



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Rodney Verhoeff, Coordinator

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26th, 2004 * 9:30 AM

Held at the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501 * (402) 476-2729

1. **Call to Order.** Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator, called the meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) to order at 9:30 AM. Meeting was held at the Lower Platte South NRD Office conference room located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Roll Call. An attendance sheet was distributed.

2. **Proof of Legal Notice Presented.** Proof of publication was presented. The legal notice was published in the Omaha World-Herald on April 21, 2004. A news release on the meeting was sent to all area newspapers and radio stations; notifications were sent to those on the mailing and e-mailing lists.

3. **Approval of Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) Minutes from January 13th, 2004 Meeting.** No modifications were made to the January 13th, 2004 draft minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.

4. **LPRCA / UN-L Coop. Extension Water Quality Meetings – Spring/Summer 2004.** Invitations were sent to over 2,000 residents of the Corridor. The PowerPoint presentations are nearly completed for the meeting program. Each LPRCA member was mailed or given an invitation. The program is geared for people in the Corridor with their own private drinking water systems and/or their own septic systems. Verhoeff invited LPRCA members to attend and asked them to distribute invitations to anyone they may feel would benefit from the program.

5. **Supplemental Funding / Non-Profit Status.** In an effort to broaden funding sources, Verhoeff suggest the LPRCA affiliate with the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF). This would allow the LPRCA to utilize the non-profit status of the NCF to receive grants, donations, and other contributions. By virtue of the Interlocal Agreement, the LPRCA is not a standalone entity and cannot enter into agreements nor is it eligible for non-profit status. Verhoeff said he used this option when he worked with the Niobrara Council and it worked very well. Affiliation is one way to benefit from the NCF non-profit status and the associated fringe benefits without having to create our own support structure. In the past, the LPRCA discussed creating its own foundation. However, this is very time-consuming and may be distracting from the LPRCA's mission. Affiliation would eliminate a need to go to that length, while still getting all of the benefits of non-profit status. Verhoeff, Glenn Johnson, and Paul Zillig met with the NCF President, Jeff Yost, and discussed at length how the process works. The NCF holds any funds received and we would have to request a disbursement in writing to access the funds. We would create a Fund Advisory Committee to guide use of any funds. Verhoeff handed out a mock agreement and discussed the fee structure. The group decided to go forward last meeting and Verhoeff wanted to present more information at this meeting. Verhoeff was chosen as Chair of the Fund Advisory Committee and Glenn Johnson as Secretary/Treasurer. Other members chosen were: John Miyoshi, Frank Albrecht, and Steve Gaul. Glenn Johnson and Steve Gaul were chosen as individuals who could sign for disbursements. Steve had to check with his agency first. Verhoeff was requested to visit committees of each NRD to present the affiliation proposal before they would sign off on the idea.

6. Budget Discussion & Action.

- a. **FY04** – Verhoeff handed out both final FY04 and draft FY05 LPRCA budgets for comparison.
- b. **FY05** – The group reviewed each budget item for FY05. Verhoeff mentioned that the LPRCA did receive a 319 small grant from NDEQ/EPA for \$4,000 towards the Water Wellness meetings. Administrative costs this year went up \$500 per NRD for a total of \$71,500.02. Project costs and administration costs total \$119,500.02. Verhoeff did make the rounds to the agencies to show what the LPRCA is doing and to justify continued support. Glenn Johnson suggested NRDs and state agencies use the draft budget as a guide and if we need to adjust later we can. The group gave consensus to move forward.

7. Airboat Tour 2004 – Date, Time, Reach of River. Verhoeff suggested late July or early August as the time to have the airboat tour. He also suggested touring the stretch from Ashland to the mouth near Plattsmouth. The group decided that Thursday, July 22nd or Friday, July 23rd would work best and to tour the suggested stretch from Ashland to Plattsmouth.

8. Water Quality Open 2004 – Date, Time Details. The golf tournament is set for Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at Arbor Links golf club in Nebraska City. There would be a presentation at 11:00 a.m. with the national agronomist for the company that built Arbor Links followed by a lunch on your own. Tee-off would be at 1:00 p.m. Registration is \$55/person including prizes, a t-shirt, all green fees, cart use, range balls, and a BBQ dinner. There is a reduced rate at Arbor Lodge if you would like to stay there. You just need to tell them you are with the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance block.

