



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Rodney Verhoeff, Coordinator

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 29th, 2008 * 9:30 a.m.

Location – NE Game & Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd Street * Lincoln, NE * (402) 471-0641

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator, called the quarterly meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) to order at 9:35 AM. Meeting was held at the NE Game & Parks Commission office in Lincoln, NE. **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. Approximately 35 people in attendance.
2. **PROOF OF LEGAL NOTICE PRESENTED.** Proof of publication was presented. The legal notice was published in the Omaha World-Herald. Notifications were sent to those on the e-mailing lists, mailing list, and press releases sent to area newspapers.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA.** No changes were made to the FINAL Agenda and it was adopted as presented.
4. **APPROVAL OF LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE (LPRCA) MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7TH, 2008 MEETING.** No modifications were made to the February 7th, 2008 minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS.**
 - a. **LPRCA Member Contributions for FY09 – Handout.** Verhoeff handed out all member contribution request for FY09. He reminded those in attendance of the suggested increase of \$1,583.33/ entity which is an increase from \$5,416.67 to \$7,000. Several state entities suggested we ask for this increase since there has not been an increase in 8 years. Verhoeff mentioned that he hoped this increase did not dissuade any state entity from contributing, and if this represented too large of a burden, that he would be willing to discuss a contribution equal to previous years.
 - b. **NE Natural Legacy Plan Flagship – Update.** Verhoeff discussed how he had talked with Scott Luedtke of the NG&PC about our continued interest in the program. There may be additional funding for new initiatives this year. Verhoeff suggested the Programs & Projects Committee continue to work with NG&PC on this effort and start to develop an application for funding. The LPSNRD had previously created a position that would be funded through this initiative.
 - c. **NETF Grant for ESA Project – Update.** Verhoeff said that final approval for the \$100,000 NETF grant to work on the ESA project was received. He attended a grantee seminar put on by the NET.
 - d. **Additional Programs & Projects for FY09 – Discussion.** As a result of some of the coffee shop meetings, we had a request to consider putting in mile markers and bridge signs along the river for emergency and directional purposes. The group agreed we should pursue this effort.
 - e. **Updated FY09 LPRCA Draft Budget – Update.** Verhoeff modified the budget to include suggestions from last meeting. At that meeting we approved the budget with these changes that include: increase asking to the state entities to \$7,000, decrease the asking to NRDs by \$1,000, and add a \$15,000 request to NRDs to start building a sinking fund for the next river obstruction project for FY10.

6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **UNL Honors Water Class Project Update/Presentation on LPR Corridor – UNL Students.** Two groups of UNL students from Dave Gosselin's Honor Water Class gave presentations relating to LPR Corridor issues: one on a survey to gauge awareness of water resources and a second looking at conservation easements. The students did an excellent job and each had a PowerPoint presentation that will be available online at www.lowerplatte.org.
- b. **Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Update – Dana Divine, ENWRA Coordinator.** Dana Divine, Coordinator for ENWRA – a collaborative group that is mapping groundwater in eastern Nebraska, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the ENWRA program and the methodologies used to map eastern Nebraska including use of ground penetrating radar. The difficulty of mapping this area is that it is a glaciated area with inconsistent aquifers. For more info, contact Dana at the LPSNRD in Lincoln at (402) 476-2729 or go to any of the following links: <http://watercenter.unl.edu/archives/ENWRA2008.asp> or <http://dnrdata.dnr.ne.gov/ENWRA/>.

