



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 9th, 9:00 a.m.

Kiewit Lodge, Mahoney State Park

2850 West Park Hwy

Ashland, NE 68003

1. Call to Order / Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m.
2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication: The meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald on August 2, 2016.
3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from May 3, 2016 Meeting: The minutes were approved by consensus.
5. Recognition of Glenn Johnson

Glenn is retiring after 20 years of leadership within the LPRCA and 44 years of service and commitment to the LPSNRD and critical water issues across state and country.

6. Venture Park Update—Jim Swenson, NGPC

The Venture Park program will be focused on Mahoney State Park, Platte River State Park, Louisville State Recreation Area, and Schramm State Recreation Area. This project will require \$35 million of funding, 85% of which is currently done. The state has given \$7.3 million, making this project largely privately funded. The Venture Park project will be done in four phases. The first phase has already begun and includes development of Crawdad Creek in Platte River State Park and high ropes and zip lines in Mahoney State Park, set to open in Spring of 2017. HDR and JEO will be working with NGPC to complete these projects. The Venture Park features are designed to provide outdoor education and exposure in a traditional 'park' way with a hands-on focus including high energy recreation opportunities. Near future projects include opportunities for introductory kayak and canoe courses, as well as a campsite at Schramm State Recreation Area that will only be available to paddlers coming in to the park from the river.

7. Recreation Plan Updates—Meghan Sittler

The LPRCA has met with the City of Ashland to discuss potential for river access at Silver Street for recreation and emergency access. This site would be in addition to Catfish Run and specifically designed for motorized and search and rescue usage. We have received second year support from the National Park Service to work towards the formation of a 'Friends of the Lower Platte' group that would

facilitate improved access, education, and funding. The LPRCA is also working with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the NRD districts to improve signage along the river with the future potential to update maps and community kiosks. A website is in the works to address Water Trail information and provide a central location for pertinent river information. Discussions with a Columbus resident have brought concerns about ATV use and private property. We will be working alongside the Sportsman Foundation to form a consistent message and to address issues while still allowing recreation. Any future legislation would be focused on permits and licenses for ATV use and would help regulate private landowners selling permits for ATV use of their land. Jim Swenson mentioned that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is in the process of developing specific ATV facilities to allow recreation without impacting other users or the environment.

8. Nebraska Watershed Network—Krystal Hermann & Dr. Alan Kolok, UNO

The Nebraska Watershed Network partnered with the LPRCA for Watershed Days, a citizen scientist project. Volunteers tested ten locations once a week for ten weeks from April 20 to June 22. Atrazine was tested onsite and samples were sent back to a lab to be tested for Coliform bacteria. Results for Atrazine suggested that when river discharge was higher, Atrazine levels were at or above 3 parts per billion, or the safe drinking water level. This was also true of the coliform bacteria levels tested at Louisville. The project found that citizen science can be used to develop Nebraska's capacity for community based environmental stewardship by collecting environmentally important data. The Nebraska Watershed Network plans to expand this project in the coming years locally and nationally by creating a database management system and phone applications to record and report collected data immediately and onsite.

9. Keep Cass County Beautiful & River Clean-up—Linda Behrns, KCCB

Linda Behrns provided an overview of Keep Cass County Beautiful, an organization started in 2012 and affiliated with Keep America Beautiful and Keep Nebraska Beautiful. Their mission is to educate, enable, and encourage residents to take responsibility for improving the community environment. They are funded by a NDEQ grant, private memberships, and fundraising. KCCB also receives grants for specific projects from other entities. They work with all communities in Cass County to involve and inform all citizens and residents. In 2015-16, Keep Cass County Beautiful held ten cleanups in seven communities. On September 8, 2016, they will be partnering with the LPRCA and Platte River Rentals LLC to do a Platte River Cleanup in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of International Coastal Cleanup with the Ocean Conservancy. This river cleanup will cover the Platte River

from Schramm to Louisville and is looking for volunteers to help collect litter and tabulate what kinds of litter are most prevalent.

10. Lower Platte Weed Management Area—Mike Reed, Douglas County

Mike Reed was ill and will present at the next Quarterly Meeting. A representative from Papio-Missouri NRD provided a brief update on weed management. Helicopter aerial applications will begin in the next few weeks. An inter local agreement with LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and P-MRNRD will increase funding to control invasive species. Aerial infrared imagery will provide information on the best time to operate the helicopter aerial applications to best control invasive species like phragmites.

11. Elkhorn River 240th Street, Bank Stabilization—Eric Williams, Papio-Missouri River NRD

Eric Williams provided a brief overview of the progress of the Elkhorn River 240th Street Bank Stabilization project. This \$950,000 project was done to protect 240th street and the nearby houses at a sharp bend in the Elkhorn River. An April 2010 rain event caused a 350 foot bank loss, threatening the houses and 240th street. Emergency stabilizations were completed in 1993 and 2012. Studies showed the river will move further east and closer to 240th street without intervention. The P-MRNRD proactively stabilized and fixed the channel using windrow and J-structures, as well as on site trees to stabilize the banks. A pilot channel was built to redirect river flow at high water levels to prevent future erosion. The previous channel is still in use but most of the base flow will come through the pilot channel during normal and high water levels.

12. WRDA Authorized Project Updates

- a. Deadman's Run: LPSNRD is waiting on the Corps to provide their preferred alternative coming out of the 205 study.
- b. Sand Creek: Lake Wanahoo is essentially complete with the final stages of recreation features, hunting access, and a dump station being completed.
- c. Fremont & Schuyler 205: In Fremont, the investigation phase has been pushed through to next summer. In Schuyler, the Shell Creek levy has been completed and the Platte River levy is in investigation.
- d. Western Sarpy Clear Creek: The Corps is in the process of awarding a small contract for cleanup in the Highway 6 area that should be finished yet this summer. Cleanup projects include fixing the fuse plug above the railroad and culvers that need to be modified.
- e. Lower Platte River Watershed Authority: A letter of intent has been submitted. The project is not yet initiated but hopefully will be within the next fiscal plan. We are in the process of finalizing in-kind accounting and cost share.

13. Next Meeting Date: The meeting date was set for Tuesday, November 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Papio-Missouri River NRD.

14. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment.

15. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.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