

Thurston County Rural Water Supply  
Advisory Board Meeting

A meeting of the Thurston County Rural Water Supply Advisory Board was held on December 3, 2003 in Bancroft, NE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harlan Witte at 7:15 p.m.

QUORUM CALL:

Quorum call was taken. Following were in attendance:

<u>Advisory Board Members Present</u>	<u>Advisory Board Members Absent</u>	<u>Others In Attendance</u>
Harlan Witte	Rick Sebade	Dick Sklenar – NRD
Marvin Baker	Larry Athey	Dennis Piper - NRD
Bruce Paeper		

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Chairman Witte called for discussion of the tentative agenda.

It was moved by Baker, and seconded by Witte, that the agenda be adopted. Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 3 to 0.

Voting Yea: Witte, Paeper, Baker  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Sebade, Athey

OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORT:

Advisory Board members were brought up to date on the financial aspects of the rural water system since the beginning of the fiscal year. For the most part, water sales for the previous fiscal year were relatively flat in comparison to fiscal year 2002. Figures were presented to the Advisory Board members for review.

Figures on water consumption and water purchase from the Village of Pender were also presented. Dick Sklenar stated that the rural water system is in sound condition as evident by the low percentage of unsold water during the fiscal year. During fiscal year 2003 about 93% of all water purchased was sold to its customers. This rates very well in comparison with other utilities in the industry.

Dick Sklenar also mentioned that in October of this year the District had a new hookup, and an inactive account was reactivated this month. Furthermore, the Village of Pender has yet to proceed with signing a water purchase agreement with the District. The new agreement would increase water rates by approximately 100% as a result of the future construction of a new water treatment plant. It is not known when the new water rates schedule will take affect, but the increase will be passed on to Thurston County rural water customers. There was further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:35 p.m.



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

From the Coordinator...

*Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator*



### Corridor Connections Newsletter

*Corridor Connections*, the newly-renamed newsletter of the Lower Platte River Corridor alliance (LPRCA) went out a couple of weeks ago. Formerly known as *The Starboard Way*, the newsletter was renamed to reflect the nature of the Alliance, which is making connections between people and the natural environment in the Lower Platte River Corridor. This edition - the Fall/Winter 2003 edition, was packed with a lot of great information and updates on Alliance activities and projects. We plan on having two of these newsletters each year - - one for the Fall/Winter term and one for the Spring/Summer term. Hopefully, everyone got one in the mail. If not, each NRD in the Alliance was sent 100 additional copies. Please let me know of anyone who is not currently receiving the newsletter, but would like to receive it in the future. Don't forget, I'm always looking for contributions to the next edition of *Corridor Connections*.

Lower Platte River Watershed Nature Center This project is still in the works, but moving forward. A small steering committee of partners has been formed to head up the effort. The Corp of Engineers is currently reviewing the project component to restore an oxbow and it looks very promising to have their involvement and possibly financial support. On this Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting of project partners at the LPSNRD to discuss development of the educational and curriculum component. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

Ice Jam Cooperative Agreement Meeting The annual ice agreement stakeholder meeting was held on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the PMRNRD to get things kicked off for the season. It was a very informative meeting covering topics such as ice condition reporting, electronic ice reporting, weather outlook, flood fighting, and dynamiting activities. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) has a website where all of the ice reporting information is available. You can access it by going to "[www.dnr.state.ne.us](http://www.dnr.state.ne.us)" then click on the "Floodplain & dam Safety" link. Next go to the "Floodplain Management" link and then scroll down to the "Nebraska Ice Reporting" section.

Lower Platte River Utilities Board (RUB) The interlocal cooperative agreement to set-up the structure of RUB is close to completion. We've now heard from all parties and only one - Ashland - has decided not to join the board. As a result, the remaining parties (LPSNRD, Cass County, Louisville, and South Bend) will need to modify the interlocal agreement and get approval from each respective board. The first meeting of RUB should be sometime in late January or early February. The infrastructure project will entail multiple phases and address both water supply and wastewater. The first phase is to establish a wellfield near South Bend for a regional eater system and install distribution lines to South Bend and Louisville. Currently, HDR is conducting a preliminary engineering study for this first phase.

**LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**NEXT TUESDAY – 9:30 a.m. at the LPSNRD**

**Cumulative Impact Study** A group of stakeholders with interests in the Lower Platte River Corridor met recently to discuss the proposed Cumulative Impact Study. This study is designed to look at the culmination of all activities - human and natural - to determine trends, impacts (positive and negative) and identify management needs in the Lower Platte River Corridor. The COE and the NG&PC have spearheaded the initial efforts to get the project started through a cooperative agreement, but all parties with an interest have been encouraged to participate. This first "kick-off" meeting of approximately 15 participants including NG&PC, COE, LPRCA, LPNNRD, NDOR, and a variety of others was very productive. The group came to the consensus that one product of the study would be a Geographic Information System (GIS) that would have multiple layers of information useful in identifying trends, changes, management needs, and benefits. A subsequent meeting of a smaller subgroup of these participants further refined the GIS product idea and came up with a "wish list" of information that could be incorporated into the GIS as layers. Following the LPRCA quarterly meeting next Tuesday, the entire group will meet again to look at this wish list and discuss it with GIS personnel from the various stakeholder organizations. This meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. at the LPSNRD.

**Water Quality/Resources Meetings** Below is a draft agenda for these meetings which are scheduled for the spring and summer of 2004. Any suggestions are welcomed:

DRAFT AGENDA ITEM	WHO	TIME ALLOCATED
1. <b>Introduction</b> - Purpose of meetings; Brief introduction of the Lower Platte River Corridor; Short discussion of regional management/projects/studies - - i.e. River Utilities Board, the LPRCA itself, and other cooperative regional approaches; Previous meetings such as Water Wellness meetings and projects/studies	LPRCA	15 minutes
2. <b>Natural Systems</b> - Water Resources Basics/Surface-Groundwater Basics Water Quality Basics and Contaminant Transport /Hydrogeology/Hydrology	USGS	20 minutes
3. <b>Risk Assessment</b> - Determining individual/community/regional risk for water quality contamination	UNL Coop Ext	15 minutes
4. <b>Point and Nonpoint Contamination</b>	NRCS	15 minutes
5. <b>BMP's</b> - <b>Septic Systems</b> - <b>Drinking Water Wells/Systems</b> - <b>Water Treatment</b>	UNL Coop Ext UNL Coop Ext/LPRCA UNL Coop Ext	15 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes
6. <b>Wrap-up/Summary/Q&amp;A Period</b>	All	10 minutes
7. <b>Open House</b> - View Displays/ Ask Detailed Q's/ Visit With Presenters	All	30 minutes following
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2 Hours and 30 minutes</b>

Upcoming NRD and Alliance Meetings:

- **NEXT LPRCA QUARTERLY MEETING** - Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004\* 9:30 a.m. \* LPSNRD Meeting Room located in Lincoln. NOTE - Meeting is back at the LPSNRD with new start time of 9:30 a.m. Next meeting will be somewhere around March or April 2004.
- **PMRNRD Board Meeting** - Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 \* 8 p.m. - Omaha @ Chalco Hills Rec. Area
- **LPNNRD Board Meeting** - Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 \* 7:00 p.m. - Wahoo @ 511 Industrial Road
- **LPSNRD Board Meeting** - Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> \* 2:00 p.m. - Lincoln @ 3125 Portia Street

Future Meetings - Meetings and Events in the Not-So-Distant Future:

- **60-Mile Radius Committee** - Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 \* 2:00 p.m. \* Joslyn Castle Institute in Omaha
- **Cumulative Impact Study Meeting** - Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> \* 1:30 a.m. \* LPSNRD in Lincoln
- **Lower Platte Weed Management Area Group** - Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> \* 9:30 a.m. \* ARDC near Ithaca
- **P.A.C.E. - Sand/Gravel Working Group** - Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> \* 10:00 a.m. \* Wood River, NE
- **NARD Legislative Conference** - January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>\* All Day \* Embassy Suites in Lincoln