

The



# Communicator

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## Lake McConaughy Sign Gets Fresh Coat of Paint



*Updated paint job — Keep Keith County Beautiful group retained funding from Central and repainted the concrete slab located on the north side of Kingsley Dam.*



*These photos show the condition of the slab before any work began (left) and during the patching and painting process (right).*

*By Holly Rahmann, Public Relations Assistant*

Central teamed up with the Keep Keith County Beautiful to restore the iconic “Leave only your Footprints please!” sign located on the shore of Lake McConaughy.

Central funded the project to repair and repaint the slab. The sign had not been touched-up since August 1989.

The concrete slab originally served as an unloading dock for a railroad spur used to deliver material and supplies to the site during construction of Kingsley Dam. The “heaviest billboard in Nebraska” welcomes guests to Lake McConaughy with a friendly reminder to keep the beaches free of trash and debris.

Keep Keith County Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., a national non-profit public information and community improvement organization.

## Water Supply Set for 2015 Irrigation Season

After Lake McConaughy reached its spring peak elevation in early April, a number of events occurred during the spring to significantly increase inflows and change the very nature of the water year.

First, heavy snowfall and precipitation above Glendo Reservoir in Wyoming occurred after the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation had moved water from its upper North Platte River reservoirs in

preparation for the irrigation season in the Nebraska Panhandle. The precipitation and runoff raised Glendo Reservoir’s storage level into the flood pool, which prompted releases down the North Platte River to Lake McConaughy before irrigation demand started. Snowpack runoff and precipitation in Colorado’s South Platte Basin had also raised flows in the South Platte River in Nebraska, enabling Central to

divert water from that river instead of making releases from Lake McConaughy.

In addition, timely rainfall occurred both in Central’s service area and west of Lake McConaughy, delaying the start of irrigation season and subsequently reducing irrigation demand during the summer. As a result, the reservoir declined only 6.9 feet from its spring peak,

*(Continued on p. 4)*

# Repairs Aimed at Reducing Future Maintenance



**Sand Blasting** — Employees Monte Gregg and Dave Pierce use a sand blasting machine to remove debris and prepare surface for AquaLastic application.

Employees from the Bertrand office have been taking advantage of the ideal fall weather and are using a new prod-

uct called AquaLastic to seal seams and cracks in concrete structures along the E65 canal system.

The crew sand blasts the concrete approximately six inches on either side of the crack being treated, so that the AquaLastic product better adheres to the surface. Following the blasting, the crew uses a machine to apply the liquid through a high pressure gun attached to the end of a hose.

The AquaLastic sealant is a fairly new product on the market. It provides a flexible, resilient, tough, monolithic



**AquaLastic Coating** — Dusty Way wears protective gear while applying AquaLastic coating to E65—13.4 structure.

membrane with good water and chemical resistance. The new produce promises to reduce future need for concrete repairs and maintenance.

## Conservation Director Studies Pivots in 2014

Conservation Director Marcia Trompke has had another busy summer working with Central customers on several projects

One project that was a major focus for Trompke — in conjunction with employees from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Tri-Basin NRD — was a series of pivot tests. Trompke initially learned from an area agronomist about potential water delivery issues with swing arm pivots.

The agronomist reported that the pivot applied less water to the crop between the swing arm and the pivot point as the swing arm extended, substantially affecting yield. After hearing the report, Central, working with NRCS and Tri-Basin, began offering evaluations of water application uniformity under swing-arm pivots this summer. Similar tests have been offered in the past on pivots without swing arms, which generally found good uniformity of water application..

During this summer's tests, evaluators first determined if the pivot was applying the intended amount of water as set

at the control panel. They also checked the variability of water application along the pivot lateral, from the third span to the end of the pivot, both when the swing arm was tucked and when it was extended. The water distribution uniformity test was then conducted according to the ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers) Standard S436.1 DEC01 to determine if problems existed with other swing arm pivots in the area, and if so, determined the potential cause or solution.

Because of the narrow window when wind conditions met test criteria and the lengthy process of setting up equipment, gathering data, and removing equipment, only two pivots were tested in 2014. The depth of water applied compared with the distance from the pivot point was graphed and the coefficient of uniformity calculated. The number of times the depth of applica-



**Pivot Testing** — Conservation Director Marcia Trompke studied pivot water application inconsistencies in swing arm pivots (as seen in photo above).

tion deviates from the average and the amount of deviation reduced the coefficient of uniformity. Following the tests, results were sent to the producers who can then work with the pivot dealer to correct any existing deficiencies.

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# On the Lakefront



The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began work on an angler access improvement project following the draw down of Johnson Lake on October 9th. The project area is be near the lake's inlet, where NGPC plans to add sidewalks, rock shoals and piers near the water's edge. The project is expected to last into mid-November. The lake level will return to normal winter operating levels following completion of the project

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Central staff reminds lake tenants to apply early for permits for docks/boat lifts, erosion control measures, construction on leased lots, home additions, and planting, trimming or removal of trees/vegetation. If you have plans to do any of the work listed, please contact Central staff and complete permits as early as possible.

