



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors gave approval at Monday's monthly board meeting for staff to begin advertising the 2013 water right transfers.

Central is seeking approval from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to transfer water rights for 838.3 acres within its irrigated area to a like number of acres in response to requests from customers. The acres contained within the transfer request are located on all three of Central's main irrigation canals -- Phelps, E65 and E67 -- and the Supply Canal.

Such transfers are common each year as irrigation customers adjust their on-farm irrigation operations.

Also at Monday's board meeting:

- The board approved a bid from Allen Blasting and Coating of New London, Iowa to apply a synthetic lining to additional sections of a siphon on the E65 Canal. The submitted bid was for \$604,796.
- The board gave approval for staff to make arrangements for the sale of two parcels of agricultural land totaling 1.82 acres on the north side of Johnson Lake.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that inflows to Lake McConaughy have been around 870 cubic feet per second in recent days, which is about 75 percent of normal for this time of year. The reservoir was at elevation 3242.6 feet on Monday morning with a volume of 1.14 million acre-feet (65.7 percent of capacity).

Steinke said that snowpack accumulation in the upper North Platte River basin is currently 79 percent of average, 67 percent in the lower North Platte basin, and 83 percent in the South Platte River basin.

He also reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, is planning to implement "short duration medium flows" in the Platte River using water released from the USFWS' environmental account (EA) of water in Lake McConaughy. The EA releases will take place from April 2 through April 16 resulting in peak flows near Overton of around 4,000 cubic feet per second. About 70,000 acre-feet of water are expected to be released from the EA.

The releases are intended to benefit threatened and endangered species -- specifically habitat for whooping cranes, least terns and piping plovers -- in the central Platte River area.

- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford reported that Central will begin pumping water into Elwood Reservoir this week in preparation for the coming irrigation season. Pumping should continue through May. Central plans to utilize the reservoir to supplement irrigation deliveries from the E65 Canal, but because of allocation of irrigation water this summer, the reservoir will not be filled completely.

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