The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors elected new officers at the first monthly meeting of 2013 on Jan. 10.

Dudley Nelson of Axtell was elected president. Nelson has represented Kearney County on Central's board since 1998 and was secretary of the board prior to being elected president.

Other officers elected by their fellow board members were Dave Rowe of Johnson Lake, vice president; Robert Dahlgren of Bertrand, treasurer; and Scott Olson of Minden, secretary. Board officers serve two-year terms in their positions.

In other action at the board meeting:

The board accepted a staff recommendation to enter into a $115,550 contract with the engineering firms Mead & Hunt of Madison, Wis., and Ayres Associates of Eau Claire, Wis., to perform a probably maximum flood (PMF) analysis for Kingsley Dam.

A PMF is the largest flood that may reasonably be expected to occur at a given point on a stream from the most severe combination of critical meteorologic and hydrologic conditions that are reasonably possible in a particular watershed. The study is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Irrigation division manager Dave Ford reported that the deadline is Jan. 15 for one-year transfers of water delivery service for customers wishing to have additional water available next season. Central's temporary transfer policy allows transfers of water deliveries to and from irrigated tracts during periods of allocations to provide additional flexibility for customers to meet their crops' irrigation needs.

At this time, Ford said, requests for additional water are exceeding the number of acres available from which to transfer water. Anyone willing to forgo irrigation deliveries next season should contact Central's irrigation office in Holdrege before Jan. 15.

Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that inflows to Lake McConaughy have been about 900 to 950 cubic feet per second (cfs) in recent weeks—about 80-85% of normal for this time of year—although the flows are estimated because of ice conditions in the North Platte River above the lake. The reservoir was at elevation 3238.5 feet, with storage volume at about 60% of capacity.

Steinke said snowpack accumulation in the upper North Platte River Basin, which provides about 70% of the snowmelt runoff into the North Platte River, is at 79% of normal, while snowpack in the lower basin is at 29%, according to data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The South Platte Basin is currently at 65% of normal.

He added that several climatologists have forecasted regional drought conditions to persist well into 2013.