

The Communicator

Published by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

Governor Signs Nebraska Hydropower Day Proclamation

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) along with Loup Power District (Loup) and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) welcomed Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen to Kingsley Dam/Lake McConaughy for a proclamation signing event to declare August 24th as Nebraska Hydropower Day.

At the signing ceremony overlooking Lake McConaughy, Governor Pillen spoke on the importance of hydropower production to the state of Nebraska. Hydropower remains one of the most cost-effective energy resources, helping to keep electricity rates low, drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans.

“Hydropower is a reliable source of low-cost energy and has supported communities for decades,” Pillen remarked. “We should not take it for granted. We need to appreciate it, find ways to celebrate its quiet success, and look for opportunities to build more across the state”

Within his proclamation, the Governor remarked that hydropower provides benefits far beyond electricity generation. Our dams and waterways, which form the backbone of the state’s water management systems, deliver the promise of sustainable irrigation, support power plant cooling, facilitate aquifer recharge and enhance recreational opportunities to strengthen rural communities and contribute to Nebraska’s ecological resilience.



Central General Manager Devin Brundage with Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen as he signed the proclamation for Nebraska Hydropower Day

Following Governor Pillen’s remarks, Marla Barnes, Vice President of Membership and Industry Engagement with the Nebraska Hydropower Association, thanked the Governor for the proclamation and proudly stated, “Hydropower is here and is here to stay!”

Also in attendance at the event was Nebraska State Senator Paul Strommen from District 47 representing the Lake McConaughy area. Staff from Nebraska’s federal delegation were in attendance as well as board members from Central and NPPD.

Central is the largest producer of hydropower in the state with its four hydroplants, however hydropower is not just about the turbines using water to make electricity. Hydropower is part of the infrastructure that allows Central to properly manage and use our water resources for many benefits in Nebraska.

Nebraska Hydropower Day was held in conjunction with National Hydropower Day that was also celebrated on August 24.



From L-R: Todd Duren (Loup), Governor Jim Pillen, Marla Barnes (NHA), Jeffrey Shafer (NPPD), Devin Brundage (Central)

New Dredge Enhances Operations at Supply Canal Diversion Dam



A new \$1.7 Million dredge was put into operation at the CNPPID Diversion Dam in late summer

One of the most crucial elements of the District's system received a much needed upgrade when a new dredge was purchased and put into operation late this summer at Central's Supply Canal Diversion Dam just southeast of the confluence between the North and South Platte River.

Central's board approved the purchase of a \$1.7 million dredge that was custom made by VMI, Inc., of Cushing, Oklahoma. It replaces the old dredge that had been in operation for over 50 years.

The new dredge provides the ability to reduce the cost of pumping sediment longer distance and is more efficient in removing the sediment. Central's dredging crews remove sand and sediment before water is diverted into Central's supply canal to eventually produce energy at downstream hydropower plants and irrigate farmland.

"Our new dredge is designed for exactly what we need," said Jeremy Hendricks, Central's Supply Canal Operations Supervisor. "This modernized our entire system from the dredge to the pumping and we've improved our entire operation. We are doubling the amount of material we are moving."

Central also reached an agreement with a Nebraska company to remove all the sediment that is stockpiled at the diversion dam. A new 30-year agreement was signed with GRIT Group who has found solutions to use the sediment as a marketable product for construction and recreational uses. They have agreed to pay royalties to Central for the sediment.

GRIT Group will also boost economic development in the North Platte area as they applied to be the first tenant of the Inland Port Authority Port of the Plains project in Lincoln County. Initial processing will be done near Central's sandpiles, then packaging and shipping will take place at Port of the Plains.



Drone footage of the new dredge in use at the Supply Canal dam that shows the sediment being removed

Lake Recreation Improvement Projects to be Completed this Fall



A new boat ramp was completed near Medo's Resort at Johnson Lake

Central committed significant effort recently to complete projects that will enhance recreational opportunities at our facilities. Central invested a sizable amount of funds to construct a new boat ramp near Medo's Resort in the Bull-head Point area at Johnson Lake. Working with a contractor, dirt work began by District employees the second week of September and construction was finalized the first week of October to get the new boat ramp open to the public.

This ramp will close out a very productive year of construction in the area. This past winter, new dikes and shore work was completed near Medo's. A new layer of rock was installed over the new dikes.

In addition to the ramp at Johnson Lake, a new boat ramp is also being constructed at Phillips Lake. A new road was built to provide better access to the recreation area for users and Central is working with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to complete the project.

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On the Lakefront



Electrical Safety Rules:

All docks need continual inspections by their owners.

Water movement can cause wear on the dock's electrical equipment. Monthly testing of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), electrical equipment and bonding wires is recommended. During the winter, wires and electrical outlets can deteriorate due to freezing and thawing. Electrical equipment that worked well the prior season should be inspected again before using the dock again.

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

Electrical problems in or near the house, and lines feeding the dock, can cause life-threatening issues, 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 reenergize, engage a breaker, or reset a GFCI while someone is swimming near the deck.

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

Do not touch any part of the dock 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.

Fleecs Joins Land Administration Team



A new member recently joined the Central Land Administration team. Nathan Fleecs was hired as a Land Administrator.

Fleecs will work out of the Holdrege office and becomes the fourth member of the current land team. Customers can expect to interact with Fleecs during his first year through various construction projects while he becomes familiar with all aspects of District permitting.

A native of Sutherland, Neb., Fleecs graduated from Sutherland H.S. Prior to joining the team at Central, he spent the past seven years serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg.

Contact Nathan: nfleecs@cnppid.com | 308-995-3559

Employee Name	Project subject matter	Contact Info
Luke Ritz (Senior Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Land and shoreline management planPermit rules and regulatorsConcession leasesAgricultural/Residential lease questions	Office: (308) 537-3582x4186 Cell: (308) 529-0009 lritz@cnppid.com
DeAnna Ernstmeyer (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dwelling & associated construction permitDredge, excavate, fill permitsResidential lease questions & transfersPre-Construction/on-site meetingsVegetation removal/planting	Office: (308) 995-3563 Cell: (308) 991-5565 dernstmeyer@cnppid.com
Dustin Ehlers (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shoreline & Water Access Facility Permit (SWAF)Dredge, excavate, fill permitsErosion control/shoreline protection permitPre-Construction/on-site meetingsVegetation removal/plantingJohnson Lake vacation rentals	Office: (308) 537-3582x4184 Cell: (308) 991-9778 dehlers@cnppid.com

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Colors of Water Tool Added to Central Website

Central is excited to unveil its newest tool now available on the District's website (www.cnppid.com). The Colors of Water tool was developed to provide a clear, visually intuitive representation of water flow within Central's system and other key downstream locations. Designed as a graphical feature on the website, it enhances transparency and helps the public and water management stakeholders understand how water moves through the system.

This tool integrates Central's own real-time information from stream and lake monitoring stations with data from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (NeDWEE) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The different "Colors of Water" points are visually represented in pie charts within the interactive map. The points show the outflow at Lake McConaughy, the Platte River at the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers and the flow of the Platte River near Overton.

Also included on the map are three irrigation areas which provide users a look at the daily and year-to-date diversions for all the different irrigation districts and canal systems that use water stored in Lake McConaughy. The Colors of Water tool can be viewed on the website under the "Data Reports" tab or directly at (cnppid-cow.vercel.app). It is also mobile-friendly allowing users to check flows when passing over points within the Platte Basin.

