



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of October 2005

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

****REMINDER** Next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting**

The LPRCA will hold its next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, 2005 at the LPNNRD in Wahoo. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and should conclude by noon. Looks like we have a program - - NDEQ will be talking about the scrap tire burning at Ash Grove near Louisville as an alternative fuel source. We've made significant progress on several projects and we will be updating on these at the meeting. Hope everyone can make it to the meeting. Agenda is on-line at www.lowerplatte.org.

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Well the big news this month is that the Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln (where the LPRCA is housed) has finally moved back to a renovated office at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln. A new wing was added at the east side of the original office on two floors to accommodate the increase in staff and allow for future growth. You might notice that the brown garage north of the office is gone and the area now offers additional parking. The redone office has many "green" features including recycled materials, low VOC paints and carpets, two-stage toilets, a rain garden to capture rainfall and runoff, and a center interior atrium with plants and a tree. The LPRCA office/cubicle is located in the basement in the far northwest corner. Please come visit me in a couple of weeks when we finally get everything completed. We will begin having LPRCA meeting at the LPSNRD starting with the next meeting sometime in February/March of 2006. Our physical address is 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, NE 68521 while our mailing address is PO Box 83581, Lincoln, NE 68501-8351. Our phone is the same (402) 476-2729 as is the fax line (402) 476-6454. E-mail is also the same rverhoeff@lpsnrd.org OR alliance@lprca.org.



**Newly-Renovated
LPSNRD Office**



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River Obstruction Program There is a bid opening Tues, Nov 8th for the Hwy 50 project. There has been a lot of preliminary interest from contractors. We talked with NG&PC about available funds from the Boating Safety Grant Program and it seems promising that there will be enough funds available and that we will qualify for the program.

Environmental Carrying Capacity Project Phase I should be finished this month and we will need to review the deliverables and strategize for Phase II.

Cumulative Impact Study We are back on track after modifying Amendment 1 for the project and collecting nearly all of the contributions for Phase II from the funding partners. We are working on defining a work plan and will be meeting with CALMIT for a one-day seminar on available data and services (Nov 17th). Some of the COE GIS personnel have been temporarily assigned hurricane duty for several weeks so we are having other personnel pinch hit to acquire the time step data.

Outreach/Promo Items I've been meeting with several companies to gather more info on our PR items including kiosks, Public Service Announcements (PSA's), a corridor map, and a few other new ideas such as playing cards, calendars, and trading cards. I hope to meet with Snitily-Carr this week to finalize more details. Recently, I got together with Troy Thompson of the LPNNRD to go over our website redesign. Troy is putting together a rough design to look over. Hopefully we can have the site redone by spring of 2006.

Newsletter We are preparing for the next edition of the "Corridor Connections" newsletter and we need your submissions. Please contact me with ideas and/or submissions by November 30th, 2005. We hope to go to the printers by early December 2005.

GIS We continue to develop a GIS for the LPRCA including several large display maps. If you have any layers of data that would be beneficial to the GIS let me or Shaula Ross, GIS Coordinator with the LPSNRD, know.

LPRCA Database We have been working to update the LPRCA database which includes contact lists, project/program information, and data entry forms. We hope to tie this database into the GIS we are working on to have images, maps, and other pertinent info tied together to these contacts. Part of the database is our mailing and e-mailing lists, which we are trying to continuously update and refine.

Upcoming Tours I will be touring several levees in the LPNNRD on November 10th to get familiar with the North Bend area and current flood control/reduction efforts. These tours are part of my "Spend a Day at the NRD's" initiative I've begun on a monthly basis to spend more time in the NRDs that I am not housed in (LPNNRD, PMRNRD).

I-80 Summit # 2 Friday, Nov 4th was the date for the I-80 Summit #2 at the SAC Museum near Ashland. Last year was the first year for this summit, which was attended by various community and government leaders, university experts, and business leaders. Ultimately, the gathering resulted in the development and passage of LB 546 - The Opportunity Zone Legislation. This legislation created the I-80 Innovation Zone Commission to explore and recommend economic opportunities along I-80 between Lincoln and Omaha and will be in effect for the next two years. The summit this year, continued to build upon the results of last year with a broad range of speakers and interests. The event kicked off with Gov. Dave Heineman bestowing the virtues of the recently-passed Jobs Creation Economic Incentive Plan. He pointed out that there are 9 higher education campuses in Lincoln and 12 in Omaha and we need to continue to partner and bring business and educational institutions together to become a strong economic player in the future. The president of the University of Nebraska, J.B. Miliken, spoke next and reiterated what the Governor stated adding that Nebraska competes in the global economy and regional economic vitality is important. The university's biggest contribution to economic development might be the development of a qualified talent pool to draw from. In addition to the Governor and the president of the University of Nebraska, we heard from Chamber of Commerce representatives and private business in the manufacturing industry all stating the need for talented individuals and a reduction in talent leaving the state. The next item was a panel discussion on how the university is and will continue to meet business demands through programs such as the Peter Kiewit Institute. After experiencing technical difficulties which took away most visuals for the rest of the summit, Doug Bisson of HDR Consulting, gave a nice presentation on what quality of life means. Doug has been working on the LPRCA's Environmental Carrying Capacity Project and emphasized the need to take into account the natural resources of the I-80 Corridor. He also pointed out the recent demand for open spaces and sustainable developments. The final discussions of the day focused on insurance issues, defense/military issues, and finally a stirring call to action by private consultant, Robert Siegel. Once again, the summit proved to be interesting and brought together diverse interests who need to start talking if we want to shape the I-80 Corridor in a way that leads to resources sustainability in a rapidly developing area.

Innovation Zone Commission Prior to the I-80 Summit on November 4th, I attended a meeting of the I-80 Innovation Zone Commission. This commission was created out of last year's LB546 - The Opportunity Zone Legislation to explore opportunities in the I-80 Corridor between Omaha and Lincoln and make recommendations for future programs, projects, partnerships, to stimulate economic growth for the area. The I-80 Corridor is slated to reach 2 million people in 50 years and there is a real need to have planned growth to not only stimulate economic growth, but to ensure this growth does not degrade the sustainability of our natural resources. Both the LPSNRD and the PMRNRD sit on the commission. The group is in the process of hiring a director, who will be an employee of the Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development (NDED) and most likely be housed in Lincoln at NDED. The group is now gathering statistics, data, and information and requested anyone with pertinent info let them know. I am in the process of developing a list of available from the LPRCA such as land use plans / zoning matrices, special studies, and aerial photos.

Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

PMRNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, Nov 10th, 2005 * 8:00 p.m. * Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154th St. * Omaha

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, Nov 14th, 2005 * 7:00 p.m. * 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Nov 16th, 2005 * 7:00 p.m. * **Permanent Office** located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 15th, 2005 * 9:30 a.m. * LPNNRD at 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo

DON'T FORGET THAT SOME OF THE NRD'S WILL BE REVERTING TO THE WINTER HOURS FOR MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS:

The **LPSNRD** in Lincoln will meet at 2:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. for December, January, February, and March.

The **LPNNRD** in Wahoo will meet at 5:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. for November, December, January, February, and March. Check www.lpnrd.org for any additional changes and to review meeting agendas.

The **PMRNRD** meets at 8:00 p.m. throughout the year.