



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved a letter of understanding at Monday's monthly board meeting with Gosper County in preparation for replacement of a timber bridge near the head gate of the E65 Canal above the Johnson Lake inlet.

The county intends to replace the bridge with a 14' x 14' concrete box culvert that will allow conveyance of higher flows in the canal that would facilitate operations and groundwater recharge efforts in the E65 Canal area. The county will also reestablish canal access roads affected by the culvert installation and future maintenance of the culvert.

Central will pay 20 percent of the project's cost (not to exceed \$65,000) and the board approved a budget amendment to add the necessary funds to the 2016 budget. In addition, Central will be responsible for future maintenance of the rock covered inlet and outlet transitions associated with Central's operation of the E65 Canal.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved work orders for the purchase of a tractor with side and rear mower attachments from Landmark Implement in Gothenburg for \$149,300. The equipment is for use along the Supply Canal.
- The board approved a request from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department for a contribution of \$744 to assist in the purchase of water/ice rescue equipment. The equipment consists of throwable flotation devices with lifelines that the department can use to effect water rescues.
- The directors accepted a \$42,100 bid for a one-year grazing permit with a four-year renewal option on 1,200 acres at Jeffrey Island.
- The board approved the annual Johnson Lake Development, Inc., service agreement in the amount of \$67,203. The agreement covers payment to JLDI for such services to cabin-owners communication services, provision of a yard waste landfill, garbage disposal service and mowing of the commons areas at the lake.
- The directors were briefed on progress of investigations for the proposed J-2 Regulating Reservoir. Staff discussed potential options for liners and/or curtain walls that could be implemented to control seepage from the reservoir. Engineers have identified the presence of a clay layer beneath the area that could be used in the seepage control design.
- The board also approved a surveying agreement with Dickinson Land Surveyors, Inc., of Ogallala for surveys of the K-1 cabin lots at Lake McConaughy in 2016. The survey will address boundary and lot line issues, create new secondary-use lots and resolve existing discrepancies in existing survey records.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy was at elevation 3,255.4 feet on Monday (volume of 1.46 million acre-feet, or 84 percent of operating capacity). Snowpack in the upper and lower North Platte River basins and the South Platte is near normal. Inflows to Lake McConaughy - which have recently been around 1,500 cubic feet per second - are also near normal for this time of year.
- Steinke also reported that a maintenance outage at the Johnson No. 2 Hydroplant will cause Johnson Lake's water level to rise less than a foot this week, after which it will return to lower levels. In addition, releases from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental account at Lake McConaughy, which have been occurring for the past few weeks, will end this week. The EA releases are intended to benefit habitat for threatened and endangered species along the central Platte River.

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Contact: Jeff Buettner  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Office: (308) 995-8601  
Cell: (308) 991-3228  
E-mail: [jbuettner@cnppid.com](mailto:jbuettner@cnppid.com)