Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd told the board that the 8-inch dredge currently being leased by Central has been “okay and performed as expected,” but a larger dredge would enable Central to remove a greater volume of material in a shorter time.

Boyd displayed a table that compared dredge capabilities and said a different dredge would have several features that would make it a better investment for Central.

“Another dredge could be more versatile and better suited for use in other areas in Central’s system, including at the Diversion Dam, in the Supply Canal, irrigation canals, and at other lakes where sediment issues exist,” Boyd said.

Boyd said his recommendation was also based on having a dredge with a larger engine, greater cutting depth, a different propulsion system and a self-cleaning feature on the debris guard which, he said, would save down-time during dredging operations.

Central initiated dredging activities at Jeffrey Lake near Brady in early May on a project to improve the lake’s recreational, riparian and aquatic habitat aspects. Silt and sediment accumulations in the lake over the past 75 years had reached the point that dredging became necessary. The habitat aspects. Silt and sediment accumulations in the lake over the past 75 years had reached the point that dredging became necessary. The dredge now in use will be returned to the manufacturer by Aug. 12.

Also at Monday’s meeting:

- The board approved the use of Lake Improvement Funds as follows: 1) $26,000 toward the purchase and installation of three boat motors and a side-scan sonar system for the Keystone/Lemoyne Fire & Rescue Department. The department had requested financial assistance from Central to improve their safety and rescue abilities in the Lake McConaughy area; 2) $20,000 for a sewer connection to the Sanitary Improvement District for the Lakeside Country Club at Johnson Lake, contingent upon the club raising matching funds; 3) $5,000 toward the purchase and installation of playground equipment at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission’s Johnson Lake State Recreation Area. The recommendation came from the J Project and will suspend work on additional land acquisitions. The dredge now in use will be returned to the manufacturer by Aug. 12.

- The directors approved a one-year extension of a water leasing agreement with the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program). Terms of the agreement, under which Central’s irrigation customers may lease water from the Program, remain the same as they were for the 2016 irrigation season, but a 1,037 acres were enrolled. The water is credited to the Environmental Accountability in Lake McConaughy and used to enhance wildlife habitat along the Platte River.

- The directors approved a work order for $160,000 to replace the Jeffrey Hydropower transformer breaker and two sets of disconnect switches, protection relays and controls.

- The board was updated on action by the Governance Committee of the Platte River Program last week in Denver. The committee decided that, due to rising costs and delays associated with the proposed J-2 project, the project should be put on hold until further notice while alternative projects to reduce shortages to target flows in the Platte River are examined.

- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain said with the end of the first increment of the Platte River Program nearing, the Governance Committee members are discussing an extension of the Program and is focusing on studying other water projects which might be able to be completed sooner. For its part, Central will finalize studies related to the J-2 project and will suspend work on additional land acquisitions.

- Boyd approved a budget amendment that moved $50,000 from the Irrigation Division’s 2016 budget to cover anticipated surveying expenses in the Lake McConaughy area. The amendment also added $2,500 to the current budget for earthwork, bank protection and rock hauling in the Phelps Canal area.

- The board accepted a $14,900 bid from Darren Samuelson of Bertrand to haul riprap and fill dirt to the E65 and Phelps Canal areas.

- The board approved a $14,900 budget for the Environmental Protection Department for the Lakeside Country Club at Johnson Lake, Nebraska.

- The board approved a one

- The board approved a work order for $160,000 to replace the Jeffrey Hydropower transformer breaker and two sets of disconnect switches, protection relays and controls.

- The board was updated on action by the Governance Committee of the Platte River Program last week in Denver. The committee decided that, due to rising costs and delays associated with the proposed J-2 project, the project should be put on hold until further notice while alternative projects to reduce shortages to target flows in the Platte River are examined.

- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain said with the end of the first increment of the Platte River Program nearing, the Governance Committee members are discussing an extension of the Program and is focusing on studying other water projects which might be able to be completed sooner. For its part, Central will finalize studies related to the J-2 project and will suspend work on additional land acquisitions.

- Boyd approved a budget amendment that moved $50,000 from the Irrigation Division’s 2016 budget to cover anticipated surveying expenses in the Lake McConaughy area. The amendment also added $2,500 to the current budget for earthwork, bank protection and rock hauling in the Phelps Canal area.

- The board accepted a $14,900 bid from Darren Samuelson of Bertrand to haul riprap and fill dirt to the E65 and Phelps Canal areas.

- The board approved a $14,900 budget for the Environmental Protection Department for the Lakeside Country Club at Johnson Lake, Nebraska.

- The board approved a one