



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The impact of frequent rain showers and better than average inflows into Lake McConaughy this summer are evident in the reservoir's storage levels.

Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported during The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's monthly board meeting on Monday that Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3254.5 feet (1.44 million acre-feet) and 83 percent of capacity. He said the lake has only dropped about two and a half feet from its peak in mid-June. The reservoir typically declines by 10 to 15 feet during irrigation season.

Steinke credits the timely rainfall in Central's irrigation service area and higher than normal inflows, which are currently around 1,200 cubic feet per second, for the relatively small decline in elevation this summer.

Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford said crops in the area appear to be maturing ahead of normal, but weather conditions between now and the end of irrigation season in early September will influence how much water is needed from Lake McConaughy over the next few weeks.

Also during Monday's meeting:

- The board approved a water service agreement for the Cottonwood Ranch pipeline diversion project, which will carry excess water - when available - from the Phelps Canal to a containment facility for groundwater recharge and stream flow depletions mitigation in the Platte River. The agreement will be forwarded to the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program for its consideration.
- The board awarded a bid for four backup diesel generators to Cummins Sales & Service of Omaha for \$291,125.60. The generators will be installed at Central's four hydroelectric plants.
- The board approved final payments on a 2018 Dodge 1500 pickup truck and a 2018 Dodge 2500 pickup truck, both from Platte Valley Auto in Lexington, in the amounts of \$23,999 and \$26,189 respectively.
- The board approved final payment on the purchase of a 2019 Kenworth T800 Day Cab Tractor from Sahling Kenworth, Inc., of Kearney for \$124,621.

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