



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors elected officers and officially seated a new board member during Thursday's meeting, the first monthly meeting of 2017.

Dudley Nelson of Axtell was re-elected to his third two-year term as board president. Nelson has represented Kearney County on the board since 1998. The remaining officers were also re-elected to their respective positions: David Rowe of Johnson Lake, vice president; Robert Dahlgren of Bertrand, treasurer; and Marty Mueller of Ogallala, secretary.

New board member David G. Nelson of Minden was seated to represent Kearney County.

Also at Thursday's meeting:

- The board approved a \$486,000 work order for replacement of a bridge over the Supply Canal south of Maxwell. Simon Construction of North Platte will begin work on the bridge this month.
- Customer Service Supervisor Van Fastenau reported that 1,275 acres have been enrolled in Central's water leasing program for the 2017 irrigation season. Under the program, irrigation customers agree to not irrigate the acres next season in exchange for a \$220/acre payment from Central. Water that is leased will be credited to the Environmental Account in Lake McConaughy in October of 2017. Central will be reimbursed \$220 per enrolled acre by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, plus administrative costs.
- The directors approved replacement of a well in the E-65 service area that is periodically used to supplement diversions into the canal. Holdrege Well Service will replace the well, which was originally drilled in 1967. The cost of the project will be \$41,351.
- The board awarded a bid to Ellicott Dredge Technologies of New Richmond, Wisc., to lease a dredge and related equipment to Central with an option for Central to purchase the dredge. The approved bid was \$563,601. The dredge will be used at Jeffrey Reservoir next spring and, if it performs satisfactorily, may be purchased for use at other locations along Central's project.
- The board approved expenditures from Central's Lake Improvement Fund for three projects at Johnson Lake, including \$1,000 for purchase and placement of "wakeless boating" buoys in the Lakeview Acres bay; \$400 for installation of lighting on jetties near Mallard Beach, South Bay and Lakeview Acres; and \$40,000 to assist in constructing a portion of hike/bike trail in the Lakeview Acres area.
- The board accepted a \$612,251 bid from W.S. Bunch Co., of Omaha for surface preparation and application of Polibrid synthetic lining on the interior of three siphons on the E65 Canal.
- The board approved a staff recommendation to request bids for three-year agricultural leases for property near Johnson Lake and Gallagher Canyon Lake.
- Civil Engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation is holding steady near 3,255 feet. Inflows and outflows have been around 1,200 cubic feet per second. Early snowpack readings from the North Platte and South Platte basins are near average for this time of year, Steinke said, although it's much too early to draw conclusions about runoff from next spring's snowmelt.
- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain reminded the board members about the open house meeting scheduled for Jan. 23 at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington from 7 to 9 p.m. The open house is for Johnson Lake and Plum Creek Canyon Lake lot lessees to learn more about and comment on the proposed alternative lot leases at the lakes.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 5, 2017

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