



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of November 2005

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

Highlights of the Recent LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

The LPRCA held its last quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, 2005 at the LPNNRD in Wahoo. At this meeting, started a new feature where we plan to have a main informational program highlighted at each quarterly meeting. Our program was presented by Clark Smith of NDEQ on using scrap tires at Ash Grove near Louisville as an alternative fuel source. The group also decided to hold a Lower Platte River Summit in the fall of 2006 along with an airboat tour and golf tourney. We held a committee sign-up for four newly-established LPRCA committees including: Outreach & Education, Programs and Projects, Budget & Fundraising, and External Advisory Committees. We are still in need of a few members on all but the Program & Project Committee. We also had our usual updates on Alliance projects - - several of which are progressing rapidly. The next meeting of the LPRCA is scheduled to be held at the LPSNRD at 3125 Portia in Lincoln on February 28th, 2006 starting at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

What happened this past month? Quite a bit actually. Removal of old bridge pilings at Hwy 50 has begun and will continue the next couple of weeks. The PHASE I Report for the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study is in draft form and should be completed by the year's end. We kicked off our Media/PR campaign with commission of the development of 4 Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and work on kiosks that will be placed throughout the corridor. The LPRCA board bit on my suggestion to hold a river summit next fall in addition to our usual airboat tour and golf tourney. Where is this slow time I hear about? It certainly isn't at the Alliance. Don't forget, we are now in our permanent location at 3125 Portia Street - Lincoln.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone!

River Obstruction Program Work began last week on building the causeway to reach the piling clusters. This week, the consultant is working on removing pilings and as of this report had completed 5 clusters. Below are a few photos showing the causeway and removal of the pilings:



Photos courtesy of Olsson Associates and the LPRCA



PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

Environmental Carrying Capacity Project PHASE I is completed and the draft PHASE I Report is under review. We will soon begin scoping PHASE II which entails additional data collection and assembling of this data into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

River Summit The LPRCA will be holding a "Lower Platte River Summit" in the fall of 2006. We are still working out the details such as format and programs. We hope to illustrate how important the area is to the state by showcasing various issues and projects. Stay tuned for more details in coming months.

Outreach/Promo Items An agreement has been signed to commission Snitily-Carr to develop 4 - 30 second Public Service Announcements (PSA's). We will cover two of the 8 Reasons to Protect the Lower Platte River in each one. We are scheduled to run in early spring to coincide with the upcoming summer busy time. Along with Frank Albrecht of the NG&PC, I met with NG&PC graphics design specialists to discuss design of our kiosks. They will be working up a draft to be available for review by the LPRCA at the Feb 28th quarterly meeting. We have identified 8 locations we could place the kiosks, but need to get permission. Most are NG&PC properties. We have budgeted for four kiosks this year, but could budget for the additional 4 next fiscal year.

Newsletter the draft newsletter is nearly completed. Printing should occur in late December or early January.

GIS We are working on development of a large scale map to have at meetings and presentations. It took some time and searching, but our GIS specialist at the LPSNRD, Shaula Ross, has found a GIS program extension to allow for large scale printing.

CIS Project We recently met with CALMIT to find out what services they could provide on land classification for our aerial photos. The COE is back in full force with their GIS specialists back from Hurricane Katrina duty. Aerial photos for 1853, 1938, 2003, and 1993 are all digitized and rectified (in right order and lined up). We still need to work with CALMIT to do the land classification (woodlands/wetlands/grasslands). We also have several data layers to gather from partners. All signatures are in from partners on the addendums and amendments to the CIS cooperative agreement. We are currently working on developing a work plan and QA/QC plan.

NAWQA Meeting The LPRCA sponsored refreshments for a recent USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) update meeting. This effort looks at the quality of our nation's waters by doing many smaller projects and sampling efforts throughout Nebraska and the nation. We are actually in Phase II, which repeats sampling efforts done during the '90's (Phase I) to see if we have any trends.

LPRCA Intern Readies for the Real World Craig Wacker, LPRCA/LPSNRD intern who has been with us for over a year now, has passed his final oral exam and will receive his MS degree in Community & Regional Planning from UNL in December. He plans to stay on at the NRD until he finds that perfect job out or close to it. Craig has been a valuable asset to the Alliance for the past year and his internship has really been a win-win for all parties involved. Please congratulate Craig on this accomplishment.



Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

PMNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Thursday, Dec 8th, 2005 * 8:00 p.m. * Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154th St. * Omaha

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, Dec 12th, 2005 * 5:30 p.m. * 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, Dec 21st, 2005 * 2:00 p.m. * **Permanent Office** located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting - Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 * 9:30 a.m. * LPSNRD at 3125 Portia in Lincoln