



**Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Lower Platte South NRD**

**3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, NE 68501**

1. Call to Order / Introductions: The quarterly meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.  
David Potter called the meeting to order and gave a brief introduction.
2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication: The meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald on May 15, 2017.
3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from February 24, 2017 Meeting and Retreat: The minutes were approved by consensus.
5. Lower Platte Weed Management Area Update – *Mike Reed, Douglas County Weed and Rich Tesar, P-MR NRD*  
Reed gave an update on what the Weed Management has been working on. Weed management of Phragmites used to be down the river, now this has changed as it has expanded to the uplands. A grant has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture for control of noxious weeds. They are also looking to purchase a drone. A weed management tour will be held May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Fremont Lakes. A cost-share program is available to land owners for spraying for Phragmites along the river. Rich Tesar informed the group on the Weed Task Force and also identified the contributions by the NRDs within the Lower Platte for treatment of invasive species and noxious weeds will likely need to be increased. Currently, the NRDs are contributing \$30,000 each.
6. Water Quality Management Plan – *Matt Pillard, HDR*  
Pillard gave an update of the draft management plan and the status of the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the management plan. The added services are addressing the methodology for identification of *E. coli*

contributions and reductions, performing the calculations to determine the contributions and reduction potential, and reformulating the plan's goals and objectives and priorities, and the changing focus to *E. coli*. The Alliance received an additional grant from NDEQ for \$17,225 (50% of amendment cost) to complete the project. HDR has submitted the Methods Memorandum to NDEQ and is hoping for a meeting to discuss it with NDEQ and EPA in June. The methods work-up took a little more time than expected but some of the *E. coli* calculations have been performed already to verify it would work. The loading calculations and load reduction calculations will need to be performed and priorities will need to be established. A formatted Draft Plan is scheduled to be submitted to NDEQ by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Pending review, the project is set to be substantially completed by the end of the year. The three NRDs will utilize the WQMP to help cover their district. A plan is required before projects can be funded by 319 funds. Lower Platte North NRD indicated that they will be covered equally by the Wahoo Creek, Shell Creek and LPRCA Water Quality Management Plans.

## 7. WRDA Authorized Project Updates

### a. South Fremont GI Study Update – *John Miyoshi, LPN NRD*

Miyoshi discussed the Fremont flood plain and levee project. There has been some discrepancy in the flood plain downstream and LPN NRD is looking at hiring a consultant to look at the Platte River flood plain and see what the effect is on the required levee at Fremont and Inglewood. The District may look to evaluate further the calculated FEMA FIRM 100 year discharges in the Lower Platte which appear to have been overstated. The discrepancy found in the FEMA discharge flow in the Platte River may affect communities from Columbus to the mouth of the River. This will be discussed further at an upcoming partner meeting to decide what next step to correct this discrepancy can or should be taken. The original cost estimate was very high and the cost benefit was very low. A change in flood plain designated could make the project more feasible.

### b. Schuyler 205 – *Tom Mountford, LPN NRD*

Mountford provided an update on the Schuyler project. The Shell Creek two and one-half mile Levee Project located north and east of Schuyler is complete (\$4 million total cost). This project protects north Schuyler from 100 year frequency storm events from Shell Creek and lowers flood insurance premiums for north Schuyler. The Shell Creek Levee was the first project phase of an USACE 205 project effort. Project phase 2 is a three mile proposed levee that was to help protect Schuyler from Platte River ice induced flooding on the south. This project phase is on hold for now due to accelerated projects costs and development encroachment that has occurred along the proposed levee footprint which will

make it challenging for Schuyler to complete. However, Schuyler may choose to pursue the Platte River project phase someday. The current Platte River project estimate is over \$22 million.

c. Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Study - *Paul Zillig, LPS NRD*

Zillig informed the group that the most recent letter of intent was submitted for the proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Comprehensive Study in April 2017. The project has not yet been initiated but the Army Corps of Engineers has sought our interest in proceeding. The Alliance is waiting on a response to the request to headquarters. A number of NRD staff and directors were in Washington, D.C. in late March for the NARD conference and met with the Army Corps of Engineers and expressed their desire to move forward. This would be a huge project for the Alliance with many benefits for future projects in each of the three NRDs.

d. Deadman's Run 205 Study – *Paul Zillig, LPS NRD*

Zillig gave an update to the Deadman's Run project in Lincoln. This Corps project design has exceeded the cap and is now nearing an estimated cost of \$23 million. The project has a high cost-benefit ratio and will remove a number of properties from the flood plain. Alternative designs had been reviewed, a preferred plan selected, and public meetings held. The cooperative project between the LPS NRD, City of Lincoln, and the Army Corps of Engineers is waiting on a cap release.

