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For Immediate Release

Update on CKRWP Proposed Source Solution and System Upgrades

The Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) is moving forward with securing a groundwater source for the Public Water System (PWS) that serves more than 900 rural connections; several sanitary improvement districts (SIDs); recreational areas; and businesses along Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River; and the communities of Crofton, Fordyce, St. Helena, and Obert.

Harsh winter conditions have delayed the drilling of test holes, construction of a test well, and related aquifer monitoring. The work is planned to begin as soon as the drilling company awarded the drilling contract is able to access the test well and monitoring sites and complete the work as detailed by CKRWP engineering firm, LRE.

Test pumping is performed to assess aquifer properties, determine final production well designs, and define optimum pumping rates and schedules. These tests include monitoring of water levels in constructed observation wells and in existing irrigation, domestic and stock wells to monitor potential changes in water levels caused by pumping the test wells. The results of the tests will allow for protection of both the CKRWP supply and existing groundwater users.

CKRWP has secured \$7 million from American Recover Plan Act (ARPA) and \$8.5 million in Water Sustainability Funding from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. State Revolving Fund loan forgiveness is available for approximately \$10 million dollars with an additional \$10 million available through a loan to complete the project. A public hearing is scheduled at the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District office on March 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to receive public comment on the project plan and funding.

The spring sampling will provide the first new information obtained since the summer of 2022. CKRWP plans to host an informational meeting, following testing and data evaluation.

The Cedar Knox Rural Water Project strives to provide quality drinking water and looks forward to serving the need of rural residents and customers long into the future. If you have questions, contact CKRWP at 402-254-6758.

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