

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.



*CBDL Board Member, JJ Danz and Director of Government Relations, Mike Schwisow.*

### CBDL Attends WSWRA Annual Conference

*Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations*

CBDL Trustees Clark Kagele and Milt Johnston as well as Program Manager, Sara Cornell represented the League at the 2015 Washington State Water Resources Association (WSWRA) Conference earlier this month. CBDL Director of Government Relations, Mike Schwisow, also attended.

WSWRA is the statewide association of irrigation districts addressing

### IN THIS ISSUE

CBDL Attends WSWRA Annual Conference .....	1
From the Chair .....	2
CBDL Meets with Lorri Lee .....	3
National Water Resources Association Annual Conference .....	4
CBDL Joins Association of Washington Business .....	4
Ephrata Field Office Staffing .....	4
American Agriculture: A Matter of National and Global Security	4
Upcoming Events .....	5
CBDL Elects Executive Committee .....	5
Looking Back .....	6



*CBDL Board Member Mike La Plant and QCBID Manager Darvin Fales.*

their issues. The annual conference is attended by elected district directors (farmers), district staff members, and associated industry representatives.

The conference brings together speakers on a variety of topics to provide current information on issues affecting district operations.

*Continued on Page 2*

**2015 OFFICERS**

Orman Johnson - *Chair*  
Connell  
Kevin Lyle - *Vice Chair*  
Othello  
Milton Johnston - *Past Chair*  
Ellensburg  
Jake Wollman Jr - *Treasurer*  
Warden  
Jeff Schibel - *Secretary*  
Odessa

**2015 TRUSTEES**

Mark Booker, Othello  
Steve Connors, Warden  
JJ Danz, Mesa  
Andy Erickson, Moses Lake  
Bernard Erickson, Ritzville  
Ron Fode, Moses Lake  
Heath Gimmestad, Moses Lake  
Joe Gross, Marlin  
Roger Hartwig, Ritzville  
Matt Hawley, Pasco  
Clark Kagele, Odessa  
Mike LaPlant, Ephrata  
Rick Miller, Pasco  
John Moody, Ephrata  
Alice Parker, Royal City  
Chet Pedersen, Quincy  
Reid Phillips, Ritzville  
Dale Pomeroy, Warden  
John Preston, Warden  
Eli Stahl, Ritzville  
Mark Stedman, Davenport  
David Stevens, Wilson Creek  
Richard Stevens, Soap Lake  
William Wagoner, Quincy

**STAFF**

Vicky Scharlau  
*Executive Director*  
Mike Schwisow  
*Director of Government Affairs*  
Kris Polly  
*Federal Advocate*  
Sara Cornell  
*Program Manager*  
Katie Pott  
*Program Assistant*  
Amanda Brack  
*Communications Coordinator/*  
*Program Assistant*  
Debbie Sands  
*Business Manager*



**From the Chair**

*Orman Johnson*

2015 has been quite a year! Thank you to everyone who supports the work of the League through membership, and sponsorship. Your financial support

allows the League to continue pursuing our mission to support the Columbia Basin Project and its future development. 2015 brought significant progress on the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program and a strong focus on distributing facts through extensive public outreach and advocacy. Thank you to stakeholders, landowners, legislators, the media, and the public who participated in League awareness campaigns this year including Grand Coulee Dam Tours, OGWRP construction site tours, local public events, the release of the OGWRP FAQ, monthly newsletters and weekly emails with water news, editorial board meetings,

the CBDL Annual Conference, farm tours, and public policy trips to Olympia and Washington D.C.

CBDL is accomplishing great things on behalf of Columbia Basin Project stakeholders. Help us continue the work by joining or renewing your CBDL membership. Membership is essential to continued progress and ensuring the League can keep disseminating facts and focusing local, state, and national attention on protecting our water. Become a 2016 member today online at [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org). Let's work together to ensure the League's mission is supported in the New Year!

**CBDL Attends WSWRA Annual Conference** *Continued from page 1*

Conference speakers included Lorri Lee, the Pacific Northwest Regional Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Derek Sandison, Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture; Washington state Senator Jim Honeyford; Heather Bartlett, Water Quality Program Manager, Washington Department of Ecology; and Tom Tebb, Director of the Office of Columbia River, Washington Department of Ecology among others. Session topics covered Washington State Irrigation District updates, climate change, drought response, impact of wildfire on irrigation facilities, and more. During the event, WSWRA also sets federal and state legislative agendas for the following year.

The WSWRA Conference brings together a broad range of decision makers and government officials. CBDL representatives took full advantage of the opportunity to network and meet with stakeholders, partners, and board members from the three irrigation districts in the Project. Throughout the conference, there were many comments from stakeholders about the positive impact of the League with the charge to keep up the good work.