7. LPRCA PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

- a. Project Updates, General Activities, & Involvement – *Quarterly Report* (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)
- i. **Cumulative Impact Study – PHASE II – Update & Handout (USACE)** We are closing in on completion of PHASE II of the CIS including the final report. The COE gave an overview of the project to the group including a PowerPoint presentation that showed how comparisons can be made between changes in land use between time steps. At the next quarterly meeting sometime in July, they will have a live demo.
 - ii. **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA) – PHASE II – Report (Matt Pillard, HDR)** Matt Pillard with HDR gave the group an update on the status this project. We are nearly completed with the Needs Assessment for the PHASE II area from Columbus to Fremont. We just have NEBCO left to interview. Verhoeff recently attended the EPA Wetlands & Watersheds Conference in KC and gave a poster presentation and session presentation on LPRCA projects including the ESA project. Matt will be working with Verhoeff to develop task orders for the next phases.
 - iii. **Coffee Shop Meetings – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** We have completed 8 of the 17 coffee shop meetings since our last meeting. The 9th is set for May 9th at the Fremont Chamber of Commerce starting at 9 am. The COC is located at 605 Broad Street in Fremont. The remaining coffee shop meetings will be delayed until this fall and winter so we can focus on our outreach & education events. All of these meetings (8 of them) will be downstream of Fremont.
 - iv. **Water Quality Monitoring Network – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA) HANDOUT – 2007 Water Data Report for Louisville site.** We completed our first year of sampling in 2007 (see report) and have begun year 2. Last year we had 2 monitors at Louisville and one on the Elkhorn near Waterloo. This year, we will have additional monitors on Salt Creek near Ashland, Maple Creek near Nickerson (trib to Elkhorn as part of NAWQA), and on Shell Creek near Columbus.
 - v. **River Obstruction Program - PHASE II Camp Ashland Project – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** This project is completed. Verhoeff is working on the reimbursement request to NGPC.

- vi. **NE Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** The NIZC completed PHASE I of their study (see quarterly report for more details). It is available online at www.nizc.org.
- b. **Education & Outreach Projects / Events / Meetings**
- i. **Airboat Tour – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** See quarterly report – Fri, July 18th. Fremont to North Bend. 9 am to 4 pm. Verhoeff referenced his quarterly report for details on this tour. Alliance members decided not to charge a fee this year but will consider future years adding a nominal fee to cover some basic costs.
 - ii. **WQ Open Golf Tournament – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Again Verhoeff directed the group to review his quarterly report. The WQ Open will be held on Thu, Sept 4th at Quarry Oaks with a 10 am presentation by the Headquarters Corp, who are working on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP). Tee-off will be at 12:30 pm. Demos on the green will feature the Alliance members. Verhoeff asked for assistance from all members for this event.
 - iii. **LPR Summit - Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Verhoeff has been working with the Steering Committee for this event which will be held on Thu, Nov 6th at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont. Three tours will begin at 10 am (Pahaku, Camp Calvin Crest, PR Water Quality). The summit will begin at noon with a meal and speaker and conclude at 8 pm with a discussion panel and meal. In between will be a series of concurrent sessions and panel discussions on Platte River related issues from land use to water quality to recreation. More details to come.
- c. **WRDA-Authorized COE Projects & WRDA 2007**
- i. **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek – Camp Ashland (P-MRNRD / NE Military Dept)** The WS/CC Project is in full swing. There is \$4 million in federal funds available this year, but they really need \$7 million. Design will be complete by September 2008.
 - ii. **Sand Creek (LPNNRD)** Sand Creek project funds are now lined up with the addition of \$6 million in Nat Res Dev Funds from the state. The COE is leading the sediment trap portion of the project upstream. This component is 60% complete. Overall, it represents a \$1.9 million effort. Bids for the breakwater were let and came in approximately \$700,000 less than expected. The Lake Wanhoo embankment will probably be let early next year.
 - iii. **Antelope Valley (LPSNRD)** Bids for the Phase II channel for flood control will be opened on May 15th, 2008.
 - iv. **205 Studies (LPNNRD)** Fremont & DOR working on alignment for Hwy 30 and levee alignment that will best intercept Platte River water. The Schuyler project is in the initial stages of Phase II. This summer will conduct photogrammic surveys. Aldo are looking at Shell Creek influence on Schuyler.
 - v. **WRDA 2007 - Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Members)** Verhoeff stated that he and the 3 NRDs made a pilgrimage to DC and made an authorization request in the amount of \$1.7 million for FY09 to tap into the new Lower Platte Watershed Restoration language.

