



## Monthly Report for March 2010

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### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** In early March the partners on the CIS project (LPSNRD, LPNNRD, P-MRNRD, NDNR, and NGPC) held a meeting with the Corps of Engineers to discuss the proposed scope of work for the sediment budget analysis study. The Corps continues to work on a finalized scope for the remainder of Phase III. The Corps will be contracting with USGS to actually conduct the study. We hope to finalize the scope of work and agreement with USGS over the next several weeks.
- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** During March, I continued to work with representatives of HDR on the expanded outreach effort for the LPRCA. A small pre-seminar survey will be sent to landowners, organizations, city and county officials, and a select group of other individuals in mid-April. The survey will help us in identifying how aware people are of LPRCA and our efforts, their primary concerns or interests, and also help us identify the appropriate format and schedule for the planned seminars.

Progress continues on finalizing the ArcGIS viewer and Land Suitability Analysis. HDR has also provided a draft scope of work for the deployment of the Land Suitability Analysis. We will be considering that during April and hope to have portions of the model still ready to go to demonstrate to both the Nebraska Land Trust and at the River Management Society/National Association of Recreation Resource Planners conference in Portland in May. I am also currently reviewing the updated and nearly complete report for the Land Suitability Analysis.

I also worked with HDR on the branding for the LPRCA and Environmental Suitability Assessment. I selected a logo for the ESA and a tagline and color scheme for LPRCA. The tagline and other information will be presented and discussed at the Quarterly Meeting.

- **Coffee Shop Meetings:** We held a coffee shop meeting in Louisville on March 31 from 12-1 p.m. at the Main Street Café. Dave Sands from the Nebraska Land Trust also attended to discuss their efforts to acquire easements throughout the Lower Platte River Corridor. We had a great opportunity to converse with landowners, county commissioner, village clerk, and other individuals. We hope to set another meeting in Gretna in yet this spring and potentially one or two more prior to the busy summer season.
- **Kiosks:** We are currently working with NGPC designers to update the design of the kiosks. We finalized the text, and new map for the kiosks to be placed at NGPC properties throughout the Corridor. We also met with LPSNRD personnel. Their maintenance crew will be assisting us with the actual construction of the kiosks.
- **Hormel Park Nature Center:** John Miyoshi and I met with representatives of the City of Fremont Parks & Recreation and Planning Departments about collaborating on a proposed Nature Center in Hormel Park. They are hoping to develop the Nature Center over the next several years and hope to build it under “green building” guidelines. The Center would be an outstanding opportunity to increase awareness of and education about LPRCA projects and efforts of all LPRCA members.

They are also interested in further developing the trails within and surrounding Hormel Park. They are in process of closing the park to vehicle traffic to make it more pedestrian and biker friendly. They would also like to link the park’s trails to Fremont State Lakes and other existing or proposed trails. Hormel Park also has a boat ramp for river access.

I plan to meet with the Fremont representatives and NGPC again in April to discuss next steps and funding opportunities.

- **LPRCA Summit:** I also began initial planning for the LPRCA Summit. I am aiming to hold the Summit in October at most likely Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland. I will be meeting with the steering committee in early April to begin more intensive planning including changing the format.
- **NARD Conference, Washington DC:** I attended the NARD Conference in Washington, DC during the first week of March. We took a tour of a portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and heard from the Watershed Restoration Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay program. We also toured a University of Maryland Agricultural Research Station. Representatives of Federal Agencies and other organizations also provided us with updates on current or planned programs or initiatives. It was also an opportunity to meet with the Nebraska delegation and also Corps of Engineers Headquarters. I also was able to spend a day seeing some of the sights including a long walk up the Chesapeake Heritage Trail along the banks of the Potomac.

**Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:**

- April 22: LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, 9:30 a.m., LPSNRD, Lincoln
- May 2-5: UNL Water for Food Conference, Lincoln
- May 15-21: RMS/NARRP Conference, Portland, OR
- September 2: Water Quality Open, Quarry Oaks Golf Course