



**Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

LEAD. ORGANIZE. INSPIRE. The voice of the Lower Platte.

**LPRCA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Lower Platte South NRD**

**3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, NE 68501**

1. Welcome / Introductions: David Potter welcomed everyone and thanked the members for attending. Those in attendance included: Marlin Peterman, John Winkler, Eric Williams, Larry Vrtiska, Jeff Fassett, Bob Bergholz, Carla McCullough, Ron Yoder, Ben Beckman, Scott Sprague, Paul Zillig, and David Potter. Invites were sent out to at least two individuals from each remaining eight members/agencies of the Alliance, including the person that was authorized to sign any documents. Alternates were recommended if the two individuals could not attend. The purpose of the meeting was also stated. The meeting began at 10:18 a.m.
2. Background: Paul Zillig provided a background of the LPRCA and series of events that led up to where we are now. Lower Platte North NRD submitted an official request to be removed from the Alliance and LPN is no longer a member.
3. LPRCA Interlocal Agreement: There was much work done on a draft updated interlocal agreement that incorporated items discussed at various meetings and the Retreat, however that agreement was not adopted by Lower Platte North NRD and therefore did not get executed. The existing agreement dating back to 2004, as amended, is still in effect.
4. Past/Current Projects: Potter gave a report on the some of the past projects completed by the LPRCA and the importance of them. Larry Vrtiska also talked about the many successful projects. The current projects/agreements (WQMP, Stream Gauges, Website, ESRI, and Nebraska Land Trust Conservation Easements) were also discussed. The WQMP will be completed within a couple of months. The stream gauge agreements with USGS are nearing expiration and continuation of them will need to be determined. If they are to continue, then we need to discuss who will be administering the agreement(s).

5. Future/Committed Projects: Zillig discussed the Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Study and its current status. Currently, the three NRDs (LPS, P-MR, and LPN) have all committed to the project and a request has been made to the US Army Corps of Engineers. There is some money in the existing funds that has been earmarked as the matching money needed for starting the project.
  
6. Where Do We Go From Here?: Based on the current situation, the following options were presented to the group of remaining members: 1) Continue LPRCA for the P-MRNRD and LPSNRD Area, 2) Continue LPRCA to finish up current activities/programs, then assess the future, 3) Begin process to terminate LPRCA, or 4) Other. The unanimous decision of the group was not to terminate the LPRCA at this point but to further discuss how we move forward with the Alliance still in place. The importance of maintaining a unified approach for future projects was discussed. Each remaining member is willing to help out, although the state agencies are very limited to financial contributions/support. The National Guard and the University indicated a willingness to step up more in support. A need to examine the current interlocal agreement and the recent proposed updated interlocal was identified. We may need to amend the agreement to recognize the members without Lower Platte North NRD. Alternatives for the role of the Alliance were examined along with limited duties of a coordinator.
  
7. Comments/Adjourn: It was determined that the group should continue to meet and discuss the items further. A meeting in February will be planned. Meeting ended about noon.

Submitted by: David Potter, Assistant General Manager LPS NRD and Interim Coordinator