



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 21, 2014 9:00 a.m.

Lower Platte North NRD

5111 Commercial Park RD, Wahoo, NE 68066

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Meghan Sittler at 9:03 AM

2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication

Legal notice of the meeting was provided in the Omaha World Herald on January 8, 2015

3. Adoption of Agenda [**ACTION**]

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from October 21, 2014 Meeting [**ACTION**]

Minutes from the previous meeting were adopted by consensus.

5. Great Plains EcoTourism Coalition-

Meghan Sittler Introduced the Great Plains EcoTourism Coalition (GPEC) including its mission, members, and what is involved in being a member. Sittler then discussed how the mission of GPEC coincides with the mission of the LPRCA and opened the forum up for discussion of the possibilities of the LPRCA becoming a member organization. Karen Amen from LPSNRD addressed concerns of a possible conflict of interest, citing that most members of GPEC are private organizations and the LPRCA is founded out of government entities. Larry Vrtiska, representative of the Nebraska Military Dept. stated that for the NE Military Dept. to approve it would need to be brought to a higher authority for discussion. The recommendation was made by Marlin Petermann to take a poll of the LPRCA member organizations to identify those in favor, those against, and those that require more information.

6. Recreation Planning

a. Recreation Planning Study Update—Meghan Sittler

Meghan Sittler provided a short summary of the Recreation Planning Study being accomplished in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Game and Parks Commission. Sittler provided updates on how it is progressing; stating that the plan is nearing completion and early 2015 should see the beginning of its implementation.

b. RTCA Grant—Kim Shafer, National Park Service

Kim Shafer of the National Park Service introduced herself and provided explanation of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program and the technical assistance grant the LPRCA received through the program. Through the RTCA Grant the LPRCA will receive assistance from Shafer and her coworkers at the National Park Service to aid in identifying and building partnerships for recreational development and conservation work in the Lower Platte River watershed. Shafer elaborated on how the grant will be focused on aiding the LPRCA in implementing the Recreation Planning Study and work towards goals such as establishing a lower Platte River water trail. The RTCA grant is for the 2015 fiscal year with the opportunity to extend an additional year.

c. Recreation Advisory Group

Meghan Sittler announced that as coordinator of the LPRCA she is looking to form a Recreation Advisory Group to aid in the implementation of the Recreation Planning Study. Sittler welcomed any person desiring to be part of the advisory group and asked that those present give thought to those they might recommend be part of the group.

7. ESRI Services Discussion

Meghan Sittler provided a summary of the current GIS capabilities available to the LPRCA and the concerns that the current capabilities will not be adequate for the future needs of the LPRCA. Sittler purposed ESRI's GIS Online platform as a viable solution and summarized the tradeoffs of transitioning to the new GIS platform. Sittler then opened the forum to discussion on the matter and the general consensus of those in attendance was that pursuing the ESRI GIS Online option was the best course of action.

8. River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers

Meghan Sittler provided a brief review of the project's history. Including the banked funds on hand, the permitting timeline, project constraints and the submission of a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance. The grant was not selected for funding so the discussion on the meeting centered on options for how to move forward. Options discussed were to rebid the project to identify if a slightly adjust timeframe and some construction alterations could result in lower costs to complete the removal; to identify other funding sources such as

USFWS funds; or to potentially place the project on hold or suspend indefinitely. Following discussion Marlin Petermann, P-MRNRD made a motion to re-bid the removal by the end of May 2015. Glenn Johnson, LPSNRD seconded that motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Lower Platte River Summit Recap

Joshua Price, Intern for the LPRCA, provided a summary of the Lower Platte River Summit accompanied by a slide show, detailing the events of the day and the overall success of the event.

10. FY2016 Budget Planning Discussion

a. Review of last year's input session

Meghan Sittler reviewed the LPRCA mission and the goals that were discussed in the 2014 input session. Sittler presented the priorities of the LPRCA member agencies as they were stated during the input session. Sittler then presented how the input session contributed to the development of the 2015 Budget proposal and the planning of the 2016 Budget. Sittler requested that those in attendance contemplate these lists of priorities and to bring any additional input to her attention for future budget discussions.

b. Meetings with each member & input plan

Sittler will be providing questionnaire to LPRCA members by the end of February and will hold meetings with each member organization to identify budget needs and priorities in February and March. The FY2016 budget will be presented at the next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting.

11. NRD Integrated Management Plans Update

LPSNRD:

Glenn Johnson stated that additional work was being done on the process and procedures for data collection portion in addition to work being done on the Drought Management component of the LPSNRD's IMP.

Papio-Missouri NRD:

Marlin Petermann stated that the Papio-Missouri IMP was completed in late 2014 and is in the start of implementation after review of the action items is complete.

LPNNRD:

Tom Mountford stated that LPNNRD IMP is approximately 50% complete with completion anticipated in June 2015. The LPNNRD is coordinating their IMP with the Lower

Elkhorn and utilizing the same consultants to do so. Meetings are currently scheduled during the month of February with stakeholder groups.

12. Ice Report: P-MRNRD has not been able to conduct any ice borings due to safety concerns related to the thickness of ice. Despite the extended warm periods experienced in the region ice has formed on the river but not to a thickness where taking borings is perceived to be safe.

13. WRDA Authorized Project Updates

a. Deadman's Run

Glenn Johnson stated that the project being a 205 project requires a feasibility study and that the project is currently six months in to the feasibility study.

b. Sand Creek

Mike Murren stated that once the final accounting is completed the project will be officially completed.

c. Fremont & Schuyler 205

Mike Murren stated that the Fremont 205 project has been a 15 year process and this delay combined with the approximately \$50 million costs of the project has led to looking into 205 alternatives. They are currently working to into a general investigation project.

Tom Mountford stated that the Schuyler 205 project is a two phase project. Phase I of the project being the Shell Creek levee which is 95% complete with work suspended due to the cold weather. Phase II of the project being the Platte River levee is currently 60% through the design process and they are currently seeking funding sources.

d. Western Sarpy Clear Creek

Marlin Petermann stated that the Western Sarpy Clear Creek project is currently finishing the contract for segment 5 that was awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers in December 2014. Construction for section 4B is currently 60% complete. Construction of segment 5 is scheduled to start in January 2015 with completion anticipated for September 2015.

e. Lower Platte River Watershed Authority

Cost-share accounting for the LPR&T authority needs to be conducted to close out Phase III of the Cumulative Impact Study. The LPRCA continues to work closely with the USACE regarding future appropriations under the existing authority or as a transition to the LPRWA.

14. Next Meeting Date **[ACTION]**

9:00 AM Tuesday April 21, 2015 @LPSNRD board room

15. Public Comment

None

16. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM

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.
- **Meeting information (past and present)** will be kept up to date at:
http://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/quarterly_meetings.html