



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2009 9:30 a.m.

Location – Lower Platte North NRD

511 Commercial Park Road * Wahoo, NE * (402) 443-4675

1. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS.** Meghan Sittler, LPRCA Coordinator, called the quarterly meeting of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) to order at 9:35 a.m. An attendance sheet was distributed and those in attendance signed in. A copy of this attendance sheet is available for inspection upon request. Approximately 17 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-mail list, mailing list, and press releases sent to area newspapers.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA.** No changes were made to the agenda and it was adopted as presented.
4. **APPROVAL OF LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE (LPRCA) MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 28, 2009 MEETING.** No modifications were made to the April 28th, 2009 minutes. Minutes were approved via general consensus.
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. **FY 10 LPRCA Budget – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Since the last quarterly meeting, the LPRCA FY 10 Budget was preliminarily approved by all member organizations. Meghan Sittler mentioned financial invoices had been sent out to all member groups.
 - b. **LPRCA Long Range Implementation Plan & LPRCA Member Retreat—Meghan Sittler, LPRCA** Meghan Sittler stated that the LPRCA Member Retreat was still scheduled to be held on September 9th, 2009 in Memorial Hall at Camp Ashland, and gave a brief synopsis of the draft agenda. A case study presentation detailing other Alliance-like groups throughout the country will be presented at the retreat, and a number of members stated that they would like to see the full case study document in advance of the event. It was also mentioned that drivers licenses would be required ID for entrance to the base. Furthermore, one member suggested that a timeline/history of Alliance projects and events in the Corridor be compiled and distributed at the retreat.
 - c. **Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission Memorandum of Support** Marlin Petermann explained that part of the NIZC's mission was to promote a "green corridor" between Omaha and Lincoln through environmental sustainable development. He also noted that high design standards would act to promote positive development with the region. Additionally, a Memo of Support relating to the NIZC was discussed.
6. **Tour of Lake Wanahoo and Update on Progress **Following Regular Business Meeting** – Presentation (Mike Murren, LPNNRD)**

Following the regular business meeting, Mike Murren led a group of LPRCA members on a guided tour around the future site for Lake Wanahoo. The group viewed numerous features of the future lake and noted construction activities taking place on the grounds as well. Ninety percent of the earthwork is done and the Corps of Engineers projects are complete. The killing of trash fish from the system was in progress, and ponding of water was set to begin in the fall.
7. **LPRCA PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**
 - a. **Project Updates, General Activities, & Involvement**

