



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

LEAD. ORGANIZE. INSPIRE. The voice of the Lower Platte.

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Papio-Missouri River NRD

8901 S. 154th St

Omaha, NE 68138

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Meghan Sittler. There were 32 attendees present.

2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication

Meghan Sittler provided proof of publication of the meeting which was in the Omaha World Herald on the 14th of October.

3. Adoption of Agenda [ACTION]

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from August 4, 2015 Meeting [ACTION]

The minutes from the LPRCA Quarterly Meeting on August 4, 2015 were adopted by consensus.

5. Platte River Venture Parks—Jim Swenson, NGPC

Jim Swenson, Parks Division Administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, provided a presentation on the newly launched “Venture Parks” program for four state parks and recreation areas in the Lower Platte River. This project will update and enhance current popular state parks and recreation areas to increase appeal and family and kid friendly activities. Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Schramm Park State Recreation Area, Platte River State Park, and Louisville State Recreation Area will be included in the Venture Park system. These parks were selected for their popularity and proximity to the population centers of Nebraska. Each park will include a Discover Zone with educational and interactive activities, an Explore Zone that allows visitors to learn by doing, an Excitement Zone for adventurous visitors, and a Serenity Zone with laid back activities like fishing and short hiking trails. The goal of the Venture Parks is to get families back outside and provide visitors opportunities to experience the adventures Nebraska has to offer.

6. Cass County Silver Jackets Project—Mitch Paine, DNR

Mitch Paine, the Flood Mitigation Planning Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources presented on the Cass County Flood Reduction project. This project was done by the Nebraska Silver Jackets. The Nebraska Silver Jackets work together to coordinate flood risk reduction efforts and include the Nebraska Department of Nature Resources, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, NRD, USGS, National Weather Service, and other interested agencies. This project was done to accumulate additional flood data and provide public outreach to homeowners and businesses in response to floods in Louisville in 1923, 1960, 1978, and 1993 and floods in Cedar Creek in 1960, 1993, and 1994. The

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources surveyed nearly 350 structures in Cedar Creek and the US Army Corps of Engineers surveyed nearly 150 structures in Louisville. This information was used to create risk assessments for houses and other structures and to establish a cost-benefit ratio for elevating each structure to 1 foot above the base flood elevation. This information is available and used when people call and ask about floor risk to their structures. Chuck Paukert is the floodplain administrator for Cedar Creek and Dee Arias and Dan Henry are the floodplain administrators for Louisville. A public meeting was held in Louisville on February 24, 2015. 75 community members were in attendance to discuss flood risk, an overview of the project, flood insurance, risk reduction techniques, and the benefits of building elevation and acquisitions. Examples of cost-benefit for flood insurance versus elevation were shared. The project found that in the long run, it is better to elevate structures to be above the base flood elevation than to pay for flood insurance.

7. River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers Recreation Area Update and Discussion

Meghan Sittler provided an update on the pier removal project from the Platte River at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. Hawkins Construction completed the removal of the fifth pier on October 22nd. They are currently removing the temporary bridge and will do some grading of the bank and access road area. Sittler stated they anticipate being completed with all work except the seeding, which will occur in spring, by mid-November.

8. Lower Platte River Basin Plan Update

Sub-basin meetings—Lower Platte, Lower Loup and Lower Elkhorn—were held in October. The sub-basin meetings allowed for more discussion of issues and projects both within and external to the sub-basins. The final water banking workshop will be held on November 17th, at Central Community College in Columbus. Marlin Petermann said the plan was being done with strong partnerships with the state agencies and that the process is working as intended. The primary issue continues to be focusing on downstream timing issues. A full draft of the Basin Plan should be complete by the end of the calendar year.

9. NRD Integrated Management Plans Updates

Lower Platte North will present their IMP to their Board of Directors at the end of the calendar year. They have held the process to ensure that the Basin Plan could be incorporated within their IMP. Public meetings will follow the presentation of the IMP to the Board.

Lower Platte South's IMP is complete and they have begun the process of implementing the actions within the plan over the past year. They have also been working with consultants to begin to examine and address water use issues.

Papio-Missouri River NRD's plan has been adopted for over a year. They plan to have a review meeting with DNR after the first of the calendar year. They are looking into the possibility to expand the IMP to the entire District rather than just the Groundwater Management Plan.

10. WRDA Authorized Project Updates

a. Deadman's Run

The 205 study has been going for one year. They anticipate having the preferred alternative by the first of the calendar year. There will be one to two years of evaluation of that preferred alternative to follow.

- b. Sand Creek
The Sand Creek project is finished with the Corps just needing to complete the O&M manual and hand that over to LPNNRD.
- c. Fremont & Schuyler 205
The Fremont study will be complete in September 2016. The study has been being coordinated with Department of Roads' Highway 30 realignment and construction. It is estimated to be a \$55 million project with \$100 million in benefits.

The Shell Creek levee is complete. The O&M manual is being completed and once it is handed to the sponsor the project will be officially complete. The Platte levee is still on the table but will have to be addressed in future years due to project costs and funds available.

- d. Western Sarpy Clear Creek
The Sarpy side of the levee project is complete. The Saunders side is also complete other than some remaining punch list items. The fuse plug is in process of being redesigned and replaced by the Corps of Engineers.
- e. Lower Platte River Watershed Authority
A letter of intent to initiate the watershed restoration program was submitted to the Omaha District in July. This was at the request of the Omaha District. The LPRCA continues to work with the Corps to move into the restoration program.

11. Next Meeting Date [ACTION]

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th at 9:00 a.m. at LPNNRD in Wahoo, NE.

12. Public Comment

None

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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