



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

LPRCA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 24, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

Lower Platte South NRD

3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, NE 68501

1. Welcome / Introductions: David Potter welcomed everyone and thanked the members for attending. Corridor Alliance member representatives in attendance included: Marlin Peterman, Eric Williams, Larry Vrtiska, Bob Bergholz, Carla McCullough, Laura Johnson, Ron Yoder, Paul Zillig, and David Potter. Others present included: Crystal Powers, Tom Mountford, Matt Pillard, Dave Russ, and Matt Moser. Jason Alexander joined meeting by phone later in the meeting. Invites were sent out to at least two individuals from each of the eight members/agencies of the Alliance, including the person that was authorized to sign any documents. Alternates were recommended if the two individuals could not attend. Six of the eight Alliance members were represented. The purpose of the meeting was also stated. The meeting began at approximately 10:10 a.m.
2. Review of February 12th Meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were distributed and David Potter provided a summary of what was discussed.
3. Budget/dues/invoices: At the last meeting, it was decided to continue the Alliance but without a coordinator for now and meet twice per year. It was restated that projects would be finished up and we would seek opportunities for new projects. There will not be quarterly meetings or newsletters, rather the minutes from the two meetings will serve as the newsletters/correspondence. We will invite Lower Platte North NRD to the meeting to see if they want to attend. We will also maintain the website and ESRI contracts.

There are currently two funds – administrative and project funds. The administrative fund is supplied by dues from the participating members as per the interlocal agreement. The annual dues of \$1,000 will be invoiced to the current members for administrative expenses such as website, ESRI, memberships, etc. The project fund holds monies for current and future projects.

Invoices will also be sent out in November to those NRDs and agencies participating in the Water Quality Management Plan and the various stream gauge agreements.

4. Current Projects/Activities

A. Water Quality Management Plan: Matt Pillard with HDR was present to discuss the WQMP and the recent review. Matt discussed the proposed agreement (Supplemental No. 4 to Task Order No. 6) with HDR for the completion of the LPRCA Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). HDR was hired to develop and complete the WQMP. The original contract dates back to February 2013. The draft plan was finalized in October of 2014. Based on the needed NDEQ and EPA changes, HDR was approved a 3rd amendment to the management plan that addressed the methodology for identification of *E. coli* contributions and reductions, performed the calculations to determine the contributions and reduction potential, and reformulated the plans, goals and objectives, priorities, and the change in focus to *E. coli*, and also included document reorganization. One half of the cost of that amendment (Supplemental No. 3) was be covered by the 319 grant and the other 50% was the responsibility of the LPRCA and billed equally to each of the three participating NRDs.

The revisions were made and the revised Plan was submitted to NDEQ and then to EPA for review in July 2018. During that review, EPA commented on the priority areas and indicated that additional information was needed. In that review, it was also noted that only the primary priority areas could be considered for Section 319 funded projects. Those listed as secondary would not be eligible. As a result, all three districts participating in the LPRCA WQMP suggested some changes to the priority areas based more on what is implementable. With the requested changes to the priority areas and the needed information identified by EPA, HDR submitted another proposed agreement to make the changes and complete the WQMP. A revised plan will then submitted to EPA with the changes highlighted in order to accelerate the review process. The plan will not be accepted without the priority specifications completed and future 319 funds for projects in the corridor will not be possible without the plan. Once completed, reviewed and authorized by EPA, the WQMP will be presented to the LPSNRD Board of Directors on behalf of the LPRCA for consideration. The cost of the project identified in the agreement is a lump sum fee of \$14,643 and the project shall be completed within 30 business days from notice-to-proceed. The consensus of the Alliance members was to authorize LPSNRD approve the agreement and to utilize funds from the LPRCA Reserve to pay for the project completion, as specified in the agreement, without having to go back to the individual

NRD's Board of Directors. The LPSNRD, on behalf of the Alliance, will proceed with approving the agreement.

- B. Stream Gauge Agreements and updates: Matt Moser and Dave Russ with USGS presented information regarding the three stream gauge agreements. Matt had a power point that identified locations and information gathered. The agreement for the gauges on the Platte River Chutes funded by the National Guard was recently renewed for another two years and the LPRCA again was the contracting agent. Stream gauge agreements with USGS for the Leshara site and the three long-term sites are nearing expiration (expires 2019) and continuation of them will need to be determined. If they are to continue, we need to know who will be participating. Lower Platte North NRD is only involved with the gauge at Leshara and, if interested, will be asked to participate through an interlocal agreement when that contract is up for renewal. The consensus of the Alliance was to move forward with the agreements with the same participating agencies for another 3-year period. Agreements will be drafted and details of agency participation will need to be worked out. USGS will present information to the Lower Platte North NRD Board to see if they are interested in continuing with Leshara steam gauge.
- C. Website Hosting and ESRI Agreement: The annual fee for the website hosting and the ERSI Agreement will be paid through the administrative fund financed by the annual dues. Potter stated that he has been updating the website with meeting agenda and notices, important dates, and relevant information. Access to the website was demonstrated on the screen.
5. Future/Committed Projects: The Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Study and its current status was discussed again. Paul Zillig stated that LPSNRD received correspondence from the US Army Corps of Engineers that the study is being considered as a new start in the appropriations bill work plan. The appropriations bill allows for up to six new starts. We should know more by November 20th but if it shows up in the work plan the watershed study may allow for the ability to use the 75/25 cost sharing and to look globally at establishing a restoration vision/master plan for the Lower Platte River Corridor probably including some lower reaches on the major tributaries. Currently, the three NRDs (LPS, P-MR, and LPN) have all committed to the project and a request has been made to the US Army Corps of Engineers. It was discussed that money in the existing project fund could and should be used as matching money needed for starting the project. If Lower Platte

North NRD wants to participate in the study, they would need to do so under a separate interlocal agreement based on their current position with the LPRCA. The consensus was to move forward with participation by the members.

Potter asked the group if there were any other projects that the LPRCA should be looking at or considering at this time. Larry Vrtiska wanted other agencies to consider funding the Platte River Chutes stream gauges since it benefits more than just the National Guard.

6. Reports and Updates

A. South Sarpy Sewer Project: Marlin Petermann presented the work done on the South Sarpy Sewer Project and highlighted the phases and timeline. The conservation work done by and through the Papio-Missouri River NRD is very important as development begins in the area.

B. Sand Bar Study: Jason Alexander, a grad student at the University of Wyoming, participated in the meeting via conference call and presented his work on the Sandbar Dynamics Study. Jason was employed by the USGS when the project was commissioned. He is currently pursuing his PHD at the University of Wyoming and has been working continuously on the study, which has also become his dissertation. The project was originally funded by the Lower Platte South NRD through the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance and also by a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The study is near complete. It has been reviewed by Jason's advisors and recommended changes have been made. The study is being considered for publication. If published, the project/study would be complete. Upon completion, the study will be placed on file with the LPRCA and LPSNRD.

7. Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 2019. A doodle poll to the members will be used to determine the best date to have a meeting.

8. Comments/Adjourn: Meeting ended at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Submitted by: David Potter, Assistant General Manager LPS NRD and Interim Coordinator