

# NOVEMBER 2018

## Manager's Report

Mike has been working with a landowner in Thayer County on preparation of a conservation easement. A draft has been prepared for their review and comment, but there are still a number of questions about specific activities that may be permitted under the easement. When harvest is completed, the landowners plan to meet and finalize their desires so legal counsel can make final edits for the Board's review.

The contract for the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been signed. Along with the general plan, both NRDs plan to have some additional breach route modeling done for several watershed dams. The breach route modeling will show the prospects of flooding downstream of a dam in the event of a catastrophic failure, similar to what we've had done for the MARC Dam, Bruning Dam and Dam Site 40. Once the breach route modeling is completed, the respective county planning and zoning commissions will be requested to include those flood zones in building restriction areas to prevent the placement of homes or other structures downstream, which could increase the NRD liability.

We have fielded a number of questions from the public about the application of our new rules for groundwater management, future irrigation developments, and the opportunity to certify irrigated acres after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike also viewed two drainage problems that were reported to the office.

Mike met with RWBJV representative and a Holstein area farmer about participation in the Resources Conservation Program Partnership (RCPP). The effort is intended to provide an opportunity for a producer to make improvements on a center pivot to accommodate wetland protection and enhancement. The producer signed up but will not know until later next spring if accepted.

Progress continues to be made on the VIMP text. Mike met with DNR officials to discuss the surface water controls that DNR may implement and how. Some additions have been made to the document and the final draft is expected to be presented for the Board's consideration at the December Board meeting. The associated final stakeholders meeting has been set for November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Adams County Fairgrounds. This will be a joint meeting with the Tri-Basin NRD stakeholders to share information about current conditions and our goals and objectives in the IMP.

We have asked the "resident camper" at Prairie Lake to vacate the property and as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, it appears that the camper has moved on.

Mike has served on the NARD Stop-Loss and Benefit Committee for the past three years. With his pending retirement, the Blue NRDs will be selecting a representative for the committee. The selection will be made in caucus at the NRD Manager's meeting November 7<sup>th</sup>.

With the certification of irrigated acres deadline quickly approaching, and the loss of Angie one of our Database Specialists, two weeks ago, the District has found two ladies who will work temporary, part-time in the office to help provide support for the certification process, including scanning documents, creating files, and other needed tasks.

## Assistant Manager

Donnie has been busy getting operator training meetings setup where we will focus on rule changes, certification of acres, projects, cost share opportunities, and nitrates. Along with adding a couple speakers at each meeting to see what other farmers are doing with soil health and irrigation in the district that have been successful.

Also Donnie has scheduled Access and Excel training classes for some of our staff to attend to freshen up on computer programs and to create the views we will need with Beehive for querying, charting, and tables. In addition to that we will be going to training at Beehive also to understand how to create everything we need to make in our database.

Lastly Donnie is going to get some credited agronomists and inputs managers together to discuss our water quality rules and regulations to see what makes sense in the future of regulatory measures.

## Project Manager

Staff completed collecting fall water levels this month, just like harvest the weather slowed the work somewhat. A report and weighted average change per Geologic Area is found with the full agenda.

Also, the pumping test for Landon Heinrichs was done on the 23rd and 24th of October. Again, a report on the information collected is found with the agenda. The McCrometer Flow Connect remote read meter for the Heinrichs test was furnished by Seim Ag from Chapman. It was a meter they had on an irrigation system and has been in in the field for 3 years. The meter was gone through and put on the test stand by GPM Enterprises before we used it. The system they provided included a flow connect meter, pressure transducer, solar panel and cell service and would have cost \$2210. Just a McCrometer Connect system, an add-on to existing mechanical propeller meters



## Database Specialist

Month of October was busy thanks to the weather and the reminder postcards. We had 21 walk-ins and appointments and received close to 150 certified acre reports in. Leaving approximately 788 reports to be turned in. Alicia had a chance to visit with the NRCS secretaries and distribute the list according to county. The secretaries agreed to watch for these parties. The calls still come in daily for conformation of certification. Alicia is currently working on certification reports received in October. The numbers for the month are 58.7% completed and 37.1% not started

## Watershed Coordinator

Concrete for trails and fishing piers was poured at Crystal Lake. With all the rain this fall and the banks not seeded yet, there has been some issues with erosion on the shoreline. The contractor will be putting in a silt fence and cover crop. They will be coming back in the spring to re-grade and seed areas.



