



## From the Coordinator...

**\*Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of September 2005\***

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

### Next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

The LPRCA will hold its next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, 2005 at the LPNRRD in Wahoo. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and should conclude by noon. We are looking for a featured presenter for the program. If your organization is working on a project and you would like to present, please contact me ASAP. So, spread the word of this upcoming meeting.

#### GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to the September 2005 edition of "From the Coordinator" the monthly newsletter report from the LPRCA. The past couple of months with two airboat tours and most recently the WQ Open Golf Tourney on Sept 1. With that all out of the way, it's time to dig in for the winter and continue working on the several on-going projects including the River Obstruction Project, the Environmental Carrying Capacity Project, and the Cumulative Impact Project. Besides the projects underway, we have several outreach projects just getting underway from a corridor map to public service announcements to kiosks.

In my spare time, I've become involved in a couple of interesting adventures. The first being Krav Maga - - a street-fighting martial art that helps me get a little exercise as well as a weekly beating. It used to be that I was the youngest at everything I did, now I am the oldest. It takes me a little longer to warm up and a lot longer to heal up. My first day resulted in an entire forearm full of bruises in the shape of shoe laces. My second undertaking is the Lincoln Police Department's Citizen's Academy. This 9-week program offers civilians a chance to see what the boys and girls in blue have to deal with on a daily basis. After three weeks, we've seen meth labs, police dogs, the SWAT team, the bicycle patrol, and the traffic division. This week I get to ride along on a four-hour shift to see the seedy underbelly of Lincoln or at least the mean streets.

#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)

Recently, I received my "Project Management Professional" or (PMP) designation, which is granted by the Project Management Institute (PMI). The certification requires 4500 hours of previous project management experience, a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and at least 35 hours of specific project management training. Once my application was approved, I then had to pass a four-hour/200 question exam. This designation is similar to a P.E. (engineers) or A.I.C.P. (planners) certification. The knowledge I gained through this process will benefit LPRCA projects through strict adherence to fundamental principles of project management, improved organization, and more thorough planning.

PROGRAM & PROJECT UPDATES

River Obstruction Program Survey is completed for the Hwy 50 project and bids will go out this month. Several options are available for removal including pulling out the obstructions, breaking off below the riverbed, and using a hydraulic "scissors" to cut them off. Currently, we are looking into NG&PC Boating Safety funds to help finance the project. Camp Ashland project is moving forward with the submission of the 404 permit application to the COE. We are awaiting notification from the NE Nat'l Guard on whether or not we receive funding through their Legacy Program for the project. Plans are to do a test pit to assess the obstructions.

#### Environmental Carrying Capacity Project

Received an update from HDR and they plan to be complete with Phase I by mid-October. This encompasses collection of land use plans, creation of a database, and development of a base map.

Cumulative Impact Study Recently met with CALMIT and they are interested in helping us with aerial photo land classification and QA/QC. The COE GIS people and our other partners have been working hard to acquire the 2003 and 1993 digital aerial photos along with the 1850's transect maps and the 1938 aerial photos, which have now been scanned and digitized. Due to Hurricane Katrina, we may be losing the COE GIS people for a while as they are reassigned to help out with efforts to rebuild and clean-up after the hurricane. Our UNL rep has left the university so we are working on revising interlocal agreement to reflect this change. An NETF grant was submitted in Sept for additional funding to complete the project and undertake the hydrologic study. We should hear back by early 2006.

Antelope Valley Tour On Sept 21, I took a tour of the Antelope Valley (AV) Project area. Highlights included completed Phase I of the flood conveyance channel, review of future flood channel locations, new road construction including the big "T" intersection near the Devaney Center, and community redevelopment projects. Recall, this project along with the W. Sarpy/Clear Ck and Sand Creek Projects grew out of the original LPR Feasibility Study with the COE.

## Antelope Valley Tour Photos



Overview of AV Project



New RR Bridge; Phase II Channel Improvements; Elevated "Big T" Intersection seen in Background.



Channel Improvements in Foreground; Textured Retaining Wall for Elevated Roadway in Background Representing Soil Layers



New Y Street Bridge Showing Style of Road/ Bridge Improvements



Guiders for Elevated Roadway



Completed Channel Improvements

**Hwy 50 Bridge/Road Improvement Project** The Nebraska Dept of Roads will be widening the Hwy 50 Bridge near Louisville to four lanes in the next 5 years along with improvements to Hwy 50 itself including two additional lanes and new alignments. Several LPRCA partners including the PMRNRD and the LPSNRD have been in discussions with the NDOR to add a separate pedestrian lane. Since the Mo-Pac Trail and several recreation areas are in the vicinity, a pedestrian bridge would be a prudent, safe way to connect everything. No better time to get involved than in the planning stages. Preliminarily, the NDOR has agreed to consider the option of adding expandable guiders on the bridge so when we do develop a trail plan for the area and get funding, we can add the pedestrian lane on. We have also asked the NDOR to consider removing a set of old bridge pilings directly adjacent to the existing bridge. This request is under consideration. Recall, the LPRCA is removing a second set further west that has caused a lot of problems with boaters in the area (see last month's report).

**Bob Nebel with the COE Retires** Congratulations to Bob Nebel, Biologist with the COE, on his recent retirement after many (we won't say how many) years with the COE (Corps of Engineers). Bob has been involved with a number of LPRCA and partner projects and most recently has been instrumental in developing conservation practices on the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project. Bob has also provided us all with many funny stories. Good luck Bob and enjoy the fishing!

**Outreach Projects** We're moving forward on developing several kiosks to place throughout the Corridor which will highlight the "8 Reasons to Protect the Lower Platte River" as featured in our new brochure. We've also begun the process to develop a large fold-out map of the region that folks can take with them as they travel throughout the Corridor. This map will show major features, attractions, and discuss the importance of the Corridor's resources with an emphasis on sustainability. Progress has also been made on producing some public service announcements (PSA's) to run on local radio stations. Next week, there will be a meeting on revising the LPRCA website, which is in need of a major overall. I've also had some suggestions from NRD directors on outreach projects for kids. Keep the ideas coming.

### Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \* 7:00 p.m. \* 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo

PMRNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \* 8:00 p.m. \* Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> St. \* Omaha

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \* 7:00 p.m. \* Temporary Office at 285 S. 68<sup>th</sup> St Place, Suite 200 in Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \* 9:30 a.m. \* LPNNRD at 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo