



News Release

(GOTHENBURG, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors, meeting on Monday at the newly renovated and expanded building in Gothenburg, approved an amendment to a water service agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Tri-Basin Natural Resources District that will provide additional groundwater recharge from the recent South Platte River flood.

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The agreement provides for an additional 5,000 acre-feet of diversions into the E65 Canal and Elwood Reservoir for the purpose of groundwater recharge. The original agreement provided for 10,000 acre-feet of diversions from excess flows in the Platte River that resulted from South Platte River flooding. The continued availability of excess flow has made it possible to divert additional water into Central's system.

The water level at Elwood Reservoir had risen by almost nine feet by Monday as a result of diversion of the excess flows. In addition, other agreements with TBNRD, NDNR, the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have allowed Central to divert excess flows into the Phelps and E65 Canals for recharge and to benefit wildlife habitat at the Funk Wildlife Production Area and the Cottonwood WPA near Bertrand.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The directors discussed the policy and a timetable for filling a vacancy on the board. A vacancy will exist after Gosper County Director Dick Hove of Johnson Lake, who is moving to Lincoln, leaves the board. An ad hoc committee consisting of the three Gosper County directors will receive and review applications for the position, which are due by Oct. 16, interview candidates and make recommendations to the full board. The board will vote on the candidates at its Nov. 4 board meeting and a new director will be seated at the December board meeting. The new director will complete the remainder of Hove's term, which expires in January 2015.
- The board approved an easement from Dawson County, subject to legal review, for land near Johnson Lake over which a section of the hike/bike trail will pass.
- The directors approved a union contract with IBEW Local #2185 for the period Dec. 25, 2012 through Dec. 23, 2016.
- The board approved an agreement with Midway Right of Way Services, Inc., of Omaha to provide services related to the acquisition of land for the construction of two regulating reservoirs south of the Platte River between Overton and Lexington. The scope of the agreement includes services related to project management, public hearing and owner notices, acquisition negotiations and relocation assistance.

The board also approved an agreement with RJH Consultants, Inc., of Englewood, Colo., for professional services related to design of the regulating reservoirs project. Central's staff continues discussions with contractors for services related to permitting and project management.

- Anne Anderson, executive director of the Gothenburg Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the board members and staff to Gothenburg for the meeting and complimented Central on the improvements made to the shop and office buildings. Monday's meeting marked the first time that Central's board had held a board meeting in Gothenburg. Central's Gothenburg office also houses the control center, which monitors and controls water conveyance and hydroelectric generation throughout Central's hydro-irrigation system.

Following the meeting, board members were given a tour of the newly completed facilities by Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd and Electrical Superintendent Devin Brundage.

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