



**Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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3125 Portia St.  
PO Box 83581  
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

p: 402.476.2729  
f: 402.476.6454

[www.lowerplatte.org](http://www.lowerplatte.org)

## **Monthly Report for August 2015**

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **Two Rivers Obstruction Removal**

An on-site meeting was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> to walk through what had been completed during mobilization as well as immediate plans for the initial in-river work. Installation of the temporary bridge began on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. A progress meeting was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. on site. At that time Hawkins had the first three temporary bridge sections installed and at the time of this report they have neared completion of the installation of two additional sections and two fingers. The bridge is being marked with reflective tape and flashing lights as each section is installed. Two cranes are on-site so as the first crane is installing the bridge the second crane has followed and to being installation of the coffer dam around the first concrete and rebar pier. That crane crew will continue to work to begin removal of the pier as the first crane crew continues installation of the temporary bridge. The next progress meeting is planned for once the first pier has been removed which is anticipated to be on or around September 16<sup>th</sup>. NGPC staff reported very few conflicts with campers during August. The campground will be closed following the Labor Day holiday. Hawkins has installed fencing and two gates to limit trespassing from Two River SRA users. The project has remained on schedule to this date. Anticipated completion of the removal of all five piers is December 23<sup>rd</sup> depending on weather and water levels. Substantial completion must occur by January 31, 2016 with final completion anticipated to be May 1, 2016. A pdf of pictures from the end of August and beginning of September are included.

### **Events**

The Water Quality Open was held Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Oaks Golf Course. Dr. Bruce Dvorak from Nebraska Water Center provided the keynote presentation at 10 a.m. The presentation focused on Dr. Dvorak's work to assess available technology and needed information for small water systems. The presentation was extremely interactive with those in attendance able to answer questions using a "clicker system"; a good discussion also followed his presentation. During the afternoon there were 6 different organizations represented on the course to provide additional presentations and demonstrations. Those organizations were: the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Integrated Water Management Division, the Nebraska Land Trust, UNO Upstream Weeds, the Daughtery Water for Food Institute, USGS and the Nebraska Aquatic Invasive species program. There was once again a full field of participants and we thank Quarry Oaks, NEBCO, all of our other sponsors and participants for helping make it another successful event. The 2016 Open is planned for Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Oaks.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, I am helping with the Omaha meeting of the Water Leaders Academy. I have been working with Lori Laster from Papio-Missouri River NRD on lining up a tour for the class participants. Lori has worked on the "land" portion and I have been working to arrange an airboat tour of a portion of the Platte River. We will begin the "water" portion at Two Rivers SRA and end at Louisville while discussing the

municipal well fields, Western Sarpy Clear Creek levee, the LPRCA recreation and water quality plans and next steps as well as other issues of focus within the LPR Corridor.

### **Grant Applications**

In August I continued working on grant proposals related to LPRCA water quality programs and watershed plan implementation. The grant applications are both being submitted to the Nebraska Environmental Trust and are being done in partnership with other organizations. The first application is for the development of a BMP effectiveness database and GIS assessment tool. The LPRCA is partnering with the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts. If funded, the tool will focus on one of the LPRCA priority watersheds to serve as the “pilot” watershed for the tool. The tool will serve as an implementation tool for assessing and potentially implementing BMPs in that watershed—and hopefully others. The effectiveness database will assemble data related to the 20 most commonly used BMPs in the state of Nebraska to serve as a guide to the LPRCA, NRDs and other stakeholders for better identifying and implementing BMPs on the landscape. The second grant is being developed in partnership with the Center for Rural Affairs, the National Drought Mitigation Center, UNO’s Upstream Weeds, and USGS. The grant would fund work over three years to work with three communities and three schools within those communities to develop and implement community-based water quality monitoring, awareness programs and promote community-led actions to help improve water quality within the community and surrounding watershed(s). The grant would also fund additional USGS-led real-time monitoring and utilize the LPRCA real-time water quality monitoring network as well. The LPRCA is able to use existing programs as well as staff time for match on both applications.

### **Watershed Toolbox**

In August, I continued working with staff from LPSNRD, LPNNRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, UNL Extension and NDEQ on the development of a “watershed toolbox” to be used by NRDs, LPRCA, and other organizations/communities. The “toolbox” will assemble resources for educating youth on watersheds and water quality protection/improvement. Additionally, the toolbox will provide a set of resources for public meetings and communication to be used as part of watershed plan development and implementation. Resources will focus on both producer and a community/decision-maker needs. We are in varying stages of having some resources completed and anticipate work on the toolbox to continue into next spring. We have also recently been joined by staff from CPNRD and NPNRD to assist in identifying and developing resources.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

NARD Annual Conference: September 27-29, Kearney.

Nebraska Water Center Faculty and Partner Retreat: October 7, 2015, Kearney

Groundwater Foundation National Conference: October 20-22, Lincoln

Rural Futures Institute Symposium: October 21-23, Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: October 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Papio-Missouri River NRD office



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing bridge section #4 in place.



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing H pile being driven for finger #2.



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing pier #2.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing finger #2 in place and H pile being driven for finger #1.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing H pile being driven for finger #1.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing Cat excavator.





September 4, 2015 – Excavator is clean and appears to be in good repair.



September 4, 2015 – Excavator is clean and appears to be in good repair.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing flashing light on upstream side of finger #2.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing flashing light and reflective tape on upstream side of bent row #2.