

The Communicator

Published by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

Funk Lagoon gets new access to water from Central

Central's irrigation crew devoted a considerable amount of time this winter on maintenance and construction projects. One of the larger projects was the construction of a new water delivery point at the Funk Lagoon Waterfowl Protection Area.

Central was engaged in multiple projects in the Rainwater Basin in which Central cooperated with Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited and the State of Nebraska to negotiate water service



Irrigation employees from the Holdrege office use heavy equipment to install a new pipeline providing a new water delivery point to the Funk Lagoon.

agreements and construction details for projects that will enable Central to divert water from the Platte River in times when there are excess flows to fill wetlands in Phelps and Gosper counties.

Big Mac in good shape entering irrigation season

Irrigation season is quickly approaching and customers will receive a full irrigation supply this summer. Lake McConaughy's water level as May began was at about elevation 3,255.5 feet — about 10 feet below maximum level — with a storage volume of about 84 percent of capacity.

Central's Civil Engineer Cory Steinke said that although storage conditions at Lake McConaughy and in upstream reservoirs on the North Platte

River in Wyoming are in good shape for the 2018 irrigation season, snow pack runoff from the Rocky Mountains has been below average and does not look promising for the near future.

Steinke also expressed concerns with the current drought conditions in the southern Great Plains, which seems to be creeping its way northward. Steinke said the reservoir will be managed as always during the spring and

The Funk Lagoon project was the first of five planned water delivery points to be constructed. Central's crews installed a 2,800-ft. pipeline that will deliver water from a canal to a new turnout on the south end of the lagoon. They also constructed a new turnout structure with a cement culvert.

Construction on other WPA delivery points in Phelps and Gosper counties will continue as early as late summer through the fall, depending on access to the wetland areas and surrounding field conditions.

summer to optimize current and future water supplies for Central and its customers.

Approximately 52,000 acre-feet of water were released this spring from the Environmental Account in Lake McConaughy. The account, managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is used to supplement Platte River flows during the spring whooping crane migration. EA releases have ended for the spring.

2018 Water and Natural Resources Summer Tour

The North Platte River in Wyoming and western Nebraska will be the topic of discussion for the 2018 Water & Natural Resources tour on June 26-29.

The tour starts at the West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte with sessions on water quality and quantity before departing for a stop at the South Platte Natural Resource District in Sidney. The group will then travel into Wyoming for a stop at the Wyoming Water Development Commission in Cheyenne before spending the night in Laramie.

June 27 begins with a visit to the Sinclair Oil Refinery near Sinclair, before taking the scenic route to Seminole Reservoir and Pathfinder Dam. The day will conclude with a tour of the Fremont Canyon Hydroplant and an overnight stay in Evansville.

Day three includes stops at the Bureau of Reclamation office and con-

trol center, the Casper Public Water Facility, Glendo Reservoir, and the Whalen Diversion Dam before crossing into Nebraska for a presentation from the North Platte NRD and an overnight stay in Scottsbluff.

The last day includes stops at Nine-Mile Creek for a discussion of return flows to the North Platte River, followed by a visit to the Chimney Rock National Historic Site. Administration of water by the Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources will be the topic during lunch in Bridgeport, followed by travel to Central's Kingsley Dam for a tour of the outlet structures. The tour ends in North Platte.



Downstream of Pathfinder Dam

Registration for the tour begins May 1 on a first-come first-served basis. The fee to participate is \$725 for single occupancy motel rooms and \$675 for double occupancy rooms. Transportation, meals, snacks and lodging are included. Contact Holly Rahmann at hrahmann@cnppid.com or 308-995-3560, or by visiting web sites at watercenter.unl.edu or cnppid.com.

Central Board Approves Support of PRRIP Extension

The following is the text of Resolution 18-01: Extension of the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program, as approved by Central's Board of Directors at the April 2, 2018 meeting.

Whereas, the whooping crane, interior least tern, piping plover and pallid sturgeon are federally listed threatened and endangered species associated with the Platte River; and

Whereas, the licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) relied upon the development of a program to address endangered species needs in the central Platte River; and

Whereas, water users, environmental groups and state representatives from Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado worked with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from 1997 through 2006 to develop the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Platte Program); and

Whereas, the governors of Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado and the Secretary of the Interior approved a Platte Program document in late 2006; and

Whereas, the Platte Program legislation and funding was approved by the President of the United States on May 8, 2008; and

Whereas, significant progress has been made to meet the milestones of the Platte

Program, with an additional 13-year extension needed to meet the water goals and monitoring requirements.

