

Since 1964, we have supported the Columbia Basin Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.

Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program Update in Photos ... *Continued on page 5*



Levi Johnson, ECBID Development Coordinator, standing by the first test section for the Lind Coulee Siphon Project.

CBDL Advocates for OGWRP and CBP Completion with Nation's Leaders

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC

The last week in April members of CBDL traveled to our nation's capital with a clear message: Continued development of the Columbia Basin Project is of vital importance.

The CBDL brought a strong and diverse team of League members to DC to advocate on the Project's behalf including League Chairman Orman Johnson, Odessa producer and League Trustee Clark Kagele, Washington State Potato Commission Executive Director Chris Voigt, Derek Sandison from the Washington Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River, CBDL Executive Director Vicky Scharlau, and CBDL Director of Government Relations Mike Schwisow. CBDL's Washington DC advocates Kris Polly and Ian Lyle also participated in meetings.

Over the course of two busy days, CBDL members held more than a dozen meetings with key congressional offices and agency officials. During the meetings League members gave an update on the status of efforts to address aquifer decline in the Odessa Subarea. They noted that, since 1980, aquifer levels have dropped approximately 200 feet, wells are now being pumped from as deep as 2,400 feet, and as many as 35 percent of the wells in the subarea could go out of production by 2020 if action isn't taken.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

CBDL Advocates	1
From the Chair	2
CBDL Presents to Central Washington Appraisers Association Meetings	3
SCBID Says Goodbye to Long-Time Employee, Hello to Former Reclamation Employee	4
Upcoming Events	5
CBDL at Crane Festival	5
Looking Back	6

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From The Chair

Orman Johnson

CBDL Advocates for OGWRP and CBP Completion... *Continued from page 1*

In meetings members also emphasized that CBDL is actively working with federal and state partners to address this problem. They discussed the ongoing work taking place on the East Low Canal with funds from the State of Washington. They also highlighted that this work is on track to come in significantly under budget and that the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Board of Directors has approved a resolution to allocate the first 17,000 acre feet of water to parts of the Odessa.

The League also requested that partners in Congress and at federal agencies work to support the

Continued on page 3

The month of April was a busy month of outreach for CBDL. In Washington DC we updated policy makers on the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP) and reminded them of the value of the Columbia Basin Project. CBDL representatives and partners were also engaged in a presentation to the Central Washington Appraisers Association that was nearly a year in the making. The presentation was a great opportunity to share fact-based

information and address numerous questions.

I joined the group to DC and was pleased to note the responses of policy makers there. They understood that OGWRP is implementing the preferred alternative of the Odessa Subarea Special Study and it represents the beginning of a solution to aquifer depletion that is focused on public benefit.



CBDL representatives and partners meet with U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Washington DC

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CBDL Membership Online

The League's website offers the choice to pay membership online.

New members can also sign up at the site.

Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

Go to www.cbdl.org for more information.



CBDL representatives and partners meet with staff in of Senator Patty Murray's office

completion of the East Low Canal at a level similar to the State of Washington. Specifically, the League asked that the federal government provide \$25 million in federal funds to help complete the East Low Canal.

CBDL's message was well received by each of the offices. Discussions that occurred in several meetings also provided new ideas that could help move the completion of the Columbia Basin Project forward.

Taking the time to advocate CBDL's position in DC is extremely important. These outreach trips help ensure that the voice of CBDL's members are being heard by our nation's leaders.



CBDL representatives and partners meet with staff in Senator Maria Cantwell's office.

CBDL Presents to Central Washington Appraisers Association Meetings

The Washington chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers held their spring meeting in Moses Lake in April. The program included presentations that qualify for credits to help members meet their requirements for ongoing professional education. The Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) was asked to organize a series of presentations that would update participants on a broad range of Columbia Basin water management issues both on the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) and throughout the entire river basin.

Former League Chairman Milt Johnston opened the half day of presentations with an overview of CBP history and summary of the economic significance of the CBP to central Washington. Johnston discussed the role of CBDL as the private sector catalyst for CBP development. CBDL's effort to focus attention on the growing crisis of the depletion of the aquifer in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea (OGWMS) played a significant role in encouraging the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to join forces to find a solution. The League lead the effort to secure state and federal funding for all of the studies and the process necessary to reach a feasible solution.

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations, provided the group with CBP contractual and water rights basics. While the CBP has been delivering water to farms in the Basin for well over 50 years, many are not aware of the nature of the relationship between Reclamation and the three irrigation districts that operate the CBP. The group heard about the Master Water Service contract between Reclamation and the districts and the operational responsibilities of each party. While there is recognition that the CBP was capitalized through congressional appropriations, many did not know that the districts assumed responsibility for ongoing operational and maintenance costs. In other words, if what Reclamation built breaks, it's up to the landowners of the districts to bear the cost of repair or in some cases reconstruction.

