



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Board of Directors voted during Tuesday's monthly meeting to approve a pricing addendum for the 2020 irrigation season as part of the five-year water leasing agreement that was approved last year with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Pricing for the 2020 season will remain the same as it was in 2019 at \$220 per acre with a program cap of 3,000 total acres.

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Under the agreement, Central will offer to lease surface water from its customers during the 2020 irrigation season provided the customer agrees not to irrigate those lands with either groundwater or surface water. Water that is leased will be credited to the environmental account in Lake McConaughy –managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to benefit endangered species habitat along the central Platte River –in October of 2020.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

- The board approved a budget revision for the purchase of new digital chart recorders for the generators at the three supply canal hydroplants. The chart recorders will allow Central's control center in Gothenburg to remotely monitor bearing and stator temperatures of the generators.
- The board accepted a bid for painting of two communications towers located at Central's offices in Holdrege and Gothenburg. The bid was awarded to Skyline Tower Painting, Inc. of Scottsbluff, Nebraska for \$28,860.
- Civil engineer Tyler Thulin reported that Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3258.8 feet above sea level or 1.56 million acre feet (89.5 percent capacity). Thulin said inflows are currently around 2,600 cubic feet per second and were decreasing as the Gering-Ft. Laramie Canal that serves irrigators in Wyoming and western Nebraska begins to fill again following the repair of a collapsed tunnel earlier in the irrigation season.
- Irrigation Operations Manager Dave Ford reported that irrigation season is winding down. Irrigation deliveries will continue for the next two weeks; demand will be somewhat higher during this week's warmer temperatures, but it will taper off next week as crops reach maturity. Ford said he and other staff members will be working on possible recharge agreement options for the fall, but the waterfowl production areas (WPAs) in the areas are all full.

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