HAB Aquatic Solutions from Lincoln was also out to apply aluminum sulfate treatment this month. HAB Aquatics and its owner John Holz were recently highlighted in a National Geographic article talking about their work to combat algae blooms across the US. You can read the story by visiting the link <https://on.natgeo.com/2APC1fq>

We have a quote to consider at this board meeting for signage at Crystal Lake. One part of receiving the 319 funds for the project was to use it as an educational opportunity. The signage is covered completely by 319 Grant Funds (DEQ). The signs will be similar to the picture to the right and describes wetlands and how the Watershed Plan effects fisherman and recreation.



## Media & Communications

A great portion of Liz's time was spent working on getting the newsletter out in time for the elections. A total of 23,500 newsletters distributed on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Several phone calls have been made to the office with references about seeing certain rules or information within the newsletter.

October 26<sup>th</sup> three tire recycling events were held within the district at Geneva, Hebron & Clay Center. Preliminary reports show we were right at our grant threshold of 465 tons of tires. However, we will know more when we are invoiced directly from Champlain Tire.



Liz attended the quarterly I & E Meeting in Norfolk on October 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> that the Lower Elkhorn NRD hosted. The group toured Norfolk and learned about their plans to rehabilitate the downtown by utilizing the river-front. She also helped facilitate the NRCS secretaries meeting at the Dav- enport office on October 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss ongoing NRD deadlines, events & activities.

Liz has been working to update the website. She also boosted (paid to have the posts spread across specific demographics) two Facebook/Instagram posts: one for the scrap tire collection mentioned above and the other for certified acres. Both of these analytical reports are found at the end of the staff report for your review.

Liz continues to help utilize Beehive. She and Kayla are working entering buffer strip data into Beehive. She has created a few queries to access the buffer strip data more easily. Liz has also entered some of the SubArea Reports from last year into Beehive and designating tracts as demo fields according to submitted paperwork. Liz plans to attend training in Lincoln on Excel & Access as well as attend the Beehive training (to be scheduled yet).

She also would like to update director handbooks before new board members are sworn in and will be working with Dylan to update the cost-share information provided to the NRCS offices.

## Administrative Secretary

LARM is offering a "Lean on Larm Safety Grant" in the amount of \$500. Marie will be working with staff on gathering ideas of safety items that would be of use in the field, shop and office and submitting the application for approval of the grant to LARM.

Marie arranged a meeting with the Field Office Secretaries on October 31 at the NRD office. Items on the agenda were the review of cost share programs, tree program, certification of acres and Rules & Regulations. Good discussion was held and ideas were gathered on how to keep the communication open between the NRCS office and our office. Marie updated them on the health insurance and retirement programs along with numerous other topics of day-to-day activities. Mike gave a presentation on the Retirement Program that had a lot of useful information. It was also a good opportunity to get to know the new Secretaries that have been hired over the past few months.

We are beginning to gather information to apply for a bulk postage permit. With the distribution of the District Newsletter to all mailboxes this will be necessary to have. There are restrictions on what it can be used for but the hope is we will be able to incorporate into other mailings.

A retirement party for Mike has been scheduled for the afternoon of January 10. Mark your calendars, we would like to see you there.

