



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for January 2014

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

River Obstruction Removal at TRA

The planned construction for the removal of the abandoned pilings in the Platte near Two Rivers State Recreation Area was delayed due to the higher than anticipated bids for construction. In early December I had a brief meeting with Michelle Stryker (NGPC) regarding the possibility of funding assistance through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). I met with Michelle Stryker again in early January to discuss this possibility further. NGPC would like to include the development of an emergency boat ramp—with the possibility of additional recreational enhancements—at Two Rivers as part of the application. The boat ramp would be constructed simultaneously to the construction removing the pilings. A third meeting was held at the end of January with Jim Swenson (NGPC), Mike Carrick (TRA superintendent), Tyler Nelson (TRA) and Carey Grell (NGPC). The meeting discussed the timeline for the potential application as well as timing of construction and other logistics. A site meeting is planned for late February or early March to further discuss the specific siting and logistics for the project.

There was a potential to submit a mid-year application in April 2014 which could allow construction to occur in winter 2014/2015. However, given the addition to the project, the development of the application and related NEPA documentation, and need for an additional 404 permit for the boat ramp, we will be targeting the usual application period of September 2014. If we receive funds from the RTP program this would allow construction to begin immediately after Labor Day 2015. I continue to be very excited about this opportunity.

Section 22 Recreation Planning Study

The online public opinion survey was live during the second week of January. Both NGPC and the LPRCA sent emails and letters to a sample of our respective contact lists during the rest of January. We have had a fairly good response rate during this early period and hope we will continue to receive more responses. Additionally, I met with the Corps to discuss the development of an initial assessment of the economic impact of recreation in the lower Platte River Corridor as part of the planning study.

Quarterly Meeting

The LPRCA Quarterly Meeting was held Tuesday, January 21st at 9 a.m. at LPNNRD. Agenda items include a review of the 2013 monitoring data from the Water Quality Monitoring Network, updates and discussion of the Watershed Management Plan and River Obstruction Removal effort. Also Mitch Paine (DNR) discussed the plan to place a timelapse camera at a point along the lower Platte to assist with ice monitoring. Also the new LPRCA website was demoed. We also discussed holding a “Directors Workshop” to encourage

members of the NRD Boards to attend along with LPRCA representatives and agency leadership. The goal of the workshop would be to review the accomplishments of the LPRCA and focus discussion on shared priorities for the FY15 budget and beyond. I anticipate the workshop being held in mid-March. Details will be announced soon.

Upcoming Events:

UNL Water Seminar Series: begins Wednesday, January 15th and continues through April. Hardin Hall Auditorium

Directors Workshop: Mid-March TBD

NARD Washington DC Conference: March 22-26.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: April 24, 2014 9:00 a.m. LPSRND