Also at Monday’s meeting:
install the 42 inch pipe that will be used to deliver water in the future.
filling in some open canal and removing another structure before they prepare to
of last Tuesday, the flume was completely removed, and the crew was working on
bring in. These numbers show their report was correct.”
Ford also reported on the progress of the replacement of the Lost Creek Flume. As
of April 1 until September 30 we had over 22 inches of rain in our Holdrege
gauge,” Ford said. “This is the 12 th highest irrigation season rainfall total since we
started keeping records in 1957.
Also included in Ford’s report were water level readings taken from observation
wells throughout Central’s irrigated area. Ford referred to declining water levels,
with some significant declines especially in areas east of Holdrege. Ford indicated
this area would most likely continue to be an area of concern in the future.
“This report does match up with the findings we received from EA Engineering on
the water table study they did last spring,” Ford said. “With our customers using
more efficient irrigation methods, the demand for water is down. EA Engineering
told us what makes the difference in the water table is the amount of water we
bring in. These numbers show their report was correct.”
Ford also reported on the progress of the replacement of the Lost Creek Flume. As of
last Tuesday, the flume was completely removed, and the crew was working on
filling in some open canal and removing another structure before they prepare to
install the 42 inch pipe that will be used to deliver water in the future.
Also at Monday’s meeting:
• A bid was awarded to KEA Constructors, LLC, of Alhford, Neb., in the amount of
$522,965.40 for construction of a bridge on milepost 5.6 on the Supply Canal.
• Approval was received for Closure of Contract No. 0-655 with Diamond Plastics
Corporation. All 2,740 feet of 42” pipe was delivered, inspected and found to be
satisfactory, and final payment in the amount of $1,772.99 was approved to
close the contract.
• Amendments to the 2014 budget were approved, including an amendment to
approve $150,000 to be used for Central’s expenses as Southwest Power Pool
prepares to submit a filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The
board also voted to approve Central’s application, which is a standard
agreement provided by the Southwest Power Pool.
• Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain reported on the J-2 Regulation Reservoir
project, stating that Central staff should know by the end of the day (Monday,
October 6) confirmed dates and locations for the J-2 Project public hearings.
Once the dates are confirmed, notices will be made to the public via multiple
media outlets. Also regarding the J-2 Reservoirs project, Drain indicated that
Central would have the design engineering firm look at the feasibility of locating
the regulating reservoirs on the Jeffrey Island property.
**Following the meeting, hearing dates for the J-2 Project were confirmed
and are as follows:
- November 5, 2014 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Phelps Co. Ag Center in Holdrege
- November 6, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. at Lexington Holiday Inn Express
- November 6, 2014 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Elwood Civic Center

Civil Engineer Cory Steinke said that inflows to Lake McConaughy have been very
high due to environmental account water releases and rainfall events upstream.
Central staff is planning to request an extension from FBDC of a waiver of Lake
McConaughy release requirements for the upcoming non-irrigation season. The
extension allows more water to be saved in the reservoir instead of released
down the river while Central’s irrigation customers face another year of reduced
deliveries. Central’s staff consulted with and received support for the initial
waiver last fall from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nebraska Game and
Parks Commission, and NPPD, and it is hoped that there will be similar support
to extend the waiver for another year.
Steinke also reported that drawdowns will begin at Johnson Lake this Thursday,
October 9, in preparation for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Angler
Access project to begin. During the drawdown, Johnson Lake could see levels
down nine to ten feet below normal. Johnson Lake will remain low until the
completion of the project, which is expected to be mid-November. Jeffrey Lake
will also see a drawdown starting October 15 th and will remain at lower
than normal levels until October 23 rd to allow for shoreline work and maintenance.

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