



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the period of Nov 1 - Nov 30, 2004

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

LPRCA MEMBER RETREAT

Don't forget that there will be an LPRCA member retreat on Friday, January 21st, 2005 at Camp Kitaki starting at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:00 p.m. followed by a short tour of the Lied Bridge. Please let the Alliance office know by December 31st if you plan to attend so we can get a heads count for meals. I hope every member organization can send at least one representative so we can evaluate the direction and accomplishments of the Alliance.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting The Alliance met for a quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at the LPNNRD in Wahoo. Minutes will be available shortly and posted on our website at www.lowerplatte.org. In addition to updates on current and planned LPRCA projects/programs, the group discussed several specific items including: LPRCA Member Retreat scheduled for January 21st, 2004 at Camp Kitaki, progress on establishing an affiliated fund with the Nebraska Community Foundation, and presentations on the 2004 airboat tour and golf tourney. The group discussed the format of the airboat tour for next year and decided to go with two smaller tours - - the first targeted to the local decision-makers, and the second open to a broader audience. The golf tourney was also discussed and the group tentatively decided to hold the event at Quarry Oaks this year and have a mini-conference prior to the golfing. More details are in the minutes.

Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) The CIS partner group met following the LPRCA quarterly meeting on November 30th at the LPNNRD in Wahoo. The primary focus was to review the Scope of Work (SOW). The group decided to set December 31st as the deadline to finalize the SOW and finish up Phase I of the project. Partners were also asked to submit cost estimates for Phase II - Data Acquisition and Trend Analysis, which needs to be added to the SOW. Many partners will start the budgeting process soon so estimates for Phase II costs and local matching costs will be needed early in 2005 to make funding/contribution requests.

Vencil's Island Tour On November 12th, I participated in a tour of the Vencil's Island area along with W. Don Nelson of Senator Nelson's office, Steve Oltmans of the PMRNRD, and Marlin Petermann of the PMRNRD. We toured areas where conservation measures will soon be implemented

including the creation of channels cut into the island to create backwater habitat for fish such as the pallid sturgeon among others. These measures are a part of the larger "Western Sarpy-Clear Creek Project" which will build new levees and upgrade existing levees to the 50-year flood level. We also looked at current and proposed development and a location for an Elkhorn River public access site.

Collaborative Watershed Management I recently met with a representative of the City of Lincoln to discuss collaborative watershed management efforts. The Alliance was asked for input since we have proven successful in cooperative ventures. Watershed management for the City of Lincoln area can have an impact on the lower Platte River since a major stream in the area, Salt Creek, runs from the Lincoln vicinity to the Platte River near Ashland.

Website We plan to re-do the LPRCA website this winter and we kicked off the effort with a meeting between the all NRD employees who will help in this venture. Additionally, LPRCA intern Craig Wacker will be assisting as a part of his M.S. program at UNL. Ideas for design and content are welcomed. The website is www.lowerplatte.org.

Water Quality Monitoring Network One of the primary issues the Alliance deals with is water quality. As a result, I have been meeting with the USGS to look at a water quality monitoring network that could be integrated with existing gauging stations operated by the USGS. This idea is also being considered as a part of the CIS project. There is some 50/50 costshare funding available from the USGS to undertake this project but the funding is available for only a short time.

Next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, March 1st, 2005 * 9:30 a.m.
Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln

From the Coordinator...continued

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

- PMRNRD Board Meeting - Thursday, Dec 9th, 2004 * 8:00 p.m. - Nat Res Center @ Chalco Hills Rec Area - Omaha
- LPNNRD Board Meeting - Monday, Dec 13th, 2004 * 5:30 p.m. - Platte Center Community Center - Platte Center*
- LPSNRD Board Meeting - Wednesday, Dec 15th, 2004 * 2:00 p.m. - LPSNRD Office - Lincoln @ 3125 Portia Street*
- Ice Jam Cooperative Agreement Meeting - Wednesday, December 15th, 2004 * 9:00 a.m. * PMRNRD
- Lower Platte Weed Management Area (LPWMA) Group Meeting - Wed, December 15th, 2004 * 9:30 a.m. * LPNNRD
- Sarpy County Comprehensive Plan Presentation - Wednesday, December 15th, 2004 * 5:00 p.m. * Sarpy Co. Offices
- 60-Mile Radius Study Committee Meeting - Thursday, December 16th, 2004 * 3:30 p.m. * JCI - Omaha
- MapMaker Partner Update Meeting - Tuesday, January 4th, 2005 * 10:00 a.m. * LPNNRD
- NARD Legislative Conference - January 25 & 26, 2005 * Embassy Suites * Lincoln

*NOTE the winter meetings times are in effect for the next several months

Newsletter - Your Submissions Needed!

The Fall/Winter Newsletter is a work in progress, but we need your ideas and submissions. Anything you would like us to discuss related to the Lower Platte River Corridor, water quality, septic systems/private wells, NRD programs, upcoming events, etc, please submit to the LPRCA via e-mail at rverhoeff@lpsnrd.org or call us at (402) 476-2729.



Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator

Meet the Coordinator

Hometown and State: Hickman, Nebraska.

Other Places Lived: O'Neill, NE; Wichita, KS; Haven, KS; Topeka, KS; Valentine, NE; Lincoln, NE.

Currently Resides: Lincoln, NE.

Education: B.S. in Natural Resources, major in Water Science; M.S. in Agronomy, specialty in Soil & Water Science.

Positions Held: Currently - Coordinator of LPRCA; Executive Director - Niobrara Council; Natural Resources Specialist - KS Dept of Ag; Environmental Scientist - Burns & McDonnell WCI; Water Resources Manager - Upper Elkhorn NRD; Graduate Research Assistant - UNL; UST/ER Protocol Intern - NDEQ.

Hobbies: Playing guitar; Bicycling; Weightlifting; Music; Sports; Outdoor activities and nature.

Parting Words: "We are just the caretakers of the earth and you have to ask yourself what legacy you want to leave."

Happy Holidays!