



## From the Coordinator...

**\*Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of April 2006\***

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

### LPRCA - Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget

This is the busy time of the year for working on budgets and the LPRCA is no exception. Since the LPRCA has 3 NRD's as the primary funding partners, we have to have our budget ready as early if not earlier than the NRD's themselves in spring of each year. For FY07 (which runs from July 1, 2006 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007), we have continuation of some existing projects as well as the addition of a few new ones. Highlights include:

- Environmental Carrying Capacity - PHASE II
- River Obstruction Removal Program - Camp Ashland Project
- River Kiosks
- Cumulative Impact Study - PHASE II
- Strategic Planning Retreat
- 2006 LPRCA River Summit

The budget process will continue for the next several months as I make the rounds to the NRD's to justify our programs. Although there has been growth in the budget of the LPRCA, a huge portion of that growth has been through cooperative ventures and interlocal agreements where we share in costs of programs. The LPSNRD serves as the fiscal agent for the LPRCA and holds all funds for administration and programs until needed. The LPRCA administrative expenses are funded 50% by the 3 NRD partners (LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and P-MRNRD) and 50% by six state entities (NDNR, NG&PC, NE Military Dept, UNL Conservation & Survey Div, NDEQ, and NH&HS). Programs are funded primarily through the NRD's, but also by state entities when the program falls in line with their direct responsibilities.

#### GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

As discussed above, a lot of time recently has been spent working on the FY07 budget. It has also been a very busy time for partnership meetings from the CIS group to the Lower Platte Weed Management group to the PACE partner groups. May looks to be just as busy with several conferences scheduled. As of this writing, I just returned from the UNL Water Law, Policy, and Science Conference held in Nebraska City at the Lied Conference Center. I'll discuss in next month's report. Hopefully, spring will finally arrive. It's been difficult with the up's and down's in temperatures. I hope to take a preliminary airboat tour soon to prepare for the July 14<sup>th</sup> annual tour, but not until the weather warms a little more. Another sign of spring is the recent birth of 9 ducklings to a resident pair of ducks at our office wetland complex.

#### Committee Meetings

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION May 2006 -TBD**

**BUDGET & FUNDRAISING AND PROGRAMS & PROJECTS**  
**Combined Meeting - TBD**

**EXTERNAL ADVISORY -TBD**

### Spring has Sprung

DUCKLINGS HATCHED AT LPSNRD OFFICE WETLAND



Photos by Anna Stambaugh of the LPSNRD.

## Programs & Projects

**Cumulative Impact Study (CIS)** The NETF grant for \$115,000 has now been officially approved for the CIS project. Additionally, we are completing a funding agreement with the USGS for a 40-60 costshare match on the Hydrologic Study component of the CIS project. Below is a photo of the CIS partner group in action and a group picture:



**Kiosks** We are working on a prototype for the base and should have the next draft of a design yet in May.

### **River Obstruction Removal Program**

We are working on the details of a cooperative funding agreement for this upcoming project. Funding will come from the LPRCA, the NRDs, the Nebraska Military Department, and the NG&PC through a boating safety grant. For the Hwy 50 project completed earlier this year, we received nearly \$200,000 from the NG&PC through this grant program. We hope to conduct the sonar testing early this summer to determine what exactly we are looking at in regard to depth of obstructions and material.

**Conferences** As I mentioned earlier, I attended the UNL Water Law, Policy, and Science Conference in Nebraska City on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. I am also preparing to head up for the River Management Society (RMS) in S. Sioux City from May 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. This is the first this national association has held their biennial conference in Nebraska. We have a lot to offer and showcase.

**Newsletter** The next edition of the LPRCA newsletter, *Corridor Connections*, will be coming out in early July. We are in need of your submissions. Deadline for submission is June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

**Airboat Tour with Senator Hagel's Staff** On April 12th, I accompanied TJ Birkel, Legislative Assistant with Senator Chuck Hagel's office in D.C, on an airboat tour of the LPNNRD. A native Nebraskan, TJ took us up on the offer to tour the Lower Platte River via airboat if he ever came to town. John Miyoshi and Mike Murren with the LPNNRD set the tour up and it really gave us an opportunity to show what we are doing and demonstrate how valuable the Platte River really is. Below are a couple of photos from the trip:



## Other Activities

- ① **NE/IA Metroplex Indicators Conference** - May 18<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting of this group. I will be giving a presentation on the environmental components of the region to supplement previous presentations on topics such as infrastructure, land use planning, and economic development. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. at Quarry Oaks Golf Course near South Bend.
- ② **Lower Platte Weed Management Area (LPWMA) Group** - This group has been busy planning an invasive plants conference for August 22 and 23, 2006 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The conference will include presentations and a tour. Registration materials should be available soon. It looks like Rep. Tom Osborne will be able to attend as the keynote speaker. The next regular meeting of the LPWMA group will be Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> fro 10-noon at the UNL ARDC near Ithaca.

### Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

LPNNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, May 8th, 2006 \* 7:00 p.m. \* 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo  
 PMNRND Board of Directors Meeting - Thursday, May 11th 2006 \* 8:00 p.m. \* Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> St. \* Omaha.  
 LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, May 17th, 2006 \* 7:00 p.m. \* **Permanent Office** located at 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln  
 LPRCA Quarterly Meeting - Tuesday, May 23rd, 2006 \* 9:30 a.m. \* LPSNRD at 3125 Portia in Lincoln.