



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Rodney Verhoeff, Coordinator

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15th, 2005 * 9:30 AM

**Held at the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
511 Commercial Park Road * Wahoo, Nebraska 68138 * (402) 443-4675**

1. **Call to Order.** Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator, called the meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) to order at 9:35 AM. Meeting was held at the Lower Platte North NRD Office located at 511 Commercial Park Road in Wahoo, Nebraska. **Roll Call.** An attendance sheet was distributed and those in attendance signed in. A copy of this attendance sheet is available for inspection upon request.
2. **Proof of Legal Notice Presented.** Proof of publication was presented. The legal notice was published in the Omaha World-Herald – the statewide newspaper on November 15th, 2005. Notifications were sent to those on the e-mailing lists, mailing list, and press releases sent to all area newspapers.
3. **Approval of Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) Minutes from August 16th, 2005 Meeting.** No modifications were made to the August 16th, 2005 draft minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.
4. **Business Items.**
 - **Committees** - Verhoeff handed out a sign-up sheet for committees including the following committees – Outreach & Education, Programs & Projects, Budget & Fundraising, and the External Advisory Committee. He stated that the make-up of the EAC is still up for discussion, but he made some suggestions for membership on the sign-up sheet. Committee members can be LPRCA agency directors, administration, staff, partner representatives, and interested parties. He suggested that numbers for all but the EAC be around 5 to 10 to make the committees manageable. Verhoeff will tabulate the members and send out an updated committee list before the next meeting.
 - **Strategic Planning** – The group discussed and agreed to have an annual review for the LPRCA and then do a more detailed and in-depth strategic planning exercise every other year. There was discussion of having a SWOT analysis every 5 or 6 years to re-evaluate direction.
 - **Lower Platte River Summit - 2006** – Verhoeff discussed an idea he has been considering which is a LPR Summit to focus on LPR issues. He stated that other rivers and entities have done similar things to bring attention to the pertinent issues. This has never been done specifically for our portion of the Platte River. He suggested holding such an event in the fall 2006. After careful discussion, the group agreed that the summit would be a good idea and picked September 2006 as the timeframe. Verhoeff suggested holding the meeting at a location overlooking the Platte such as Quarry Oaks, Camp Kitaki, Mahoney State Park, or the newly-opened Swanson Retreat Center at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Group members chose the new retreat center as the first choice and asked Verhoeff to check with availability for our chosen timeframe. A steering committee will convene to work out the details on the summit. The group also wants to continue with the airboat tour in July and the golf tourney in late August or September.
 - **Fiscal Items** – **Budget Update; Member Contributions** – Next quarterly meeting, the LPRCA will need to discuss a draft budget since the NRDs and state agencies will begin their budget discussions in late spring 2006. Verhoeff will have a draft budget. For FY07, there may need to be some priority changes to accommodate some emerging programs and projects including more outreach. All member contributions have been received by the Alliance for a second straight year. Verhoeff commended the members and encouraged continued support. The FY07 contribution invoices will go out in late summer 2006.

5. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION – “Tire Burning as Alternative Fuel Source at Ash Grove” - NDEQ.** As a part of our new meeting protocol, Verhoeff said we will be having a special presentation each meeting. Verhoeff introduced Clark Smith with the NDEQ who gave a presentation on the use of tires at Ash Grove for fuel rather than just coal and the permitting process it requires. There is a lot of public interest in this since it is perceived that there is a lot of pollution that results from this process. In reality, the test results have shown that only a few pollutants increase with this process slightly and several actually decrease. Ash Grove did do a risk analysis and NDEQ will evaluate it soon. Estimates are that 1 million tires generated in Nebraska can be used in this process each year. Today, over ½ of our tires are just landfilled in Kansas but less and less landfills are taking them. The fuel mix for Ash Grove will be 20-25% tires and 75-80% coal. Tires used in the process must be dry and cannot be flimsy. Mostly, they will use passenger tires for the process and burn them in one kiln. There will be a detailed public process involved if Ash Grove receives a permit to use tires for fuel. Right now, the process is in the test evaluation mode.

