

# The Communicator

Published by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

## Seepage Mitigation Project Completed at Elwood Reservoir

One of several major infrastructure projects that Central is investing in was recently completed when the \$6 million seepage mitigation project at Elwood Dam concluded.

Work began in September of 2023 to install a seepage mitigation system at the dam on Elwood Reservoir. The system covered the entire dam and near the Carl T. Curtis pump station.

BSB Construction of Curtis, Neb., was the contractor for the project with RJH Consultants doing the design work.

A new pipe was installed along the base of the dam for a controlled seepage system that will ensure the safety of the dam and long-term use of the reservoir.

On top of the new pipe, a weighted layer of soil and sand serves as a blanket to filter the seepage away from the reservoir and towards the toe drain. A channel was also cut to allow the water to flow away from the dam into a drainage pond.



*Construction crews complete the installation of the seepage mitigation system on north side of Elwood Dam*

With the completion of the seepage project, Central can safely return to operating Elwood Reservoir at higher elevations. It has a capacity of approximately 40,000 acre-feet.

Elwood Reservoir is the last place on Central's system that is utilized to manage and save water, and this project ensures that the reservoir will be safe and operational to make the best use of the water for years to come.

Elwood Dam, constructed in the 1970s, consists of a main earthen embankment dam, two earthen saddle dams, a pump station, an inlet-outlet canal and a conduit that is surrounded by an earth fill embankment. Central stores irrigation water and recharge water in Elwood and water is conveyed into and out of the reservoir through the inlet-outlet conduit and the E-65 canal.

Central has received two financial commitments from the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to help with the \$6 million project.



*Elwood Reservoir, located in Gosper County, has a capacity of approximately 40,000 acre-feet*

# Water Screen Installed on E67 Canal



The new water screen and conveyor system removes trash before entering the E67 Canal

This summer Central installed a traveling water screen and conveyor at the E67 Canal headgate. The screen removes debris from the canal, preventing the irrigation system from clogging while continuing to provide efficient and quality water service to our irrigation customers.

The E67 Canal, serving just over 5,700 acres, is comprised of 2.9 miles of lined canal and 17.7 miles of pipeline. Since installation in 2003, the canal has been 98% efficient with water savings of approximately 120,000-acre feet of water.



An overhead view of the new conveyor system at the inlet of the lined E67 Canal.

## CNPPID Annual Report

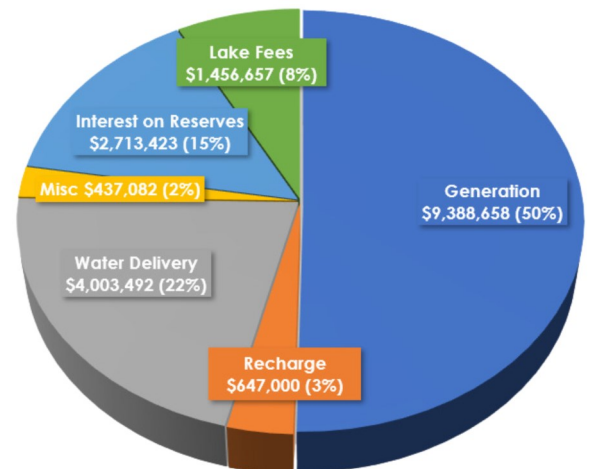
As we prepare the budget for the upcoming year, it is important to review the 2023 budget year for the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District.

A breakdown of expenses shows the District spent \$26,039,400 in the hydro division in 2023. Among the capital investments that make up 37% of the total was the purchase of land in Keith County near Lake McConaughy for \$5.1 million as part of the District's FERC boundary review project

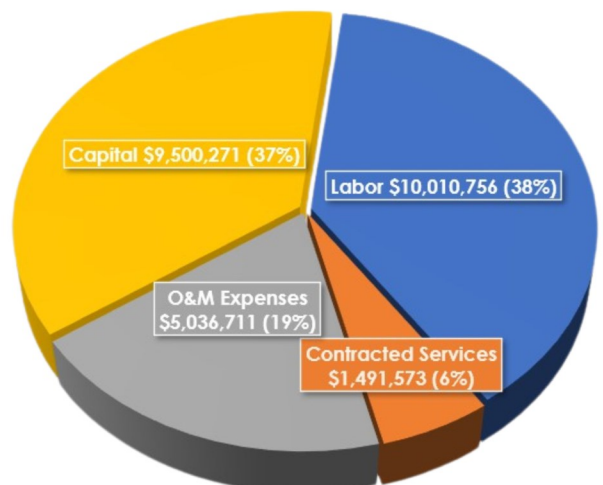
Central had \$18,970,000 in revenue during the 2023 budget year. The largest revenue producer was the sale of energy accounting for around 50% at \$9,388,700. Of note, 2023 was the final year of a 10-year contract to sell energy to Eversource. A new power contract began on Jan. 1, 2024 for the sale of power generated at the Johnson No. 1 and No. 2 hydroplants to the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.

