



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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Monthly Report for September 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Two Rivers Obstruction Removal

Pier 1 removal was completed Monday, September 21st with a surveyor and OA staff verifying the elevation. Pier 2 removal was completed Monday, September 28th. Pier 3 is planned to be removed on Monday, October 5th. LPRCA and OA staff plan to be on site for that completed removal. Only 2 segments of temporary bridge are left to be installed to reach just past pier 5. They are currently well over 2 weeks ahead of schedule despite some wet weather and higher than normal flows. Hawkins has told the LPRCA that believe they now have time to remove up to four more of the “buried” concrete and rebar piers--that are believed to be located extending from pier 5 to almost the mid-point of the river—and/or wooden piers interspersed amongst the concrete piers. The LPRCA contacted NGPC about additional funds that could be potentially used for a removal of more piers. NGPC has received preliminary approval to assist with funding of an additional pier. LPRCA will be required to provide our current 60% match on those funds per our existing RTP agreement. LPRCA has those funds available through “leftover” banked funds and additional budgeted funds in the FY2016 budget. Pier 6 was removed to a lower depth than the first 5 piers so it was not officially surveyed and with the relative high flows locating it has been difficult. However, Hawkins will be able to utilize equipment to attempt to locate it. If removing it is deemed to be too difficult there are wooden piers that were identified and originally included within the scope of the original project that will be removed. The project has remained ahead of schedule to this date. Anticipated completion of the removal of all five piers was originally December 23rd but Hawkins currently 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Substantial completion must occur by January 31, 2016 with final completion anticipated to be May 1, 2016. Pictures from September are included at the end of the report.

Water Leaders Academy Tour

I assisted the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy with a tour of a portion of the Lower Platte River on Thursday, September 17th. The tour was a part of their Omaha Session of this year’s academy class. The class members also toured MUD’s Platte West and other Papio-Missouri River projects. The airboat tour for the class started at Two Rivers and ended at Louisville. We appreciated the opportunity to show a diverse group some of the important resources, issues and work of the LPRCA.

Watershed Management Plan & Watershed Toolbox

We received comments back from the EPA on our Watershed Management plan that we had submitted in late 2014. The delay in response from EPA was largely due to staff reassignments and vacancies. I met with NDEQ staff to discuss the comments and how to address them within plan and our anticipated next steps. I am currently working with HDR on addressing the comments within the plan. We hope to have the plan revisions done in the near term so we can still stay on track for developing our supplemental implementation strategies for our priority watersheds.

Related to the plan and implementation, in September, I continued working with staff from LPSNRD, LPNNRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, UNL Extension and NDEQ on the development of a “watershed toolbox” to be used by NRDs, LPRCA, and other organizations/communities. The “toolbox” will assemble resources for educating youth on watersheds and water quality protection/improvement. Additionally, the toolbox will provide a set of resources for public meetings and communication to be used as part of watershed plan development and implementation. Resources will focus on both producer and a community/decision-maker needs. We are in varying stages of having some resources completed and anticipate work on the toolbox to continue into next spring. We have also recently been joined by staff from CPNRD and NPNRD to assist in identifying and developing resources. We anticipate including staff from the Nebraska Watershed Network in the development of the toolbox as well.

Upcoming Events:

NARD Annual Conference: September 27-29, Kearney.

Nebraska Water Center Faculty and Partner Retreat: October 7, 2015, Kearney

Groundwater Foundation National Conference: October 20-22, Lincoln

Rural Futures Institute Symposium: October 21-23, Lincoln

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: October 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Papio-Missouri River NRD office

NWRA/NSIA Join



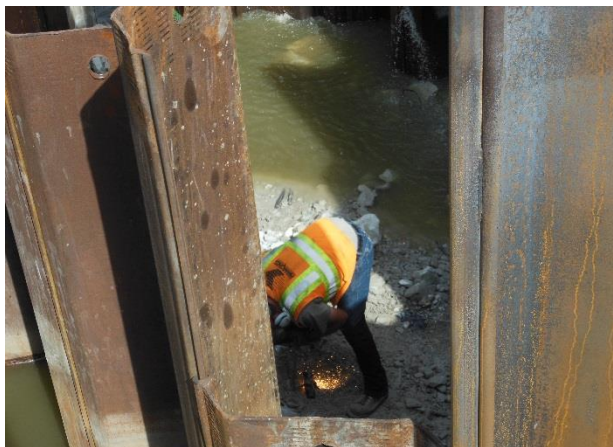
September 28, 2015 – Photo showing demolished Pier #2.



September 28, 2015 – Photo showing Pier #2 being surveyed for final elevation after demolition.



September 28, 2015 – Photo showing loose concrete being removed from within coffer dam #2 after survey.



September 28, 2015 – Photo showing steel reinforcement being cut off of Pier #2.



September 28, 2015 – Photo showing Pier #2 almost at completion, approximately 2 cubic yards of material was removed after this photo.



September 28, 2015 – Photo showing bridge section #8 in place.



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing bridge section #4 in place.



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing H pile being driven for finger #2.



September 1, 2015 – Photo showing pier #2.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing finger #2 in place and H pile being driven for finger #1.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing H pile being driven for finger #1.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing Cat excavator.



September 4, 2015 – Excavator is clean and appears to be in good repair.



September 4, 2015 – Excavator is clean and appears to be in good repair.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing flashing light on upstream side of finger #2.



September 4, 2015 – Photo showing flashing light and reflective tape on upstream side of bent row #2.



Debris from Pier 1



Debris from Pier 1