6. **LPRCA Program and Project Updates.**

- **LPRCA – General Activities** – Verhoeff discussed some of his routine activities and talked about the variety of activities the LPRCA is involved with including a variety of committees. The LPSNRD is now in the permanent office located at 3125 Portia in Lincoln. LPRCA intern, Craig Wacker will be graduating in December from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with his MS in Community & Regional Planning. Job offers welcomed.
- **2005 WQ Open Golf Tournament** – Verhoeff and Craig Wacker discussed the 2005 WQ Open held on Sept 1, 2005 at Quarry Oaks. Once again, the event was a huge success with 144 players and 36 teams. A PowerPoint presentation was given on the project. We really beefed up the educational component this year with a presentation, displays, 6 demos on holes, and 12 trivia signs on holes. Attendance for the presentation prior to the event stood at around 60 attendees. Dave Sands with the NLT and Tina Kurtz with DNR were the featured presenters. Percentages of attendee categories included the following: Government 39%; Private Businesses 31%; Members of the Public 26%; Associations 3%; and State Senators 1%. Donations this year totaled \$2,800 from 14 donors with the most being \$500. Next, year, Verhoeff would like to see if we can get a reduced rate for the tourney registration fee since the cost of this project is paid solely from participant fees and donations. Several LPRCA members commented on the success of the event and the noticeable effort to increase education. Verhoeff expressed thanks to the many volunteers from LPRCA members and partners.
- **PACE** – The collaborative sand & gravel mining/environmental/government PACE group met November 9th, 2005 at the Derr House near Wood River. There have been many efforts recently to promote PACE including a trip to DC to make a presentation to a national sand and gravel association and several journal/newspaper articles. There is a lot of interest from other areas of the country on PACE efforts and how to establish such a collaborative group. Adam Zwickle has recently re-joined TNC to help with PACE issues after a hiatus around the globe. John Heaston of TNC handed out a draft of a 25/50 management plan to review. There was discussion on finding resources to purchase a “river machine” for use in the river to access the river for inspection and evaluation. There was considerable discussion on tapping into the Browfields money available through NDEQ. John Heaston and Verhoeff met with Ted Huscher of NDEQ and found we are delving into new territory as this funding has not been used for aggregate reclamation. However, there is a possibility. The Feala Property Plan was also reviewed. This site near North Bend is the first demo project of what the PACE group would like to focus on - - developing whole site management plans for aggregate mining sites PRIOR to commencement of mining.
- **Multimedia – Newsletter, Website, PSA’s, Map, Trading Cards** – The next newsletter will be out in December. The following edition should be out in Summer/Fall 2006. Verhoeff has been working with Troy Thompson of LPNNRD on revising the website. It’s taken some time to get the updates done due to scheduling conflicts, but Verhoeff hopes to have it completed by the end of summer. PSA scripts are in development. Looks like spring of 2006 would be the time they would be completed and played on radio. The Outreach & Education Committee will be discussing once they hold their first meeting. Verhoeff is working with Shaula Ross of the LPSNRD on making a large Corridor map. Verhoeff is looking into making LPR trading cards such as he saw in a recent NG&PC magazine on wetlands.

