



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for July 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Two Rivers Obstruction Removal

A bid opening was held on Thursday, July 9th at 2 p.m. at LPSNRD in Lincoln. The LPRCA received two bids with the low bid being Hawkins Construction. The LPSNRD Board, on behalf of the LPRCA approved the bid and a contract with Hawkins Construction at their July Board of Directors Meeting. A pre-construction meeting on-site was held on July 30th. The Corps approved the final plans for the temporary bridge and signage during the last week of July. NGPC staff at Two Rivers SRA has closed a portion of the campground and the entire campground will be closed after Labor Day. Hawkins Construction began bringing in their equipment and constructing the access road and staging areas beginning August 1st. A second on-site meeting is planned for Friday, August 14th at 9 a.m. at Two Rivers. The demolition work in the river is slated to begin on Monday August 17th. Hawkins hopes to have all five of the concrete and rebar piers removed by December 23rd if all goes to plan.

Events

The LPRCA Kayak Tour was held on Tuesday, July 21st. Thirty-seven participants joined the LPRCA for the 5.8 mile paddle from Schramm Park SRA to the highway 50 boat ramp near Louisville. Flows were just above average for July and it was a perfect summer day with highs only in the low 80s. At the mid-point of the paddle, we stopped on a sandbar. I presented some information about the LPRCA and the lower Platte in general. I also spent time discussing the recreation plan and the obstruction removal project. Mike Reed of Douglas County discussed the work of the Lower Platte Weed Management Area. We then continued on back to highway 50 and went to Louisville SRA for a lunch provided by FYRA Engineering. During lunch we had presentations from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission non-game bird program, the Nebraska Aquatic Invasive Species Program, the Daugherty Water for Food Institute, the Nebraska Land Trust and the Nebraska Watershed Network. We thank everyone for participating and helping make it another great day on the river!

The Water Quality Open is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. We thank NEBCO Inc for once again providing major sponsorship of this event. Bruce Dvorak from UNL Nebraska Water Center will provide the keynote presentation at 10 a.m. Dr. Dvorak received a grant from the EPA to assess available technology and needed information for small water systems. Dr. Dvorak plans a very interactive presentation with plenty of time for discussion so even if you aren't planning to golf later that day I encourage you to come to the keynote presentation. The afternoon will be filled with golf and presentations from a variety organizations and agencies on the course.

Grants

In July I started working on a number of potential grant submittals to the Nebraska Environmental Trust and NDEQ Non-Point Source Pollution (319) program. The grants will aim to assist the LPRCA in implementing our Water Quality Management Plan by completing supplemental implementation strategies and beginning to implement BMPs, developing a BMP assessment tool in partnership with NARD and facilitating community-based education and citizen science in select communities in the Lower Platte River Corridor.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Water Quality Open. Thursday, August 27th, 2015. Quarry Oaks Golf Course, South Bend.

USDA/USEPA Workshop on Water Quality Markets, September 15-17, UNL Innovation Campus, Lincoln.

NARD Annual Conference: September 27-29, Kearney.