



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

LPRCA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 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. Those in attendance included: Marlin Peterman, John Winkler, Eric Williams, Larry Vrtiska, Jim Swenson, Bob Bergholz, Carla McCullough, Ron Yoder, Paul Zillig, and David Potter. Invites were sent out to at least two individuals from each remaining 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. The purpose of the meeting was also stated. The meeting began at approximately 10:05 a.m.
2. Review of January 3rd Meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were distributed and Paul Zillig provided a summary of what was discussed.
3. Where Do We Go From Here? Options: At the last meeting, it was decided that we should keep the Alliance going in some form. The three remaining options were further discussed: 1) Continue LPRCA for the P-MRNRD and LPSNRD Area, 2) Continue LPRCA to finish up current activities/programs, then assess the future, or 3) Other. The importance of maintaining a unified approach for future projects was recognized. Each remaining member is willing to help out, although the state agencies are very limited to financial contributions/support. It was decided that we would continue the Alliance but without a coordinator for now and meet twice per year. 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. Dues will be minimal in order to maintain website, ESRI, memberships, etc. It was also decided to pay Lower Platte North their portion of the administrative fund as per the current interlocal agreement.

4. LPRCA Interlocal Agreement Discussion: It was decided to keep the current interlocal agreement in place for now and function as discussed with only the remaining eight members. The existing agreement dating back to 2004, as amended, is still in effect.
5. Budget: The current budget was discussed. 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. As requested and as per the interlocal agreement, Lower Platte North will be reimbursed their portion of the existing administrative fund. Paul will start that process. The remaining amount in the administrative fund will be kept in place for future administrative expenses such as the website, ESRI, memberships, mailings, or anything else deemed appropriate by the membership. For now, annual dues of \$1,000 will be invoiced to the current members for administrative expenses. The project fund holds monies for current and future projects. The group suggested these funds be used to finish up the current Water Quality Management Plan and then be held for future projects. LPS NRD will need to check with accounting department and auditor but we may need to bill each NRD participating in the WQMP as originally agreed because of the adopted budget(s).
6. Current Projects/Activities: The current projects/agreements (WQMP, Stream Gauges, Website, ESRI, and Nebraska Land Trust Conservation Easements) were also discussed. The WQMP is being reviewed and will be completed soon. The stream gauge agreements with USGS are nearing expiration and continuation of them will need to be determined. If they are to continue, then we need to discuss who will be administering the agreement(s). The gauges on the Platte River Chutes funded by the National Guard were discussed in detail. The Guard has interest in renewing this contract. Three options for a new agreement were identified – 1) the Guard enter into contract with USGS, 2) the Guard work with P-MR NRD to enter into contract with USGS beings the gauges would be in their district, or 3) use the LPRCA again as the contracting agent. More research will be done but it was discussed that we may work through the LPRCA and keep it the same. Lower Platte North NRD is only involved with the gauge at Leshara and will be asked to participate through an interlocal agreement when that contract is up for renewal.
7. Future/Committed Projects: The Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Study and its current status was discussed again. 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 wanted to participate in the study, they would need to do so under a separate interlocal agreement based on their current position with the LPRCA.

8. Comments/Adjourn: It was determined that the group should continue to meet twice a year (April and October). There will not be a meeting this April but we will plan on a meeting in October and extend an invite to Lower Platte North NRD. Meeting ended at approximately 11:35 a.m.

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