



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - As irrigation season approaches, Central's engineers expect to see increasing inflows into Lake McConaughy as Wyoming reservoirs begin to make room for storing snowmelt runoff in the coming months.

Civil Engineer Tyler Thulin reported at Monday's monthly board meeting (held by video conference) that Lake McConaughy is currently at elevation 3,255.8 feet above sea level or nearly 85 percent of capacity. Inflows are currently around 1,800 cubic feet per second, but are expected to increase to around 2,800 cfs by next week as Wyoming begins their planned releases from upstream reservoirs.

Thulin also reported that snowpack accumulation in the South Platte basin in Colorado is currently at 113 percent of average, and 111 to 124 percent of average in the North Platte basin. Snowpack conditions and anticipated runoff are factors in estimating how much water to store before irrigation season begins.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a new subleasing policy for homes/cabins at Johnson Lake. The policy allows Central staff to issue a one-year permit to leaseholders that allows subleasing, per neighbor approval. The permit will also incorporate strict rules and be subject to immediate termination at Central's discretion for policy violations.
- The board approved a work order for \$400,000 for a new concrete bridge to be built by Central employees on the Supply Canal just downstream of Jeffrey Hydroplant.
- The board approved advertisement of the 2020 irrigation water rights transfers.
- The board authorized staff to continue working with JLDI in developing a new site for the Johnson Lake yard waste dump site for the upcoming season.
- The board heard updates from staff on District planning in response to the Covid-19 situation to ensure continued reliable operations.
- Irrigation Operations Manager Dave Ford reported that water scheduling has been completed, and irrigation crews are finishing up installing road crossings and pipelines before canals begin filling for irrigation season on April 15.
- Electrical Projects Operations Manager Eric Hixson informed the board that hydroelectric generation in March set an all-time high for the month.

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