The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District’s board of directors approved bids at Monday’s monthly meeting totaling $244,243 for vehicle purchases.

The board accepted bids submitted by Janssen Dodge Ram of Holdrege, Neb., for five half-ton regular cab pickups in the amount of $131,075; Gene Steffy Chrysler of Fremont, Neb., for one half-ton extended cab pickup in the amount of $27,376; Janssen & Sons Ford of Holdrege, Neb., for one 1-ton diesel regular cab and chassis in the amount of $36,363; and Pony Express Chevrolet in Gothenburg, Neb., for one 1+ ton diesel crew cab and chassis in the amount of $49,426.

Also approved was a bid in the amount of $116,565 to RDO Truck Center of Lexington, Neb., for a new 2017 Mack truck with a 2016 Henderson dump body.

The directors also awarded a bid for a new dredge for use at project lakes to SRS Crisafulli, Inc., of Glendive, Mont., for $480,750.

A bid in the amount of $111,620 was approved to Van Diest Supply Co. for weed-control chemicals.

Also at Monday’s meeting:

-- The board approved a special committee meeting of the board to be held in Lincoln, Neb., on March 1st and 2nd, 2016, at the Cornhusker Hotel.

-- Civil Engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy is currently at elevation 3255.1, which is about 84 percent of capacity. Inflows at Lewellen are around 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs), and the South Platte is flowing steady with 1,200-1,400 cfs flowing across the state line into Nebraska. Snowpack levels are around 98 percent of average in the Upper North Platte, 106 percent of average in the Lower North Platte, and 105 percent in the South Platte basins with more snow expected this week. Steinke said he believes there is a strong possibility of substantial precipitation above Lake McConaughy this winter and spring as a result of the El Nino weather system.

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