

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.



Lind Coulee Siphon Section.

Legislators and Media Tour Lind Coulee Siphon Construction

The League is committed to educating the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). CBDL members and staff regularly meet with legislators and their professional staff to advocate for the CBP. Over the summer, the focus was

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on the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program as CBDL hosted media and legislative tours of the Lind Coulee Siphon Construction site near Warden.

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ECBID Development Coordinator Levi Johnson and members of the media at Lind Coulee Siphon Construction Site.

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From the Chair

Orman Johnson

With the arrival of September, fall is upon us and CBDL is gearing up for our Annual Conference on October 27th. Have you registered? We have a great lineup of

speakers including Ecology's Office of the Columbia River Director Tom Tebb, Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond, the new Ephrata Field Office Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, Clint Wertz, and Senator Mark Schoesler. You won't want to miss it, go to www.cbdl.org and register today!

In an ongoing effort to educate the public about the Columbia Basin Project, CBDL participated in an editorial visit at the Wenatchee World and is planning a trip to Washington DC trip at the end of the month. The editorial visit resulted in several articles about irrigation and about the Odessa aquifer area. Kevin Lyle, Matt

Hawley, Mike Schwisow and Vicky Scharlau are representing the League in Washington DC and will meet with Reclamation, Senate and House Committees, our Senators and Congressmen to provide Columbia Basin Project and Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program updates and encourage continued support. During the trip, CBDL will thank Senator Murray and Representative Newhouse for their staff's participation in tours of the Lind Coulee Siphon. Read on for more information about the 2015 CBDL Annual Conference, photos of OGWRP construction and more about the tours.

Legislators and Media Tour Lind Coulee Siphon Construction... *Continued from page 1*

Tour attendees included representatives from the Congressional Research Service, Washington State Potato Commission, Office of Representative Dan Newhouse, Office of Senator Murray, and Washington State Representative Tom Dent as well as reporters from Grant County Journal, iFiberOne, Othello Outlook, and NBC Right Now. These tours provided a unique opportunity for legislators, their staff, and the media to put on a hard hat, stand next to a large irrigation structure, and gain an understanding of the complexity and scale of exactly what goes into supplying water to over 1500 square miles of irrigated lands. These tours allow a first-hand look at infrastructure needs and how systems work.



ECBID District Manager Craig Simpson and Congressional Staff at Lind Coulee Siphon Construction Site.



Members of the media get up close view of the Lind Coulee Siphon Construction.

ECBID Signs 40-Year Water Contract

Mike Schwisow, Director of Government Relations

On September 2nd, Boe Clausen, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Board President, signed a 40 year extension of the Master Water Service Contract between ECBID and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The MWSC is one element of the contractual relationship between Reclamation and ECBID making water available to landowners participating in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP).

The MWSC was set to expire in 2020. ECBID asked Reclamation to start negotiations early so the extension would be in place when they were ready to issue bonds as part of OGWRP implementation. The signed MWSC provides the authority and conditions for ECBID to contract with landowners. It also incorporates all of the various changes that occurred over the years in Reclamation law and procedures. At about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick, the detail and complexity of this contract is significant.

This major milestone is just one of the hurdles ECBID must overcome on the way to construction of the initial OGWRP pump station and pipeline distribution system. The district is looking to issue tax-exempt municipal revenue bonds to finance construction. Potential investors in local government bonds want security and the level of security that is provided is reflected in the interest rate. Even though extension of the contract in



ECBID Board President Boe Clausen Signs Master Water Service Contract.

2020 was pretty much a foregone conclusion, the fact that it was set to expire would have pushed the interest up.

OGWRP Work Continues

Mike Schwisow, Director of Government Relations



Preparation of Rebar Cage at Lind Coulee Siphon Construction Site.

ECBID is pushing hard to complete East Low Canal (ELC) improvements that will make the canal fully operational all the way to the Lind Coulee Siphons. Through the current Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River (DOE OCR) grant all the pieces are in place to make that happen once water is shut off for the season.