While the sale of energy has varied based on water supply, the income from water delivery services and lake lot lease fees has remained steady over the past decade.

The board has a goal to provide sound financial management while preparing for major maintenance and improvement to the District's aging infrastructure. That is highlighted in Central's dedicated reserve funds totaling \$88,563,000. A little over \$1 million of the interest revenue came from funds held on behalf of Central's groundwater recharge partners with Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program.



2023 Revenue Breakdown



2023 Expense Breakdown

# On the Lakefront



## Electrical Dock Safety Tips

The land administration team at Central wants all lake residents and recreational users to remember these tips when it comes to electrical safety around docks and in the water.

**> All docks need continual inspections by their owners**

Water movement can cause wear on your dock’s electrical equipment. We recommend monthly ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) testing of electrical equipment.

**> Have both the dock and the power supply to the dock regularly inspected by a qualified electrician**

Electrical problems in or near your house and lines feeding the dock can cause life-threatening problems, even with docks that meet code and have been inspected.

**> Never swim around a dock where breakers or GFCIs are tripping**

Heed the warning signs! If in doubt, swim away from the dock and get out! If a breaker or GFCI trips, something is wrong and the dock should be considered unsafe until a qualified electrician inspects and fixes the problem.

**> Never attempt to energize or re-energize, engage a breaker or reset a GFCI while someone is swimming near the dock**

Get the dock inspected and fixed before using or swimming nearby.

**> Do not touch any part of the deck or adjacent docks if a tingle or shock is felt**

Swim or get away from the dock, cables and attachments. Exit the water away from the source of the shock. If possible, swim to the shoreline and exit there.

## Tree Trimming Restriction Dates

This reminder to lake residents that the migratory bird season concluded on August 15. That means that trees can be trimmed and removed on leased lots without a permit from the District until the end of March 2025.

Permits are still always required from the District outside of leased lots such as in the common areas. Vegetation removal and planting in the common areas requires a permit regardless of dates.

### The Communicator

*Published by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District  
415 Lincoln St., P.O. Box 740  
Holdrege, NE 68949-0740  
(308) 995-8601  
Editor: Alex Linden*

*The Communicator is published by CNPPID to inform its customers and interested parties of District activities and issues. © CNPPID, 2024*

Employee Name	Project subject matter	Contact Info
<b>Luke Ritz</b> (Senior Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land and shoreline management plan</li> <li>Permit rules and regulators</li> <li>Concession leases</li> <li>Agricultural/Residential lease questions</li> </ul>	Office: (308) 537-3582x4186 Cell: (308) 529-0009 lritz@cnppid.com
<b>DeAnna Ernstmeyer</b> (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dwelling &amp; associated construction permit</li> <li>Dredge, excavate, fill permits</li> <li>Residential lease questions &amp; transfers</li> <li>Pre-Construction/on-site meetings</li> <li>Vegetation removal/planting</li> </ul>	Office: (308) 995-3563 Cell: (308) 991-5565 dernstmeyer@cnppid.com
<b>Dustin Ehlers</b> (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoreline &amp; Water Access Facility Permit (SWAF)</li> <li>Dredge, excavate, fill permits</li> <li>Erosion control/shoreline protection permit</li> <li>Pre-Construction/on-site meetings</li> <li>Vegetation removal/planting</li> <li>Johnson Lake vacation rentals</li> </ul>	Office: (308) 537-3582x4184 Cell: (308) 991-9778 dehlers@cnppid.com

The Central Nebraska Public Power  
and Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 740  
Holdrege, NE 68949-0740  
  
Return Service Requested

---

Bulk Permit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 217  
Holdrege, NE

---

---

---

## Bridge Replacement Underway

Some bridges on busy country roads are being replaced throughout the District to help handle today's heavier equipment, converting old timber bridges to concrete steel.

Currently, a bridge located south of Cozad and west of Highway 21 is being replaced. The bridge crosses over the Supply Canal on Road 754 which will be closed throughout the winter. The bridge project is being contracted by the county and is partially funded with federal dollars with Central paying 20% of the total cost. For safety purposes, the bridge contractor installed a buoy line across the supply canal to ensure safety for any boat traffic during construction.

The Schilling Bridge project has been delayed until Spring 2025 due to underground utility work. This bridge is located west of the Johnson Lake inlet on the Dawson/Gosper County line on Road 750. Central crews will replace this bridge with an estimated cost of \$600,000.



*Crews busy working on a bridge located west of Highway 21 south of Cozad. The county road will be closed throughout the project that is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2025.*

## Kingsley Dam Refacing Project

A major upcoming project for Central is the refacing of Kingsley Dam. Throughout the whole process, the District wants to keep the public informed of what is happening.

Use the QR code below to find a webpage that will be updated with information about the Kingsley Dam project.

