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The study's scope will include compilation of existing data; an estimate of the volume of water in the mound; an evaluation of the shape and movement of the mound; a determination of sub-areas within the mound; and development of an annual water balance.

"We have spent a lot of money over the years to improve the District's facilities and operations," said Director Robert Garrett of Minden. "We need to protect the economy of this area and the viability of our irrigators' water supply and I think that conducting this study is an important part of that effort."

Also at Monday's meeting:

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-- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that snowpack accumulation in the Upper North Platte River Basin is currently 79 percent of normal, 66 percent in the Lower North Platte Basin, and 73 percent in the South Platte Basin. Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3241.2 feet and a volume of 1,113,800 acre-feet (64 percent of capacity). Recent inflows have been about 1,000 cubic feet per second, or 86 percent of normal.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2013

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The study's scope will include compilation of existing data; an estimate of the volume of water in the mound; an evaluation of the shape and movement of the mound; a determination of sub-areas within the mound; and development of an annual water balance.

"We have spent a lot of money over the years to improve the District's facilities and operations," said Director Robert Garrett of Minden. "We need to protect the economy of this area and the viability of our irrigators' water supply and I think that conducting this study is an important part of that effort."

Also at Monday's meeting:

-- The board approved a change to the Combining Accounts Policy that eliminated the requirement that both accounts must be under the same tenant's name.

-- The directors approved the expenditure of \$200,000 to replace two 115-kV breakers for switchyards at Supply Canal hydroplants. The board also approved the purchase of remote station radios at a cost of \$64,800 in conjunction with the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system upgrade.

-- The board approved one -year water service transfers for 24,696 acres, part of Central's efforts to conserve water supplies in Lake McConaughy by allocating irrigation deliveries in 2013.

-- The board passed a budget amendment to provide an additional \$106,400 to cover the costs of repairing the bypass valve at Kingsley Hydroplant. Engineering Services Manager Eric Hixson reported that the additional expense was necessary because there was more wear and tear on the valve than originally expected. The bypass valve was originally designed to allow releases through the hydroplant when the plant was not generating power, but has been used for many years to add oxygen to the water in Lake Ogallala to meet water quality standards and benefit the trout fishery.

-- The board voted to move the location of the March 22 committee-of-the-board meeting to the Super 8 Motel in Holdrege. The committee meeting will begin at 9 a.m., and the Central District Water Users' (the irrigation customers' association) annual meeting will begin at 12 noon in the same conference room.

-- The board approved, subject to legal review, a proposal to offer water conserved as a result of a 1992 agreement with the Nebraska and National Wildlife Federations to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. The offer satisfies an article in Central's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license that requires Central to offer to the program a volume of water identified as "net controllable conserved water" that was achieved through efforts to reduce irrigation diversions into Central's system.

-- The board approved purchase of a sport utility vehicle and five pickups from Janssen and Sons Ford of Holdrege; and 2 sedans, four pickups, and a used passenger van from Platte Valley Auto of Lexington. The board also approved purchase of a 10- yd. dump truck from Nebraska Truck & Equipment in Lexington, and a used hydraulic excavator from Nebraska Machinery of Doniphan.

-- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that snowpack accumulation in the Upper North Platte River Basin is currently 79 percent of normal, 66 percent in the Lower North Platte Basin, and 73 percent in the South Platte Basin. Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3241.2 feet and a volume of 1,113,800 acre-feet (64 percent of capacity). Recent inflows have been about 1,000 cubic feet per second, or 86 percent of normal.

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