**8. Non-LPRCA Projects within the Corridor**

There are a number of projects that are occurring within the Corridor that are not part of the Alliance but that have been asked about and confused with being Alliance projects. A brief update on these projects were given for the benefit of the group.

a. Proposed Hwy 75 Platte River Bridge Trail Project – *Marlin Petermann & Eric Williams, P-MRNRD*

Petermann and Williams presented the project to the group. NDOR is pushing the bridge trail project to be completed while the bridge lane is being closed so there is not a need to shut the road down at a later time. The bridge extensions to carry the trail will be on the east side. Potential partners include Cass County, Sarpy County, Plattsmouth, Bellevue, LPS NRD, and P-MR NRD, with the Papio-Missouri River NRD being the lead.

b. Lower Platte River Consortium – Drought Contingency Plan – *Paul Zillig, LPS NRD*

The Consortium was formed by an interlocal agreement between LPS NRD, LPN NRD, P-MR NRD, Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD), City of Lincoln Water System, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to examine and develop regional solutions to improve the water supply reliability and drought resiliency of the Lower Platte River. The primary focus of the plan will be to further refine the

Consortium's collective understanding of drought vulnerabilities, while developing more robust monitoring and forecasting tools coupled with timely triggers, new mitigation strategies and responsive actions to create a sound operational framework and improve critical water supply needs of the area during drought periods. Zillig gave a power point presentation on the Consortium and the status of the Drought Contingency Plan.

**9. Alliance Outreach – Status/Cancellation of kayak tour, Water Quality Open, and Spring Newsletter –  
*David Potter, LPS NRD***

Potter informed the group that with the lack of full-time coordinator and with the discussions at the retreat, the kayak tour, water quality open and spring newsletter will not be held or completed in 2017. A fall/winter newsletter is being planned with the anticipated adoption of the proposed updated interlocal agreement. The status of future kayak tours and golf tournaments is unknown at this time.

**10. Presentation of LPRCA Retreat Report – *Steve Wolf, JEO Consulting Group***

The LPRCA Retreat was held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Camp Ashland. There were about 50 participants in attendance. A survey was conducted prior to the retreat to gauge the knowledge and concerns of the participating agencies. The purposes within the interlocal agreement were discussed in detail with suggested changes noted. A retreat report and summary were presented by Steve Wolf of JEO Consulting Group and made available to the members.

**11. Draft Update of LPRCA Agreement – *David Potter, LPS NRD***

Potter presented the updated draft interlocal agreement and noted the major changes. Two major changes include the formation of an Alliance Board and an executive subcommittee. The agreement incorporated the comments from the retreat as well as discussion comments from the individual agencies, specifically those concerns from Lower Platte North and Papio-Missouri River NRDs. LPS NRD and P-MR NRD have adopted the interlocal agreement, subject to legal counsel review. Lower Platte North had it on their May agenda for consideration but the item was tabled due to the absence of a few directors. LPN NRD will hold a projects committee meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the item again and then consider the agreement again at their June 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Members of the Alliance were asked to attend one of the meetings to stress the importance of the many projects and the Corridor Alliance. Once the agreement is approved, it will be presented to all nine participating agencies for their authorized signatures and execution. Discussion was held on the proposed draft and there was a favorable consensus of the draft interlocal agreement by the members present.

**12. Draft FY2018 Budget and Work Plan – David Potter, LPS NRD**

Potter provided a power point with background information on the goals and mission of the Alliance, past accomplishments, and contributions. A preliminary 2018 budget and work plan were presented to the group. Details of the budget will be worked out after approval of the interlocal agreement. The work plan will consist of finishing the Water Quality Management Plan and the start of the Watershed Restoration Study. Members were asked to examine other projects prior to the next quarterly meeting. Expenses include administration dues, web site, ESRI agreement, newsletter, summit, potential water tour, advertising, water quality monitoring network (stream gauges), etc.

**13. Next Quarterly Meeting Date**

The next quarterly meeting was discussed and determined to be held August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Mahoney State Park starting at 9:00 a.m. The scheduling of the next quarterly meeting was approved by consensus.

**14. Public Comments**

Laura Johnson with NDEQ provided information on Nebraska BeachWatch. The Beach monitoring program provides weekly sampling of Nebraska's public beaches for *E. coli* Bacteria and Harmful Algal Blooms. To sign up to receive weekly updates send an email to [listserv@listserv.nebraska.gov](mailto:listserv@listserv.nebraska.gov)

**15. Adjourn:** The meeting ended (was adjourned) at 12:15 p.m.

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

**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 [dpotter@lpsnrd.org](mailto:dpotter@lpsnrd.org).
- **Meeting information (past and present)** will be kept up to date at: [http://www.lowerplatte.org/what\\_we\\_do/quarterly\\_meetings.html](http://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/quarterly_meetings.html)