

Assistant Manager's Report

February 11, 2025

It's mid-February and the National Weather Service is forecasting the first significant snowfall of the winter for Holdrege. While a few surrounding areas have had slightly more moisture, there is no abundance of snow to be found anywhere! Hopefully the impending snowfall will be a beneficial addition to our soil moisture!

In late January, NARD hosted the Legislative Conference in Lincoln. The conference was well attended and provided for some interesting presentations and discussions. Perhaps the most beneficial presentation and discussion that I had came from our Tuesday afternoon break. The weather was so nice I was able to walk to the Capitol building from the hotel and present our Tri-Basin NRD Atlas to each of our three Senator's offices. Since hearings occurred during the afternoon, I wasn't able to directly speak with the senators, but perhaps more importantly I was able to speak with their office staff and make connections. Each office I stopped at was very appreciative of the atlas and excited to have it for reference. Senator Lonowski's aide even ran down the hall to catch me afterward and ask additional questions about some of the maps. I'll leave the conference report to John and Larry to say more, but overall, I enjoyed the event. Thanks to Sasha for organizing a nice Tuesday evening Republican River Basin banquet!

Wintertime is heavy with meetings and conferences. The South-Central Nebraska Water Conference was another interesting day of presentations. The keynote speaker, Joy Hayden, gave another interesting presentation about the Republican River Flood of 1935. She presented more than a decade ago at the same event, which was well attended that day as well. My draw to the geography profession came from my college advisor who taught "Natural Disasters" - a full semester course which discussed all worldly aspects of human & nature interacting with terrible consequences and results - and yes, drought was a large part of that class as well!

Last week I was able to attend the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar. The conference had a short hiatus as a result of Covid, but has been given new life in recent years. The great thing about this conference is landowners can attend, amongst the many agencies that also attend. The landowners provide a good/alternate perspective - sometimes perspectives that agencies overlook or don't consider. As always, it was an informative day for me!

Finally, I'll mention we are preparing for the PRD burn this spring. Most of the field staff attended 'burn school' in Elwood a few weeks ago - most of us have quite a few years of experience under our belts now, but we do have a few new staff that will be quite helpful in conducting a successful burn.

I'll have more to share during the work session on Wednesday morning. Until then I'll be enjoying what could be the only snowstorm of the season!