9. LPRCA Program and Project Updates.

- a. **LPRCA General Activities** – Finishing up with financial reports and documentation for FY04. The brochure is being finalized and hopefully will go to the printers soon. Water Wellness meetings primary focus currently.
- b. **Lower Platte River Weed Management Area** – The LPWMA received \$54,000 from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation's PTI program. The grant will be used for additional summer help to get to some of the hard to reach areas along the Platte River and for additional equipment and supplies. They've also discussed spraying with helicopters. Steve Cacioppo with the LPNRRD has been working on generating maps for the LPWMA and designed their website, which is hosted by the LPNRRD - - www.lowerplattewma.org. They will have their own IMS site soon. The group continues to meet monthly. The LPWMA is also looking at biological control. The Nebraska Airboater's Association has worked with the group to spray
- c. **205 Studies – Flood Control/Flood Reduction Projects** – The LPNRRD will be meeting with North Bend to review the hydrology for the proposed levee and highway alignments. The Fremont initial study report estimate would be \$733,000 to complete. Half from local sources. Schuyler would cost \$750,000 to complete.
- d. **Multimedia – Newsletter, Brochure, Video** – Brochure will be back in next week for final proof. Verhoeff asked for ideas and input for the next newsletter. The video has been distributed to all counties and cities - - this includes 100 CDs and 50 VCR tapes. Verhoeff offered to speak to community groups if they wanted to hear about LPRCA.
- e. **Feasibility Study Projects**
 1. **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek** – Nelson Carpenter stated that in last two weeks the Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA) was signed by COE and they should start into the construction phase with the \$17 million project soon. Still need to get OMB to sign off. The project is not budgeted in the FY05 budget so will have to move forward with Congressional adds, but really need to get into President's budget. In design phase until spring of 2005, after which they will do major construction of levee on both sides of the river. Marlin Petermann mentioned that of the 22 cabins affected by the project offers are now being made to either buyout or raised. Offers will be brought back to NRD boards for approval.
 2. **Lake Wanahoo/Sand Creek** – PCA has been approved on this project. Need some big construction dollars in the federal budget to really move forward.
- f. **Cumulative Impact Study** – The CIS group will be meeting following the LPRCA meeting at 1:30 p.m. The group is scoping out the study. Early on, the group decided that a GIS would be one product and it would be tied into the IMS server used for MapMaker. Looking at some funding ideas including grants. Minutes are available for previous meetings.
- g. **Lower Platte River Corridor Environmental Carrying Capacity Project**- This project is also, in the scoping phase. Working with HDR to determine what the outcome of the project will be. Primarily looking at land-use planning and how it affects the environmental carrying capacity. This project ties in closely with the infrastructure study for the Ashland to Louisville area. This project will be locally driven and will have a huge public input component.

Dayle Williamson with Senator Ben Nelson's office mentioned some of the changes going on with widening of the interstate and the need for new and improved overpasses. Pflug Road overpass is no longer there. Ruff Road overpass will be removed and Sarpy County desires only one overpass. However, they also desire to make it a developed interchange. Senator Nelson's office has been working closely with NDOR on these issues.

The cumulative impact study will certainly benefit this study. All of these studies compliment each other. We did do a charette to look at land-use issues and now is a good time to dust these exercises off.

h. Infrastructure Studies

- 1 **Cass County – River Utilities Board (RUB) –** Glenn Johnson discussed how the project is moving forward with the completion of the initial feasibility study. Additionally, the initial engineering study on Phase I – the water supply for the South Bend and Louisville area. We are moving into a rate structure study. A preliminary engineering study just got underway for the South Bend or Fountain Creek basin looking at wastewater. Looking at replacing the lagoon system with a package treatment system. There will also be a rate structure to go along. Once these studies are completed, then the boundaries will be established. The project is also working with the two RWD's to learn how they operate and to collaborate on the project.
 - 2 **Sarpy County –** Involves looking at Sarpy County that drains to the Platte River - - the southern and western one-third of the county. The project looks at water supply and wastewater issues. The county has taken the lead in this project. Request for proposals to engineering firms have been sent for the study. They do not have any federal funding assistance like the Cass County side does. At this time they are using local funds from all communities along with the PMNRD and Sarpy County. Have about \$400,000 pledged to proceed. They still need match money. There is talk of getting Douglas County to join, in addition to MUD and possibly Omaha.
- i. **River Obstruction Study** – Verhoeff went through a PowerPoint presentation on this project. Multi-year project that the LPRCA wants to get started this year. Looking at removing old bridge pilings, and other remnants of road and railroad bridges. Verhoeff pointed out the problems with the obstructions including safety issues, degradation of scenic qualities, debris capture, and flooding. There can be a benefit through creation of habitat. Verhoeff discussed each of the six areas with obstructions identified in a 2002 canoe trip. He has since identified two more locations. The LPRCA budget does have funding in it to start this project, but hope to work with responsible parties and owners of structures.
- j. **60-mile Radius Committee-** Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities is heading up the study that looks at land-use patterns in the area between Omaha and Lincoln. The project included a survey of people living in the area. There will be a conference in June to present the final report and suggested development concepts.

10. Upcoming Meetings/Events.

- a. **Nat'l Assoc. of Recreation Resource Planners Conference – May 16th to 20th, 2004 – Omaha** – The NARRP Conference will be held on May 16th through the 20th, 2004. Verhoeff and Gerry Bowen will be giving two tours of the Platte River Connection/Lied Bridge project and the Omaha trails network. Additionally, they will hold one classroom presentation on the same topics. Verhoeff will be giving a poster presentation on the 16th.
- b. **UNL Water Tour – Summer 2004** – Scheduled for June 7th through the 9th. The tour will focus on the Central and Lower Platte River area. Verhoeff has been asked to assist with planning and to give a presentation.
- c. **Next LPRCA Meeting – April 2004** – August 17th will be the next meeting date. Verhoeff suggested it move to the PMNRD in Omaha.
- d. **Others** – None

11. Other Items of Interest. Jerry Obrist discussed Lincoln Water System (LWS) water rights issues. They are working on some modeling studies to determine the sustainability threshold of the LWS. Discussed how they manage both the quality and quantity of the water resources. LPNDRD received a new server and will soon be able to host MapMaker at the NRD. The MapMaker website will be undergoing an overhaul. Additionally, the LPWMA website will be accessible soon at www.lowerplattewma.org. Verhoeff mentioned the recent publication from USGS on the shallow wells and the finding of pharmaceuticals in some wells. This was a collaborative project with USGS and LPRCA.

12. Adjourn. The April 26th, 2004 meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance adjourned at 11:50 a.m.