*CBDL Board Chair Orman Johnson and SCBID Board Member Charlie Lyle.*



## CBDL Meets with Lorri Lee

During the WSWRA Conference earlier this month, CBDL Board Chair Orman Johnson and Trustees Clark Kagele, Milt Johnston, and Mark Booker were joined by League staff members Mike Schwisow, Sara Cornell, and the League's Federal Advocate, Kris Polly, to meet with Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Lorri Lee and her staff including Columbia-Cascades Area Manager Dawn Wiedmeier and Ephrata Field Office Manager, Clint Wertz.



*Reclamation's PNW representatives Toni Turner, Lorri Lee, and Dawn Wiedmeier.*

During the meeting, the group discussed the importance of finalizing the contracting of Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) between Reclamation and East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. CBDL representatives emphasized the importance of having the water ready to put in the systems under contract so that construction of distribution systems can move forward seamlessly once it begins.

The group also reviewed requests for Federal participation in OGWRP financing along with an update on Congressional action on Reclamation's budget. The League has consistently requested funds but the opportunity for new funding for projects all across the West is not promising.

CBDL representatives presented a new concept that would have the same effect as securing new funding. Construction costs for the Weber Coulee Siphons were designated as a reimbursable expense like other CBP infrastructure. Since only OGWRP lands require the new siphon capacity, they are the only land to make the Reclamation payment which would amount to just over \$11.00 per acre per year. The idea now being explored is forgiveness of that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded construction debt. Preliminary findings indicate that forgiveness will require a congressional enactment. Getting this done would



*CBDL Board Member Clark Kagele exchanges information with Ephrata Field Office Manager Clint Wertz.*

have the same effect as securing a new \$36,000,000 appropriation and would make accepting Reclamation water supplies that much more feasible for eligible landowners. Reclamation will help by providing background information that will go toward pulling the package together to work in the legislative process.

At the meeting's conclusion, Lee and CBDL representatives committed to maintaining the close communication and productive partnership that currently exists.



*CBDL representatives Orman Johnson, Mark Booker, Milt Johnston, and Mike Schwisow.*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Expect problems and eat them for breakfast."*

*Alfred A. Montapert, American Author*

## National Water Resources Association Annual Conference

In November, CBDL Government Relations Director Mike Schwisow along with other Columbia Basin Project stakeholders, including CBDL board members Bernie Erickson and Mark Booker, attended the National Water Resources Association annual conference in Denver, Colorado. While there, they met with Reclamation's Commissioner Lopez and Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo. Schwisow participated in multiple meetings also representing the Washington State Water Resources Association and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID). CBDL made a request for renewed funding and forgiveness of Weber Siphon construction repayment.

## CBDL Joins Association of Washington Business

In November, the League became a member of the Association of Washington Business (AWB), the state's premier advocate for the business community and recognized as the state's chamber of commerce, manufacturing and technology association. AWB is making a strong push into state water issues. As a member, the League will participate on their Water Resources and Water Quality, Committees. CBDL Government Director Mike Schwisow will attend committee meetings and Trustee Milt Johnston will monitor committee activity.



## Ephrata Field Office Staffing

*Clint Wertz, Ephrata Field Office Manager, Bureau of Reclamation*

The Ephrata Field Office is undergoing a transformation due to baby boom retirements, new faces, processes, and challenges. Over the past year, the office lost the equivalent of about 100 years of institutional knowledge in staffing changes. In addition to the challenges of replacing staff there are steep demands for training, reviewing and developing SOP's to improve customer service, and developing a strategy for future needs in the Columbia Basin. Eight new employees will be starting in the next few months in the operations and realty groups. In 2016, another round of retirements is expected. A coordinated effort is underway to make this staffing transition occur as smoothly as possible.

The first step is to develop a strategic plan to identify the office's baseline for operations, challenges faced, and tools and resources needed to

be successful. The office is refining its processes to be more transparent and customer friendly. They are examining workload to better prioritize requests from districts, partners, and the public. Training is being developed to get new staff up to speed as quickly as possible. Finally they are focusing on recruiting qualified staff and improving retention for new and existing employees. They are building capacity not only for the technical skills Reclamation is known for but also the soft skills necessary to interact professionally and responsively to partner/public needs. Clint Wertz said, "Our goal is to be 'the office' to work for at Reclamation."

Reclamation utilizes an activity planning process to ensure budgetary resources align properly with project work and necessary staffing to be successful and on time. Key to this process is having assigning project managers to larger tasks who have already been through the Bureau's project manager training curriculum. The project manager is the primary point of contact for projects who keeps the flow of information moving throughout the Bureau and with partners and contractors.

