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November 12, 2024

Landowners, Member Hunters, and Managers,

I hope all of you had a good duck season opener. The wetland habitat within the District is fully flooded and the District anticipates that remaining water supply is adequate to maintain all flooded habitat through the end of the season with normal rainfall and the assistance of the clubs. Now that we have moved into a slower part of the season and there will be less hunters in the field it is very important that you continue to watch pond water levels and minimize the spill from your clubs. It is still too early to know what precipitation will be like this winter and therefore continuing to conserve water will ensure we can maintain fully flooded clubs through the end of the season.

It is important to set weir boards to retain all local rainfall. Double boarding and use of manure or other material to seal between boards, tarping weirs, and continued inspection of levees, gates and weirs is critical to ensuring we conserve all the water possible. In addition, clubs that are full or have gates set for maintenance flows should adjust them to eliminate spill. Monitoring weather conditions and forecasts, monitoring pond elevations and reporting any problems to the water tenders will assist in the conservation of critical water supplies and ultimately provide the largest habitat footprint for the greatest amount of time possible.

It is important that clubs that may normally drop water levels in their ponds to attract teal later in the season talk to their water tender prior to lowering pond water levels as there may not be adequate water to refill the ponds at the end of the season.

The District continues to fight to receive full water supply contract allocations from the federal government but until we do, we must work together to maximize the use of our limited water supply. We need your continued cooperation. We encourage those that have questions regarding the District's water supply and what the District is doing to improve it to attend the District Board of Directors monthly meetings. Please direct all club water related questions to either your water tender or me. I hope you have a safe and productive waterfowl season.

Respectfully,

Rob Kocher

Water Department Supervisor

Office 209-826-5188

Cell 209-704-5191

South Grassland Josh Landrum 209-704-5184

North Grassland Mike Boffa 209-704-5187