The single largest ELC improvement covered by the current grant is the construction of the Lind Coulee Siphons 1 & 2 located just off the Lind-Warden Highway 5 miles east of Warden. Rotschy Inc. began construction on the two siphons in early May. By the end of August they placed 77 of 179 siphon sections. Downstream, ECBID crews continue ELC excavation and progress will speed up once the canal is dewatered at the end of the season.

ECBID is continuing to offer contracts for ground water replacement to eligible landowners who have valid ground water rights to exchange. Previously, ECBID reserved enough water to supply 7,700 acres for those who would provide their own pumps and pipes and come to the canal to get it. 2,054 acres of contracts have been written with some OGWRP water already being pumped this season. Additional offers are currently out to landowners on the priority list that ECBID has maintained since the mid 1980's.

The design process for EL 47.5, the initial distribution system, continues with landowner input. The contractor for the cultural resources survey has completed that task and work is underway on title reports for pipeline easements. Electrical engineers have started the pump station design and

OGWRP Work Continues... *Continued from page 3*

contractors are doing the surge protection analysis necessary to protect large pumping plants of this nature.

At an earlier ECBID Board meeting, an August 31st deadline was set for EL 47.5 landowners to notify ECBID and Ecology of their decisions to transfer eligible ground water rights to lands in the 47.5 service area. Several new water right transfers were identified and the process for Ecology to confirm eligibility is in progress.

The team at ECBID is working steadily to make ground water replacement a reality. Though the task is complex with a long checklist of "to dos", projects are being completed on time and consistently under the original engineer's estimated cost.

CBDL Attends Quincy Farmer Consumer Awareness Day

Thanks to Board Trustee John Moody, the CBDL was represented at the 2015 Farmer Consumer Awareness Day in Quincy in early September. This event provides the opportunity for farmers to demonstrate the tools and techniques of their work and for the public to learn about where their food comes from. The CBDL booth was up and allowed conversations about the important work of CBDL.

A Brave New WOTUS

John Crotty, Counsel for Water Strategies LLC

On August 28, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies and the Army Corps of Engineers (together, the agencies) began implementation of the final rule on the definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This is a brave new world for agricultural water providers in Washington State.

The WOTUS rule asserts jurisdiction over most, if not all, canals and aqueducts. Under the rule, a canal is considered a tributary, which "can be a natural, man-altered, or man-made water and includes waters such as rivers, streams, canals, and ditches. . . ." The expansion of jurisdiction over canals will increase permitting requirements and associated costs for maintenance. Those costs will be borne by the agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial water users.

Legal Challenges

A legal morass has ensued. Upon publication of the final WOTUS rule, states, industries, and environmentalists filed challenges to the rule in multiple U.S. district courts. Many of the states challenging the rule sought to enjoin implementation of the rule by the agencies. In August the U.S. District Court for North Dakota issued a preliminary injunction of the implementation of the WOTUS rule. On the other hand, U.S. district courts in Georgia and West Virginia denied requests for a preliminary

injunction. In early September the U.S. District Court for North Dakota declined to extend its ruling beyond the parties to its proceedings.

The differing decisions are due to differing opinions on subject matter jurisdiction. Under the CWA, Congress gave the U.S. Courts of Appeal original jurisdiction over challenges to EPA "effluent limitations or other limitations" and permit decisions. This jurisdictional issue will be hashed out in the federal courts. So too will the substantive and procedural matters being challenged in many of the suits.

What It Means

Right now, the agencies will continue to apply the old WOTUS rule, under old implementation guidance, to the states party to the suit in North Dakota: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Every other state, including Washington, will be subject to a new rule that stands on very shaky legs.

The U.S. District Court for North Dakota opinion concluded that the "[s]tates are likely to succeed on the merits of their claim that the EPA has violated its grant of authority in its promulgation of the rule." That conclusion coincides with the history of this rule's bungled rollout: the lack of stakeholder involvement in the rule's development; the release of the draft rule prior to the scientific conclusions of the EPA's own Science Advisory Board; and the EPA's failure to address the technical concerns of the Army Corps (revealed recently during a Congressional inquiry).