Project water rights were also explained. In this case, the federal government was issued water rights for the CBP by the State of Washington with a May 1938 priority date. No individual land owner holds a water right certificate but they do work with Reclamation and the districts to put the appropriated water to beneficial use, which is a critical element of the water right. Information was provided on how the water rights for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) have been developed and are now being utilized.

Lessons learned about the process for adding new lands to a Reclamation project were explained. Since the CBP was originally developed, a host of new federal laws that affect project development have been enacted including the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

CBDL Presents to Central Washington Appraisers Association Meetings ... *Continued from page 3*

The Office of Management and Budget has also imposed new guidelines to determine project feasibility and eligibility for federal funding. The new requirements lead to a new set of hoops for project coordinators to jump through and ultimately took nine years to complete in the case of recent CBP development.

Derek Sandison, Director of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR) took over to explain the features of the 2006 Columbia River Water Management Act enacted by the Washington legislature. As a result of the 2006 mandate, OCR assumed the State lead in the Odessa Subarea Special Study to develop a feasible alternative to groundwater use in the Odessa Subarea. Additionally, OCR was charged with "aggressively" pursuing the development of new water supplies in the Columbia Basin for both out of stream and in-stream purposes. Sandison reviewed the various programs underway in the Basin and the role the programs play as a catalyst for action. Including the water supply already in hand for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program, OCR has played a pivotal role in making 300,000 acre feet of new supplies available.

Craig Simpson, manager of East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) was the final speaker for this portion of the program. Simpson detailed the progress of East District in implementing the OGWRP. ECBID is operating on a \$26 million grant from OCR, made possible by funds provided in the 2013-2015 Capital Budget. The focus has been primarily on the expansion of East Low Canal (ELC) to provide for water supplies all along the length of the canal.

The first 13 miles of expanded capacity has been completed and the contracts for the first two of five remaining siphons were issued in January of this year. Simpson reported that district crews excavated over one million cubic yards of material from the canal during the winter of 2013-14.

Now, district engineers are at work designing seven pump station/pipeline systems that will deliver water from ELC to eligible lands with ground water rights that can be put into standby status (OGWRP water will replace groundwater, hence both cannot be accessed simultaneously). A series of meetings with landowners have been underway to exchange information and allow the development of systems that meet landowner needs at the least possible cost.

Simpson shared that ECBID Directors have identified the initial distribution system to be built which is immediately south of I-90. He also said that the directors have approved over 2,000 acres of water service contracts for replacement water for eligible lands and reserved enough water to serve over 7,000 acres for those eligible landowners who would not likely be served by the pipeline systems. Those landowners are responsible for coming to the canal with their own pump and pipe to get the water. He pointed out that 2015 will mark the year

that the first CBP water supplies will flow to Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program lands.

Throughout all four presentations the audience engaged in an active dialogue with numerous questions on the detail of what was being presented.

SCBID Says Goodbye to Long-Time Employee, Hello to Former Reclamation Employee

Dave Solem, Manager, SCBID



John O'Callaghan (L) and Rich Hill.

Rich Hill, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) Superintendent of Field Operations will retire at the end of May after 35 years with the district. Rich started out as a ditch rider in Wahluke then moved up to relief rider in Mesa, assistant watermaster in Mesa, assistant watermaster in Eltopia, then watermaster in Eltopia and, in 2005, took the position of Superintendent following Don Olson.

Rich said, "I have enjoyed working for the South District very much. It has been challenging and rewarding." He is looking forward to traveling with his wife, Madge, spending time with grandchildren and having extra time to work on his race car. Rich's expertise and good nature will be missed by SCBID and all wish him well.

John O'Callaghan will replace Rich as the Superintendent of Field Operations. John started his career with the Bureau of Reclamation in 1991 as Ephrata Field Office Hydraulic Engineer after graduating from WSU. He moved on to becoming the Irrigation Operations Team Leader and the

SCBID Says Goodbye ... *Continued from page 4*

Irrigation Operations Technical Services Manager. He has worked on water operations, hydrography, and maintenance engineering on the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) Reserved Works. John is well known for his expertise on the CBP and his straightforward approach to the job. SCBID is fortunate to have John move over to the irrigation district side of the CBP. He will add to an already great staff at the district. John has moved to Pasco with his wife Carol and is looking forward to enjoying his new home and new challenges.

CBDL at Crane Festival

On a Saturday in March, the gymnasium at the Othello High School again served as home for informational displays, vendors and youth activities associated with the annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival. Since the second festival in 1999, the Columbia Basin Development League has staffed an information table to inform attendees about the Columbia Basin Project and the importance of agriculture in the area.

League Trustees Alice Parker and John Moody, joined by Trustee Chet Pedersen set up the League's display and met with Festival attendees. Many attendees expressed surprise at the size of the Columbia Basin Project and asked questions about the types of crops that are grown. Some expressed interest in the delivery of surface water into the area east of the East Low Canal in order to replace groundwater. Other attendees took time to look at the photos on League display board showing some of the Columbia Basin Project's history.

Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program Update in Photos ... *Continued from page 1*



Stacks of heavy gauge rebar that will be formed into cages for siphon section construction.



Staging area for test section construction and rebar cage formation.



Rack used to assemble rebar cages which are then slid inside the moveable slip form.



Pathway for Lind Coulee Siphon #2 with top of existing siphon just exposed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CBDL Board of Trustees Meeting - Wednesday, June 17, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Simplot, Moses Lake

SAVE THE DATE! CBDL Annual Conference - Tuesday, October 27

ATEC, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake

LOOKING BACK

Campaign Information: Plan for Co-operation of Chambers of Commerce and Civic Clubs with Columbia Basin Irrigation League to Secure Adoption of Columbia Basin Project by Congress

1931 Pamphlet (reprinted as originally published)

Program: July, 1931, the final engineering report by Engineer Corps of the U. S. Army, after two years' study of the Project, will be completed and filed. It is expected this report will find the project feasible of construction and an economic necessity in Northwest development and growth.

August 6, 1931, visit to Project by Sub-Committee on Appropriations for Interior Department. House of Representatives. It supplies the money.

September 6, 1931, visit to Project by members of the House Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. It passes on the merits of the Project.

December, 1931, the Project will be offered to Congress for adoption as a Federal Reclamation Project by Washington Senators and Congressmen.

Organization: Each Chamber of Commerce and Civic Club in the state is invited and urged to organize its individual members into a fighting unit to get back of Washington and Northwest Senators and Congressmen in pressing the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project on Congress.

It is recognized that the most difficult thing will be to get the adoption bill passed in the House. Therefore our efforts should be concentrated on explaining the merits of the Project to Congressmen from states East of the Rocky Mountains.

The best way to reach those members of the House is through their own constituents, manufacturers of the very large variety of merchandise made in the Eastern and Middle Western regions and sold in the Northwest. Show the manufacturer and wholesaler and jobber that the only method by which sales of their goods can be expanded in this region is through putting Columbia Basin into settlement and production. Ask them to urge their Congressmen to vote for the Columbia Basin Adoption Bill on those grounds, and because the opening of an enlarged market out here will supply labor with employment back there, thus creating a purchasing power that business is lacking at this time.

Every member of any business organization, or professional man, is bound to be interested in this campaign and he ought to realize that the Project cannot be put over by the few men forming the Columbia Basin Committee. Your prosperity is wrapped up in the success of this campaign.

Don't wait to be urged by somebody else to write to the men who make and sell the goods on your shelves—do it yourself and in your own language.

Start now.

List every article you sell, the name of the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the jobber, and write all of them.

What to Say: Tell the man you write to that the market for his goods out

here has reached the limit unless we get more people into the fertile country around our cities.

Tell him that can be done in no other way than by irrigation.

That all the small jobs of irrigation (such as could be financed by private capital) have been constructed.

What we want now is for the Government to loan the credit of the Federal Treasury to the extent of about \$10,000,000 a year, and that all the money will be repaid in 40 years after the settlers go upon the land. We are not asking the government to do more than to finance something we can not do ourselves, and which will create:

New taxable wealth of \$600,000,000.00.

A new market for \$180,000,000.00 of manufacturers each year.

Will produce \$300,000,000.00 in new values each year.

Tell him that the only spots in the Northwest that are not complaining of bad business conditions are the irrigated districts.

Will Not Increase Surplus of Staple Farm Crops: Wheat, corn and cotton are the staple farm crops of which surpluses are grown in the middle west and east.

Federal reclamation projects in the western states do not grow enough of either to in any manner influence their market prices. Federal Reclamation Projects grow about one-half of one per cent of the U. S. output of wheat and the acreage under irrigation grows less with each passing year. They grow about one-eighth of one per cent of the corn, and no short staple cotton at all.

Columbia Basin Would grow alfalfa, sugar beets, dairy products and the pork, beef and mutton which the country is now importing.

How Many People Would It Hold: The Columbia Basin project would offer 25,500 farm homes.

The growth of population on these projects has averaged one person for each acre: we therefore figure that 1,750,000 people would find homes and prosperity on the project lands, which are rich, and the water for irrigation abundant. Probably 3,000,000 people would come to the Northwest as a result of this development.

Congress ought to be interested in that picture.

Help us reach them through business channels.

Use the material in this circular in writing letter.

Follow Up: Each Chamber of Commerce and Civic Club is asked to appoint a committee to follow up on their own members to see what they are doing for this cause, what answers they receive, and how to meet any objections that may be advanced.

There is an answer to every objection.

The Columbia Basin Irrigation league will help by supplying information or speakers.

Who Should Do This?: Wholesalers Retailers Realtors Insurance Men Druggists Doctors Lawyers Dentists Hotel Keepers auto Dealers Lumbermen Bankers and Bond Houses Engineers Pastors and Preachers Contractors EVERYBODY.

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