



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors accepted a bid at its monthly meeting Tuesday from Simon Contractors of North Platte for replacement of a bridge over the Supply Canal near Cottonwood Canyon Lake, which is southeast of North Platte.

The existing structure will be replaced with a 124-foot-long concrete slab bridge at a cost of \$448,902. According to Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd, construction could begin in January if weather permits. Otherwise, the bridge replacement project would begin next spring.

Once started, the construction is likely to take about 60 days.

The board also approved an agreement, subject to legal review, with Dawson County to replace a bridge over the Supply Canal southwest of Cozad. The bridge is eligible for federal-aid funds, for which the county has indicated that it would prepare the necessary application. The agreement also provides for the Nebraska Department of Roads to prepare the bid documents and award the contract for construction of the new bridge.

Central will agree to reimburse Dawson County for all costs related to the project which are billed to the county by the State of Nebraska. Central will continue to own and maintain the bridge after construction is completed.

If federal matching funds are unavailable, the contract will be terminated.

Also at Tuesday's board meeting:

- The directors approved two variances to permit construction projects at Jeffrey Lake.
- The board approved, subject to legal review and approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a modification to the Kelly Ranch conservation easement. Central has an agreement with The Nature Conservancy whereby TNC manages 500 acres of the ranch along the North Platte River near Sutherland for wildlife habitat purposes. The modification uses a metes-and-bounds property description, which utilizes physical features of the local geography, along with directions and distances, to define and describe the boundaries of a parcel of land.
- The board approved a new union agreement with IBEW Local #2185, subject to legal review.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation was 3,257.5 feet on Tuesday morning (1.52 million acre-feet). Inflows were running about 2,100 cubic feet per second recently, but are expected to decline to around 1,500 cfs over the next few weeks.
- Steinke said the goal is to gradually lower the lake to around elevation 3,255 feet over the next few months while monitoring snowfall accumulation upstream over the winter months.
- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford reported that average deliveries to irrigation customers during the 2016 season was 8.6 inches/acre. Improvements to the delivery system as well as on-farm efficiency – such as the proliferation of pivot installations – and conservation efforts have helped reduce the overall need for diversions of irrigation water.
- He added that precipitation during the six-month growing season in Central's delivery area varied widely, from about 14.7 inches in the Minden area to almost 24 inches in the Bertrand area.
- "Typically we see more rain in the eastern part of the District, but this year just the opposite was true," he said. "The eastern part of the District received less than normal amounts of rainfall, while the western area was well above normal. Rainfall in the Holdrege area was about average."

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