



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for November 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Two Rivers Obstruction Removal

Hawkins Construction achieved substantial completion on Wednesday, November 11th. The remaining work is mostly some grading and reseeding that will happen in spring. Additionally a few pieces of the temporary bridge will remain onsite (on land) until spring. As a reminder, Hawkins Construction finished the removal of the fifth and final pier on Thursday, October 22nd which was two months ahead of schedule based on their anticipated removal timeline. The entire project went very smooth with Pier 1 removal completed Monday, September 21st after work in-river started during the third week of August. We appreciate the tremendous work by Hawkins Construction and assistance from Olsson Associates. Additionally, we sincerely appreciate the financial support from the Recreational Trails Program and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

LPRCA GIS

In November, HDR began working on transitioning the LPRCA GIS data currently housed within MapMaker to ESRI ArcGIS Online. The first step was a comprehensive review of the existing data, identifying what needs to potentially be updated as well as potential new data sets. The results of the review were presented to the LPRCA in late November. I will be meeting with HDR in early December to discuss needed updates and additions. At that time I will also query the LPRCA members for additional data layers that could be included within the ESRI system. The transition should hopefully be complete in late winter.

LPR&T In-Kind

Phase 3 of the Cumulative Impact Study was completed last year. Following the completion of that study, the Corps of Engineers has requested that the Lower Platte River & Tributaries Authority be closed out. In order to close it out, all in-kind and federal dollars need to be accounted for by the LPRCA and the Corps. The accounting includes any studies or planning efforts done since the initiation of the authority in 1998. This process began late last year with much more attention being placed on it in November. I am working to have any identification and documentation pulled together by the end of the calendar year. So, if your NRD or Agency was a signatory on any of the Lower Platte River & Tributaries phases/studies I will probably be in touch soon!

Conferences

I attended the National Water Resources Association annual conference in Denver during the first week of November. It was a great opportunity to hear about water resource issues from across the country. A very interesting keynote presentation was given by the head of the Denver Water System who discussed the need to manage the municipal system in cooperation with agricultural and rural stakeholders and the strides they have made in doing so. It was also great to be in the audience when Glenn Johnson of LPSNRD received a leadership award and a lifetime achievement award! Finally, I had the opportunity to see some of the impacts of the South Platte floods from early this year in downtown Denver.

I also attended the NWRA/NSIA joint convention in Kearney in late November. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Robert Glennon who discussed the increasing challenges in meeting water demands in the western United States as well as strategies that cities such as Las Vegas have initiated. We also heard from local stakeholders across the state on concerns and opportunities in Nebraska.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, LPNNRD, Wahoo: January 19th, 9:00 a.m.

NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln: January 25-27th.