



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved water service agreements with several entities, subject to legal review, for projects to provide groundwater recharge in the area.

In the first agreement with the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, the approval during Central's monthly board meeting on Monday provides for Central to divert water from its Phelps and E-65 canals during the non-irrigation season to five Waterfowl Production Areas (Victor Lake WPA, Cottonwood WPA, Johnson WPA, Linder WPA and Funk Lagoon WPA) to assist TBNRD with achieving objectives related to its Integrated Water Resources Management Plan.

The diversions are collectively referred to as the Rainwater Basin Recharge Project. Compensation to Central for use of its facilities and diversions that bypass Central's hydroelectric facilities shall not exceed \$125,000 per year. The agreement will be in effect through the end of June, 2038.

In a related agreement among Central, TBNRD, the Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District, the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, TBNRD will provide part of the water deliveries approved in the prior agreement for wildlife habitat enhancement at the WPAs. The parties will meet annually to develop a water delivery plan to determine priorities in location, timing and amounts of delivery to each WPA.

The agreement also provides that TBNRD will invoice the Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture for 50 percent of the water delivery charges to the five WPAs.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a revision to the 2017 budget, adding \$36,282 for pipe and installation expenses associated with the recharge project at the Funk Lagoon WPA (part of the Rainwater Basin Recharge Project) which is scheduled to commence this fall.
- The board approved a real estate purchase agreement with the North Platte Opportunity Center to buy 182.25 acres adjacent to the District's North Platte Diversion Dam for \$446,512. Most of the property will be used now and in the future to stockpile material dredged from the dam's forebay and the Supply Canal.
- Dudley Nelson, board chairman, appointed fellow officers Dave Rowe, Martin Mueller and Robert Dahlgren to join him on a building committee to assess Central's facility needs for the future.
- The board authorized expenditure of up to \$100,000 for activities related to the permitting and construction of the Platte to Republican Diversion Project. The proposed project is a cooperative venture by Central, TBNRD and the Lower Republican NRD to transfer excess unallocated flows, when available, from the Platte River basin to the Republican River basin to aid the state's compliance with the Kansas-Nebraska Republican River Compact.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation is currently at elevation 3,252.4 feet (1.38 million acre-feet or 80 percent of capacity) and rising about four inches per week. He reported that releases from the reservoir will be managed to provide 1,000 cubic feet per second at the North Platte Diversion Dam to comply with license conditions for non-irrigation season flows in the Platte River.

Steinke also reported that Jeffrey Reservoir will begin rising to seasonal operating levels by the middle of this week following a maintenance project at the Jeffrey Hydroplant, sea wall work by Jeffrey Lake cabin-owners, and work to mechanically remove sediment from the lake.

- The real estate department will hold a stakeholder meeting to fulfill requirements of Central's Land and Shoreline Management Plan (LSMP) on Thurs., Nov. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington. The meeting, which is open to the public, will address LSMP issues related to Central's Supply Canal and associated lakes and reservoirs within its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission boundary.

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