

October 14, 2025

Assistant Managers Report

Maybe it's just me, but it feels like this fall has been exceptionally pleasant. For the most part, I have not needed a jacket or even a long-sleeved shirt to start my day, and the daytime highs have been warm, but not hot. Pasture grasses are looking rich and healthy, and my lawn hasn't needed a sprinkler in months – despite my desire to stop mowing it.

I picked up a free tree from the Forest Service during the NARD Fall Conference held at the end of September. Most years I put the tree in a container bucket filled with loose soil from my garden, because the location I want to plant trees is dry and rock-hard topsoil. However, this year I was able to easily scoop the soil with my shovel and plant the tree with little effort. Soil moisture is certainly in good shape for most of our area!

The NARD Conference was another well attended event with several interesting speakers and topics. Jesse Bradley and Matt Manning from the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment attended and presented during the conference. Their presentation focused on DWEE structure and their function as a newly combined agency, as well as the Perkin's Canal project. The biggest takeaway for me, and I suspect a lot of other NRD personnel, was the DWEE seems to be operating smoothly and efficiently, which was a concern when the announcement was made of the agencies merging.

Jeff and Pat are off to a great start with fall static water measurements. As usual, fall static water measurements are lower than our spring measurements, however we are not seeing nearly as much decline as we have seen in recent years (generally). This is maybe not too surprising with the timely rains we experienced throughout the summer, and recently the drought monitor removed all drought from our immediate area.

The federal government shutdown continues. Our field office secretaries report to the NRD office during the shutdown, which has been helpful as we have some projects that we can use the help with. Where to put everybody is perhaps the biggest challenge. Since Carie Lynch's retirement I have taken over as the 'in office' IT person. I think I fell into that position by default – meaning I was Carie's helper when she needed one. Fortunately, Turner Technology has been helping me to get a few old computers up and running again so the field office secretaries have a work space and can help Tammy and Dana.

That's all I have for this month. Hopefully your harvest has been successful and safe! Don't forget we will hold the October board meeting at 7:30 on the 22nd.