



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District board of directors voted at Monday's board meeting to enter into an agreement to purchase a parcel of land near Plum Creek Canyon Reservoir in Dawson County for \$1.65 million to address Supply Canal erosion issues. The board approved the purchase subject to legal review and agreement by the seller.

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The land purchase is part of an ongoing effort by Central to review its project boundaries and establish control of land necessary to satisfy requirements of its operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The tract of land tract consists primarily of dryland farm ground, which Central will lease, and the lease will be taxed by the county.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a land trade agreement for property near Central's diversion dam near North Platte. The District previously purchased adjoining property and, after acquiring the tract, found there to be a few small parcels near the supply canal that should also be under Central's ownership due to bank stabilization and canal access reasons. The adjacent landowner and Central negotiated a trade of approximately 2.5 acres, which was settled through the agreement and two quitclaim deeds.
- Civil Engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy has reached a new peak for the spring at elevation 3257.0 - just over 1.5 million acre-feet in storage and 86.6 percent of capacity. Steinke said inflows of approximately 1,150 cubic feet per second (cfs) were leveling off, but are still slightly higher than the lake's outflow of about 1,000 cfs. He also reported that flows in the South Platte River have been higher due to precipitation, which has recently allowed full diversions into the supply canal.
- Steinke also mentioned that he was recently notified that the flow attenuation plan for Johnson Lake would be in effect during the 2018 irrigation season. That will likely result in lower Johnson Lake levels this summer.

The flow attenuation plan was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to help attenuate (reduce) peak flows in the Platte River below the Overton measuring gauge during the least tern and piping plover nesting seasons.

The plan is designed to keep Platte River levels at lower levels, thus reducing the chances of flooding nests located on sandbars. It enables Central to respond to large rain events during the irrigation season and reduce the release of rejected irrigation water to the river.

Additional information about the plan is available on Central's Johnson Lake Operations page at www.cnppid.com.

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