### Upcoming Events

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> – VIMP Join Stakeholders Meeting - Hastings

Nov 22 – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Office Closed

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – January Newsletter Submission Deadline

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Operator Training – Fairbury

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Regular Board Meeting

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Operator Training - Deshler

Dec 20 – Operator Training - Hastings

Dec 24 – 25<sup>th</sup> – Office Closed

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Pumpage Report Deadline

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Office Closed

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Certified Acre Event Deadline

Jan 10 – Operator Training - Edgar

Jan 10 – Mike's Retirement Party

Jan 17 – Operator Training - Shickley

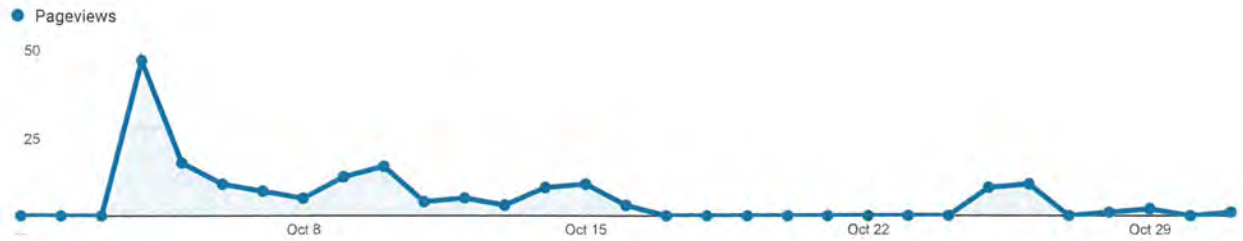
Pages

ALL » PAGE: /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/

Oct 1, 2018 - Oct 31, 2018

All Users  
5.00% Pageviews

Explorer



Page	Source	Pageviews	Time on Page
1. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	m.facebook.com	81 (18.63%)	02:04:27 (18.63%)
2. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	(direct)	37 (30.60%)	02:04:27 (30.60%)
3. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	facebook.com	17 (39.88%)	02:04:27 (39.88%)
4. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	google	17 (10.03%)	02:04:27 (10.03%)
5. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	l.facebook.com	3 (0.00%)	02:04:27 (0.00%)
6. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	instagram.com	2 (0.00%)	02:04:27 (0.00%)
7. /scrap-tire-collection-events-october-26/	bing	1 (0.86%)	02:04:27 (0.86%)

Rows 1 - 7 of 7

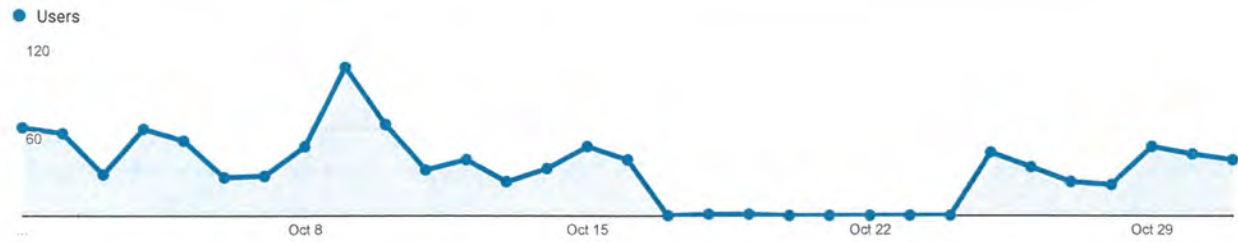
Channels

All Users  
100.00% Users

Oct 1, 2018 - Oct 31, 2018

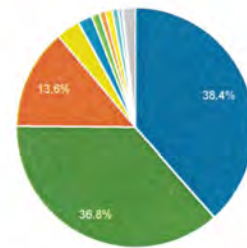
Explorer

Summary



Source	Users % of Total: 100.00% (819)	New Users % of Total: 100.00% (729)
1. google	324	38.41%
2. (direct)	319	36.76%
3. m.facebook.com	99	13.58%
4. facebook.com	27	3.29%
5. t.co	18	1.92%
6. lm.facebook.com	10	1.10%
7. yahoo	8	0.82%
8. bing	7	0.96%
9. l.facebook.com	7	0.82%
10. rvparkreviews.com	5	0.55%

Contribution to total: New Users



Rows 1 - 10 of 19