**

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 7, 2015 9:00 a.m.**

**Lower Platte South NRD**

**3125 Portia Street, NE 68501**

1. Call to Order / Introductions The meeting was called to order by Meghan Sittler at 9:04 a.m.

2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication : Meghan Sittler provided public notice of the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from January 21, 2015 Meeting: The minutes of the January meeting were approved by consensus.

5. River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers Recreation Area: A lengthy discussion of the obstruction removal from the Platte River near Two Rivers Recreation Area was held. Meghan Sittler provided a synopsis of the project which began with initial permit application in 2009. Don Day also followed with some specifics of the removal effort which had been scaled back from removing all piers across the width of the river to focus on the first 5 concrete and rebar piers. A decision was made by the LPRCA members at the January 21, 2015 meeting to rebid that project. The project was not taken to bid at the request of LPNNRD Board of Directors to reconsider the project at the May 7, 2015 Quarterly Meeting. Discussion of the project focused on the original intent of the LPRCA to remove the multiple set of abandoned piers as well as the overall high cost of the project compared to previous removal projects. Meghan Sittler reported that we had received a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant and assistance from the NGPC Recreational Trails Program that would provide over 50% of the anticipated project costs. Following the discussion the decision of the LPRCA members was to rebid the project and go forward with removal if a suitable bid is received.

6. Recreation Planning Study Review & Recommendations: Jeff Greenwald of the United States Army Corps of Engineers provided an extensive presentation on the development and recommendations of the Lower Platte River Recreation Master Plan. Discussion of the plan and the next steps followed the presentation. Meghan Sittler said that later in the summer with the assistance of the National Park Service the LPRCA will assemble a recreation advisory group. The LPRCA will also be conducting public meetings and additional meetings with the cities and counties. Additional steps will include site identification and initial design to be in a position to seek funding next year.

7. Sandbar Dynamics Study Update—Jason Alexander, University of Wyoming, who is on contract with USGS for completion of the 3rd and final year of the Sandbar Dynamics study, provided a presentation the progress of the project. The project was initiated in 2011 by LPSNRD and USGS ad was subsequently funded for 3 years by NET. The project will assist with better understanding the availability of in channel habitat for terns and plovers as well as potentially assist with the permitting process. The project has completed four years of surveys as well as water level data and time lapse camera imagery. At the end of Summer 2015 a draft manuscript summarizing the project and results will be available.

8. Platte Basin Timelapse: Mike Farrell and Mike Forsberg provided a presentation on the work of the Platte Basin Timelapse. A video of the impact of ice on the Platte River was shown. Discussion focused on their movement towards creating educational models and incorporating scientific and resource information within the imagery and produced stories. The LPRCA is hoping to collaborate on the education modules going forward.

9. Water Quality Monitoring Network: Matt Moser, USGS, provided a recap of the 2014 monitoring season. Matt also mentioned the completion of the surrogate report and website that was done as part of a Nebraska Environmental Trust project. Matt also discussed that an extension to the current agreement would need to be considered by the LPRCA in spring 2015. Matt will also be proposing the option to expand the network to add an additional real time site and nitrate sensor at LeShara.

10. FY2016 Budget Presentation & Discussion: Meghan Sittler presented the 2015 Accomplishments and a brief recap of the funds that have been leveraged by the LPRCA. She then presented the FY2016 budget proposal. There was lengthy discussion of the budget and the current arrangement of contributions by each NRD. A motion was made by Clint Johannes to form a small committee of one NRD manager and NRD director as well as the LPRCA Coordinator to look at past contributions and discuss the possibility of altering the current arrangement. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The budget as presented received unanimous approval.

11. NRD Integrated Management Plans & Lower Platte River Basin Plan Update

LPNNRD: Received the 1st draft back of IMP from Olsson Associates. The document will need to be reviewed and then will be advertised for public comment and hear.

LPSNRD : Conducted a drought drought study in the early spring which had very positive results. They are currently in the process of beginning to implement the IMP.

P-MRNRD: The Board approved their IMP. They are now in the stage of beginning to address action items. Olsson Associates will continue to assist them and will be looking at their overall groundwater management plan.

Lower Platte Basin: A workshop was held in the spring to introduce the concepts and experiences of water banking. Another workshop is planned for June. Open to other members/directors.

12. WRDA Authorized Project Updates

**a.** Deadman’s Run: Glenn Johnson discussed there is an newly initiated 205 study for Deadman’s Run. The Corps and the NRD are in the beginning stages of that study.

**b.** Sand Creek: Other than finally accounting the project is basically done

**c.** Fremont & Schuyler 205: Fremont has been converted to a general investigation from a 205 study. It is anticipated to be complete by the end of the FY16 federal fiscal year. The levee construction is currently estimated to be a $55 million project. ~

The levee on Shell Creek in Schuyler has been successful. Phase 2 of the levee project is planned to begin following the next LPNNRD Board meeting.

**d.** Western Sarpy Clear Creek: The levee project is 75% complete. The final segment—segment 5 is about 35-40% complete and all is planned to be completed by September 2015.

**e.** Lower Platte River Watershed Authority : The Corps will be requesting a letter of intent from the LPRCA expressing commitment to move to the watershed program. The Omaha District has included the Watershed Program as one of their top priorities for the next federal fiscal year.

13. Next Meeting Date [ACTION] Aug 4th, 2015 9:00a.m. Location TBD

14. Public Comment : none

15. The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm

**NOTES**

* **To be removed from/ added to our mailing or e-mailing list**, please contact the LPRCA at (402) 476-2729 or via e-mail at [msittler@lpsnrd.org](mailto:msittler@lpsnrd.org).
* **Meeting information (past and present)** will be kept up to date at: <http://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/quarterly_meetings.html>