



Monthly Report for May 2010

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** The Corps of Engineers and USGS finalized the scope of work for the first two study components of Phase III of the CIS. The contract should be signed the first week of June and work will begin on the GIS portion of the study almost immediately after that. The sediment sampling portion will occur in later summer. The analysis will again be completed in an additional portion of Phase III. I will be returning more time and attention again over the next several months to in-kind accounting with P-MRNRD, LPNDRD, LPSNRD, DNR, and NGPC.

- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** HDR began working on the deployment of the "Land Preservation" feature of the Land Suitability Analysis model. We hope to have preliminary results during the later part of June and then will present that information to the Nebraska Land Trust's Lower Platte River Working Group for ground-truthing and any necessary adjustments. The work on the remaining features will proceed at that time.

A small survey was sent to landowners, organizations, city and county officials, and a select group of other individuals such as LPRCA project partners at the end of April. The survey will stay live until approximately the second week of June. We will then begin setting dates, times, format, and locations of the outreach seminars.

- **Kiosks:** Frank Albrecht and I toured locations for the kiosks during the first week of May. We identified possible locations at Two Rivers State Recreation Area, Fremont State Lakes, and Hormel Park. We plan to continue towards Columbus to identify other potential locations. I am currently working with NGPC designers on final revisions and updated pictures for the kiosks
- **LPRCA Summit:** Plans for the LPRCA Summit continued to progress during May. The Summit is planned for Thursday, October 21st at Mahoney State Park. I met with the Steering Committee again in early May to begin discussing possible tour locations, potential speakers and panelists, and also potential sponsors. I also invited Bob Wagner, Senior Policy and Program Advisor for the American Farmland Trust to provide the keynote presentation at the Summit. Bob will be sharing information on how their organization has partnered with both public and private organizations and individuals to promote conservation of important agricultural and natural resources in areas characterized by population growth and development pressure. His presentation will obviously be right in line with the theme that the steering committee and I have developed for this year's Summit. The theme we decided upon is "Preserving the Rural Environment: The Changing Landscape of the Lower Platte". I also began scouting tour stops and itinerary for the afternoon portion of the Summit. In early June we will be sending "save the date" cards and contacting individuals to participate in the planned panel discussion following keynote presentation. Again, the tentative schedule will be:

9 a.m. Plenary;

10 a.m. panel discussion;

11 a.m. second panel discussion and/or discussion of LPRCA projects and programs;

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.

- **River Obstruction Removal:** Olsson Associates completed the survey of the river obstructions near Two Rivers State Recreation Area on April 30th. The proposed location for construction access was delineated and sent to the superintendent of Two Rivers State Recreation area and the owner of the campground across the river from Two Rivers State Recreation Area. They also began the initial steps of the permitting process. In late May, I was notified by NGPC personnel of some potential changes or restrictions to the program where the LPRCA has received federal

assistance for the obstruction removal project. I will be meeting with NGPC personnel in early June to discuss these changes and identify any potential solutions.

- **Kayak tour:** Tim Montgomery and I continued to make plans for the Kayak Tour. We set the Tuesday, July 20th as the date for the Kayak Tour. The tour will last approximately 4 hours. We will leave from Platte River Landing in the morning and end at Two Rivers State Recreation Area around lunch time. We plan to have a brief instruction lesson in the morning before leaving. The Missouri Valley Paddlers have agreed to help with the event as guides. We will be providing information about the river and LPRCA projects while on the river and at lunch. I will be sending information during early June following ironing out the final event and legal logistics.
- **RMS/NARRP Conference:** I spent a great week in Portland, Oregon for the River Management Society and National Association of Recreation Resource Planners Conference. Matt Pillard (HDR) and I gave a presentation on the Environmental Suitability Assessment and the Land Suitability Analysis. Additionally, I was also a co-author of a poster on how partnerships between the NRDs and NGPC and LPRCA have effectively provided recreational resources to the public while meeting many management challenges. I also heard presentations on a variety of topics from the focus on water quality within USFS and other federal programs, to the management of large watersheds such as the Columbia River through the formation of the Columbia River Authority, and to other smaller watersheds in the eastern part of the United States. I also had a great opportunity to interact with a variety of individuals from across the country.

Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:

- July 20: Canoe/Kayak Tour
- July 26: LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, LPSNRD, Lincoln
- September 2: Water Quality Open, Quarry Oaks Golf Course
- October 21: LPRCA Summit, Mahoney State Park