



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved revisions at Monday's monthly meeting to land and shoreline permitting procedures pertaining to Central-owned land at District lakes and adjacent to canals.

Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain explained that the revisions were general in nature and replace more detailed language to allow greater flexibility during the permitting process. The permitting procedures retain tenants' ability to request variances to rules on a case-by-case basis during the permitting process.

These permitting procedures are related to construction and shoreline and water access at or adjacent to Central's facilities and are only for non-Project, non-public uses by tenants and adjacent landowners. Construction and access for utilities, commercial or public use facilities, etc., are permitted in conformance with Central's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license, the Land and Shoreline Management Plan, and all other applicable rules and regulations, but are not subject to these particular permitting procedures.

The revisions go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

Also at Monday's board meeting:

- The board approved an amendment to the Water Service Agreement with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for the J-2 Regulating Reservoir. In effect, the amendment places the project on hold while the Program and the State of Nebraska consider other water supply projects.
- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford reported that delays have occurred during the project to replace the bridge on Johnson Lake Drive over the E65 Canal just south of the head gate. The contractor is replacing the bridge with a 14-foot box culvert, a project that was to be completed by Nov. 15. However, the project is approximately two weeks behind schedule, which will likely delay Central's plans to divert flows for groundwater recharge in the E65 Canal area.
- Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd reported that a project to replace the decking and some stringers and remove the small pedestrian walkway on the outlet bridge at Johnson Lake is progressing, but may take six to eight weeks to complete. The detour was originally to route traffic west around Johnson Lake, but the delay in completing the box culvert installation on the E65 Canal has necessitated use of the Supply Canal access road near the outlet bridge.
- Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Lake McConaughy's elevation was 3,257.8 feet on Monday morning (1.52 million acre-feet). Inflows were running about 1,400 cubic feet per second recently, which are near normal for this time of year.

Steinke said the goal is to gradually lower the lake to around elevation 3,255.0 feet over the next few months while monitoring snowfall accumulation upstream over the winter months. Inflow and elevation conditions will then be re-evaluated as spring approaches.

- Natural Resources Manager Mike Drain reported that the Governance Committee of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program approved a summary document at last week's meetings in Denver for tasks and objectives that could be included in discussions over an extension of the Program for a second 13-year increment. He added that discussions about a potential budget for a second increment will be part of a future Governance Committee meeting.
- The directors approved an application from a customer for removal of a small timber bridge over an irrigation lateral north of Bertrand.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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