## Lake Clean-Up Day Cancelled

A shoreline clean-up day that was previously scheduled for Nov. 8th has been CANCELLED due to Johnson Lake cabin owners making great efforts to do clean-up on shorelines. Central appreciates the efforts of cabin owners and commends each of them for taking pride in maintaining the lake shores.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to someone regarding Johnson Lake, please contact Land Administrator Jim Brown at (308) 995-8601 or [jbrown@cnpid.com](mailto:jbrown@cnpid.com).

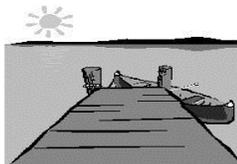
## Erosion Control Structure Updated Materials Info

### ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- Properly anchored trees, treetops, root wads, logs, and hay bales may be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
- The use of broken concrete for erosion control or bank stabilization will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If allowed, the broken concrete must be free of exposed rebar, wire, wire mesh, asphalt paving material, paint, and other erodible materials. Broken concrete must range in size from 6 to 36 inches unless otherwise justified by a qualified engineer.
- Rock riprap with a density of at least 140 pounds per cubic foot, angular shape, and no dimension greater than 3.5 times its minimum dimension.
- Formed or fabricated concrete, Fabriform, and Solid Concrete Blocks which are angular in shape and have no dimension greater than 3.5 times its minimum dimension.
- Plastic, PVC, and/or Fiberglass.
- Metal and plated metal.
- Plated nuts, bolts, nails, cables, straps, etc. used in seawall construction.
- Untreated lumber.
- Treated lumber and wood pilings (creosote, chromate copper arsenate (CCA) or alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ)) used more than one foot above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of the lake .

### ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK (OHWM)

Reservoir	Elevation ft msl
McConaughy	3,265.0'
Jeffrey	2,758.0'
Central Midway	2,629.6'
Glen Young	2,629.1'
Plum Creek	2,627.2'
Johnson	2,618.2'
Knapple	2,504.8'



### PROHIBITED / RESTRICTED MATERIALS

- Vehicle bodies, farm machinery and metal junk, including appliances and metal containers, are prohibited.
- The use of asphalt or asphalt coated material as a fill, bank stabilization, or erosion control is prohibited.
- The use of organic debris as fill material is prohibited.
- Any material subject to leaching when in an aquatic environment is prohibited, including but not limited to, chemically-treated material, roofing material, and wood debris.
- Individual or unanchored tires are prohibited.
- Slab material, regardless of source, must be broken before placement so that the maximum dimension of an individual piece of material is no more than 3.5 times its minimum dimension unless otherwise justified by a qualified engineer.
- All material must be free of exposed rebar, wire and wire mesh.
- Non-encapsulated, beaded polystyrene.
- Treated lumber and pilings (creosote, chromate copper arsenate (CCA) or alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ)) used less than one foot above the OHWM of the lake.

## Water Organizations Join Common Sense Nebraska

The Nebraska State Irrigation Association and the Nebraska Water Resources Association recently joined a coalition called Common Sense Nebraska in response to newly proposed rules affecting water resources.

Common Sense Nebraska is a Nebraska-based coalition consisting of organizations and entities that have come

together in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed changes to rules regulating "Waters of the U.S." The proposed changes would impact both rural and urban Nebraskans through expansion of EPA's powers and authorities under the federal Clean Water Act. The coalition's purpose is to build awareness and under-

standing of the EPA proposal and the impacts it would have on Nebraska.

Central is a member of NSIA and NWRA.

For more information, visit Common Sense Nebraska on Facebook or visit the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation's web page at [www.nefb.org/](http://www.nefb.org/)

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## Water Supply (continued from page 1)

ending irrigation season at elevation 3236.2 feet.

In September 2014, Central's board of directors approved a 2015 irrigation season allocation of 12 inches per acre, three inches more than in 2014. Although water supply conditions have improved, Central's board and staff opted to take a conservative approach to next summer's deliveries.

"Situations like this make it more difficult to forecast into next spring," Central's Civil Engineer Cory Steinke said.

"When numbers are all high or all low, it's a lot easier to predict. When we're looking good, but somewhere in the middle, like we are right now, it really depends on how things continue to go throughout the winter and early spring of 2015."

The long-range precipitation forecast from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center seems to confirm the uncertain situation. CPC graphs show equal chances of above or below normal precipitation throughout

the coming winter and into next spring.

Central is planning to request an extension of a waiver of non-irrigation season releases from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The extension allows more water to be stored in the reservoir during the off-season when deliveries are being allocated. Central 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 next year.

### J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Public Hearing Schedule

There will be three public hearings held for questions, comments and information regarding the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project this fall. The dates are:

- November 5th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Phelps Co. Ag Center in Holdrege, Neb.
- November 6th from 1-3 p.m. at the Lexington Holiday Inn Express in Lexington, Neb.
- November 6th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Elwood Community Center in Elwood, Neb.

<http://www.cnppid.com>

### On the Web

Central's web site has a new look, but it will continue to provide information about Central's project, operations, multiple benefits and current issues. New content will include blog entries written by various District personnel on a variety of topics. Check it out if you haven't done so already!