll along with the Drought Ready Communities program. We have scheduled a community workshop in Nebraska City on November 5 at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center. It will

be a great opportunity to engage a broad cross-section of the community with water resource and drought awareness.

- **LPRCA Quarterly Meeting:** The next Quarterly Meeting will be Thursday, August 20 at Lower Platte North NRD, Wahoo, NE. After the official business meeting, Mike Murren, LPNNRD, will be providing a tour and overview of the Lake Wanhoo project. A draft agenda will be available on the LPRCA website no later than August 1.