8. **RECENT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- a. 2008 LPR Summit Steering Committee Meeting – Feb 12th, 2008– LPSNRD
- b. NPZA/APA (*presentation on ESA Project*) – Feb 20th, 2008– GI Holiday Inn
- c. Trip to DC to meet with Congressional Delegation on WRDA – Feb 26th, 2008 – Washington DC
- d. WRDA Meeting with Omaha District USACE – Feb 27th, 2008 – Omaha
- e. Coffee Shop Meeting in Yutan – February 29th, 2008
- f. UNL Honors Water Class Meeting to Discuss Lower Platte River Corridor Projects – Mar 4th, 2008 – UNL
- g. WS/CC Partner Meeting w/ USACE – Mar 6th, 2008 – P-MRNRD
- h. Coffee Shop Meeting in Morse Bluff – Mar 7th, 2008
- i. 2008 LPR Summit Tour of Event Location – Mar 13th, 2008 – Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont
- j. Coffee Shop Meeting in Linwood – Mar 14th, 2008
- k. WQ Monitoring Update Meeting with USGS and NDEQ – Mar 17th, 2008 – USGS in Lincoln
- l. Earth Wellness Festival – Mar 19th, 2008 – SCC in Lincoln
- m. USGS Online Data Training – Mar 20th, 2008 – USGS in Lincoln
- n. Coffee Shop Meeting in Cedar Bluffs – Mar 24th, 2008
- o. UNL Leadership Class Presentation on LPRCA Leadership – Mar 25th, 2008 – UNL
- p. Coffee Shop Meeting in Columbus – Mar 29th, 2008
- q. ESA Meeting with UNL on Brochure/Program Design – April 2nd, 2008 – UNL
- r. Coffee Shop Meetings in North Bend & Schuyler – April 3rd, 2008
- s. NE Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) Meeting – April 3rd, 2008 – Mahoney SP
- t. Riverview Shores Lake Development Presentation on LPRCA – April 7th, 2008 – near North Bend
- u. NE Environmental Trust Grant Recipient Workshop – April 8th, 2008 - Lincoln
- v. EPA Wetland & Watershed Conference (*presentation/poster*) – April 8th & 9th, 2008 – Kansas City, MO
- w. Coffee Shop Meeting in Bellwood – April 16th, 2008
- x. ESA Needs Assessment Meeting with Fremont – April 16th, 2008 – Fremont
- y. ESA Needs Assessment Meeting with Joslyn Castle Institute (JCI) – April 17th, 2008 – LPSNRD
- z. ESA Needs Assessment Meeting with Saunders County – April 18th, 2008 – Wahoo
- aa. Meeting with Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Group – April 21st, 2008
- bb. UNL Water Law, Policy, and Science Conference – April 22nd & 23rd, 2008 – Embassy Suites in Lincoln
- cc. Practitioner Meeting for “Discover the Waters of Nebraska” booklet – April 28th, 2008 – UNL Extension

9. **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- a. **Next LPRCA Meeting – Jul/Aug 2008 [ACTION]** The group decided to hold the meeting at the P-MRNRD on July 7th starting at 9:30 am. Presentations will include the COE on the CIS project and the Keystone Pipeline project.
- b. **Coffee Shop Meeting in Fremont** – Friday, May 9th, 2008 * 9 – 10 am * Fremont Chamber of Commerce office * 605 Broad Street – Fremont.

- c. **River Management Society Biennial Conference (*presentations*)** – May 11th- 15th, 2008 – Portland, ME
- d. **Lorman Panel Discussion / Presentation on Public Involvement** – July 29th, 2008 – Grand Island, NE
- e. **Others**

10. **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST – PUBLIC COMMENT**

11. **ADJOURN**

NOTES

- **Location** – The NE Game & Parks Commission is located at 2200 N. 33rd Street in Lincoln on UNL's east campus. Call (402) 471-0641 for directions or see attached map.
- **To be removed / added from our mailing or e-mailing list**, please contact the LPRCA at (402) 476-2729 or via e-mail at rverhoeff@lpsnrd.org.
- **Meeting information (past and present)** will be kept up to date at www.lowerplatte.org/meetings.html.