The Pacific Northwest Region has embraced 5 core values that exemplify how they do business: communication, ethics, respect for people, safety, and results-oriented actions. These values will guide Reclamation in meeting its mission and working with partners and the public. Clint said, "We look forward to working collaboratively with our partners in addressing our aging infrastructure, evolving workforce and generational differences, increased demand for food production and keeping our people and facilities safe and secure for another 100 years."

## American Agriculture: A Matter of National and Global Security

*Ian Lyle, Water Strategies, LLC*

On November 4 the House Committee on Agriculture met to discuss the connection between agriculture and national security. Access to a secure, reliable and affordable supply of food is central to any nation's national security. The United States is fortunate to have a robust agriculture sector that feeds our nation and is equally important to the world. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States is responsible for approximately 20 percent of the world's food exports by volume.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) serves on both the Agriculture Committee and the Armed Services Committee. Conaway chaired the November 4 hearing and noted: "Agriculture and national security are intertwined in many different ways – whether it is ensuring that food is available to meet nutritional needs for both those within our own borders as well as those around the world, or ensuring that food coming into our borders is disease and pest free, or guaranteeing that farmers and ranchers have the needed policy tools in place to continue producing food and fiber."



## American Agriculture: A Matter of National and Global Security *Continued from page 4*

Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN) echoed this sentiment stating: "A strong agriculture sector and stable food supply is critical to national security."

The Committee heard testimony from several highly qualified witnesses including Ambassador John Negroponte, the first Director of National Intelligence. Negroponte also served as the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State and as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines, the United Nations, and Iraq. He stated, "Homeland security is connected to agriculture because of the importance of America's global supply chains and food safety issues." He discussed a number of challenges facing our nation's agriculture sector. "Agriculture is extremely dependent on roads, rail, electricity, water and other physical infrastructure." He also noted, "In the decades to come, water could become to global strategy what petroleum is today, since declining food security could contribute to large-scale political instability and conflict."

The Committee also received testimony from Dr. Tammy Beckham, the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA) attended the hearing and asked Dr. Beckham about the state of our nation's bio-surveillance and detection systems and how they could be used appropriately. In response Dr. Beckham suggested the U.S. "get more real time data, use existing technologies, and provide incentives for the industry to use systems while protecting their data."

This hearing was the first in a series that will examine the relationship between agriculture and national security. Chairman Conaway summarized the November 4 hearing saying, "The bottom line is that a nation that can feed and provide for itself is inherently safer than a nation that cannot."

## CBDL Elects Executive Committee

2016 Columbia Basin Development League Board of Trustee members are elected each year at the Annual Meeting. Members of the Executive Committee are elected at the board meeting following the Annual Meeting, according to bylaws. At the November 2015 meeting the following candidates were elected to the CBDL Executive Committee.



**Chair:**  
*Orman Johnson, Connell*



**Vice Chair:**  
*Kevin Lyle, Othello*



**Treasurer:**  
*Jake Wollman, Jr., Warden*



**Secretary:**  
*Jeff Schibel, Odessa*



**Immediate Past Chair:**  
*Milt Johnston, Ellensburg*



**At Large:**  
*Dale Pomeroy, Warden*

*Continued on Page 6*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 12-13**  
National Water Resources Association Leadership Forum  
Monte Carlo Hotel - Las Vegas, Nevada

**January 20, 2016**  
CBDL Board of Trustee Meeting  
ATEC Building, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM





**At Large:**  
*Clark Kagele, Odessa*



**At Large:**  
*Andy Erickson, Moses Lake*



**At Large:**  
*Matt Hawley, Pasco*



## Help Us Save on Mailing Costs!

Help us save on printing and mailing costs by opting to

receive an email version of this newsletter.

Visit [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org) to sign up,

or send us an email: [info@cbdl.org](mailto:info@cbdl.org).

## LOOKING BACK

### Tri-City Herald, June, 18, 1959

### Growth of Basin is Noted

*Printed as Published*

WASHINGTON (AP) – Nearly 2,000 new farms were established in the Columbia Basin in the past 10 years, Reclamation Commissioner W.A. Dexheimer said Monday in a report summing up what reclamation has done for the area.

The report was prepared on request by Rep. Catherine May (R-Wash). It said crop production during the period totaled about 100 million dollars.

Population growth was listed as about 4,000 persons a year for the irrigated area, while the surrounding dryland area remained virtually static.

There were only two towns with more than 1,500 population 10 years ago, the report said. Now there are six in excess of 2,500 and two which have passed the 10,000 mark.

Dexheimer reported 770 new businesses established and value of investments increased an estimate 178 million dollars, mostly in permanent real property.

The report added that the growth rate of business volume was twice that of any other area in Washington state and that annual retail sales figures stood at nearly 90 million dollars.