The agencies' failure to follow the basic tenets of good rule development, and the subsequent legal wrangling, points to the WOTUS rule's inevitable day in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wertz Brings Focus to Ephrata Office

Background

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently welcomed Clint Wertz as the new Manager of the Ephrata Field Office. He served for two months as the interim manager before assuming permanent duties in August. Wertz received his undergraduate degree in Parks and Recreation from Pennsylvania State University. More recently he attended Portland State University earning a Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Building on his education, Wertz has worked throughout the west gaining a broad background in public service. From local government through federal service, he has significant practical experience in resource economics and regional land use planning. He has worked with the forestry service, industrial and residential developers, and agriculture



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- ✓ What are the basic parts of Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program?
- ✓ How did the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program start?
- ✓ Why is the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program only replacing ground water?
- ✓ What's taking so long?
- ✓ If this is a Federal project, why is the State of Washington involved?
- ✓ What is the State of Washington doing to help the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program?
- ✓ Who are the partners in the Odessa Ground water Replacement Program?
- ✓ How will the costs of Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program be paid?
- ✓ Can ECBID issue bonds?
- ✓ How will ECBID facilitate bond sales?
- ✓ What will landowners pay?
- ✓ What are "normalized rates"?
- ✓ Is there a relationship between the amount of water OGWRP landowners get and the cost of it?
- ✓ What is the role of the Columbia Basin Development League in OGWRP?
- ✓ What did the League do to get the ball rolling?

What are the basic parts of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program?

The Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) is a targeted plan to deliver water to eligible and interested deep well irrigated lands that must be in the Columbia Basin Project and in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea (established by the State Department of Ecology), among other eligibility criteria. The purpose is to switch those landowners who are now using deep wells to pull ground water for irrigation from the Odessa aquifer (while they were waiting for Columbia Basin Project expansion) and transfer them to surface water supplies (from the CBP). The program has two major construction elements: 1) expand and improve the East Low Canal for added capacity, and 2) build pump stations and pipelines to deliver water to farms. OGWRP entails three different surface water supplies for irrigation water deliveries.

How did the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program start?

In 2001 Governor Locke launched the Columbia River Initiative looking for additional water to address a number of needs for Eastern Washington. Ultimately, the State turned to the Bureau of Reclamation and the three irrigation districts that operate the Columbia Basin Project to see if there might be water that could be shared to meet the State's needs. After 15 months of negotiating, they struck a deal in December of 2004 and the final document, a Memorandum of Understanding, outlined projects of mutual interest. The MOU included water for the Department of Ecology to use for municipal and industrial permits, in-stream flows, and drought relief. The declining Odessa aquifer was recognized as critical issue and an initial 30,000 acre-feet was directed to ground water replacement to meet the needs of the Odessa Subarea.

Why is the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program only replacing ground water?

Reclamation, Ecology, and the Irrigation Districts agreed to support a program that addressed the economic and environmental catastrophe posed by depletion of the Odessa aquifer. In the context of their MOU discussions, adding service area in the Columbia Basin Project was a secondary benefit. While a project limited to replacing ground water wells (that were pulling from the Odessa aquifer) with water from the Columbia Basin Project is not the most efficient way to add service area in the Columbia Basin Project it was the only approach garnering support from the State and Federal government as well as interested non-governmental organizations for the multiple solutions it offered.

What's taking so long?

The United States owns the Columbia Basin Project--from Grand Coulee Dam to canal structures over a hundred miles away--and the Washington State-issued water right. Public ownership of the Columbia Basin Project brings extensive public review of all actions and the opportunity for opponents

Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program Frequently Asked Questions ... *Continued from page 5*

to challenge actions. Every step must be done in accordance with State and Federal statutes and regulations that add multiple layers of complexity. Because this program interfaces State water rights with Federal water allotments, the number of boxes that need to be checked off before being able to make water deliveries is substantial.

If this is a Federal project, why is the State of Washington involved?