Therefore, be it resolved, The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors supports the extension and funding of the first increment of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for an additional 13 years, and directs staff to work with Platte Program participants to complete legislative approval.

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On the Lakefront



Central’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requires the establishment of a Land and Shoreline Management Plan (LSMP) which serves as a guide in making decisions regarding the future use of the land within the Project boundary.

Included as an appendix to the LSMP are the District’s Permitting Procedures which are designed to minimize use conflicts, protect future interests, protect certain public rights, and to administer environmental policies in a fair and consistent manner.

Land Administrators for the District serve to regulate activities under the purview of the District’s license and related guidance documents and to exercise terms of various legal agreements. These functions are best achieved through communication with the intent to educate customers and adjacent landowners regarding the various authorized uses of District’s property.

In an effort to provide additional opportunities to meet with customers, Land Administration team members will be available at Johnson Lake and Plum Creek Lake more frequently than in the past. Appointments may be made to meet on site and discuss items relating to applications, permits, etc. You can make appointments by contacting the appropriate Land Administrator.

As a final note, restrictions placed on tree trimming and removal resulting from the inclusion of the Northern Long-eared Bat on the endangered species list remain in effect. No cutting or trimming of trees greater than three inches (3”) in diameter is permitted during the months of June and July in Dawson and Gosper Counties.

Cabin Owner/Water Users One-Day Tour Dates

Friday, June 15

Friday, July 13

Friday, August 3

Friday, September 7

Tours leave from Johnson Lake EMS Building at 7 a.m., and return around 5 p.m. Lunch at Ole’s Big Game Steakhouse and transportation provided.

Contact Holly Rahmann at hrahmann@cnppid.com or (308) 995-3560 for reservations.

Land Administrator	Project subject matter	Contact Info
DeAnna Bartruff	Dwelling and related construction. i.e. house and garage construction	Office: (308) 995-3563 Cell: (308) 991-5565 dbartruff@cnppid.com
Dustin Ehlers	Shoreline & water access facilities. i.e. docks, near shoreline patios, routes of access to the shoreline	Office: (308) 537-4184 Cell: (308) 991-9778 dehlers@cnppid.com
Luke Ritz	Erosion control structures. i.e. Shoreline protection and retaining walls	Office: (308) 537-4186 Cell: (308) 529-0009 lritz@cnppid.com
Matt Ostergard	Tree removal & trimming permits.	Office: (308) 537-4179 Cell: (308) 529-7544 mostergard@cnppid.com

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New Faces and Open Positions at CNPPID

If you've been in the Holdrege or Gothenburg offices recently, you may have noticed a new face or two. Central's most recent additions to staff include Mike Klaus, a systems analyst working in the Information and Technology department.

Klaus has a strong background in communications technologies. He lives in Kearney with his family, and enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his grandson.

Another face you may not recognize is Dustin Ehlers, who recently joined the Land Administration team. Although new to the position, Ehlers has been with the Central District for the past four years, working with Gothenburg's maintenance crew before transitioning to the Land Administration department.



Dustin Ehlers

Ehlers will be taking over the permitting for the shoreline and water access facilities including docks and other water access points. He lives in Gothenburg with his wife

and two children.

Central will be saying farewell to two long-time employees who are retiring this spring. Jim Lauer, Senior Systems Analyst, has been with Central for 16 years. Also retiring this spring is Pat Larson, Supply Canal Patrolman, who was with the district for 33 years.

Central also has some new openings at both the Holdrege and Gothenburg offices. The Gothenburg office is currently accepting applications for a



Mike Klaus

civil operations supervisor and a general maintenance employee.

The Holdrege office is currently accepting applications for an assistant controller, an electrical engineer and a systems analyst.

If you are interested in learning more about the open positions available, check our website at www.cnppid.com/links/employment or call 308-995-8601.

<http://www.cnppid.com>

On the Web

With irrigation and recreation season fast approaching, visit (and "like") our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnppid to keep tabs on the latest news and updates from the Central District.