



From the Coordinator...

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

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Next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – February 28th, 2006

The next LPRCA quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 at the LPSNRD located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln. We will have an exciting featured program with NDNR talking about the LB962 and the science behind designating basins as fully appropriated. As you may be aware, the Lower Platte River Basin was determined to NOT be fully-appropriated. This presentation will go behind the scenes to see how NDNR makes this decision and what is in store for future years. Please spread the word and help get interested parties to the meeting. See you there!

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Here we are in a new year - 2006. Can't believe how fast the time is going. Last week, all river obstructions at Hwy 50 were removed and the contractor is cleaning up and reseeding the disturbed areas. I began a dialogue with USGS on establishment of a water quality monitoring network recently. Planning for the River Summit is underway - - ideas welcomed. The Outreach & Education Committee will be meeting for the first time to discuss the Public Service Announcements (PSA's). Currently, I am soliciting potential members for the External Advisory Committee. Let me know if you have people in mind. Don't forget that the LPSNRD is having an open house on Friday, January 13th from 3:30 to 6:30. Come see the new addition and the many green features that have been built in.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OUTREACH & EDUCATION – Tentatively – Monday, Jan 30th, 2006 * 3:00 p.m. at the LPSNRD in Lincoln. Discussion of the PSA's, Kiosks, Fold-out Map, and Budget Items for FY06.

BUDGET & FUNDRAISING – Early February 2006 – Date, Time, and Place TBA. Discussion of FY06 Budget and status of FY05 Budget.

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS – Early to Mid-February 2006. Date, Time, and Place TBA. Discussion of current projects and FY06 programs and projects.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY – March 2006. Date, Time, and Place TBA. Discussion of current and future projects.

PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

★ FEATURED PROJECT ★

Hwy 50 River Obstruction Removal Program
Last month, we had just begun the project. Now this month, we are completing it. Our contractor, Roloff Construction, worked tirelessly to complete the removal of 21 clusters of concrete pilings. A causeway was constructed from the south side out into the river to remove the first 15 piling clusters, while the remaining pilings were removed by building a causeway from the north side. The north side proved more difficult as the main channel runs right next to the bank. Roloff had to build a diversion dike out in the river to re-direct the main flow and then build the causeway behind the diversion dike. All that is left to do is some clean-up, land contouring, and seeding. Below are a few photos:



Using hydraulic shears



Causeway on north side



Building north causeway



Use of trench boxes to reinforce causeway

PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

Environmental Carrying Capacity Project

We are refining the draft PHASE I Report and plan to meet in February to scope out PHASE II and future phases. We have a base map, and the beginnings of our GIS, which we will continue working on in PHASE II.

2006 River Summit As mentioned last month, the LPRCA will be holding a "Lower Platte River Summit" in the fall of 2006. We've picked a date and place: September 19th from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the new Camp Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center near Ashland. We chose a different than normal timeframe to accommodate most schedules - if you cannot be there in the day, we will be continuing in the evening and vice-versa. We anticipate the format to consist of short concurrent sessions with a display and "hands-on" area. We are still working out details such as the theme and presenters.

Outreach/Promo Items We've been working on the scripts for the 4 - public service announcements (PSA's) with our consultant, Snitily-Carr. The Outreach & Education Committee will be meeting in January to discuss further. We hope to have a draft of the kiosks from NG&PC sometime by the end of January and I recently spoke to the NG&PC about placing them in several state recreational areas. We continue to work on a large map to display at conferences. Additionally, we are nearly completed with development of the LPRCA GIS. A couple of other ideas the Outreach & Education Committee will be discussing includes a fold-out map, and trading cards with pictures of Lower Platte River resources.

Newsletter The fall/winter LPRCA newsletter has been sent to the printers and should be ready within a week for distribution. We mail out nearly 1,500 copies and distribute an additional 500 each edition.

Website I've been working with the LPNNRD on re-designing our website and recently received a first draft of the opening page. BY summer of 2006, I hope to unveil the new version which will prove to be more timely, informational, and easier to navigate.

CIS Project The CIS Project continues to move forward with the Corps of Engineers (COE) nearly completing the digitizing and rectifying of the 2003 and 1938 aerial photos and the 1850's transect data/maps. We are still working on classifying the data into land uses. Nearly all funding partners have contributed their funding and all partners have

signed the amendment to the original cooperative agreement to undertake the project. A meeting of the CIS group and anyone interested is schedule to coincide with the upcoming NARD Legislative conference and will be held on January 25th at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln starting at 3:00 p.m.

Water Quality Monitoring Network I recently met with USGS to discuss the establishment of a corridor-wide water quality monitoring network including both surface water and groundwater. One idea that has surfaced is to upgrade existing stream gaging stations to also do water quality sampling for the surface water side and couple that with existing and planned groundwater monitoring wells to get a complete picture. There may be some ability to tie-in with the NAWQA program USGS is now undertaking to assess the quality of our nation's water. OF course funding is always an issue and we have identified several sources that may or may not be applicable.

Other Activities

In addition to our programs and projects, the LPRCA continues to be involved in a number of other important activities:

- Ⓢ **I-80 Innovation Zone Commission** - Both the P-MRNRD and the LPSNRD have representatives on this board which is looking at economic development in the I-80 corridor from Omaha to Lincoln. They meet monthly and the next meeting is scheduled for January 19th, 2006 at Mahoney State Park starting at 7 p.m.
- Ⓢ **NE/IA Metroplex Indicators Conference** - This group is the outgrowth from the 60-Mile Radius Study Group that finished up with the 60-Mile Radius Study last year. The new group is taking the findings from the 60-Mile Radius Study and looking for ways to implement the recommendations. Funding is provided from a 3-year NETF grant as was the original 60-Mile Radius Study Group. This group meets monthly and the next meeting is January 19th at the Joslyn Castle in Omaha starting at 2:00 p.m.
- Ⓢ **Nebraska Land Trust** - The LPRCA sits on this board as a non-voting member. This is the first and only statewide land trust in Nebraska. The organization works to preserve open space, natural lands, ag land, and other valued lands in the Lower Platte River area as well as other areas in Nebraska using conservation easements. The group will be meeting three times a year - December, May, and September.

Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, Jan 9th, 2006 * 5:30 p.m. * 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo.

PMRNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Thursday, Jan 12th 2006 * 8:00 p.m. * Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154th St. * Omaha. Committees meet the Tues before.

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, Jan 18th, 2006 * 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.

NARD Legislative Conference - Jan 24 & 25, 2006 * All Day * Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Contact your NRD for info.