Manager's Report

November 9, 2026

We are sliding into winter about as slowly as we possibly could. We have had a little frost, but no hard freeze yet. We might get cold enough for a freeze Thursday, but no great Arctic bast is forecast for the foreseeable future. We got enough rain in October to bring us ahead of average annual rainfall (see weather data in packet). All that rain has stretched out harvest this fall. Hopefully, most previously saturated fields can get cleaned up this week.

I'm pleased to report that I have hired Breanna Houdek as our new administrative secretary. She will start next Monday and participate in our next board meeting. Breanna is originally from Ravenna NE. Welcome, Breanna! We are currently advertising for the Water Program Specialist position, which is currently held by Carrie Putnam. Carrie will take over as Data Manager after Tammy leaves in mid-December.

The main item for the board agenda this month is our auditor's report. This is the first time that we've been audited by CORE CPAs from Hastings. It will be interesting to get their ideas to improve our financial accountability and transparency. CORE CPAs also do our payroll.

Dalton will give his report on IPA maintenance in 2026. In spite of recent rains, none of our IPAs have carried much water since 2019. It is important that we keep them clean and ready for the next "wet spell" which will surely come. Another IPA-related development is that we had enough money in the Sacramento IPA account to pay off the approximately $500 balance on their loan. No IPAs have outstanding loans to the District right now.

Last month, directors authorized me to seek a contractor to replace the armory roof A couple of you gave suggestions about additional contractors to ask for estimates. I contacted Springer Roofing in Kearney. I hope to have a bid from them in time for the board meeting.

The board deferred action on credit card bills until this month, since I forgot to include them in the packet last month. Both September and October credit card bills are in this month's packet for review.

I got an interesting email a couple weeks ago from Greg Nelson. Greg is from Loomis. His parents are Terry and Pat Nelson. Greg works for US Geological Survey maintaining their stream gages in the Platte and Republican River basins. His agency is offering him the opportunity to move back to this area if he can find office space. He needs an office and fenced parking, both of which we have at the Armory. I would like to make

space for Greg. I proposed a rental rate of $500 per month plus $100 a month for parking and shop access. I haven't heard back from USGS yet.

As I mentioned in last month's report, we are once again running our augmentation well for the benefit of Lower Republican NRD. Our current agreement runs through the end of the year. It will self-renew unless we send them a cancellation notice at least 30 days in advance. I think that it's a good agreement for both parties. We get $54 per acre-foot pumped, which is more than enough to cover pumping cost and overhead expense. I recommend that the board continue the agreement.

We need to schedule a Planning Committee meeting. I suggest that we meet after Thanksgiving. At this point my calendar is pretty open on November 30, December 4, 7 or 8.

Don Blankenau has made the big time! He is on the cover of this month's *Irrigation Leader* magazine (see article in packet). Unfortunately, this might result in a rate increase.

That's all that I can think of to mention this month. I look forward to seeing all of you next Wednesday at 1:30 PM.