



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of Oct 2006

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A Few Stats on the 2006 LPRCA River Summit

Following the LPRCA River Summit on September 19, we sent out evaluation forms not only to gauge the summit presentations and discussions, but also to identify the emerging issues for the Corridor. A few stats:

- Total Attendees:** 91
- No. of Presenters:** 9 - with 2 featured presenters
- No. of Panelists:** 10 - for 2 panel discussions
- Sponsorship Funds:** \$500 - USGS
- Displays:** 15 including 9 from LPRCA

Breakdown of Attendees:

* Gov't (Total)	66.3 %
-Local/County/Community	34.8 %
-State	24.7 %
-Federal	6.7 %
* Non-Gov't Orgs	19.1 %
* Private Biz	6.7 %
* Public	4.6 %
* Congressional Rep/Staff	2.2 %
* NE Legislative Rep/Staff	1.1 %
Total	100.0 %

A few comments from the Summit evaluation:

*Should we have future River Summits? What Frequency?

Almost all surveys indicated we should do this again with the following frequencies: Bi-annually (2x/yr), Annually, Biennially (every other year), every 3 yrs, and every 5 yrs.

*What are the most important issues facing the Corridor: Development Pressure; Future Water Use; Protection of Resources; Public Access that Preserves Resources; Water quantity; Residential Development; Land Use and Smart Growth; Lack of discussion on Recreational Opportunities and Lake Development; Population increase; Push to Bypass Adequate Planning; Lack of Regional Development Vision; Encroachment on Farmland and Natural Areas; Smart Econ Dev Decisions; Unchecked Commercial Dev; Water Conservation; Land Use Governance Issues; Lack of Regional Coordination Between Cities and Counties; Balancing Mining with Environment; Too Much Irrigation; Public Info and Awareness; Jurisdictional Disputes - Jealousy.

*How can we better involve ALL stakeholders? Weekend Event; Community Event; Invite Communities/Counties/Private Biz as Featured Speakers; Targeted Meetings; Collaborative Efforts - Break through Territorial Disputes and Think Regional; Legislation; Continue to Build Public Info and Outreach; Invite Zoning Admin to LPRCA Meetings and put them on Agenda; Need to Address Creative Ideas including Recreation; Less Meetings Targeted to Gov't and More for Public and Private Biz; Develop Clear Vision for Corridor and Invite ALL Stakeholders to Create Ways to Achieve Vision; Education; More Meetings like Summit with Decision-makers AND Developers; Keep up Efforts and Let Others Know About Them - They Will Want to Be Involved; Talk About Progress Made to this Point; Develop Linoma Platte Valley talking points to share; Continued Dialogue; Get Local Gov't to the Table; "Green Planning Summit" Addressing all components including Env Protection and Public Access; Use Ernie Niemi's Message that Natural Amenities Build a Vibrant Economy; Broader Group of Stakeholders - Birders/Outfitters; Have a 5-7 Member Review Committee meet to Begin Looking at Future Actions; Work More Closely with Economic Development Entities; Point Out Benefits of Lower Platte Valley to Potential Employers; NRD Boards Assist with Making Personal Contacts; Stress to Stakeholders the Importance of Issues in Corridor and How they Impact Them.

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

We are heading into the holiday season. What a great time to reflect on the year's accomplishments and a direction for the upcoming year. On December 19th, the LPRCA will be holding its biennial retreat/planning session at Camp Kitaki to go over issues such as these. I am just coming off a 2-week vacation to Europe - Austria, Switzerland, France, and an unexpected overnight stay in the Netherlands because of a cancelled flight. Even on vacation it is hard to turn off the river resource manager in me. I observed a tremendous amount of conservation practices and innovations. Europe is light years ahead of us in terms of these ideas. In regard to rivers, the Danube, which runs through Vienna, Austria, has a

diversion levee built down the middle to "split" the river and divert flood waters to a floodplain/wetland area. When not flooded, the area is used for recreation. Drinking water quality in Vienna is excellent since most is brought in via pipelines from the pristine Alps. Over 10 million people get drinking water from the Danube River, which runs through 10 countries. Transportation in Vienna and really most of Europe relies heavily on public transportation. You can go everywhere in Vienna either by tram, bus, train, or the underground...and it is very clean and safe. With the close proximity of so many people in cities such as Vienna, conservation is not only a good idea, it has become a necessity. See photos on the following page. Enjoy!

