



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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Monthly Report for September 2013

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

River Obstruction Removal

A pre-bid on-site construction meeting was held with contractors on September 3rd. Eight construction companies were represented at the meeting. The Corps officially issued the 404 permit on September 4th. The bid opening was held at 3:30 p.m. on September 16th at Lower Platte South NRD. We received only two bids for the project and both were considerably higher than the engineer's estimate as well as the funds on hand. In light of those circumstances, we will not be rebidding the project this year but plan to next year. In the interim we will work with Olsson Associates, construction companies and the Corps and USFWS on design alternatives that may lower the project costs some. Additionally, a decision can be made to devote more local funds to the project as well. I will be making a request to the NET to extend our grant for 12 months in the hopes that they will not remove their funding which was anticipated to cover 40% of project costs. The LPRCA has entered into a revised agreement with Olsson Associates for the bidding process and potential redesign. This will be a considerable area of conversation at the next LPRCA Quarterly meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 29th at 9 a.m. at Papio-Missouri NRD.

Section 22 Recreation Planning Study

Work continued on both the survey and GIS portions of the recreation planning study during September. The draft survey document was submitted to Corps Headquarters and the OMB for approval. We hope to hear back soon and can get it into a web form to begin to distribute to individuals on the NGPC, LPRCA and NRD email lists. Additionally, we identified and began contacting city, county and organizational representatives throughout the Corridor regarding the planning study, their recreation resources and interest in developing more. It is a primary way to "ground truth" the GIS information we have from our Environmental Suitability Assessment and the NGPC Trail Viewer data set as well as a way to engage them in the project. We will continue contacting these individuals during October.

Cumulative Impact Study

The Corps is close to completing their draft of the final summary report of the Cumulative Impact Study. Additionally, USGS has received their internal reviews back and are working on incorporating any review comments into their report on the Sediment Budget Analysis. We had hoped to have both by the beginning of October but the Federal government shutdown has delayed the reports. USGS will be presenting the results of their study and the Corps will also discuss their summary report at the October LPRCA meeting providing the federal government is up and running again.

LPRCA Intern

Josh Price will be starting as the new intern for the LPRCA in early October. Josh is a junior at UNL majoring in Water Science. Josh has recently finished service in the US Air Force and will be going to UNL full time starting in January. I look forward to having Josh as part of the LPRCA.

Upcoming Events:

UNL Water Law Symposium: October 15-16, Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: October 29, 9 a.m. Papio-Missouri NRD

Rural Futures Institute Symposium: November 3-5, Lincoln