



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report from the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the period of Oct 1 through Nov 1, 2004

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Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) - GIS Working Group The CIS - GIS Working Group met on November 3rd, 2004 at the LPNNRD in Wahoo. This subgroup of the full CIS partner group met to discuss data acquisition needs and costs. Since several members were unable to attend the last GIS meeting, it also allowed for a discussion of the recently-developed Scope of Work (SOW) for the project. The projected timeframe is to complete PHASE I - Scoping and have a final SOW by December 31st, 2004. The entire CIS group will meet on November 23rd at the LPNNRD at 10:00 a.m.

International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Great River Chapter Annual Conference On October 27th and 28th, along with several other LPSNRD and PMRNRD employees attended the 2004 IECA annual conference in Council Bluffs. The conference looked at low-impact development and erosion control basics including natural resources based planning. Day 1 included a great presentation on sediment and erosion control (and the difference between the two), commonly-use practices, new innovations, natural resource based planning including the use of GIS and greenway planning, marketing of control practices and how to highlight the importance of these controls, and education/training for professional, boards, and the public. Day 2 included information on NPDES permitting and the regulatory perspective, basics of Best Management Practices (BMPs), and finally site tours demonstrating many of the techniques and control measures from the presentations.

Strategic Plan for Environmental Education in Nebraska Headed up by the statewide - Nebraska Association of Conservation and Environment Education (NACEE), a strategic plan for environmental education in Nebraska is currently being developed. The plan looks at helping get more environmental education in our schools, providing opportunities for formal and non-formal instructors, providing better access to resources, linking environmental educators, increasing support and funding, and developing standards for curriculum. I was involved in this process when I served as Executive Director of the Niobrara Council and was asked to look through the draft strategic plan as part of the public input component of the process. Education is a huge part of the LPRCA and the many activities we are engaged in, so I am very pleased to be setting precedence for Nebraska by assisting with the effort.

Sarpy County Planning Process October 26th, 2004, I participated in a focus group to assist with updating Sarpy County's Comprehensive Development Plan and Zoning Ordinance. This process goes hand-in-hand with the recent infrastructure study initiated in Sarpy County to address water supply and wastewater needs in the area. With a large predicted growth rate in the area, the county is looking to address development issues before they become a problem and assure adequate infrastructure, appropriate development, continued economic development, and sustainability of natural resources. Once a draft of the updated plan is developed, we will again convene in focus groups to discuss.

Lower Platte Weed Management Weed Area (LPWMA) Group The LPWMA Grants Committee met on November 4th, 2004 at the LPSNR to discuss the next round of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Foundation PTI grants. Last round, the group received around \$54,000 to help control noxious weeds in the Lower Platte River drainage. This year, the group is looking for another \$50,000 to continue these efforts. For this new grant, the group is looking at developing considerable more educational and outreach materials in addition to contracting with a helicopter pilot to spray weeds. We have until December to submit the grant application. Those who received funds previously have a good chance of receiving more. IN the spring, the LPWMA may be approaching the NRDs and other partners to look for continued support.

Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Watershed Management Course On October 8th, I attended a daylong course looking at stream rehabilitation management and techniques. The course covered topics such as stream morphology, looking for signs of problems, erosion and sediment transport, and control measures. Following the classroom portion, we took a field trip to view these control measures in place throughout Lincoln, including a recently-completed stream rehabilitation on Beal Slough.

Recent & Upcoming NRD and Alliance Meetings:

- ✓ **NEXT LPRCA QUARTERLY MEETING** - Tuesday, November 30th, 2004* 9:30 a.m. * LPNNRD Office near Wahoo.
- ✓ **LPNNRD Board Meeting** - Monday, Nov 8th, 2004 *5:30 p.m. - Saunders Co Fairgrounds - Wahoo
- ✓ **LPSNRD Board Meeting** - Wednesday, Nov 17th, 2004 * 7:00 p.m. - LPSNRD Office - Lincoln @ 3125 Portia Street
- ✓ **PMRNRD Board Meeting** - Thursday, Nov 18th, 2004 * 8:00 p.m. - Nat Res Center @ Chalco Hills Rec Area - Omaha