



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District board of directors approved a resolution at Tuesday's monthly board meeting that sets water allocations for the 2014 irrigation season. The decision was based on current drought conditions, stream-flow depletions, and low inflows into Lake McConaughy which have reduced the amount of water in storage at the reservoir.

The resolution states that water deliveries will be limited to 9 inches per acre over a 12-week or 8-week irrigation season (depending upon the customers' choice). Deliveries will begin on June 9 and end on Sept. 1. Irrigation customers normally can receive up to 18 inches per acre, although customers were allotted only 10 inches per acre during the 2013 season.

Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain also said that Central staff will seek a waiver from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that would allow lower minimum water diversion requirements during the non-irrigation season to enhance storage in Lake McConaughy.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

- General Manager Don Kraus announced that on Aug. 30 Central received notice to proceed with the pre-construction stage for construction of the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs. This includes permitting, design, engineering and land acquisition.
- The directors approved a variance request by Johnson Lake residents Brian and Dana Tonniges, whose house was destroyed by fire, to allow a variance of 6 feet of the normal 50 feet setback from the shoreline for reconstruction of the structure.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy is likely to decline one or two more feet during September until irrigation diversions by all irrigation canals end. Central closed the headgates of its irrigation canals on Sept. 2. Steinke reported that inflows to Lake McConaughy are currently in the 300 cubic feet per second range, or about 37 percent of normal for this time of year.
- Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd reported that residents and Central personnel removed large quantities of debris from the lake bed, including discarded tires and chunks of concrete, while the lake's water level was down.
- Directors approved an extension of an offer of net controlled conserved water to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Central originally offered the conserved water to the Program last March in accordance with terms in its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license. The deadline was extended from Sept. 4 to Dec. 31, 2013.
- Steve Carmel, observing program leader with the National Weather Service in North Platte, presented an award for 75 years of cooperation and participation in weather reporting at Kingsley Dam.
- The board approved a bid for the 2013 annual audit with BKD Accounting in the amount of \$20,000 per year, or \$61,857 for a 3-year agreement.
- The board approved an alternate meeting location for the Oct. 7, 2013 board meeting. Next month's meeting will be held at the Gothenburg office located at 4th and D streets in Gothenburg, at 9:00 a.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2013

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