



Monthly Report for October 2010

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Programs / Projects / Activities

- **LPRCA Summit:** The Lower Platte River Summit was held on Thursday, October 21 at Mahoney State Park's Riverview Lodge. Bob Wagner, Senior Policy and Program Advisor for the American Farmland Trust provided the keynote presentation, "Protecting Farmland, Promoting Farming, Providing Options—Successful Programs and Activities from around the Country." The keynote address was followed by a panel discussion; discussants included Mary Hanson, National Park Service, Rebecca Horner, Sarpy County Planner, John Knapp, Sarpy County Landowner, Ross McCown, NEBCO Inc., and Dave Sands, Nebraska Land Trust. Following the panel discussion attendees spent the afternoon touring projects and resources of the Lower Platte River. The tour made stops at Heldt Produce north of Ashland, MUD Well fields, The Patterson Farm—where there are significant archeological resources and also a property where the Nebraska Land Trust holds an easement, and then our final stop was the Lied Pedestrian Bridge. There were great presentations and dialogue by the varied attendees throughout the day. Thanks to the steering committee, sponsors, presenters, attendees and staff that helped make the 2010 LPR Summit a great success!
- **Corps of Engineers Airboat Tour:** On October 5th, representatives of the LPRCA spent the day visiting project sites and discussing the importance of LPRCA and partners efforts with representatives of the Omaha District Corps of Engineers. We had a great day on the river and very positive discussions about both critical issues and opportunities that could be addressed through Lower Platte River Watershed Project.
- **River Obstruction Removal:** Olsson Associates have developed cost estimates for the obstruction removal project at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. The new cost estimates provide options for removal of the obstructions using a temporary bridge which has been preliminarily requested by USFWS. Additionally the estimates provide an option to utilize equipment that can work within the river. As can be expected all options provide considerable escalated costs for removal. We will continue to work with USFWS, the USACE and NGPC on finding a potentially more feasible option.
- **Quarterly meeting:** The LPRCA Quarterly Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 12 at Papio-Missouri NRD in Omaha. Jason Alexander, USGS, presented a proposed project that I have been working on with him and the Tern & Plover Partnership. The original project idea was a result of the Conceptual Modeling Workshop held this past January as part of the Cumulative Impact Study. Jason's proposal would investigate sandbar formation and geometry to assist in better understanding tern and plover habitat. Matt Pillard, HDR, also provided an updated on the Environmental Suitability Assessment report and ArcGIS viewer. Don Day provided an update on the River Obstruction Removal efforts. Other presentations included Jeff Greenwald, USACE, on the Cumulative Impact Study and Dave Rus, USGS, on the Water Quality Monitoring Network.
- **KZUM:** I was the guest on "Earth to Lincoln" on Lincoln's community radio station, KZUM on Monday, October 25th. The show is broadcast each Monday evening. This past Monday's show was entirely devoted to the LPRCA and our programs and projects. It was a great opportunity to get the word out about the LPRCA to a potentially different group of people.

Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:

- **LPRCA Quarterly Meeting:** Tuesday, January 18th, 2011, 9:30 a.m., LPNNRD