

Assistant Manager's Report

August 10, 2026

Many schools are starting this week. If not this week, likely early next week. With school back in session there will be new things to learn – like traffic patterns and how to avoid the congestion of drop-off and pick-up lines! One thing is for certain; the Tri-Basin NRD office won't be concerned about school traffic for at least several months this fall. Construction is well underway on 18th street, and most of the road is already gone! Directors picked a good month to go off-site and avoid the mess being made around the office! There has been a lot of noise from all the machinery over the past week, hopefully the weather allows for work to be completed quickly and get things back to normal.

Speaking of back to school, our interns finished up their summer with us last week. The crew we had this year was very productive and did a lot of good work for the NRD. I was able to spend several days with them as we did maintenance on wetland recharge equipment, prepared for the June managers' meeting, and installed real-time monitoring equipment for our observation wells. Their personalities meshed well and they made their work 'fun' despite some of the less glamorous aspects of NRD work. They all commented that they really enjoyed their time with the NRD and learned a lot of information over the summer. I wish them well with their future careers!

Last week I found myself enjoying I-80 road-construction season on multiple days. Tuesday I was in Ogallala attending the Water Advisory Committee meeting with Platte River Recovery & Implementation Program. Thursday John and I were in North Platte, along with Larry Reynolds, to attend the Upper Platte Basin Annual Meeting. Just for good measure, I took my family back to North Platte on Saturday for a family reunion! To summarize the Water Advisory Committee meeting, finding options to put water back in the Platte River is becoming 1) more difficult and 2) much more expensive! PRRIP is working on achieving a goal of 120,000 Acre-Feet returned to the river, but 110,000 Ac/Ft is about the extent of their progress, which has nearly exhausted all options. Not only is the last 10,000 Ac/Ft tough to find, but the options that are being found are very expensive – and when comparing 'bang for the buck' type projects, these seem to be overpriced for the small amount of water gained. PRRIP continues to explore options but admitted that they are approaching the bottom of the barrel.

Our board meeting this month will be at the UNK Regional Engagement Center, 2204 University Dr, at 10:30 a.m. I've included a map in the packet to help find your way. I was informed that there should be plenty of parking in the lot on the northwest side of the building and no parking permit is needed. The meeting will take place on the 2nd floor in the South Gala room. If you have any trouble finding your way you can call or text my work phone and I will help guide you. I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday morning!