

Assistant Manager's Report

September 8, 2026

It's Tuesday after the Labor Day holiday and I admit that my mind is still kayaking on the Middle Loup River in the Sandhills. Besides a couple of years when my kids were really small, much of my extended family has canoed or kayaked the Dismal River or Middle Loup River every Labor Day weekend since 1988. It's a prime example of water resources in Nebraska – and I'm sure my family is quite tired of me explaining things as we float along. Regardless, today was a busy day in itself – let alone catching you up on everything since our last meeting.

This morning I attended the CNPPID board meeting – along with several TBNRD directors and a group of folks from Keith County (Lake McConaughy). Last month, I offered to update the CNPPID board with a static water update from the NRD, which they accepted. Unfortunately, as the meeting drew near it became apparent that interest would not be that of static water, but of Lake Mac water levels and what CNPPID planned to do about it. Several members of the public spoke in front of the board and presented their concerns, which are excellent points to be made. As expected, the meeting did go on, for over three hours, which becomes a lot of information. CNPPID still allowed me time to present an abbreviated version of the static water report, and several folks did thank me for the information. I hope my short time allowed some thought to be given to TBNRD concerns. As far as the CNPPID meeting, the board agreed with staff recommendations to set a 'hard cap' at 18" of delivered water, with significant costs for using more than 12".

I spent a few days with John in Ogallala as we attended the manager's retreat during the last week in August. I have found manager meetings to be very interesting and informative – and an especially good way for me to understand the "what, why, and how" of other NRD operations. Additionally, I've been able to get a better grasp on what Tri-Basin is doing compared to others.

I also attended the Republican River Compact Administration meeting held in McCook at the end of August. While there wasn't any significant news to come from the meeting, I at least was given an introduction to proceedings and put a few faces with names. The 2027 RRCA meeting will be held in Holdrege next fall.

Looking ahead, September has quite a few activities – Husker Harvest Days, Little Blue IMP meeting in Minden, Conservation Day at Sacramento WMA, and NARD Fall Conference in Kearney. Fall will be here soon! We'll see you on the 16th for the board meeting!