Studies have shown that aquifer depletion will result in the loss of jobs and have a severe negative impact on economic activity and tax revenues. Plus, thousands of stakeholders who don't have Columbia Basin Project water for domestic and industrial uses will also be impacted. When the Legislature enacted the Columbia River Water Management Act in 2006 they recognized the extreme consequences of the problem and identified "finding solutions for the Odessa aquifer decline" as one of the priorities for the program.

What is the State of Washington doing to help the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program?

The State has made significant investments through the Department of Ecology-Office of Columbia River (DOE-OCR) beginning in 2005. At that point the State stepped up to act as co-author and cost share partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The study resulted in the plan being implemented today. The State has invested over \$75,000,000 in projects* to date including:

- Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases for \$6,500,000
- Potholes Supplemental Feed Route for \$13,500,000
- Coordinated Conservation Program for \$15,000,000
- Odessa Special Study for \$14,000,000
- Odessa Special Study - East Low Canal Improvements for \$26,000,000

**For detailed list see end of document.*

Who are the partners in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program?

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns all facilities and operates major works like Grand Coulee Dam, Banks Lake and Potholes Reservoir. They are responsible for contracting with the three Irrigation Districts (East, Quincy and South) for water delivery and repayment of the Federal construction investment. Any expansion must conform to the original authorization for the Columbia Basin Project.

Washington State Department of Ecology-Office of Columbia River administers surface and ground water law and issues water rights--that Reclamation uses for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program and co-leads (with Reclamation) all environmental review. DOE-OCR evaluates ground water rights in the Odessa subarea and identifies eligible acres. They also oversee grant contracts for the Coordinated Conservation Program and construction to implement the OGWRP plan.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) is the CBP Irrigation District that has primary responsibility to serve lands in the Odessa Subarea. Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts are governed by an elected Board of Directors and operate under Washington State irrigation district law and Federal Reclamation law. ECBID uses statutory authority to implement the OGWRP plan. ECBID acts as the contracting agent, on behalf of landowners, with Reclamation.

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District and Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District are the other two irrigation districts in the Columbia Basin project. They have made water available to OGWRP through their participation in CBP-wide Coordinated Conservation projects.

How will the costs of OGWRP be paid?

In 2013 the State of Washington provided roughly \$26,000,000 to expand and improve the East Low Canal, among other OGWRP implementation activities. ECBID is doing much of the work to save time and money and they have already expanded the first 13 miles. Construction is underway on Lind Coulee Siphons 1 & 2 east of Warden. State funding will complete over 60% of the construction improvements and the Columbia Basin Development League is actively seeking Federal investment for the remaining portion. In the meantime, ECBID will use its statutory authority to issue tax-exempt municipal revenue bonds to capitalize construction of the pump and pipeline distribution systems. Water service contracts with landowners will provide security for those bonds.

Can ECBID issue bonds?

Yes, the authority to issue bonds is found in the irrigation district statute, RCW 87.03.

How does ECBID facilitate bond sales?

ECBID has long standing relationships with one of the State's most respected bond counsels and financial advisor with long term experience in municipal markets. Barclay's, an international firm, has been engaged to market the bond. Most recently, ECBID funded major district-wide pump rehabilitations with bonds.

What will landowners pay?

OGWRP landowners will pay an Operation & Maintenance (O&M) fee and the cost of development:

- O&M fee is an annual cost for operation and maintenance of Columbia Basin Project facilities with all landowners currently served by the Project paying the fee. O&M includes cost of pumping water from Lake Roosevelt to Banks Lake, repairs to structures that wear out or break and district employees and equipment necessary to operate the infrastructure that delivers 3,400,000 acre-feet of water to over 1,500 square miles of farm land. All ECBID serviced lands pay an O&M fee.
- Through a water service contract with ECBID, and using normalized rates, landowners will pay fees that allow ECBID to repay the cost of constructing the delivery systems and remaining ELC improvements.
- Repayment of the federal investment in Project facilities will be required

What are "normalized rates"?