- i. **Water Quality Monitoring Network - Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA).** Meghan Sittler stated that the LPRCA and USGS were in the process of applying for a 3 year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust totalling \$780,000 (\$150,000 from NET). The project would utilize previously-collected and on-going data from existing water quality monitoring stations along the river in the Corridor to develop water quality contaminant load predictions, and would be beneficial to communities, recreationists, and the NDEQ. However, it was noted that this project may be a mixed blessing because it may also hinder participation in recreational activities in and along the river.
 - ii. **Environmental Suitability Assessment—** Matt Pillard of HDR gave a report about progress on the ESA project, specifically the Land Suitability Analysis Model. After detailing the model, he discussed an outreach proposal which would consist of compiling materials to deliver the public a consistent message and a series of seminars to brief communities about the ESA and other LPRCA projects.
 - iii. **Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA).** Meghan Sittler detailed the CIS-specific meeting, which had been held the day before the quarterly meeting. She stated that the scoping process for Phase III had begun in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers.
 - iv. **River Obstruction Program – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Meghan Sittler stated that she and Frank Albrecht from NGPC had toured sites of past removal projects, and were going to examine the proposed Two River SRA site in the near future. She also discussed a future meeting with representatives of Olsson Associates to focus on identification and permitting issues. Additionally, it was mentioned that a meeting to discuss boating safety grant money should be arranged.
 - v. **Invasive Species Efforts –** Marlin Petermann noted that an inter-local agreement had been signed between the 3 member NRD's to establish a cost-share program with landowners where phragmites has been found. He also discussed mechanical removal and helicopter spraying, and mentioned that the county weed authorities ran the programs.
- b. **Education, Information, & Outreach Projects / Events / Meetings/ Activities.**
- i. **Airboat Tour – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Once again, Meghan Sittler discussed the reason for the cancellation of this year's Airboat Tour, but explained that meetings with the NE Airboaters Association were planned to attempt to resolve insurance/liability and waiver form issues for future tours. She also mentioned that smaller tours for registered participants were being considered, and would be conducted through Bryson's Airboat Tours in Fremont.
 - ii. **Water Quality Open Golf Tournament – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Meghan Sittler noted that this year's WQ Open was full, and additional teams were being placed on a waiting list. Demonstrations for the day's event were discussed, and Frank Albrecht from NGPC stated that he would inquire about a representative from his organization doing a demonstration.
 - iii. **River Kiosks – Update (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** Meghan Sittler talked about the NGPC sites in the lower half of the Corridor that she and Frank Albrecht toured to find suitable locations to place informative kiosks. Furthermore, she mentioned that design and building of kiosks was continuing.
 - iv. **Market to Market Relay (Meghan Sittler, LPRCA)** A course description of the areas within the LPR Corridor was submitted to race organizers by Meghan Sittler.
- c. **WRDA-Authorized COE Projects & WRDA**
- i. **W. Sarpy/Clear Creek – Camp Ashland (P-MRNRD / NE Military Dept).** This project received government stimulus money. Segment 1 was completed. Construction will begin on segment 2 beginning the week of August 24th. Segment 3, 4, and 5 will begin letting bids in September, November, and December, respectively.
 - ii. **Sand Creek (LPNNRD).** Mike Murren reported that government stimulus money was received for the project, with a portion of the money being used on the 7 NRCS sites.
 - iii. **Antelope Valley (LPSNRD).** Glenn Johnson noted that the O&M manual would be collaboratively compiled in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers.
 - iv. **205 Studies (LPNNRD).** (No Discussion)
 - v. **LPR Watershed Authority Updates.** It was noted that a "No New Starts" mandate was put in place at the federal level but that communication was continuing to transition to the new LPR Watershed Authority.

8. UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

- a. **Next LPRCA Meeting** – The next meeting will be October 27th, 2009 at the P-MRNRD in Omaha starting at 9:30 am.
 - b. LPRCA Water Quality Open: Thursday, September 3, Quarry Oaks Golf Club
 - c. LPRCA Strategic Planning Retreat: Wednesday, September 9, Memorial Hall, Ashland, NE
 - d. Nebraska Trails Council & Nebraska Recreation & Park Association Conference: September 13-15, Ponca State Park
 - e. Husker Harvest Days: September 15-17, Grand Island, NE
 - f. Market to Market Relay: October 10, Omaha-Lincoln
 - g. Platte River Symposium: October 14-15, Kearney, NE
 - h. Upcoming NRD Board Meetings
 - i. Papio-Missouri River NRD – September 10, 2009 * 8:00 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.
 - ii. Lower Platte North NRD – September 14, 2009 * 7:00 p.m. * 511 Commercial Road – Wahoo, NE. Go to: <http://www.lpnrd.org> for more information or call (402) 443-4675
 - iii. Lower Platte South NRD – September 16, 2009 * 7:00 p.m. * 3125 Portia Street – Lincoln, NE. Go to: <http://www.lpsnrd.org> for more information or call (402)-476-2729
9. **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST – PUBLIC COMMENT.** There was no public comment but discussion on the following occurred.
- a) **Saunders County Floodplain Maps** Marlin Petermann provided an update on a meeting with the Corps of Engineers, FEMA, DNR, Saunders County, the LPSNRD and PMRNRD. The NRDs have provided comment to the new draft floodplain maps over concern over some inconsistencies or inaccuracies in the extension of flood elevations.
10. **ADJOURN** . The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

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/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 msittler@lpsnrd.org.
- **Meeting information (past and present)** can be found at www.lowerplatte.org/meetings.html.