



## LPRCA Monthly Report for May 2008

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### Upcoming Events & Meetings

- **Airboat Tour** – Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 \* 9 am – 4 pm. Will cover the stretch of the Platte River from Fremont to just west of North Bend – approximately 20 miles. We have limited seating and will give first priority to local officials, board members, and our resources partners, but certainly let the LPRCA know if you have an interest in attending particularly if you have never attended. Call (402) 476-2729 to sign up. Lunch will be provided as will refreshments and as in the past, there will be no charge. Topics we hope to cover include: invasive species, water monitoring for Shell Creek, Loup River Canal, flooding issues, and toxic algae. Topics are still subject to change.
- **WQ Open Golf Tournament** – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Quarry Oaks Golf Course near South Bend \* Presentation/Demo at 10 am & Tee-off at 12:30 pm. This year we will feature the LPRCA members on the demos. Registration materials will be going out soon and please check our website at [www.lowerplatte.org](http://www.lowerplatte.org) for more details.
- **Lower Platte River Summit** – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont. We have tentatively scheduled three tours in the morning: (1) Tour of Pahaku – the sacred Pawnee site, (2) a walking tour of the Calvin Crest property including a visit to a native prairie location, and (3) a demonstration of water quality monitoring techniques and biological sampling. The summit will be held from noon to 8 pm. We plan to have two meals similar to last time – one at noon and one in the evening. Cost is \$40/person including all materials and meals. We hope to get 100-125 attendees. There are some other meeting conflicts that day, but we encourage you to attend even a portion of the event if you can. Again, contact the LPRCA by calling (402) 476-2729.
- **LPRCA Quarterly Meeting** – The next LPRCA quarterly meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 starting at 9:30 at the P-MRNRD. We will be discussing our events – airboat tour, WQ Open, LPR Summit - and hope to have a rep from TransCanada to talk on the proposed Keystone petroleum pipeline that will run under the Platte River in Nebraska.

### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Coffee Shop Meetings:** We completed 9 of the 17 meetings this spring. Additionally, we met with a lake community as a result of a homeowner seeing us at a coffee shop meeting. We will complete the remainder of the meetings this fall and winter.
- **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA):** We are working on development of task orders for Phase III and some additional tasks in Phase II (model and suitability index development). This summer we will be conducting Needs Assessments for the Phase III area from Fremont upstream to Columbus.
- **WQ Monitoring Network:** It's interesting to see how certain water quality parameters change as we see the recent rains make their way into the Platte River. As these high flows passed the Louisville gage (Hwy 50), there was a dramatic drop in dissolved oxygen and specific conductance, while turbidity increased considerably. Wednesday, discharge at the Louisville gage was 37,800 cfs, while the peak on May 26<sup>th</sup> was 45,600 cfs. Normally, the discharge is between 6,000-7,000 cfs. Go to <http://ne.water.usgs.gov/lowerplatte/> to see the discharges along with the WQ parameters we are measuring. There is a meeting with the USGS on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 am until 12:30 pm at the LPSNRD in Lincoln to discuss the status of this program and talk about future Platte River Recovery Implementation Program specifics.
- **River Management Society (RMS) Symposium:** From May 11-16, 2008, I attended the 2008 RMS Symposium in Portland, Maine. RMS is one of the two biggest river organizations in the nation and they hold a symposium every two years. The 2006 event was held in South Sioux City, Nebraska. Located along the southern coast of Maine, Portland is the largest city in Maine with 64,249 residents and has capitalized on the tourism industry. Portland, Oregon, which is the site of the 2010 RMS Symposium, was named for Portland, Maine. I delivered 2 presentations

at the event: (1) Using Project Management to Protect Rivers, and (2) River Management Across Multiple Jurisdictions Using the 3 C's: Collaboration, Creativity, and Communication. Both went very well and generated a lot of follow-up discussion. A large majority of sessions centered on the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, which turned 40 this year. I estimate there were nearly 200 attendees, which is a smaller crowd than usual and the majority were agency personnel from NPS, USF&WS, and BLM. I took advantage of the many field trips offered and kayaked the harbor to visit lighthouses, civil war forts, and various rock outcroppings. Overall, the symposium was a great way to discover how others manage rivers in other parts of the country, meet old and new colleagues, and share LPRCA successes with other river managers.

- **Other Activities:** 2008 LPR Summit Steering Committee Meeting – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 – LPSNRD
  - ❖ Camp Ashland-Ashland Joint Land Use Study Meeting – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Ashland
  - ❖ Coffee Shop Meeting at Fremont COC – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Fremont
  - ❖ RMS Conference and 2 presentations – May 11-15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Portland, ME
  - ❖ Drought Interview with UNL – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 - LPSNRD
  - ❖ 2008 LPR Summit Steering Committee Meeting – May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – LPSNRD
  - ❖ Computer Training – Photoshop – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Lincoln