A normalized or standardized rate is a system where all users pay the same rate regardless of the costs required to serve a user. This approach is common for publicly-owned service infrastructures. While costs are more per acre to reach the southern end of the CBP or lands on hilltops that need pumping plants, lands in each of the three Irrigation Districts pays a uniform or "normalized rate". Whether lands are low cost or high cost, all share the cost of service equally as will landowners in OGWRP. Serving only deep well irrigated lands isn't the most efficient way to expand irrigation service, but in this case, there is a public policy purpose associated with the effort; the reason both State and Federal Government supports the OGWRP. The effort is to preserve the irrigated acreage base, take as many acres as possible off the Odessa aquifer and preserve the remaining water for those without access to the CBP. Landowner equity is important and to the extent they can afford the cost, all eligible and interested landowners should have an opportunity to access the public water supply.

Is there a relationship between the amount of water OGWRP landowners get and the cost of it?

Decades ago CBP water duty was established based on a system of land classification: sandy soils receive more water than heavier soils, for example. ECBID Directors have set the water duty for the OGWRP at three feet/acre which corresponds with the rest of the CBP. This helps ensure OGWRP landowners have flexibility in the crops they grow. Plus, with a flat rate system there is no incentive to over or under utilize water. However, water availability is also a factor in the receipt of the three feet/acre. As an analogy, if everyone in a city turned on the kitchen and bath faucet at the exact same time, not everyone would see water come out because the system is not built to supply that much water all at once. Large irrigation systems are the same; not everyone can take water at the same time. At the time a system is designed, an "availability standard" is set, and it determines how much water can be drawn simultaneously. Then, landowners in a shared system like the CBP work with district ditchriders to coordinate scheduling of service. As a result of landowner input, ECBID Directors recently reduced the availability standard Reclamation used in the original plan for OGWRP delivery systems. The result was a significant cost savings as pump and pipe sizes could be reduced accordingly.

What is the role of the Columbia Basin Development League in OGWRP?

CBDL is a non-profit advocate organization organized in 1964 to promote continued development of the Columbia Basin Project. The League has a broad-based Board of Trustees that provide direction. The League's Trustees and hired staff lobby Congress, the Washington Legislature, and State and Federal Executive branch officials. The League maintains a strong working relationship with Reclamation and the three Project Irrigation Districts and communicates regularly. Securing ongoing support and funding for OGWRP is a top priority. The League disseminates information about the OGWRP and the Columbia Basin Project activities.

What did the League do to get the ball rolling?

The League recognized the decline in the Odessa Subarea aquifer as a looming economic and environmental catastrophe and the relationship to the halted development of the Columbia Basin Project. Beginning in the fall of 2003, public meetings were held to gather information and focus attention on the problem. The League was successful in creating public awareness that the aquifer decline was directly related to decisions by the State of Washington in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The decision was made at a time when Project development was anticipated to continue and that wells could be turned off. But in the meantime the State issued ground water permits for agricultural irrigation even though the aquifer was being mined.

*The State of Washington's \$75,000,000 investment in OGWRP includes these projects:

- Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases - \$6,500,000
 - Completed State Environmental Policy Act Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
 - Technical support to Bureau of Reclamation for National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
 - Joined Bureau of Reclamation defending lawsuits in federal court on adequacy of SEPA and NEPA
 - Issued two secondary use water rights to Bureau of Reclamation
 - o 25,000 acre feet of municipal and industrial water and 12,500 acre-feet of instream flow water for state use
 - o 30,000 acre-feet of Odessa Ground Water Replacement water and 15,000 acre-feet of instream flow water by Bureau of Reclamation
 - Negotiated municipal and industrial water service contracts with Bureau of Reclamation, issued state water rights to individual users/municipal suppliers
 - Contracted construction of East Low Canal Weber Branch Siphon and Weber Coulee Siphon/I-90 crossing
 - Mitigation at Lake Roosevelt in conjunction with National Parks Service
 - Conducted East Low Canal LRIRP widening from I-90 to Lind Coulee Wasteway
- Potholes Supplemental Feed Route - \$13,500,000
 - With Bureau of Reclamation prepared National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact on use of Crab Creek to convey feed water
 - Expanded crossing of Frenchman Hills Wasteway for passage of additional 25,000 acre-feet
 - Prepared Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance and environmental checklist addressing Road 16 Bridge (Grant Co.), Pinto Dam outlet reconstruction, and Crab Creek impacts
 - Funded acquisitions for Crab Creek Conveyance Route (facilitated transfer of 126,000 acre-feet of feed water from East Low Canal to Crab Creek)
 - Mitigation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for northern leopard frogs, carp and bullfrog control
- Coordinated Conservation Program - \$15,000,000
 - From 2009 to 2014 completed conservation projects creating 33,426 acre-feet of water for Odessa Ground Water Replacement
- Odessa Special Study - \$14,000,000
 - Prepared Initial Alternative Development and Evaluation, Odessa Subarea Special Study with Bureau of Reclamation
 - Habitat evaluations, fish entrainment studies, cultural resource assessments, and other studies to support EIS process
 - Water right mitigation with Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Spokane Tribe of Indians
 - Mitigation with NOAA Fisheries in support of BiOp for Odessa Special Study water rights
 - Contracted designs for East Low Canal Siphons (Lind 1 & 2, Warden, Kansas Prairie 1 & 2)
 - Issued secondary use water right to Bureau of Reclamation for 164,000 acre-feet for Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program
- Odessa Special Study - East Low Canal Improvements - \$26,000,000
 - Widen and improve East Low Canal--Weber Coulee to Lind Coulee Wasteway and Lind Coulee Wasteway to Scooteneey Wasteway
 - Design and build Leisle and Calloway road bridges modification and reconstruction
 - Install Lind Coulee Wasteway and Lind Coulee Siphon 1 radial gates
 - Design and construct Lind Coulee 1 and 2 Siphons

LOOKING BACK

Source Unknown circa 1959 Irrigation District Directors Praised by Official of Bureau *(reprinted as originally published)*

SPOKANE – Directors of Columbia Basin Irrigation districts were praised here yesterday by Philip R. Nalder, project manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, for their all-out efforts to educate Basin farmers on aspect of the new repayment contract plan to be voted on July 28 and Aug. 11.

Nalder and Gilbert Stamm of Boise, assistant regional director for the bureau, attended meetings last night and Tuesday night at the request of the directors to discuss the plan.

“There’s a lack of information about the plan,” Nalder commented, “but directors are working hard to overcome this.”

He added that this condition was pretty widely distributed throughout the Quincy, East and South Columbia Basin districts.

Nalder said the Washington state Columbia Basin Commission has been cooperating with the directors in their educational campaign. The commission has published a booklet explaining terms of the present and proposed contracts.

The repayment plan, which has received approval of boards of directors of the three districts and of the bureau, proposes changing the repayment schedule and total construction authorization to include an additional 36 million dollars worth of drainage works.

Nalder said the 281 million dollar ceiling authorized for irrigation works construction under the present repayment plan would be exhausted soon. This includes \$8,176,000 for drainage of which only about \$350,000 remains and half of that is committed. Then this contract was entered into between the districts and the U.S. government in 1945, it was figured that any additional drainage cost would be borne by assessing the farmers annually for the full cost of these works.

Under the proposed new plan, drainage works totaling \$44,542,000 would be included in construction costs.

The plan will have to win majorities in all three of the irrigation districts in order to pass, Nalder said.

East district will vote July 28 and Quincy and South district August 11. No mail or absentee ballots will be allowed. A farmer and his wife must vote in the director district where they hold land, Nalder said.

CBDL Annual Conference

*Tuesday, October 27, 2015
ATEC, Big Bend Community College
Moses Lake, WA*

All Roads Lead To The Columbia:

Does Drought Have Implications For The Columbia Basin Project?

