



Monthly Report for August 2010

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Programs / Projects / Activities

August flew by quicker than most months. I spent two weeks in the Canadian Boundary Waters canoeing from island to island, chasing bears out of camp, listening to wolf packs howl at dusk, loons call, and watching the northern lights. But I digress.

- **Water Quality Open:** Final planning for the Water Quality Open was at the top of my list when I returned from the wilderness. Registration was nearly full when I returned and within two days was completely full. The event on September 2nd was a great outing even through the wind, wet course and sprinkles for part of the day. But the sun did come out and the golfers seemed to enjoy themselves as did those that providing demonstrations on the course. Special thanks to all of those that helped with the event, those that presented—including Dave Miesbach from NDEQ who discussed “Microsystin Migration in Groundwater” as the keynote presentation that morning—the staff of Quarry Oaks, and NEBCO for their continued sponsorship. Pictures, event results, and the keynote presentation will be available on the LPRCA website very soon!
- **LPRCA Summit:** Plans for the LPRCA Summit continued to progress. The Summit is planned for Thursday, October 21st at Mahoney State Park. The tour route is nearly finalized as are the panel discussion participants. Registration will be out immediately after the Water Quality Open so look for it in the mail or in your email. As a reminder the schedule is:
 - 9 a.m. Plenary: Bob Wagner, Senior Policy & Program Advisor, American Farmland Trust
 - 10 a.m.-11:30 panel discussion;
 - 12 p.m. bus tour of sites within that area of the Lower Platte with boxed lunches;
 - 4 p.m. reception

As always, any and all input is welcome and invited.

- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** HDR and I continued to make plans for the public outreach seminar as part of the launch and stakeholder involvement portion of the Environmental Suitability Assessment. The Seminar will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14th at P-MRNRD. I will provide a presentation on the ESA and LSA at 5:00 p.m. Before and after the presentation, computers will be set up so participants can view the ESA viewer. Also LPRCA partners including the Corps of Engineers, NGPC, Nebraska Land Trust, USGS, and UNL Water Center will also be providing information.

Also, we continue to work on new brochures and project information sheets for the LPRCA.
- **Cumulative Impact Study:** USGS completed the sediment sampling portion of Phase III of the CIS. The Corps of Engineers’ is now working to have the sediment samples analyzed. Results should be available this winter.
- **River Obstruction Removal:** Olsson Associates submitted the preconstruction notice to the Corps of Engineers at the end of July to begin the permitting process. At the end of August, Don Day (Olsson Associates), Deanna Pulse (Olsson Associates), Carey Grell (NGPC), John Snowdon (Corps of Engineers), Bob Harms (USFWS) and I met on site at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. The meeting was in response to both questions from the Corps regarding the construction plans and permitting process as well as concerns expressed by USFWS on constructing a causeway to remove the pilings. USFWS is asking that a temporary bridge be constructed to conduct the removal out of concerns for threatened and endangered species. Following the meeting Don Day is working on different estimates for costs of the removal process.

Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:

- September 2: Water Quality Open, Quarry Oaks Golf Course
- September 14: Public Outreach Forum Seminar, P-MRNRD 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- October 6: UNL Water Law Conference, Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE
- October 7: Greater Platte Basin Symposium, Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE
- October 12: LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, P-MRNRD
- October 21: Lower Platte River Summit, Mahoney State Park--Riverview Lodge