



News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved a resolution at Monday's monthly meeting recognizing former State Senator Tom Carlson for his service to Nebraska and the 38th District over the past eight years.

Carlson served in the Legislature from 2007 to 2015, leaving office in January because of term limits. During his two terms in office, he served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee for four years and as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee for his final two years in office.

Among his other accomplishments, Carlson successfully led passage of bills that resulted in the removal of invasive riparian vegetation from the Republican and Platte River basins, the creation of the Water Sustainability Task Force, and the establishment of the Water Sustainability Fund. The water sustainability legislation takes major steps to address water quantity and water quality across the state, provides ongoing state funding for water projects and revamped the Natural Resources Commission to oversee allocation of the funds for water sustainability projects.

He stressed the importance of water sustainability in Nebraska by likening the state's water resources to a bank account, saying that Nebraska must take care in the future to avoid circumstances when "withdrawals regularly exceed deposits."

"The years in the Legislature were perhaps some of the most satisfying periods of my life," Carlson said. "It was truly an honor and a pleasure to serve the people of this district and the state in that capacity."

The board also presented Carlson with a plaque in recognition of his achievements while a member of the Legislature.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a request for \$25,000 from the Lake Improvement Fund for the hike/bike trail at Johnson Lake. The funds will be used for site preparation for the trail segment in the Merriweather Addition on the northwest side of the lake.

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- The directors approved an application for work submitted by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. The Program agreed to pay Central for the costs (estimated at \$6,000 each) to install three check structures on Program property near Overton and adjacent to the Platte River. The check structures function to divert water from a natural drain to create wetlands and improve wildlife habitat in the area.

- The board approved \$41,341 bid from Holdrege Well Service for replacement of a deep well in the E65 Canal area.

- The board accepted bids totaling \$71,117 from Black Motor Co., of Holdrege for two 1/2-ton pickups and a 3/4-ton pickup; \$26,283 from Janssen & Sons Ford of Holdrege for a 3/4-ton pickup; \$24,781 from Janssen Auto Group of North Platte for a 1/2-ton pickup; and \$37,104 from Lee Janssen Motor Co., of Holdrege for a one-ton pickup. The vehicles will be distributed between Central's offices in Holdrege, Bertrand and Gothenburg.

- The board approved a \$41,289 bid from Electrorep Energy Products of St. Louis, Mo., for battery banks to be installed in the Gothenburg Control Center's uninterruptable power supply system.

- The board accepted a \$114,952 bid from Van Diest Supply Co., of McCook for weed control chemicals.

- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy was at elevation 3,249.4 feet Monday morning, up about 7 inches over the past week. The reservoir contains about 1.3 million acre-feet, which is 75 percent of capacity. Inflows have been about 1,200 cubic feet per second, he said, which is near normal for this time of year, although the presence of ice in the North Platte River has made measurements difficult.

Steinke reported that mountain snowpack measurements are 74 percent of normal in the Upper Platte River Basin (above Wyoming's Pathfinder Reservoir), 77 percent in the lower basin, and 96 percent in the South Platte River Basin.

- The directors approved a motion to move the March 2 board meeting from the Holdrege board room to the Super 8 Motel to coincide with the Central District Water Users' annual meeting to be held at the motel in Holdrege.

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