



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - As is typical in the spring, water supply conditions and projections were discussed during The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board meeting on Monday.

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Civil engineer Tyler Thulin said Lake McConaughy is currently at elevation 3257.5 feet above sea level and contains just over 1.5 million acre feet of water (87.4 percent capacity). Inflows into McConaughy are approximately 1,250 cubic feet per second (cfs) while outflows are about 850 cfs. Thulin said that inflows are high enough that Central is currently storing about one-third of the inflow total.

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Thulin also reported that snowpack accumulation in the South Platte basin in Colorado is currently at 124 percent of average, and 115 to 120 percent of average in the North Platte basin. Snowpack conditions and anticipated runoff are factors in estimating how much water to store before irrigation season begins.

Following Thulin's presentation, Hydraulic Project Operations Manager Cory Steinke included all meeting attendees in a demonstration of how he and Thulin have to consider multiple factors and rely on the best available information and years of experiences when making operational decisions concerning storage supplies at Lake McConaughy. The exercise demonstrated the difficulty and complexity associated with water management decisions on a seasonal and daily basis.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board voted to approve advertisement of 2019 irrigation water rights transfers.
- The board approved a bid from Tri-City Concrete, Kearney, Neb. for \$47,767.50 to finish paving the south parking lot at the Holdrege office.
- General Manager Devin Brundage announced that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Choke Point Test Flow project has been postponed until river conditions are more suitable for a high-flow event. Brundage also stated the project would help determine whether work to improve the capacity of the North Platte River near the City of North Platte has been successful.
- Irrigation Operations Manager Dave Ford said the pumps were started Monday to begin filling Elwood Reservoir in preparation for irrigation season. Ford also stated that the recent precipitation has caused some minor erosion and settling on some of the pipeline projects that were installed this winter, so irrigation and maintenance crews have been making repairs to those areas, as well as repairing ruts and other issues caused by the spring's wet weather conditions.
- Government and Public Relations Manager Jeff Buettner announced dates for this year's Johnson Lake Development, Inc., tours have been set for May 10, June 7, July 12 and August 16. More information about the tours will be available soon.

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