



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved a revision to the 2017 budget at Monday's board meeting to allow installation of an irrigation pipeline northwest of Loomis.

The budget revision added \$72,000 for Central's portion of the project, which will also involve financial participation from two landowners. The pipeline, which is scheduled for installation next fall, will be about 1.2 miles long.

Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford said the pipeline will improve operations and maintenance of the irrigation delivery system in the E65 Canal service area.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a staff request to begin advertising water rights transfers for 2017. There are seven transfers applications covering 319 acres.
- The directors approved renewal of the air field lease on Central property at Johnson Lake for another year.
- The board approved the expenditure of \$3,561 from the Lake Improvement Fund for purchase of ice rescue equipment to be used by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.
- The board accepted a bid from Firefly Landscaping of Loomis for \$48,253 for mowing services at Johnson Lake and Plum Creek Lake.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy was holding steady near elevation 3,253.5 feet (about 12 feet below maximum capacity) with 1.4 million acre feet in storage. Inflows are within the normal range for this time of year, as are snowpack accumulations in the upper and lower North Platte basins and the South Platte basin.

Steinke said the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is currently projecting a spill (inflows in excess of the reservoirs' capacity to store the water) of about 300,000 acre-feet from its Wyoming reservoirs on the North Platte River. Should that spill materialize, he said, Lake McConaughy would have the capacity to store the water.

He added that some meteorologists are forecasting a wet spring and Central will closely monitor operations at Lake McConaughy to fit the weather conditions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2017

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