Featured Project

Camp Ashland River Obstruction Removal

As with last month, this project is the featured project. Bids were received in October and a contract was awarded to Zeiger Construction of Syracuse to remove the first six obstructions starting on the Camp Ashland side (west). Hopes are to continue with part 2 of the project next year and remove the remaining six. A pre-construction meeting was held on November 9th and plans are to begin construction of the access roadways this week and removal of the obstructions for the next three weeks following. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) restrictions require that we complete the project by January 31st. Updates will be made available including photos and activity reports in the coming weeks. We want to thank our funding partners in this project including the NE Army Nat'l Guard (NE Military Dept), the NE Game & Parks Commission, the LPNNRD, the P-MRNRD, and the LPSNRD. Total estimates for this project is approximately \$230,000.

acres next to the Elkhorn River. The Landowner would like to mine it for the next 20-30 years, after which the property would be left to the city for a recreational area. Details are still being worked out. PACE will meet again on February 21st at the NDEQ Van Dorn facility in Lincoln.

Coordinator's European Vacation If you have seen the movie with a similar title, I can happily state this trip was very enjoyable and without the drama found in the movie. Not to say that we didn't encounter a few glitches such as nearly missing connecting train, grilling by French official for sitting in wrong seats, cancelled flight to US and no flights to Lincoln which required my dad taking off work and driving to KC to pick us up. I did see great sites, architecture, and even stayed in a flat (apartment) in Geneva, Switzerland's "red light district." Below are a few of the 600+ photos I took and a few explanations of what you are looking at:

Programs & Projects

NE Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) The NIZC continues to meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month to discuss economic development issues for the I-80 Corridor between Omaha and Lincoln. The LPRCA has been involved to ensure environmental issues have been considered when developing a growth strategy. The NIZC will again be hosting the Governor's I-80 Summit on Regional Growth & Development on November 16th at Camp Ashland. This invitation only event will look at efforts to bring growth to the I-80 Corridor.

P.A.C.E. The PACE group continues to meet regularly on a quarterly basis. The most recent meeting was held on November 1, 2006 in West Point. There was some discussion on having a membership fee to move the effort forward. Up until now, most of the costs have been absorbed by various PACE members, but consistent funding and more of it is needed. Additionally, the group talked about getting federal Brownfield money for abandoned mining operations which have the potential to contribute to contamination of ground and surface water. TNC has commissioned a consultant to look into the idea on behalf of the PACE group. The group decided to send out a newsletter on a consistent basis such as quarterly or bi-annually to members and other stakeholders. PACE also needs a membership brochure to illustrate benefits of supporting PACE and an additional newsletter for landowners discussing the benefits of working with PACE to design a reclamation plan PRIOR to mining a property. The meeting finished up with a tour of a proposed mining site just south of West Point. This site about 300



St. Stephen's Cathedral - Vienna



Street Performer - Vienna



Restaurant three stories below ground in former Aqueduct - Vienna



Giant Ferris Wheel at Prater - Vienna Fun Park. It survived WWII bombings.



Tram - one of several public transportation options in Vienna. You pay one price and ride anything all day long.



Schonbrunn Palace is the former home of Emperor of Austria. Contains 1441 rooms!



Small fuel-efficient cars are the norm in Europe.



Coffee in Vienna is small but packs a punch. Cafes are world-renowned in Vienna

Coordinator's European Vacation –cont-



Entrance to United Nations Campus in Geneva, Switzerland



Yvoire - a medieval village in France off the coast of Lake Geneva



Jet d'Eau (water jet) in Geneva shoots up all year around 460 feet high at 125 mph



Danube River in Vienna - Yellow objects are supports for bridge connecting shoreline with island (insel)



In Switzerland, dogs are welcome in restaurants and often get their own seat. Doggie bag please!



Hang-gliding is popular in the mountains overlooking Vienna



Several duck species congregate on shore of Lake Geneva near Yvoire in France



Liechtenstein Castle near Vienna built in the 12th century.



Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, Nov 13, 2006 * 5:30 p.m. * Newman Grove High School – Newman Grove.

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Nov 15, 2006 * 7:00 p.m. * 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln.

PMNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, Nov 16, 2006 * 8:00 p.m. * Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154th St. * Omaha

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – Dec 2006 / Jan 2006 - TBD