



# Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

*Rodney Verhoeff, Coordinator*

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 \* 9:00 a.m.

Location – Lower Platte South NRD

3125 Portia Street \* Lincoln, NE \* (402) 476-2729

1. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS.** Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator, called the quarterly meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) LPSNRD office at 3125 Portia Street 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 22 people were in attendance.
2. **PROOF OF LEGAL NOTICE/PUBLICATION.** 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 JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2008 MEETING.** No modifications were made to the July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS.**
  - a. **Lower Platte River Summit – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> \* 10 am tours \* Noon start of summit \* \$40/person \* Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont.** Go to [www.lowerplatte.org](http://www.lowerplatte.org) for more info and to register. Repeating the very successful event held in 2006, the LPRCA will hold a summit every two years. This year, Verhoeff has been working with a several other organizations including the NPS, USGS, the NRCS, UNL Water Center, and the *Prairie Fire* newspaper. The USGS has pledged \$500 and the NPS has already paid to reserve the facility at Camp Calvin Crest and a few other items. The UNL Water Center is helping with design of materials and registration. The *Prairie Fire* newspaper is providing space in the paper for an article on the LPR. The NRCS has been very active in helping to set up the art display we will have this year along with a string quartet. It has been a huge benefit having a committee plan and organize the event this time around. We tentatively have two featured speakers: Frank Austenfeld, Executive Director for the Land Trust Institute and the Watershed Institute AND Michael Grunwald, an award-winning author and correspondent for *TIME* magazine. Michael wrote a book on the Everglades that has applicability to the LPR area. Cost for Michael Grunwald is approximately \$10,000 and we hope to share this cost 3 ways with two departments at UNL.
  - b. **Upcoming NRD Board Meetings:**
    - i. **Lower Platte North NRD** – Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 \* 7 p.m. \* 511 Commercial Park Road – Wahoo, NE. Go to <http://www.lpnrd.org> for more info or call (402) 443-4675.
    - ii. **Lower Platte South NRD** – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 \* 7 p.m. \* United Methodist Church 102 W. Eldora Ave. – Weeping Water, NE. Go to <http://www.lpsnrd.org> for more info or call (402) 476-2729. **NOTE – Meeting held at different location and not at NRD office as is customary.**
    - iii. **Papio-Missouri River NRD** – Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 \* 8 p.m. \* Natural Resources Center at 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> Street – Omaha, NE. Go to <http://www.papionrd.org> for more info or call (402) 444-6222.
6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - a. **LPRCA Intern – Introduction (Ryan Bjerke, LPRCA)** Ryan is a master's student in the School of Natural Resources at UNL. He's majoring in Natural Resource Sciences, with a specialization in Human Dimensions, and working toward a minor in Water Resource Planning and Management. His thesis work focuses on

