



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The water supply outlook for the 2017 irrigation season is currently “pretty good,” according to a report during The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District’s board of directors on Monday.

Cory Steinke, civil engineer, informed the board that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is tentatively projecting a spill of about 150,000 acre-feet of water from North Platte River reservoirs in Wyoming this spring, based on current reservoir storage and projected snowmelt runoff.

“We will have space to store those inflows in Lake McConaughy,” Steinke said, “unless we see a significant change in weather conditions and inflows.”

Lake McConaughy is currently at elevation 3254.6 feet, down about a foot over the past few weeks as a result of releases from the Environmental Account (EA) in the reservoir for wildlife habitat purposes along the central Platte River. The EA is a block of water stored in Lake McConaughy and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The EA releases have been ongoing for the past few weeks to benefit migrating cranes and waterfowl along the central Platte River flyway. The releases are beginning to wind down and should end about mid-March.

Current inflows to Lake McConaughy have been in the 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) range, while outflows over the same period have been about 2,600 cfs, said Steinke.

Steinke reported that current snowpack measurements indicate that the upper Platte River Basin is at 124% of normal, the lower basin is 112% and the South Platte Basin is 130% of normal.

Those numbers can change dramatically, Steinke reminded the board, depending upon snowfall in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Wyoming between now and the end of May.

Also at Monday’s meeting:

- The board rescinded a bid award for two half-ton pickups from Gene Steffy Auto Group of Fremont after notice that the dealer would be unable to fulfill the terms of the bid. The board then awarded the bid to the next lowest bidder, Janssen Auto Group of North Platte, for \$48,580.
- The board approved a letter of understanding with Phelps County regarding a bridge replacement over the Phelps Canal north of Holdrege. The letter defines responsibilities for the county and the District for removal of the existing bridge and construction and maintenance of two 72-inch culverts to replace the bridge.
- The directors approved a purchase requisition for a new server, related equipment and software for the Holdrege administrative office from GovConnection, Inc., of Merrimack, N.H., for \$40,532.
- The board approved payment of \$60,395 to Ellicott Dredge Technologies of New Richmond, Wisc., for the first month’s rental of a dredge, pipe, flex hose and security deposit. The dredge will be delivered in late April or early May and begin operations at Jeffrey Lake.
- The board approved a Services Agreement with Johnson Lake Development, Inc. The agreement includes payment of \$51,462 by Central to JLDI to provide services including communications with lake tenants, sanitation disposal services, and operation of a landfill for yard waste.
- The board gave approval of an offer to an individual for a summer civil engineering intern position in the Gothenburg Division office.

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