




## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** June 13, 2019  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** David Potter, Assistant General Manager   
**Subject:** Minutes for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Platte River Subcommittee meeting

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The Platte River Subcommittee met on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Lower Platte South NRD office. Directors present included Don Jacobson, Karen Amen, Gary Hellerich, Chelsea Johnson, Dan Steinkruger, Anthony Schutz, and Ray Stevens. Members absent were Sarah Wilson. Others present included Larry Ruth, Greg Osborn, Paul Zillig and David Potter. Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. The single agenda item included:

#### **Presentation and Consideration of Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance Water Quality Management Plan**

Potter briefly described the project history and purpose of the plan. The Plan process, components, and other information, including the executive summary (attached) and the following information, was provided to the subcommittee. The complete plan can be found on the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) website at [https://www.lowerplatte.org/what\\_we\\_do/current\\_projects/watershed\\_management\\_plan.html](https://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/current_projects/watershed_management_plan.html)

The Lower Platte River Corridor is generally defined as the 110 miles of the Lower Platte River, the bluffs, and adjoining public and private lands located within the floodplain of the Lower Platte River from Columbus to the mouth of the river near Plattsmouth. The LPRCA is currently a consortium of two Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) and six state agencies dedicated to working with people to protect the long-term vitality of the Lower Platte River Corridor. The Lower Platte River had been listed by NDEQ as being impaired due to the presence of *E. coli* bacteria, and in 2007 a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutant was approved.

The LPRCA developed the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) for the Lower Platte River to implement best management practices that address nitrogen, phosphorous and e-coli and additional water quality parameters. The WQMP identifies priority watersheds for the Lower Platte River. Management Initiatives identify the need within each of the priority watersheds: inventory current land treatments; identify best management practices (BMPs) and targeted load reductions to develop implementation plans (including implementation cost and schedule); initiate a cost-share program for upgrades to on-site wastewater systems and well decommissioning in housing areas along the Platte; and develop targeted education and outreach including educational workshops focused on on-site waste water systems.

LPSNRD on behalf of the LPRCA hired HDR to develop and complete the WQMP for the corridor. The original contract dates back to February 2013. The draft plan was finalized in October of 2014 and submitted for review. Based on needed

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NDEQ and EPA changes, a third amendment was needed and approved that addressed the methodology for identification of *E. coli* contributions and reductions, performed the calculations to determine the contributions and reduction potential, and reformulated the plans, goals and objectives, priorities, and the change in focus to *E. coli*, and also included document reorganization. One half of the cost of that amendment (Supplemental No. 3) was covered by a 319 grant and the other 50% was the responsibility of the LPRCA and billed equally to each of the three participating NRDs.

The revisions were made and the revised Plan was submitted to NDEQ and then to EPA for review in July 2018. During that review, EPA commented on the priority areas and indicated that additional information was needed. In that review, it was also noted that only the primary priority areas could be considered for Section 319 funded projects. Those listed as secondary would not be eligible. As a result, all three districts (LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and PMRNRD) participating in the LPRCA WQMP suggested some changes to the priority areas based more on what is implementable. With the requested changes to the priority areas and the needed information identified by EPA, HDR submitted another proposed agreement to make the changes and complete the WQMP. The plan would not have been accepted without the priority specifications completed and future 319 funds for projects in the corridor will not be possible without the plan. The LPRCA agreed by consensus to authorize LPSNRD approve the agreement for Supplement No. 4 and to utilize funds from the LPRCA Reserve to pay for the project completion, as specified in the agreement, without having to go back to the individual NRD's Board of Directors. LPSNRD, on behalf of the LPRCA, approved that agreement on November 14, 2018. The WQMP as amended was submitted to EPA at the end of March and was approved by EPA on April 9, 2019. With the plan approved by EPA, projects within the priority 1 areas of the plan within the corridor are now eligible for 319 funding. The WQMP was approved by the LPRCA by consensus at their May 13, 2019 biannual meeting.

Matt Pillard with HDR and Carla McCullough with NDEQ provided a presentation to the subcommittee on the WQMP. Pillard highlighted the planning process and data, described contaminant problems within the watersheds, and identified priority areas with potential projects and BMPs that can be completed. McCullough then walked through the project application and 319 grant funding process with NDEQ. The plan will need to be updated in five years. Questions were asked by the subcommittee members regarding data, modeling, process, and priority areas.

**It was moved by Amen, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance Water Quality Management Plan.**

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.

DP/dp

Encl: (1)