



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors formally accepted a grant at Monday's monthly board meeting from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) for a project on the E-67 canal.

The board of directors voted to enter into an agreement with NET to accept \$194,100 in grant funds for a telemetry project over a three-year period. Central applied for the grant last fall and will begin working with producers to install precision management software on accounts served by the E-67 canal system.

Conservation Director Marcia Trompke, who designed and will manage the project, said the project will collect irrigation water use data directly from flow meters and weather monitoring sensors that are crucial to irrigation management. The data will be delivered in near real-time to Central's offices and individual irrigation customers through digital means, which will help producers make sound irrigation management decisions.

Partners in the project include McCrometer, Inc. of Hemet, Calif., which will provide \$162,900 in equipment and technical support and UNL Cooperative Extension, which will provide up to \$15,000 in labor and educational support over the three-year term of the project. Central's contributions to the project will total \$48,640.

The E67 Canal serves 5,725 acres in an area southeast of Johnson Lake. Most of the open canals and laterals on the system were converted to buried pipeline several years ago, while the remaining open portion of the main canal is lined with a synthetic membrane lining to prevent seepage losses.

Also in Monday's meeting:

- Central's Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain updated the board on recent developments concerning the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs project. Drain said that staff will prepare a new system for sharing information with the board that tracks completed tasks and tasks in progress, and lists future major tasks for the J-2 project as a way to stay up to date with the project's status.
- The board approved a work order for replacement of a wooden bridge over the Supply Canal 4.7 miles downstream from the Diversion Dam with a concrete federal aid bridge in the amount of \$123,600.
- The board accepted a bid for a new motor grader from NMC Caterpillar in Doniphan, Neb. The bid for the 2015 Caterpillar - minus trade-in allowance and parts credit - totaled \$184,030.
- A purchase requisition was approved for MPE Equipment Services in Bayard, Iowa, to repair and extend the use of Central's D-9 dragline in the amount of \$48,800.
- The board authorized a project to place riprap along the E65 Canal and approved a bid from Jim Ostgren Construction Company in the amount of \$54,910.20.
- A bid for hauling riprap and fill dirt in the Holdrege and Bertrand areas was awarded to Darren Samuelson of Bertrand, Neb., in the amount of \$13,960.

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Contact: Jeff Buettner
Public Relations Coordinator
Office: (308) 995-8601
E-mail: jbuettner@cnppid.com