



## News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors authorized staff to submit an application for a grant from the state Water Sustainability Fund at the monthly meeting held Tuesday.

Funding would go towards the potential E65 Siphon replacement project at the Elwood Reservoir. The project addresses the issues of aging infrastructure and would limit the need to pump water into the reservoir. The new design includes approximately 5,500 feet of new canal and 5,800 feet of pipe to allow water to flow into the reservoir by gravity.

Completion of the project helps ensure uninterrupted delivery of water to the 42,000 irrigated acres along the E65 Canal system into the future.

The Water Sustainability Fund pays up to 60% of the total project costs; applications are due by the end of July. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission will announce grant winners by the end of the year. Design details are still being finalized, but the preliminary cost estimate for the project is between \$14 and \$17 million.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

- The directors awarded a bid to TenCate Geosynthetics Americas of Ada, Mich., in the amount of \$122,648.50 for an erosion protection project in the Mako Chi' Mni area at Lake McConaughy. The project entails placement of synthetic tubes that are filled with sand/sediment in place along the shoreline.
- The board approved a bid of \$66,250 from Contractor Services, Inc., of North Platte to handle the traffic control plan during the painting project at the Lake McConaughy Outlet Structures.
- The board expressed support for a Johnson Lake Playground project that is in the initial staging plan, subject to a legal review. Goal for completion of the playground project is 2022.
- Civil engineer Tyler Thulin reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation as of Tuesday morning was 3245.7 feet (69.9 percent capacity). Current inflows were about 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) with releases around 2,550 cfs. He added that outflows were down 1,025 cfs from two weeks ago after releases from the Environmental Account of water in the reservoir ended last week.
- Irrigation and Water Services Manager Scott Dicke reported that the Holdrege area has received 7.80 inches of rain since May 1, which is one inch below average. He added that releases from Elwood Reservoir could begin this week unless the area receives precipitation.

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