



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for August 2013

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Water Quality Open

August was busy with planning and preparing for the 16th Annual LPRCA Water Quality Open. The Open once again filled within two weeks of registration opening. The field of 144 golfers heard a keynote presentation by Duane Hovorka of the Nebraska Wildlife Federation. Duane provided an overview of the work they have done on water quality within the Platte and its tributaries as well as their advocacy for conservation programs and education. The golfers also had the opportunity to interact with five additional groups out on the course including USGS, the Water for Food Institute, the Nebraska Land Trust, the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. While it was again a very warm late August day the event was once again a success.

Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly meeting was held on Thursday, August 8th at the Mallet Lodge in Platte River State Park. Thirty-eight people attended the meeting. Agenda and discussion items included a presentation by Larry Vrtiska of the Nebraska National Guard on the environmental work being done at Camp Ashland, and update from HDR on the progress on the Watershed Management Plan, an update from the Nebraska Land Trust, updates from USGS on the season's progress with the water quality monitoring network and discussion of the river obstruction removal efforts among other items. Following the meeting NGPC personnel provided a tour of the Roger Sykes Education Center and shooting range.

Section 22 Recreation Planning Study

The Corps of Engineers submitted the public survey for approval from the Corps Division and OMB during August. The survey is focused on people's recreation preferences and/or needs in the Lower Platte. Water quality and conflict between residents and recreationists will also be a part of the survey. It is our hope that we will receive a good response from both the LPRCA and NGPC lists which reach beyond just residents of the Corridor when the survey is live hopefully within the next month or so. We also hope to have a follow up survey that individuals who respond to the initial survey can elect to complete to gather more in depth information. The Corps also continues compiling the GIS Information and HDR has begun work on the time of travel hydraulic analysis. In late August we began developing a plan to meet with or contact city and county representatives in the lower Platte about recreation facilities, needs and interests.

River Obstruction Removal

In August Olsson Associates continued coordinating with the Corps on the approval of the 404 permit. At the end of the first week of September we received notification from the Corps of tentative approval of the permit with several fairly minor conditions. A pre-bid on-site construction meeting was held with contractors on September 3rd and the bid opening is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on September 16th at Lower Platte South NRD. The board of Lower Platte South will consider the bids at their September 18th board meeting. If a bid is accepted, mobilization could begin immediately with construction beginning as early as October 1st and would need to be completed by March 1st. We look forward to the hopeful progress of this effort.

Upcoming Events:

NARD Annual Conference: September 22-24, Kearney

UNL Water Law Symposium: October 15-16, Lincoln

Rural Futures Institute Symposium: November 3-5, Lincoln