



## Monthly Report for May 2009

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **FY 2010 LPRCA Budget:** The draft FY2010 LPRCA Budget was approved by the LPNNRD, LPSNRD, and P-MRNRD Boards of Directors during their regular board meetings in May. The budget will continue to be revised as needed throughout the remainder of the budget planning process but I continue to feel that the budget allows for continued expansion of successful efforts and lays good groundwork for new opportunities.

- **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA):**

HDR is currently making final adjustments to the Phase III project report and the Land Suitability Assessment model report. We are currently preparing materials and a plan for the Technical Review Committee meeting.

On Friday, May 29 I will meet with Lisa Beethe of the Nebraska Environmental Trust to update her on the project's progress and demonstrated the ESA IMS site as it stands now. We are waiting to input all data layers into the IMS until the Mapmaker site is moved to the new server and new format. Chris Poole is currently working on this with NRCS and hopes to have it completed within the next 6 weeks. I will also be discussing an extension for the project with Lisa.

- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS):** On May 19, John Miyoshi (LPNNRD), Tom Mountford (LPNNRD), Marlin Petermann (P-MRNRD), Gerry Bowen (P-MRNRD), Glenn Johnson (LPSNRD) and I met with representatives from the Corps of Engineers about the proposed Phase III of the CIS. A total federal appropriation of \$167,000 was included in the FY2009 Federal budget for this project. The appropriation would require a 50% match from the project partners.

The outcome of the meeting was a decision to utilize \$80,000 of the federal appropriation, with \$40,000 being contributed from the 3 NRDs and NDNR in both cash and in-kind to scope Phase III. Scoping would consist of performing a gap analysis to identify what information we are missing or could be further integrated to strengthen the existing data and better position the project to move towards the development of predictive modeling tools or other assessment tools. I am currently working with the Corps' project manager on revising the statement of work.

To conduct the scoping, we need to amend the Lower Platte River Feasibility Study between the NRDs & the Corps and the agreement between NDNR, LPNNRD, PMRND and LPSNRD. Additionally, I have been communicating with other project partners including NGPC, USFWS, and USGS on the proposed next step and they have been very positive about this direction and welcomed the opportunity to stay engaged. I will continue to communicate with the other project stakeholders throughout the scoping process. Overall, I think this is a very positive step for this effort.

- **Airboat Tour:** The 2009 LPRCA Airboat Tour has been scheduled for Thursday, July 16. We will begin the tour at 9:00 a.m. at Bryson's Airboat Tours west of Fremont, travel up-river near North Bend for lunch and then return to Bryson's by 3:30. Participation will be limited to 45-50 people and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. We have already had a number of people contact us to sign up and have lined up the majority of the speakers for the tour. We will be planning to send more information to past participants and others during the first week of June.

Again, Ryan Bjerke, LPRCA Intern has been a big help in getting the ball rolling on plans for this year's Airboat Tour. We also would like to thank Tim Bryson, Matt Shaw, and the Nebraska Airboat Association for their assistance all ready!

- **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. I'll continue to spend more and more time on the planning of this event and send more details as I have them!

- **Coffee Shop Meetings:** I held the first Coffee Shop Meeting of 2009 at “Cherri-O’s” in Ashland on Tuesday, May 12. Dave Sands of the Nebraska Land Trust joined us at the Coffee Shop Meeting to provide information on the Land Trust. We had a small turnout but had good conversation with those that were there. I have reevaluated my earlier thoughts and plan to wait until either later in the summer or into the fall to hold additional coffee shop meetings as I think that timing could help with the turnout.
- **Site Visits:** I’ve been spending some more of my time trying to get out and about to locations throughout the corridor. I’ve only been to a few so far but am working on plans to have NRD staff and other agency or organizational staff give me “tours” to better orientate myself to all that is going on in the LPR corridor. So far I have tours set up with Lyman Richey, NGPC, LPSNRD, ENWRA and am working to set up a date or dates with LPNNRD, PMRNRD, NEARNG, USGS and others.
- **Market to Market:** The second Market to Market Relay is on October 10, 2009. It is an 86-mile running event that starts in Omaha’s Old Market and ends in Lincoln’s Haymarket with much of the time being spent around the river or on the trails throughout the LPR Corridor in the PMRNRD and LPSNRD. I participated in the event last year as a runner and plan to again this year. I am very excited to be able to assist the event this year by developing some of the course descriptions they provide to all participants on the event’s website and race program. It is a great way to draw attention to unique resources of the corridor and the many positive efforts going on within the LPR.
- **LPNNRD Spring Conservation Sensation:** I had a great time helping with LPNNRD’s Spring Conservation Sensation at Czechland Lake on May 6. It was a great day—both weather wise and how well it was run. I look forward to continue helping with event such as this in the future.
- **Conferences Attended:**
  - UNL Global Water Institute, Future of Water for Food conference. Monday, May 4, 2009 UNL.