



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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LPRCA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 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 introduced themselves. Corridor Alliance member representatives in attendance included: Marlin Petermann-PMRNRD, Larry Vrtiska-NE Guard, Patrick Lantis-NE Guard, Jim Swenson-NGP, Jeff Fassett-DNR, Andy Kahle-DHHS, Carla McCullough-DEE, Laura Johnson-DEE, Ron Yoder-UNL, Dana Divine-UNL, Paul Zillig-LPSNRD, and David Potter-LPSNRD. Others present included: Tom Mountford-LPNNRD, Meagan Schnoor-HDR, Steve Peterson-USGS, Matt Moser-USGS, and Gary Aldridge-LPSNRD. Invites were sent out to at least two individuals from each of the 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. All eight Alliance members were represented at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was also stated. The meeting began at approximately 10:05 a.m.
2. Review of May 13, 2019 Meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes approved by consensus.
3. FY2020 Budget/dues/invoices: Potter walked through the FY2020 budget and stated that each of the eight agencies will be invoiced the \$1,000 in dues. The dues are deposited in to the administrative fund and pay for the costs of ESRI, website, and memberships. We hope that all eight agencies can pay their dues but we understand that there are certain limitations on State agencies. There is no paid coordinator so this is why administrative costs are down. Besides the administrative costs, the only active projects are the stream gages with USGS. Share of payments by the agencies are handled through separate agreements. Invoices will be sent out later in the year to those NRDs and agencies participating in the various stream gage agreements. It was also stated that the Alliance would seek opportunities for new projects. The project fund holds monies for current and future projects. In addition, the Reserve funds are in place to initiate potential projects, such as the

Lower Platte River Restoration and Resiliency Study. Minutes from the bi-annual meetings will serve as the newsletters/correspondence. Mountford stated that LPNNRD has been holding some LPRCA funds for administrative expenses that dates back a few years and he will look into it further.

4. Reports and Updates

A. Flooding/levees/recovery on the Missouri River and tributaries (Jeff Fassett – NDNR): Fassett discussed the recent coordination between Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri on the Missouri River. A study is being looked at that examine the Missouri River and its major tributaries. DNR is now looking at levees in the state and this is something new. Finding a current comprehensive map of all the levees has been only one of the many hurdles.

B. Platte River Flooding (Marlin Petermann - PMRNRD, Tom Mountford – LPNNRD, Paul Zillig – LPSNRD, Larry Vrtiska - NE National Guard, and Jim Swenson - NGPC): All five individuals provided updates on their projects relating to the 2019 flooding. Petermann provided an update on the Missouri River levee protecting Offutt. They just had a groundbreaking ceremony with all the dignitaries. He also provided an update on the Lied Platte River Bridge, Western Sarpy levee, and recreational areas. Western Sarpy levee repairs are part of the PL84-99 and will be funded by the USACE. Agreements and measures are underway to examine, remove debris, and repair the Lied Bridge. Mountford provided an update on the Clear Creek Levee and Fuse Plug. The Clear Creek Levee repairs are also under the PL84-99 and will be funded by the USACE but LPNNRD will need to supply the fill/borrow material which is typical in those projects. Zillig state that LPSNRD is the sponsor for the Omaha Fish and Wildlife Club's levee located between Louisville and Plattsmouth and is a USACE PL84-99 repair project. Zillig also reported on the Platte River bank cut near Plattsmouth and the problems now faced by the city and their well and wastewater treatment facility. Vrtiska provided an update on Camp Ashland, the repairs to the levee/river bank, loss of land, and reconstruction of the buildings. The problems resulting from the flooding have eliminated a majority of the camp's use for training. Swenson gave an update on the repairs to the parks. All the parks are open along the corridor but some repairs are still needed. The river trail project has been put on hold for now due to all the flooding.

C. Hwy 34 Platte River Bridge Trail (Marlin Petermann – PMRNRD): The bridge extensions for the trail are all in place. PMRNRD along with LPSNRD, Sarpy County, Cass County, Plattsmouth, Bellevue and others are participating in the project. There is a need for the trail to connect to public areas

and there has been some recent discussion about closing Beach Road which would be a potential issue and they're working through that with Cass County.

D. Hydromorphologic Assessment of the Platte River Corridor at Camp Ashland (Steve Peterson - USGS and Larry Vrtiska - NE National Guard): USGS and the Guard are looking at a study to evaluate the Chutes as a result of the recent flooding. Peterson and Vrtiska provided some details on the study and discussed the problems with the area due to the flooding.

5. Current Projects/Activities

A. Stream Gage Agreements and updates: Matt Moser with USGS provided an update on the current stream gages funded through the Alliance and what information/data they're providing. The agreement for the gages on the Platte River Chutes funded by the National Guard is set to expire April 30, 2020 but because of the flooding issues, USGS has discussed extending the agreement with the National Guard for one year at no additional cost. USGS will submit an amendment to the agreement to the Alliance and LPSNRD will need to take action on behalf of the Alliance. The other two agreements (3 long-term sites and Leshara) will expire June 30, 2022. The Leshara site is jointly funded by LPSNRD, LPNRRD, PMRNRD, LWS, MUD and USGS. The three long-term sites are jointly funded by LPSNRD, PMRNRD and USGS. Potter stated that budget information on the gages for FY20 was sent out mid-year to all participating agencies.

B. Water Quality Management Plan: Potter stated that the WQMP was submitted to EPA at the end of March and was approved by EPA on April 9, 2019. The WQMP was approved by the Alliance by consensus at the May 13th, 2019 meeting. Each of the three NRDs then took action to approve the plan and LPSNRD approved the plan on behalf of the Alliance.

Carla McCullough stated that with the plan approved by EPA, projects within the priority 1 areas of the plan within the corridor are now eligible for 319 funding. To date, there has not been any projects identified or PIPs submitted yet for any of the priority areas. Applications for 319 funding are now accepted year-round.

6. Future Projects/Studies: The Lower Platte River Restoration and Resiliency Study (as it's now called) and its current status was discussed once again. Zillig stated that LPSNRD is still corresponding with the US Army Corps of Engineers on the funding start. He said more emphasis should be given to the recent flooding and more resiliency. The study may allow for the ability to use the 75/25 cost

sharing and to look globally at establishing a restoration vision/master plan for the Lower Platte River Corridor probably including some lower reaches on the major tributaries. The study dates back to 2007 and currently, the three NRDs (LPS, PMR, and LPN) have all committed to the project and a request has been made to the US Army Corps of Engineers. It was discussed that money in the existing project fund and reserve could and should be used as matching money needed for starting the project. Discussion was had on the possible relationship between this study and study for the Missouri River and tributaries identified by Fassett. There was also some discussion that maybe the Alliance should consider looking at revisiting an older project and use that as a “restart” instead of proceeding with a “new start” for funding.

Potter asked the group to identify and consider any other projects for the LPRCA. Other than the Lower Platte River Restoration and Resiliency Study, none were identified at this time.

7. Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for first or second week in April, 2020. A doodle poll to the members will be used to determine the best date to have a meeting.
8. Comments/Adjourn: Meeting ended at approximately 12:15 p.m.

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