



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors accepted a bid Monday from BSB Construction in Curtis, Neb., to complete the installation of the Cottonwood Ranch pipeline project. BSB Construction submitted the low bid for \$212,827.50 to complete the project. The pipeline project is a partnership between Central and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Project to allow Central to divert water to the Cottonwood Ranch, which will allow the Program to re-time water releases into the Platte River at critical times of the year.

The board also awarded a bid for the pipe to complete the Cottonwood project for \$670,187.59 to Diamond Plastics of Lincoln, Neb.

Also during Monday's meeting:

- The board awarded a bid to Norfolk Construction Co., of Norfolk, Neb., for construction of bridges over the Supply Canal near Snell Canyon (east of North Platte) and the Canaday Steam Plant (southeast of Lexington). The approved bid was in the amount of \$963,352.
- Civil Engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy is currently at elevation 3252.4 or 79.6 percent capacity. Inflows at Lewellen are around 1,200 cubic feet per second; as of Monday morning, outflows from Lake McConaughy are only 25 cubic feet per second for the rock weirs below Keystone Dam. Kingsley Hydroplant will be offline for approximately four days while crews perform inspections and testing, as well as work on maintenance projects before releases resume meeting Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requirements for flow downstream.
- Steinke also reported the completion of inspections of the inlet structures at Jeffrey Reservoir and Johnson Lake recently while the lakes have been at a low elevation. Johnson Lake should start to return to normal operating levels after dropping elevation to allow for shoreline inspections and repair work on the downstream hydroplants.
- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford provided an end of irrigation season report to the board. Deliveries to Central's 1,074 accounts averaged 4.68 inches per acre with only 39,856 acre feet of water delivered - an extremely low number that ranked 28th out of the past 30 years. While rainfall was not excessive during irrigation season, it was timely and effective, Ford said, which reduced the demand for irrigation deliveries.

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