



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors were given updates on several projects taking place at Lake McConaughy during Monday's monthly board meeting.

Hydraulic Project Operations Manager Cory Steinke told the board that the shoreline protection project at Mako Ch' Mni began last week. The project is anticipated to take approximately 30 working days and is aimed at the protection from future erosion of the shoreline. Central workers are being trained by contractors on how to properly fill the GeoTubes with sandy material that is pumped into the tubes. Once the tubes are filled, material is placed between the tubes and cliff faces to create a base for supporting additional tube layers.

On April 11, crews will return to finish painting the "Morning Glory" spillway and the outlet tower near Kingsley Dam. Painting began last July and continued until the winter when they halted due to cold weather. It is expected that approximately two months remain to finish the project. Starting on April 13, one lane of Nebraska Highway 61 across Kingsley Dam will be closed for a short stretch near the work site.

In addition, the state is set to begin a Highway 61 road improvement project on May 1, starting on the northern side of the dam to allow the painting project to continue.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved staff recommendation to begin advertising the District's intention to transfer water rights on 588.7 acres served by the Phelps, E65, E67 and Supply canals.
- Irrigation and Water Services Manager Scott Dicke reported that the irrigation system has already begun to fill starting with the E65 canal and two pumps began running at Elwood Reservoir. Intentional groundwater recharge was conducted along the Phelps Canal last week, he added.
- The board approved terms for permitting hunting at the Jeffrey Habitat Area. For deer hunting, Central will advertise in May for a lottery drawing to be held in early June 2022 to select individuals for each of the five hunting areas for a three-year term with an annual lease fee of \$550 plus tax.
- Civil engineer Tyler Thulin reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation was at 3243.7 feet as of Monday morning (67.2% of capacity). Inflows have averaged 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) with releases of about 550 cfs. Current snowpack accumulation is at 89% median average in the North Platte River basin and 94% in the South Platte river basin. Thulin added that hydrocycling is taking place at Johnson No. 2 hydroplant through the end of April so lake levels may fluctuate around two feet.
- The board gave approval to increase the Johnson Lake Subleasing Permit to operate from \$200 to \$250 per year. They also approved new language of permitting procedures regarding boat lift covers to allow sides to extend down from the top of the permitted structure to protect the watercraft.

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