



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report from the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the period of JULY 1 through JULY 31, 2004

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

NEXT LPRCA MEETING - - TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 2004 **9:30 A.M. PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD**

Water Quality Open- Wednesday, September 1, 2004

The date for the 2004 Water Quality Open is coming up fast. It will be held this year on Wednesday, September 1st, 2004 at Arbor Links golf club in Nebraska City. TO register, contact the LPRCA at (402) 476-2729 or go on-line and download the registration form. We still have space, but it fills up fast. The event starts off at 11:00 a.m. with a presentation by Steve Merkel, who is the Manager of Agronomy for all courses constructed by Landscapes Unlimited - - the organization that built Arbor Links. Cost for registration is \$55/person and includes all green fees, cart use, range balls, prizes, t-shirt, and dinner. The tournament is a four-person team scramble with a shotgun start. We have several activities and displays planned. Single golfers are welcome - - we can find you a team to play on. Deadline for sign-up is August 23rd. See you there.

Agro-Environmental Trail Project (formerly Nature Trail Project) The group just received notice that they have been awarded a 5-star EPA grant to implement the Grazing Wetland Project I mentioned last month in my report. I don't have all of the details yet, but it sounds as though an educational program will also be developed in conjunction with design of the grazing wetlands system.

Cumulative Impact Study The CIS group will be meeting on August 17th, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. following the LPRCA quarterly meeting. The meeting will be held at the Papio-Missouri NRD office located at the Chalco Hills Recreation Area. Take the Sapp Brothers exit on I-80 and go north to Giles Road. Take a left (west) and continue until you see the entrance gate to the recreation area (top of hill). The group has defined the boundary area for the study - - the Lower Platte River area that includes the 100-year flood plain (1-meter resolution) or 5 miles (2.5 miles on each side from the center of the river), whichever is greater. Also, where the floodplain is very wide near the Elkhorn River confluence, it was agreed upon that north of the Douglas County line, only the Platte River drainage would be included. Grant opportunities, development of an internet-based GIS mapping system, and which time step (aerial photos) to acquire will be discussed at the August 17th meeting. We did just receive word that the grant from EPA we submitted was not funded. They had tremendous response to the call for applications and ended up having much less money to give out than originally thought.

Affiliation with the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) Last time, I mentioned that this was proceeding forward with the approval of all three NRD boards. We have run into a snag. Because of the nature of the LPRCA, we cannot sign any agreements including an agreement with the NCF to create a fund to utilize their nonprofit status to accept grants and donations. As a result, we are exploring other ideas such as having the LPSNRD serve as the party to the agreement with the NCF to create the "Lower Platte River Corridor Fund." We could then have an amendment in the interlocal to ensure all parties have input into how money in the fund would be used. This is only one option and we are the early stages of this process.

Bit 'O' Trivia

Answer to last month's question

What % of human blood is water?
a. 18% b. 55% c. 99% d. 83%

ANSWER - d. 83%

This month's question:

What is the world's longest river?
a. Amazon b. Mississippi c. Congo d. Nile

Answer in next month's report

60-mile Radius Committee The 60-mile Radius Project is in its 3rd and final year. As a part of the project, there will be a "Flatwater Metroplex Conference" on September 9th to discuss the results of the project survey on land use and public perception/attitudes along with a summary of land use planning issues and alternatives. The conference is \$10/person including lunch and will be held at the Scott Conference Center located at 6450 Pine Street in Omaha. You can sign up by calling (402) 595-1902 or download the registration form at www.ecospheres.com. If you are interested in development issues between Lincoln and Omaha including the Lower Platte River area, you will find this conference very interesting.

New Brochure The new LPRCA brochure is here and looks great! Get yours today. If you would be willing to let us put a few in your brochure rack, please let us know and we'll send some over.



2004 Airboat Tour Highlights Wow! What an event. It all turned out great for this year's tour including the weather. The event was held on Friday, July 23rd, 2004 and covered the area of the Lower Platte River from South Bend to Plattsmouth. With nearly 60 people in attendance and 23 airboats, the tour commenced at 9 a.m. at the Hwy 50 landing north of Louisville. The tour headed upstream to the Lied Bridge for a presentation on the Platte River Connection, housing developments, the Lower Platte River Utilities Board (LPRUB) infrastructure project, and trails projects. The tour then headed downstream to the Omaha Fish & Wildlife Club to talk about their operations and levee systems. The members of the club were very accommodating and provided a very nice tent set-up for our stop. Our third stop was at the confluence of the Platte and Missouri Rivers at the Schilling WMA. There we heard from NG&PC representatives Frank Albrecht and Mark Brohman on the wildlife management area and a river chute restoration project. Bob Diffendal, a retired UNL Conservation & Survey Division Professor Emeritus, gave an interesting presentation on Lewis & Clark and the geology of the area. Following a great BBQ lunch, we headed to the Hanson Lakes area for several presentations including one by John Lund of NDEQ, Kyle Hoagland of UNL, and Jim Sitrick of Cass/Sarpy County Health Department on recent algae bloom problems in area lakes. The second presentation was given by Jeff Kohn of the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) on their operations and proposed wellfield near Ashland. Rene Nelson wastewater operator for Hanson Lakes, spoke on the wetland wastewater treatment plant for the Hanson Lakes area. Following this last presentation, we loaded up and headed back to Hwy 50 for departure. Thanks to everyone who helped and those who attended. Here are a few photos:



Upcoming NRD and Alliance Meetings:

- **NEXT LPRCA QUARTERLY MEETING** - Tuesday, August 17th, 2004* 9:30 a.m. * PMRNRD Office near Omaha.
- **LPNNRD Board Meeting** - Monday, August 9th, 2004 * 7:00 p.m. - LPNNRD Office - Wahoo @ 511 Industrial Road
- **PMRNRD Board Meeting** - Thursday, August 12th, 2004 * 8:00 p.m. - PMRNRD Office - Omaha @ Chalco Hills Rec. Area
- **LPSNRD Board Meeting** - Wednesday, August 18th, 2004 * 7:00 p.m. - LPSNRD Office - Lincoln @ 3125 Portia Street