

Lake lawsuit still in limbo

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Court battle has little effect yet on property owners.

Despite some recent winter-like weather conditions, another spring month is just a couple of days away.

As the calendar creeps closer to summer, preparations at area lakes are likely already under way for the coming season.

Some property owners at Jeffrey and Midway lakes may be wondering what lies ahead legally but the lawyer representing both lake corporations predicts nothing will change.

Gothenburg attorney Steve Windrum doesn't think the most recent lawsuit filed by Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District against the lake corporations will be decided by the Nebraska Court of Appeals before fall and may not even come before snow flies.

The recent litigation, filed in July 2010 by Central, sought to end the lease agreements between Central and the lake associations.

Central leases the land next to Jeffrey and Midway to the two corporations—Jeffrey Lake Development Inc. and Midway Wildlife and Recreation Club—on which property owners have built cabins and homes.

The corporations in turn sublease to property owners who pay a yearly fee.

Central seeks to make lease agreements directly with property owners and has fought to do so since 1995, Windrum said.

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