



Monthly Report for August 2009

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** On August 19, all partners on the next phase of the CIS met in Lincoln to discuss the draft scope of work and outcomes of the scoping effort and Phase III itself. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to focus on improving the existing data, identifying any additional data needs, and laying the ground work for the development of an assessment or predictive tool of the impacts of existing and any future bank stabilization projects on the river's morphology as well as wildlife habitat. I had follow up discussions with representatives of USFWS and the Corps of Engineers. I will continue to work with the Corps to set up an expanded stakeholder meeting in the next few weeks.
- **2009 Water Quality Open:** I spent a lot of time during August preparing for the Water Quality Open scheduled for Thursday, September 3 at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. Registration for the event was full almost a week prior to the deadline and we had 10 teams on the waiting list. Dr. Alan Kolok provided the keynote presentation for the event and was very well received. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and after watching rivers of water flow down several of the fairways with personnel from Quarry Oaks, we had to reschedule the afternoon and evening portions of the event for Tuesday, October 6. There will not be another presentation but all those registered for golf will be able to complete their rounds and we'll still plan to have the evening dinner. We will be contacting all team captains to make sure they will be able to participate on the new date. If a team is unable to participate we will of course be refunding the money. It was unfortunate but I look forward to having a great day on the 6th!
- **Water Quality Monitoring Network:** I continued working with USGS to develop a grant proposal to be submitted to the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The grant proposal is due on September 8. Again 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 hopefully be able 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 in Memorial Hall at Camp Ashland. I spent some of August preparing for the retreat and working with the facilitators for the day. Ryan Bjerke, LPRCA Intern, has researched a number of other river-based organizations and will be presenting that research at the retreat. I will be helping him with that presentation by discussing a few of the WRDA-authorized watershed organizations. I look forward to spending the day laying out plans and goals for the LPRCA in the future.
- **Drought Ready Communities:** Plans continue to roll along with the Drought Ready Communities program. We are currently assembling drafts of the materials we plan to include in the "kit" that we provide to the communities who undertake the process of becoming "Drought Ready". We also have been developing scoring matrices and working on the plans and agenda for the upcoming 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:** There were 18 people present at the Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, August 20 at Lower Platte North NRD, Wahoo, NE. After the official business meeting, Mike Murren, LPNNRD, provided a tour and overview of the Lake Wanahoo project. It was amazing to see the progress that has been made.
- **Upcoming meetings/conferences:** I will be attending the Nebraska Trails Council & Nebraska Recreation & Park Association conference in Ponca, NE on September 13-16. I will also be attending the Nebraska Association of Resources District Conference in Kearney, NE on September 26-28.