



## Monthly Report for June 2009

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Airboat Tour:** Plans for the 2009 LPRCA Airboat Tour continued to occupy much of my time and Ryan Bjerke's (LPRCA Intern) time. Registration for the event was full within 10 days of opening registration! There is a diverse group of people registered, representing a variety of stakeholders and interests throughout the corridor as well as representatives of federal agencies and congressmen. We have a great array of presenters and are looking forward to the event. There are still several issues and final items to resolve and continue working until the event but we look forward to another great event.
- **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA):**

This month, I met with Lisa Beethe of the Nebraska Environmental Trust to provide her an update on the ESA's progress and demonstrate the ArcIMS site as it is now. The meeting went very well and Lisa was very pleased with progress and the NET is looking forward to the end result of the process. I also requested and received an extension for the NET grant for this project.

I spent some time working with HDR on the expanded outreach component of the ESA project. We are reviewing a proposal and then may be expanding the scope of the project as discussed during the LPRCA budget review. Additionally, I have been focused on the Land Suitability Analysis component and the Technical Advisory Committee for the LSA model. We will be meeting with Advisory Committee on Thursday July 9 and will hopefully be close to completing the LSA following that meeting.
- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** I continued coordinating the agreements between the NRDs, DNR and the Corps as well as the agreement between the NRDs, DNR and NGPC for the scoping of Phase III of the CIS. I am in process of gathering the necessary signatures and transferring the funds to the Corps of Engineers. Additionally, I met with PMRNRD, ENWRA, USGS, and DNR representatives to discuss how a proposed pilot of the FMP groundwater flow model could utilize CIS data and potentially be integrated into Phase III of the CIS. We will begin the scoping with a meeting hopefully to be scheduled later in July.
- **2009 Water Quality Open:** The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 3 at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. I've continued to make contact with sponsors and others interested in having a display at the event. Dr. Alan Kolok from UNO, will be the keynote speaker this year. I've also been able to line about half of the demonstrations for this year. I plan to open registration for the Open in the next week to 10 days and continuing developing all the plans.
- **Kiosks:** I spent a day traveling to the NGPC properties in the corridor with Frank Albrecht. We made it through most of the properties on the lower portion of the lower Platte and have planned a second trip to the remainder of the properties in late July. While viewing the properties and learning about their management practices, challenges and needs, I was also able to meet the park/WMA property managers and look for locations to place the LPRCA Kiosks. All of the managers I met with were very enthusiastic about the kiosks and I feel that there are great opportunities to place the LPRCA and the lower Platte River as a whole in the minds of more and more individuals.
- **Nebraska Land Trust:** I attended the Nebraska Land Trust Board Meeting and the Lower Platte River Workgroup meeting at Quarry Oaks. The Lower Platte River Workgroup is charged with assisting the NLT staff and Board with evaluating and prioritizing properties where individuals may be interested in conservation easements on a voluntary basis. I provided a presentation on the ESA project and received good feedback on the ESA. NLT is interested in utilizing the ESA ArcIMS and LSA as an important information source and tool in helping them evaluate the proposed properties.
- **Site Visits:** I continued getting out and about throughout the corridor to see NRD, NGPC and other related project sites/properties. I spent part of a day with Dana Devine, ENWRA Coordinator, most of an entire day with Marlin

Petermann , PMRNRD Assistant Manager, and other PMRNRD staff, in addition to the trip with Frank Albrecht of NGPC. I am continuing to schedule more opportunities with other LPRCA members and partners.

- **Drought Ready Communities:** We continue to make progress with the Drought Ready Communities project that I am continuing from UNL. We had a very good initial meeting with representatives of Nebraska City. We also continued to develop the kit of resources that we will be presenting to the communities.
- **Waters of Nebraska:** The educational booklet, “Waters of Nebraska” that I am one of the leads for developing is continuing to progress. We should finalize the content for the booklet within the month of July. The graphic development will be the next step. We are hoping to have the booklet finalized in September or October.