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Registration</i> | 12:15 – 1:00 pm |
| <i>Conference</i> | 1:00 – 5:00 pm |
| <i>Reception</i> | 5:00 – 6:00 pm |
| <i>Dinner</i> | 6:00 – 6:45 pm |
| <i>CBDL Annual Meeting</i> | 6:45 – 7:15 pm |
| <i>Evening Presentation with Keynote Speaker, Senator Mark Schoesler</i> | 7:15 – 8:00 pm |

Take advantage of early bird rates and register before October 16. at :
www.cbdl.org

AGENDA:

2020 REGIONAL/NATIONAL/GLOBAL WEATHER FORECAST

- Nick Bond, State Climatologist, Office of the Washington State Climatologist
 - Drought’s impact on food production and supply. What role will the Columbia Basin Project play in the future?

SOCIETY’S EXPECTATIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Tom Tebb, Director, Office of the Columbia River, Department of Ecology
 - Drought has brought new attention to efficiency and conservation. What direction will these efforts take in the future?

EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION, AND SECURITY:

A VIEW FROM THE CANALS

- Roger Sonnichsen, Technical Services Manager, Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District
- Nate Andreini, Assistant Manager of Technical Services, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
- John O’Callaghan, Superintendent of Field Operations, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District
 - Panel discussion covering system efficiencies, coordinated conservation plans, and water supply security.

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CBDL Annual Conference ... *Continued from page 9*

MAINTAINING AND MAXIMIZING RETURNS FROM COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Tim Culbertson, Manager, Columbia Basin Hydropower
- Clint Wertz, Ephrata Field Office Manager, US Bureau of Reclamation
 - Discussion on the value of adding to and preserving system infrastructure.

TECHNOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED ON-FARM IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

- Troy Peters, P.E., Ph.D., Extension Irrigation Specialist and Associate Scientist, Washington State University
 - Cutting edge information on advanced irrigation technology.

KEEPING UP WITH EXPECTATIONS: HOW INFRASTRUCTURE IS KEY TO THE FUTURE

- Mike Schwisow, Director of Government Relations, CBDL
- Ian Lyle, Director of Government Relations, Water Strategies
 - Discussion about state and federal water infrastructure investment and how efficiency is improved when infrastructure is maintained.

ANOTHER FORM OF WATER SHORTAGE:

PROGRESS ON THE ODESSA GROUND WATER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

- Levi Johnson, Development Coordinator, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District



Attendees at last year's CBDL Annual Meeting.

Thank You to Conference Sponsors *As of press time.*

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Washington State Potato Commission



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Ag World Support Systems

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JR Simplot

McCain Foods

RH2 Engineering

Washington Fruit and Produce

Silver Sponsor

Inland Power and Light

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 27

CBDL Annual Conference - ATEC, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake

Wednesday, November 18

CBDL Board of Trustees - ATEC; Moses Lake

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Thursday, December 16

CBDL Board of Trustees - Simplot; Moses Lake

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Perseverance, secret of all triumphs."

-- Victor Hugo

Writer

Wertz Brings Focus... *Continued from page 4*

and ranching communities in rural areas. His work in these diverse environments with a wide array of constituents has been good preparation for the various programs that the Ephrata Field Office oversees.

“Clint’s significant land management background is a good fit with the large land base of the Columbia Basin Project,” said Dawn Wiedmeier, Columbia-Cascades Area Manager. “He has successfully handled a diverse range of challenging issues and is a very smart and progressive manager who will bring creative ideas to the Ephrata Field Office.”

Previously, Wertz served as the Land Resources Program Manager with Reclamation’s Regional Office in Boise, Idaho. His time there gave him a broad perspective on what is going on throughout the tri-state area. To get up to speed in Washington State, Wertz is prioritizing time out of the office to see the ongoing programs first hand which he also encourages his 40 person staff to do.

Scope of the Ephrata Field Office

The Ephrata Field office manages and is a public resource for over a dozen ongoing programs throughout Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana. While the overall mission of Reclamation is to provide water and power in the west, the Ephrata office focuses on water delivery. The office has an integral role in working with irrigation districts, municipalities, public utilities, property owners, and a range of other entities. The office oversees a large land base which is unusual for Reclamation. Wertz says, “It is exciting that the office is able to leverage several hundred thousand acres of land to serve its mission.” Moving forward, Wertz hopes to develop a deeper understanding of each program, the partners involved. He plans to “identify opportunities to improve efficiency in how we do business, ways to improve customer service, and build a team with the expertise to meet needs and challenges now and in the future.”