### Looking Back

*Photo from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

*Date Unknown*



## THANKS TO OUR 2016 MEMBERS

### Major

Connell 76 LLC

Washington State Potato Commission

### Underwriter

David & Rose Stevens

Johnson Agriprises/Johnson-Reaugh

Partnership

S & C Ranching Inc

### Supporter

McGregor Company

Washington State Tree Fruit Association

Zirkle Fruit Company

### Corporate

Ag World Support Systems

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Friehe Farms

Inland Power & Light Co

Quincy Foods LLC

Twin City Foods Inc

Valley Fruit Orchards LLC

Washington Trust Bank

### Member

501 Consultants Inc

A Randal Dickinson

Adams County Development Council

(ACDC)

Ag Ventures NW

AgriBusiness Council

Airway Farms Inc

Alan Voise

Alford Farms

Anderson Perry & Associates

Anderville Farms Inc-Mattawa

Archie & Aurora Updegrave

Art Prior/Prior Farms LLC

Berglund Farms

Big Bend Ag Appraisals

Bill Watson

Blue Sun Farms Inc

BR Bair Farms Inc

Brad Hirz

Bruce & Diana Carlson Inc

BWE-Donald C Burk

BWE-Douglas F Burk

Canyon Crest Farms

Carpenter McGuire & DeWulf PS

Cegnar Company

Central Bonded Collectors

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Columbia Bank

Columbia Basin Machine Co Inc

Condon Dental Services

Crop Production Services

D&D Gilbert Farms

Dan Piper Farm

Dano Law Firm PS

Darrel A Kulm Ranches Inc

Don Beus

Donald Stucky

Earthbourne Resources Inc

East Basin Ag LLC

EL & JH Ray Farms LLC

Erickson Orchards Inc

Flying T LLC

Franklin County Commissioners

Fresno Valves & Castings Inc

Gish Farms

Grant County EDC

Grant County PUD

Haricot Farms Inc/Central Bean Co

HDR Engineering Inc

Helena Chemical

Hendrix Farms LLC

Isaak Brothers

ITC Services Inc

J&E Schafer Farms Inc

J&S Myers Inc

Jack L Gilbert & Sons Inc

Jacklin Seed by Simplot

Janett & Associates LLC

Jean Marble

Jon & Sharon Fink

Jones Produce

J-U-B Engineers Inc

Jubilant LLC

Kagele Family Farms LLC

Kelly Shinn

L&L Ag Production LLC

LaVerne Truman

Lawrence Kiesz

LC Farms Inc

Leffel Otis & Warwick PS

Leroy & Shirley Welch

## THANKS TO OUR 2016 MEMBERS

Lindcrest Ranch

Lloyd & Karen M Harding

Lynn Pittman Farms

Margaret Franz-Robinson

Mark Booker

Marvin and Neil JV

Mary Shinn

McKay Seed Company

MGS AG Inc.

Mona Freriks

Moody Family

Moses Lake Air Service Inc

Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District

Nancy Franz

National Frozen Foods Corporation

Quincy

P&P Farms

Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

Perkins & Zlatich CPAs PS

Pete Beaumont Farms LLC

Phillips Family Farms, LLC

Piper Ranch-Steve Piper

Pomeroy Farms/Port of Warden

Port of Mattawa

Port of Pasco

Qualls Agricultural Laboratory Inc

Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District

R&L St Hilaire LLC

Radach Farms Inc

RH2 Engineering Inc

Richard Erickson

Richard LeMargie

Rod Rottinghaus Farms

RP Stucky Properties LLC

SAC Enterprises Inc

SC Communications Inc

Schibel Farms Inc

Schneider Farms - Pasco LLC

Schroeder Law Offices PC

Schutte Farms Inc

Seed-Rite Inc

SIDEB Inc

Soiltest Farm Consultants Inc

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Spectrum Communications Inc

Sunset Farms Inc

Sutter Kunkle & Thompson PS

Templin Farm Service

Thomas Guderian

Tippett Company of Washington LLC

Treat Farms

Triple C Land Company

Underhill Farms Inc

Voss Farms of Pasco LLC

Wacker Farm

Wajer Farms Inc

Washington Association of Wheat Growers

Washington Fruit & Produce

Washington State Water Resources Association

Wes King Ranch

Wilbur Security Company

William Riley

### Reciprocal

Cashmere Chamber of Commerce

Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce

Ritzville Area Chamber of Commerce

**COLUMBIA BASIN**  
DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

### CBDL Membership Online

Sign up for 2016 CBDL membership online at  
**CBDL.org.**

### Columbia Basin Development League

PO Box 745, Cashmere, WA 98815

Phone: 509-782-9442 Fax: 509-782-1203

Visit the League's website: [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org)

