The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

615 Lincoln St.  •  P.O. Box 740  •  Holdrege, NE 68949  •  (308) 995-8601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2014

Contact: Jeff Buetner
Public Relations Coordinator
Office: (308) 995-8601
Cell: (308) 991-3228
Email: jbuettner@cnppid.com

June board meeting:

• The board approved a water service agreement, subject to legal review, with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to divert excess natural flow from the South Platte River into Elwood Reservoir over the next several weeks for groundwater recharge purposes as part of integrated water resource planning. The agreement provides for a volume of water not to exceed 30,000 acre-feet. Excess water is expected to be available in the next few weeks because of high snowmelt runoff and precipitation in Colorado’s South Platte Basin.

• Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy continues to gain in elevation after apparently reaching its spring peak in early April. The reservoir’s elevation of March 25 was 3239.1 feet, the reservoir had reached elevation 3239.1 five months ago and then began to decline until unexpectedly high inflows caused a rebound in lake levels.

• Heavy snowfall and precipitation above Gering Reservoir in Wyoming occurred after the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation had moved water from its upper North Platte River Reservoir into the reservoir on March 25. Additional snowfall and precipitation during the past two weeks and a forecast for additional snowfall during the next week have prompted the National Weather Service to predict a increase in the reservoir’s elevation. The reservoir is expected to rise above 3240 feet, the normal elevation, in the next few weeks.

• Steinke also reported that Central and its consultants have met recently with road departments from Gossip and Phelps counties and with a representative from the Nebraska State Historical Preservation Office regarding plans to construct regulating reservoirs south of the Platte River. Meetings are also scheduled in the Brookings and Parks Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss wildlife habitat issues related to the planned reservoirs.

• Matt Williams of Gothenburg, a candidate for the District 36 seat in the Nebraska Legislature, attended the meeting and briefly spoke to the board members during the public input portion of the agenda.

• Steinke said his family has long been associated with irrigated agriculture in the Platte Valley (his grandfather, Harry L. Williams, was involved in the process to bring irrigation projects to the Platte Valley in the 1930s and was on the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District’s board of directors), and that sustainability of the area’s water supplies would be one of his priorities in the Legislature.

• “We need to find that level of sustainability, even given the competing interests for water, to ensure that we never find ourselves in a position of not having enough water to meet the needs,” Williams said.

• The board approved a $13,656 work order to purchase a solar pump and livestock water tank to replace a windmill and tank at the Jeffrey Island wildlife habitat area that were destroyed during a recent wind storm.

• Steinke said his family has long been associated with irrigated agriculture in the Platte Valley (his grandfather, Harry L. Williams, was involved in the process to bring irrigation projects to the Platte Valley in the 1930s and was on the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District’s board of directors), and that sustainability of the area’s water supplies would be one of his priorities in the Legislature.

• “We need to find that level of sustainability, even given the competing interests for water, to ensure that we never find ourselves in a position of not having enough water to meet the needs,” Williams said.

• The board approved a $13,656 work order to purchase a solar-powered pump and livestock water tank to replace a windmill and tank at the Jeffrey Island wildlife habitat area that were destroyed during a recent wind storm.

• Steinke said his family has long been associated with irrigated agriculture in the Platte Valley (his grandfather, Harry L. Williams, was involved in the process to bring irrigation projects to the Platte Valley in the 1930s and was on the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District’s board of directors), and that sustainability of the area’s water supplies would be one of his priorities in the Legislature.

• “We need to find that level of sustainability, even given the competing interests for water, to ensure that we never find ourselves in a position of not having enough water to meet the needs,” Williams said.

• The board approved a $13,656 work order to purchase a solar-powered pump and livestock water tank to replace a windmill and tank at the Jeffrey Island wildlife habitat area that were destroyed during a recent wind storm.

• The board approved a 21 water right transfer requests covering 758.7 acres served by the Phelps, E65, E67 canals and the Supply Canal.