



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District will continue to use the remaining space in Lake McConaughy to reduce peak flows in the North Platte River below Kingsley Dam according to a report during Central's board meeting today.

Inflows to Lake McConaughy were 7,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) Monday, while releases were about 5,200 cfs. The reservoir's elevation was at 3,263.6, 1.4 feet below normal maximum elevation. At the current rate, the reservoir would reach capacity in about seven days, according to Central's Cory Steinke.

Lake McConaughy is currently catching the higher flows, he said, taking the peak off of flows that would otherwise be going down the river.

Steinke said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which assumes management of Glendo Reservoir in Wyoming from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation once the volume of water in the lake reaches the flood pool, is beginning to store additional water in the flood pool to reduce downstream impacts along the North Platte River.

Steinke said Glendo Reservoir's flood pool is currently about 20 percent full, leaving space to store additional inflows expected in the near future.

"Pathfinder Reservoir is currently spilling excess water over the dam's spillway," Steinke said, "and the snowmelt above Pathfinder and Seminoe Reservoir is beginning to accelerate, so there remains plenty of water yet to come downstream."

Steinke added that Central is working with local, state and federal agencies to address issues caused by high water in the Platte Basin. It appears that flows below Kingsley Dam have peaked, he said, unless there is a rapid change in the rate of snowmelt.

"The late spring rain and snowfall, as well as cooler than normal temperatures in the mountains, have combined to produce a really different year in terms of the timing of the snowmelt and conditions in the basin," Steinke said.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved two amendments to a contract with Mead & Hunt, the engineering firm conducting a study to determine the scope of a probably maximum flood (PMF) event at Kingsley Dam. The first amendment covers additional analysis of a previous draft report; the second amendment covers additional study of likely wind speed and direction and wave run-up calculations and the potential effect on Kingsley Dam.

The directors also approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$120,000 to cover the cost related to the PMF study amendments.
- The board approved a purchase requisition for \$49,411 for purchase of 54 water meters for customers' delivery turn-outs. Most of the meters are replacements for current meters that can no longer be maintained or repaired.
- The board approved an updated deer hunting policy on Jeffrey Island. Three-year leases will be awarded to lottery winners for the 2016, '17 and '18 hunting seasons. The leases pertain to five areas on the island at a rate of \$500/year. The application deadline for the lottery drawing is July 31, 2016. The drawing will be held on Aug. 1.
- Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd reported that dredging operations at Jeffrey Reservoir are going well. Crews are working for 12 hours a day, six days a week to remove accumulated silt and sediment from the lake. The operation has been underway for about a month, Boyd said, and plans are to continue the dredging into August. At that point, the project will be evaluated to measure progress and determine if additional dredging next year is warranted.
- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford reported that the first run of the irrigation season began today, although demand is low due to recent rainfall events.
- The board approved an extension of time to negotiate an agreement with Dawson Public Power District for the purchase of electricity generated at a low-head hydroelectric facility that would be constructed at the Johnson Lake inlet. The letter of intent was extended to Sept. 1.
- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain reported that Congressman Adrian Smith and his staff visited Lake McConaughy last week for a tour of the facilities and a briefing on Central's hydro-irrigation project.
- Public Relations Assistant Holly Rahmann reported that a few seats remain for next week's Water and Natural Resources Tour of the South Platte Basin. The tour, planned jointly by Central and the Nebraska Water Center, will depart from Denver on June 14. Anyone interested in attending should contact Rahmann at (308) 995-3560.

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