

Assistant Manager's Report

November 10, 2025

My report will be rather quick this month, since we had a relatively late October board meeting and since that time I feel like all I've done is attend meetings.

I made it to the CNPPID Working Meeting on October 24. The focus was budget review, which is always challenging for any public entity. As you can imagine, there is a lot of infrastructure between Minden and North Platte to be maintained. It seems many of those infrastructure projects are finding their 'end of life' is near or past due, and CNPPID will need to decide if replacement or removal is appropriate for various bridges, check structures, and other canal infrastructure.

The Water Advisory Committee to Platte River Recovery & Implementation Program met. While nothing of great interest came of that meeting, directors may find interest in the Cottonwood Ranch augmentation project – which we shut down wells on October 31 to winterize. During 2025, there were 2,950 acre-feet pumped, which is the most that has been pumped in the four years of that project's existence. Fortunately, after a rough installation process, the augmentation project has worked rather well, with only small problems mixed in.

Last week, I attended the Manager's Meeting with John in Norfolk. While my participation in the meeting was more of a spectator role, it was helpful to hear how other NRD's are operating and get an update on issues around Nebraska.

This morning the Executive Committee and Planning Committee met. Several recommendations will be brought to the board for consideration – but one additional consideration will be to fill the vacant board position in sub-district #6. There are three candidates, who all seem very well qualified for the position. The Executive Committee will have quite the task in choosing a new director.

On Wednesday, John and I will travel to Davenport for our annual joint IMP meeting with DWEE and Little Blue NRD. I'll be interested to hear about their first year of allocations, both how they were handled and what, if any, response they might have seen with the groundwater levels.

We finished static water measurements last week. From early comparisons, it seems the timely rains throughout the summer were helpful in reducing pumping, the groundwater level seems to be comparable to last fall, with some areas seeing only slight decreases. I still have a lot of data to process, but I'm hopeful of improvements in our areas of concern.

Last week, Amanda Mackin rejoined TBNRD in a full-time capacity. She was an intern for us several summers ago and now is helping with data entry. Welcome back, Amanda!

I hope harvest was safe and successful for everyone. It seems to be wrapping up quickly with the weather changing! I look forward to seeing everyone November 19 at 1:30.