

Step back, rethink

The Nebraska Power Review Board denied CNPPID's petition to merge with Dawson Public Power District because of an issue with the charter amendment regarding the purchase of bonds.

Central and Dawson said they plan to amend the charter and refile the merger petition. But, I say now is the time to step back and reconsider this historical decision.

Central has successfully managed its resources for more than 80 years and will have no benefit from the merger.

Since the October vote to merge, the boards of the Tri-Basin NRD and the Central District Water Users have voted to oppose the merger. And, we have formed a group of more than 100 area farmers, business owners and landowners called Citizens Opposed to the Merger, which has raised funds, hired lawyers and spent countless hours to keep local control of water by getting this merger stopped. I am disappointed that Central did not take the time to listen to the people it serves before immediately saying it would refile an amended petition.

This is an opportunity for Central to reengage with the Central District Water Users, to reengage with Tri Basin NRD and its constituents and either address their concerns about the merger or discontinue the merger discussions and instead accomplish the merger benefits through contracts that are flexible and don't require a permanent change in board representation.

Ed Schrock, Elm Creek