



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 *10:00 a.m.

Location – Lower Platte South NRD

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS.** Meghan Sittler, LPRCA Coordinator, called the quarterly meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) LPSNRD office at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln, NE. An attendance sheet was distributed and those in attendance signed in. A copy of this attendance sheet is available for inspection upon request. Approximately 41 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 OCTOBER 7, 2008 MEETING.** No modifications were made to the October 7th, 2008 minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. **FY 09 LPRCA Budget/Membership – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Members of the Alliance discussed the status of the members that were unable to pay their dues to the LPRCA this year. It was mentioned that face-to-face discussions with the majority of the LPRCA members resulted in a variety of suggestions for dues payment. Options mentioned included contribution through participation and in-kind; a variable dues scale; or paying in full under obligation from the LPRCA original agreement. Meghan Sittler indicated that she will continue conversations with the LPRCA members to identify realities, constraints, and possibilities.
 - b. **Nebraska Land Trust Interlocal Agreement—Presentation (Dave Sands, NLT)**

Dave Sands, Executive Director of the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT), presented an overview of the NLT's efforts on the Lower Platte River to identify land that may be attractive for a conservation easement and pursue easements on that property. The NLT is also focused on educating landowners about the benefits of easements as well as a variety of options for the type of easement agreement. The LPRCA will be working with the NLT on the outreach and education portions of their efforts. Meghan Sittler mentioned the upcoming coffee shop sessions as one possible venue to assist the NLT in educating landowners throughout the Corridor. A question was asked if presentations had been made to county commissioners—specifically Sarpy County. Dave Sands indicated that they are working with Commissioners from various counties and would be happy to share more information as requested. A copy of the presentation is available on the LPRCA website at: <http://www.lowerplatte.org/whatsnew.htm> or on request.
6. **Lower Platte River Preliminary Fully Appropriated Determination—Presentation (Jesse Bradley, DNR)**

Jesse Bradley, Nebraska Department of Resources, provided an overview of the process and data utilized in making the preliminary designation that the Lower Platte River is “fully appropriated”. The presentation given is available on the LPRCA website at: <http://www.lowerplatte.org/whatsnew.htm> or on request. The full report and hearing schedule can be found at: <http://dnr.ne.gov/>.
7. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA)—Matt Pillard, HDR**

Matt Pillard, HDR Engineering, provided an overview of the results of Phase II of the ESA project. The plan for and progress on Phase III as well as the Land Suitability Analysis was also discussed. Matt requested that

members and other stakeholders provide him or Meghan Sittler with names of individuals they would like to serve on a technical review committee for the Land Suitability Analysis portion. The meeting for the review committee will take place within the month of February. Discussion centered on how the public would be informed of the ESA and CIS projects. Meghan Sittler and Matt Pillard suggested that invitations had already been extended for them to present at various county and city boards. Meghan Sittler also mentioned utilizing the coffee shop meetings, the LPRCA and member websites, as well as participating in other conferences and meetings throughout the region. A suggestion was made to pull the Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) workgroup together with the ESA technical review committee to ensure that the tools look and function similarly and to identify gaps and needs. There was also discussion on the possibility of linking the tools into a "decision support tool" in the future to help stakeholders utilize and understand the information for specific needs more easily.

8. LPRCA PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

a. Project Updates, General Activities, & Involvement

- i. **Cumulate Impact Study (CIS)**—The Cumulative Impact Study (phases I & II) has been completed. A brief demonstration of the IMS site was given by Chris Poole, LPNNRD. The project partners will be meeting during February to review the IMS and other project components. The IMS and project documents are located on the Mapmaker site at: <http://www.nrdmapmaker.org/lowerplattecis/viewer.htm>. Additionally, the final report from the Corps of Engineers and the results of the two hydrologic analyses conducted by the USGS are available on the LPRCA website at: <http://www.lowerplatte.org/whatsnew.html> or upon request.
- ii. **Water Quality Monitoring Network - Update (USGS)**. Dave Rus (USGS), provided an update on the results of the most recent phase of the WOMN work. He also provided a brief introduction into some possible extensions and next steps to utilize the acquired data and established monitoring network to focus on predictive relationships. A preproposal will be prepared and Dave will be presenting the proposed activities at the next LPRCA Quarterly meeting.
- iii. **Coffee Shop Meetings – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)**. Nine of 17 meetings are completed - most upstream of Fremont except for Yutan. The remainder will be conducted during late winter and spring. Any LPRCA member or partner organization wanting to help can join in.
- iv. **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, an herbicide that is approved for aquatic use. Marlin Peterman (PMNRD) reported that the next step would be to test the treated and managed plots to identify if the methods are resulting in useful habitat.

b. Education, Information, & Outreach Projects / Events / Meetings/ Activities.

