



## News Release

### **Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust**

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Lincoln, NE – April 5, 2014 –Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District announced today that it will receive \$61,380.00 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Centralized Water Use Database for Irrigation Water Management in CNPPID” project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 2, 2015 in Lincoln. This is the first year of award with a potential for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year funding totaling \$65,460.00 and \$67,260.00 respectively. The project is one of the 113 projects receiving \$19,491,958 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year. Of these, 56 were new applications and 57 are carry-over projects.

This project has the goal of gathering irrigation water use and environmental data to support the irrigation water management, water conservation and water quality goals of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. This will require education and promotion of on-farm precision management practices of irrigation water with producers to sustain water availability and maintain or improve water quality. The project would collect irrigation water use data directly from irrigation flow meters and weather monitoring sensors crucial to irrigation management. Data will be collected using UHF radio technology and be delivered to the Central district offices and individual irrigators through digital means including e-mail, text messaging or cell phone applications which will help water users make sound irrigation management decisions. Irrigation management software will be used by cooperating producers to manage plant available soil moisture and match irrigation water application to crop water use (ETc). The project will partner with UNL Extension to deliver a portion of the educational component and the McCrometer Company for the technical expertise to train equipment installers and accomplish data collection. This project fits in the Trust Board funding categories of Surface and Groundwater and Habitat. It will foster best management practices; efficient and effective management of water use. As the demand for irrigation water is reduced; aquatic and shoreline habitat is enhanced at Lake McConaughy. Many native species inhabit the waters or shores of the lake and water conservation is beneficial to recovery efforts for the threatened piping plovers and endangered interior least terns nesting on the sand beaches.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$233 million in grants to over 1,700 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.

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