## >>> The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

415 Lincoln St. ♦ P.O. Box 740 ♦ Holdrege, NE 68949 ♦ (308) 995-8601



## **News Release**

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved the closure of a contract at Monday's monthly board meeting, authorizing final payment for the upgrade of the District's supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA).

Central contracted with Survalent Technology of Mississuaga, Ontario to provide the upgrade services. Central uses the SCADA system to control the hydroplants and substations, track and maintain water levels in the Supply Canal and irrigation canals, maintain lake levels and outflows from reservoirs, track hydropower generation, river flows, precipitation levels, and many other uses throughout Central's canal system.

The board's action authorizes payment of \$67,038 to complete the \$364,791 project.

Also at Monday's meeting:

• Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford reported that irrigation demand has been high over the past week and Monday is the beginning of the fifth of six irrigation runs for the season. With the additional one week of deliveries approved at a recent special board meeting, there remains five more weeks of irrigation deliveries.

Ford also said that the process of planning for next year's irrigation season will begin with an irrigation committee meeting later this month, which will include projections for next year's water supply and input from customers.

• Civil engineer Cory Steinke said that recent rainfall in Colorado's South Platte River Basin has allowed him to reduce releases from Lake McConaughy by about 600 cubic feet per second (cfs), as South Platte flows are used to replace releases of storage water from the reservoir. He said the reduction will be short-lived as the higher South Platte flows are not expected to last more than a couple days.

Lake McConaughy's elevation was at 3238.6 feet as of Monday, almost nine feet higher than last year's Aug. 4 elevation of 3229.7 feet. Storage volume was 60.6 percent of capacity, compared with 49.9 percent last Aug. 4. Inflows have been around 650 cfs over the past 10 days, which is near normal for this time of year.

• The board approved a request from the Johnson Lake Hike/Bike Trail Committee for \$55,000 that will cover grading and dirt work for approximately 1.9 miles of new trail at the lake. The board also approved a request for \$12,500 to re-paint and restore the large "Leave Only Your Footprints" sign at Lake McConaughy. The request was made by Keep Keith County Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., which is a national non-profit public information and community improvement organization. Money for both projects will be allocated from Central's lake improvement fund.

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Contact: Jeff Buettner
Public Relations Coordinator
Office: (308) 995-8601
Cell: (308) 991-3228

E-mail: jbuettner@cnppid.com