- **WRDA-Authorized COE Projects –**
 - ✓ **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek – Camp Ashland** – Flood proofing is complete with 21 cabins elevated or removed. One elevated their cabin on their own, 10 were bought out at a total cost of \$100,000, and 10 were raised at an average cost of \$50,000 each. Regarding the chutes on Vencil's Island, the Platte to Platte chute is completed. The other is slated for next year if funding permits. FY06 Congressional adds provided for \$1.5 million as compared to the \$6 million requested. The vegetated island lowering and clearing is complete and cost \$100,000. It was lowered 3 feet for terns and plovers as one of the other conservation measures for this project. Next year, levee construction may start if funding is available. Camp Ashland levee construction is nearing completion and should be completed in mid-December.
 - ✓ **Sand Creek/Lake Wanahoo** – There is \$2.5 million in the budget via Congressional adds for FY06. Proposal in front of Secretary of the Army to build levee using local funds and to state standards instead of fed standards to get the project going and save money.
 - ✓ **Antelope Valley** – There is \$2.2 million in the federal budget as a result of Congressional adds. The Phase I channel project is complete. The BN railroad bridge is also complete. Phase II being excavated as part of the roadway. Excavated material will be used for the elevated roadway over the railroad (Big T near Devaney Sports Center). This will save around \$900,000. All right of way property is acquired for the flood control portion of the project.
- **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS)** – CIS project continues to move forward with the COE GIS people acquiring the necessary aerial photos, digitizing them, and rectifying the assemblage of the various map components. The group will be looking at having CALMIT (UNL) do the classifying of land types. The COE will have bi-monthly reports on progress and financial status. We should hear about our NETF grant application around February of 2006. All documents have been signed for the cooperative agreement and for the fund contribution addendum.
- **Environmental Carrying Capacity Study** – Troy Henningson and Doug Bisson of HDR gave an update on this project. Primarily the project is focused on sustainability of resources and revolves around water quality. To do this, we need to look at land use issues. Phase I – Data Acquisition is nearly complete and a report will be generated. Following that, the NRDs will need to convene to scope out future phases. Letters were sent out to all zoning authorities to gather comprehensive and zoning plans. All of this info has been put into a database format and will eventually be added as a layer in a GIS. Four primary types of data that have been gathered so far: (1) environmental, (2) Demographic, (3) Infrastructure Studies, and (4) Land Use. There is a base map created that additional layers will be added to such as the land use data. Next steps in Phase II include Data Analysis, Opportunity/Constraint Analysis, and Public Meetings/Workshops.

****SKIPPED TO RIVER OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PROJECT****

- **River Obstruction Program – Hwy 50 Pilot project** – Tim Gokie with Olsson Associates gave a brief update on the Hwy 50 project. Recall last time, we had just completed a site survey, which revealed we have a 6-7-6 piling configuration with 6 pilings followed by a row of 7 pilings followed by 6 more pilings - - all covered with a 3-4 foot cement cap. The depth of the pilings is still unknown. The project should commence in December once all details and contracts are worked out and signed. Roloff Construction will be the contractor doing the work while Olsson Associates will be the Engineering firm overseeing the project. Gerry Bowen of the P-MRNRD and Todd Skoog of the LPSNRD will serve as project managers for this pilot project. The estimated cost for the project is approximately \$380,000. this is a larger amount than originally thought since the project has grown in scope and difficulty. Completion of the project is expected to be in February of 2006 depending upon weather and availability of the Roloff. The project must be completed by the end of February due to COE 404 permit requirements.

****RETURNED TO INFRASTRUCTURE STUDIES****

- **Infrastructure Studies – Cass County; Sarpy County** – The Cass County Project is still progressing although Louisville has decided not to collaborate on the original regional water supply proposal and instead go it alone. They will be developing an expanded water source in the Louisville State Recreation Area, which will have the capacity to provide water to Louisville for current and future needs, and other areas in the region, if needed. The wastewater component will still move forward as originally planned with a regional package treatment plant located in place of existing lagoons near Camp Kitaki. The LPSNRD is still serving as the lead with HDR serving as consultant. They are waiting on status of grants for the project.

The Sarpy County Project is just finishing up with the feasibility study. The cost of this study is approximately \$400,000. This project has been coordinated with the revision of the Sarpy County Comprehensive Plan. In the Bluffs area, there will have to be septic systems since it would be not feasible to provide sewer lines for such a sparsely populated area. Future growth for that area is also expected to be limited due to several environmental limitations and development is pegged to be low density development. A report for the Sarpy County Infrastructure Study should be available sometime next year. Verhoeff mentioned he has been contacted by a group of landowners in the Bluffs area who are quite concerned about the development densities in the comprehensive plan. They are concerned they are too dense and could change the characteristic of the area from a rural area with farmsteads to one of small acreages. They have subsequently formed a preservation group called SAVE.

7. Upcoming and Recent Meetings/Events.

- a. **Next LPRCA Meeting – Feb/Mar 2006 [ACTION].** The next quarterly meeting of the LPRCA will be held on February 28th, 2006 at the LPSNRD starting at 9:30 a.m. Committee meetings may be held prior. Verhoeff will notify the committee members of the times.
- b. **Others.** None were discussed.

8. Other Items of Interest. No other items were brought up for discussion.

9. Adjourn. The November 15th, 2005 meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance adjourned at 12:05 p.m.