



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors accepted a recommendation from its power and recreation committee at Monday's monthly board meeting to further examine the issue of alcohol use at some of its lakes and reservoirs.

In response to confusion among visitors to Johnson Lake about rules concerning the consumption of alcohol at the lake, Central's board agreed to consider possible revisions to the regulations, including a lifting of the ban on alcohol consumption on the lake. Alcohol consumption is currently allowed in the campgrounds at Johnson Lake operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), but is prohibited on the water.

Central staff intends to hold discussions with NGPC representatives on the issue and a final decision will be delayed until after the public is allowed time to provide input. Any consideration of lifting the ban on alcohol consumption would affect only Johnson Lake and other lakes along the Supply Canal, including the Supply Canal itself, but would exclude Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala where alcohol use is currently prohibited.

Nebraska law prohibits the consumption of alcohol on any property owned by the state or a governmental subdivision unless authorized by the governing bodies having jurisdiction over such property.

Also at Monday's board meeting:

- The board approved a staff recommendation to allow vacation rental subleasing at Johnson Lake on a one- or two-year trial basis and on a case-by-case basis. Before approving subleasing agreements, Central will consider concerns expressed by neighboring cabin-owners and lake associations. A one-year amendment to an individual lease would be required, which would incorporate strict rules and regulations and be subject to immediate termination at staff's discretion if there are violations of the terms of the lease.
- The board awarded a bid to apply a synthetic lining product in two siphons on the E-65 Canal to the W.S. Bunch Co., of Omaha. The cost for mobilization, surface preparation, material and lining on a total of 1,253 linear feet of the siphons is \$497,370.
- The board approved two work orders, one for \$543,340 to replace the bridge over the Supply Canal 5.6 miles downstream from the Diversion Dam at North Platte; and the second for \$89,727 for a digital two-way radio base system at the Gothenburg Control Center.
- The directors approved the extension of the north boundary of lots at Lake McConaughy's K-3 cabin development and to authorize use of \$2,000 from the Lake Improvement Fund to purchase gravel for the relocated access road. Central will also provide surveying assistance for the project. Cabin-owners in the area have agreed to pay for the construction of the new access road.
- The board also approved a staff recommendation to create new "B" lots in Lake McConaughy's K-4 cabin area to accommodate new septic systems. Many systems on the leased lots are aging and beginning to fail, but the current lot sizes do not provide adequate space to create new drain fields.
- The directors approved the annual budget of \$48,153 in funding to Johnson Lake Development, Inc., the cabin-owners' association at the lake. Items in the budget include the cost of various services for cabin-owners, including communication services, provision of a yard waste landfill, and garbage disposal service. In addition, Central will continue to provide the cost of mowing the commons areas at the lake which will be \$15,890 in 2015.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy was at elevation 3,250.6 feet as of Monday, which represents a volume of 1.33 million acre-feet and 76.8% of capacity. Recent inflows have been about 1,000 cubic feet per second, he said, which is 85% of normal for this time of year. He reported that mountain snowpack measurements are 79 percent of normal in the Upper Platte River Basin (above Wyoming's Pathfinder Reservoir), 79 percent in the lower basin, and 108 percent in the South Platte River Basin.
- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain reported that the final report from an engineering firm that studied an alternative of relocating the proposed J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project to an island on the Platte River will be available on Central's web site (www.cnppid.com) in the near future.

The report by RJH Consultants of Englewood, Colo., concluded that such an alternative would entail a host of design complications that would more than double the cost of building the reservoirs at the currently proposed site and did not recommend Jeffrey Island as a viable alternative.

- Dennis Florom, P.E., manager of the energy and environmental operations power supply division at Lincoln Electric System gave a presentation about the function and operations of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). SPP is a regional transmission organization mandated to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale prices of electricity. Central recently became a part of SPP, which has members in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- Approved an application for work from Gosper County for Central to install ten timber pilings in preparation for work on the Johnson Lake inlet bridge.

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