The Columbia Basin Project (CBP) is the largest program that the office oversees. The other projects are smaller and on a different scale but have similar needs. Over the next year, Wertz said, “I am looking forward to seeing the expansion of projects, working closely with partners including the districts, and learning more about the diverse economy within the CBP.”

When it comes to the CBP and the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project (OGWRP), Wertz views the Ephrata Field Office as a “primary partner with the irrigation districts and a resource when issues come up with water resources and land use.” A big focus will be on the construction side of things, providing expertise and guidance. Wertz said, “What interested me the most about this job is that plans have moved beyond the conceptual and are actually happening.” Wertz will have staff dedicated to OGWRP and he will be heavily involved at a higher level with partners and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Future Challenges

The biggest challenge Wertz foresees as Field Office Manager is

increased scrutiny over water in the west. Wertz stated, “The CBP is one of the only projects in the west this year that didn’t face some sort of restriction in terms of water resources.” There has been a lot of focus on California where many projects got little or no water. Water is a limited resource and Wertz understands the importance of stewarding that resource wisely. He said, “Using water resources to the best advantage and understanding how that is tied to climate change and drought will be important over the next year.”

As he gets started, Wertz will also be taking on the management of a transformation in the way Reclamation handles projects. He says, “There will be a big change in the culture of the agency with an influx of diverse skill sets and people joining the team.” The work of the Ephrata Field Office goes beyond water and power with an expanded role in resource management. To that end, staff is being trained in project management and a new project manager position is being developed. Wertz said, “This position will be vital to keeping all the balls in the air. The manager will coordinate the ongoing work, manage schedules, and offer a higher level of accountability.” The end goal is to provide transparency in their operations as well as improve customer service and the ability to better connect people with information and resources. Wertz is excited to be a part of an evolution in the way Reclamation gets work done that will improve responsiveness to customers. As they become increasingly transparent, they can do more public outreach about Reclamation’s mission, projects, how they intersect with stakeholder groups, and the services they provide.

Role of Stakeholder Groups

Wertz looks forward to learning more about current partners and stakeholder groups. He has already attended more than half a dozen meetings with various partners including the CBDL September board meeting. He believes in the importance of working together to accomplish shared goals. He views the CBDL as a primary partner with Reclamation, the districts, and landowners who share the goal of improving and increasing access to water within the CBP. He said, “Collaboration with the CBDL now and in the future will be essential to addressing the major challenges of drought and managing the finite resource of water. It will take a lot of creativity and partnership.” Government resources are limited and Reclamation is often shorthanded. He said, “The support and actions of stakeholder groups like CBDL are crucial to the future development of the CBP.”

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS SHUT OFF DATES

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District:

October 21

Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District:

Last day for delivery changes, October 23 and shut off October 26

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District:

Last day for delivery changes, October 26 and shut off on October 27

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Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA Inc

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dba "Fix Canal"

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Don Beus

Donald Stucky

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Erickson Orchards Inc

Fode Farms Inc

Four Cross Ranch LLC

Franklin County Commissioners

Franz Ranch Inc

Fresno Valves & Castings Inc

Friehe Farms

Giselle Wiederhielm Farm

Gish Farms

Glen Bair Farms

Goober Grain Inc

Grange Supply Company of Odessa

Grant County EDC

Grant County PUD

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Haricot Farms Inc/Central Bean Co

HDR Engineering Inc

Helena Chemical

Hendrix Farms LLC

Henry Field

Irrigators Inc

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Port of Warden/Grant County District #8

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Seed-Rite Inc

Senator Mark Schoesler

Shirley Yager

SIDEB Inc

Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco

Soiltest Farm Consultants Inc

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Spectrum Communications Inc

Su-Co Land & Cattle Inc

Sunset Farms Inc

Sutter Kunkle & Thompson PS

Templin Farm Service

Terra Gold Farms Inc

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