- i. **LPR Summit – Update & Review** Ryan Bjerke (LPRCA) and W. Don Nelson (Summit Program Committee member) provided an update and review of the LPRCA Summit. The Summit was held at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont on November 6, 2008. Eighty-six people registered for the event. Overall it was viewed as a very positive event with primarily positive comments being received from those that participated in the event. Attitude surveys may be utilized to gage individuals impression of the Summit as well as issues such as urbanization and conservation. The survey results could result in laying the groundwork for the organization of the next Summit, which will be held in the fall of 2010.
- ii. **UNL Environmental Studies Program (Rachael Herpel, UNL Water Center)** The LPRCA will be serving as a "client" for the UNL Environmental Studies Program Senior Seminar. Students from the class will be researching an emerging issue within the LPRCA and providing the LPRCA a report, presentation and any other assistance. The students will report on their efforts at the next Quarterly meeting.

c. WRDA-Authorized COE Projects & WRDA 2007

- i. **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek – Camp Ashland (P-MRNRD / NE Military Dept)**. Partners participated in a pre-construction meeting with TWC construction in early January. Tree removal and other construction activities are now on-going as weather permits. Tree removal is being monitored daily for migratory bird concerns.
- ii. **Sand Creek (LPNNRD)**. Work on Lake Wanahoo began in the fall and a large amount of dirt work being completed prior to the ground freezing. LPNNRD and DOR are currently discussing the plans for the intersection and needed wetland mitigation.

- iii. **Antelope Valley (LPSNRD)**. The flood control component will be completed by the end of 2009 and the roadway component scheduled to be completed at the end of 2010.
- iv. **205 Studies (LPNNRD)**. LPNNRD will be meeting with the Corps of Engineers to review the progress made on the project thus far and to plan strategy for the upcoming year.
- v. **WRDA 2007/2008 & 2009- Update (Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Members)**. The LPRCA and Lower Platte River Watershed Authority was given an authorization. Discussion of WRDA 2009 and appropriations under WRDA 2007 will be taken up sometime during late winter or early spring 2009.

9. RECENT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/EVENTS. Placeholder

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- a. **Next LPRCA Meeting** – The next meeting will be April 28th at the Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln. Starting at 9:30 am.
- b. Building Sustainable Partnerships—UNL, February 6
- c. CAMNet Rendezvous—Kearney, NE, March 8-10
- d. earth wellness festival—Lincoln, NE March 30 & 31
- e. Upcoming NRD Board meetings
 - i. Lower Platte South NRD – January 21, 2009 * 2 p.m. * 3125 Portia Street – Lincoln, NE. Go to: <http://www.lpsnrd.org> for more information or call (402)-476-2729
 - ii. Lower Platte North NRD – February 9, 2009 * 5:30 p.m. * 511 Commercial Road – Wahoo, NE. Go to: <http://www.lpnrd.org> for more information or call (402) 443-4675
 - iii. Papio-Missouri River NRD – February 12, 2009 * 8 p.m. * Natural Resources Center at 8901 S 154th Street – Omaha, NE. Go to: <http://www.papionrd.org> for more info or call (402)-444-6222.
- f. **Others**. No other items were discussed.

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

12. ADJOURN . The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

NOTES

- **Location** – The Lower Platte South NRD is located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln (near 14th and Adams behind white fire station). Go to <http://www.lpsnrd.org/graphics/Maps/NRDOffice.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 msittler@lpsnrd.org.
- **Meeting information (past and present)** can be found at www.lowerplatte.org/meetings.html.