News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) – With a planned outage of the Johnson No. 2 hydroplant scheduled for later this month, water levels at Johnson Lake will drop six feet below normal operation levels beginning Oct. 26.

Civil Engineer Tyler Thulin told the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Board of Directors at Monday's monthly meeting that normal elevations at Johnson Lake would return the second or third week in November.

Thulin also reported that Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3235.6 feet (56.9% capacity). Current inflows were about 750 feet per second and outflows are currently at zero with no water being let through Kingsley Hydroplant due to a maintenance project that started last week. Outflows will remain at zero until the project is completed which is expected to be around Oct. 26.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The directors gave approval of the Johnson Lake Development, Inc., services agreement in the amount of $54,026. The agreement provides funds to JLDI to cover such services as garbage pickup, communications expenses and a yard waste disposal site.

- Director's approved a total contribution of $40,000 to the East Shore playground at Johnson Lake. Contributions include in-kind work related to road relocation, excavation and preparation of the area for the structures.

- Use of $300 of Lake Improvement Funds to help purchase life jackets for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's life jacket loaner Program at Lake McConaughy was given approval by the board.

- Government and Public Relations Manager Jeff Buettner updated the board on the recent legislative redistricting process that was completed last week at the State Capitol.

- Irrigation and Water Services manager Scott Dicke said crews are beginning maintenance projects on the system including tree removal on the E65 Canal and concrete work on the Phelps Canal structures.

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