- eliciting the perceptions of key stakeholders in the Republican River Basin in Nebraska in relation to water supply management and sustainability issues. He was born and raised in South Dakota, and completed his undergraduate degree in Environmental Management from South Dakota State University.
- b. **LPRCA Coordinator Position – Update (LPRCA Members)** Placeholder
  - c. **FY 09 LPRCA Budget/Membership – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** There was a spirited discussion as 3 state agencies (NDEQ, NDNR, NH&HS) notified Verhoeff that they would not be contributing this year. The agencies indicated it was not due to performance or direction of the LPRCA, but rather due to severe budget shortages and a directive from administration to cut external program funding for their respective agencies. The remaining 3 entities (UNL-SNR, NG&PC, & NE Military Dept) indicated they would be contributing at the new requested level - \$7,000 rather than the old \$5,416.67. Questions arose as to why in the middle of a biennium budget where the funds were budgeted, that they were cut. Agencies indicated they have redirected funds away from the LPRCA to other areas with shortfalls. All agencies indicated that we should approach them again on a yearly basis for contributions. A question also arose as to whether or not the increase in requested amount from \$5,416.67 to \$7,000 made the difference. The response was that it would not have mattered. Verhoeff asked if he should send a letter to each agency head still inviting them to remain a member even if they cannot contribute funds and suggest they contribute by participation and in-kind. The group felt this would be a good idea. Verhoeff will send a draft around for review.
  - d. **Assistance with LPR Summit – Discussion (LPRCA Members)** Placeholder
7. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** Cumulative Impact Study for the Lower Platte River Basin – US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; Lower Platte North NRD; & the US Geological Survey Placeholder
8. **LPRCA PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**
- a. **Project Updates, General Activities, & Involvement – Quarterly Report (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)**
    - i. **Water Quality Monitoring Network - Update (USGS).** Placeholder
    - ii. **Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA) – PHASES II & III – Report (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA & Matt Pillard, HDR).** Placeholder
    - iii. **Coffee Shop Meetings – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA).** Nine of 17 meetings are completed - most upstream of Fremont except for Yutan. The remainder will be conducted this fall/winter. Averaged 18 attendees with a high of 40. Received a lot of help from NRD board members and hope to get similar help for downstream meetings. Additionally, any LPRCA member or partner organization wanting to help can join in.
    - iv. **River Obstruction Program – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA).** The Camp Ashland project is now complete. The only thing remaining is to receive grant funding from the NG&PC from their Boating Safety Grant Program. We will take a year off and bank funds for the next project – Two Rivers State Rec Area in 2010 or 2011.
    - v. **Invasive Species Efforts – Update (LPRCA Members).** There is currently a collaborative effort between NRDs, counties, private biz, and utilities to do helicopter spraying with Habitat, a herbicide that is approved for aquatic use. The P-MRNRD has pledged \$200,000 and the LPNNRD \$20,000 for this effort. The LPSNRD is currently considering their involvement.
  - b. **Education, Information, & Outreach Projects / Events / Meetings/ Activities.**
    - i. **Airboat Tour – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Placeholder
    - ii. **WQ Open Tournament – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Placeholder
    - iii. **LPR Summit – Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Placeholder
    - iv. **Prairie Fire – Newspaper Articles (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA & Frank Albrecht, NGPC)** Placeholder
    - v. **Ashland Gazette – Newspaper Article (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA)** Placeholder
  - c. **WRDA-Authorized COE Projects & WRDA 2007**
    - i. **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek – Camp Ashland (P-MRNRD / NE Military Dept).** Partners currently have the 60% preliminary plans for review. The hope is to have the 100% plans by Sept.
    - ii. **Sand Creek (LPNNRD).** Wet weather did slow progress on the sediment trap but it is still nearly 75% complete. They hope to do a tremendous amount of dirt work in Aug and Sept. Plans for the

Lake Wanahoo structure have been submitted to the state for review and approval. Hopes are to start construction by the fall. Bids should have been let and will be opened on Aug 7.

- iii. **Antelope Valley (LPSNRD)**. There will be a walkthrough on the Phase II Channel Project to finalize punch list. Final flood control channel (Phase III) contract is scheduled to be awarded on July 18 and completed by Dec 2009.
  - iv. **205 Studies (LPNNRD)**. In Fremont, stakeholders are working with NDOR to determine an agreeable alignment for the roadway. North Bend will be holding a public meeting in the near future to discuss their options and interest in continuing.
  - v. **WRDA 2007/2008 - Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Members)**. Verhoeff stated the LPRCA has made an appropriation request in the amount of \$1.7 million for the LPR Watershed Restoration authorization.
- d. **Flooding Issues**. In Schuyler, there is a Platte River and Shell Creek threat from flooding. Recent flooding at the end of May and beginning of June resulted in flood waters across the RR tracks east of town and has gotten local residents very concerned and wanting to take some action soon.

9. RECENT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/EVENTS. Placeholder

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- a. **Next LPRCA Meeting – January 2009 [ACTION]**. The next meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln. Starting at 10 am.
- b. **Others**. No other items were discussed.

11. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST – PUBLIC COMMENT. There was no public comment

12. ADJOURN . The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

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## NOTES

- **Location** – The Lower Platte South NRD is located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln (near 14<sup>th</sup> and Adams behind white fire station). Go to <http://www.lpsnrd.org/graphics/Maps/NRDOOffice.jpg> for a map to the office or call (402) 444-6222 for driving directions.
- **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](mailto:rverhoeff@lpsnrd.org).
- **Meeting information (past and present)** can be found at [www.lowerplatte.org/meetings.html](http://www.lowerplatte.org/meetings.html).