



MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 2

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.

League Leadership Takes a Unified Voice to Olympia

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Government Relations Director

A delegation of CBDL Board officers and members traveled to Olympia for meetings with legislators on February 13 and 14. The group included Jeff Schibel, Clark Kagele, Orman Johnson, Port of Warden Commissioner Dale Pomeroy, Matt Hawley, and Lincoln County Commissioner Mark Stedman. Government Relations Director Mike Schwisow arranged a full schedule of ten meetings over two days. The meetings focused on connecting with members of the House Capital Budget Committee and



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Senate Ways & Means Committee who will lead the development of the 2017-2019 Capital Budget. The delegation also called on legislators representing the 9th and 13th Districts where Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) lands are located. The group kicked off their schedule by meeting with Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison who also serves on Governor Inslee’s Columbia River Treaty Advisory Team.



Derek Sandison

During the meeting the group had a chance to update Director Sandison on League advocacy efforts and to hear his assessment of Columbia River Treaty progress.

Other Olympia meetings included:

Senator Mark Schoesler (R)

Senate Majority Leader, 9th District, Ritzville

Senator Jim Honeyford (R)

Ways & Means Vice Chair for Capital Budget, 15th District, Sunnyside

Senator Judy Warnick (R)

Senate Ag, Water, Trade & Economic Development Chair, 13th District, Moses Lake

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From the Chair

Kevin Lyle

This March, let's put the spotlight on the League's advocacy efforts. In February, a delegation traveled to Olympia taking the issues that matter to you as a Columbia Basin Project stakeholder to legislators. Looking to April, another delegation will go to Washington DC and talk with federal legislators, regulators, and decision makers.

Read on for district updates including details about the recent weather damage in

SCBID, Reclamation and ECBID's ongoing partnership, and see a few snapshots of the construction happening in Quincy. Finally, hear from our DC lobbyist about Congressman Newhouse's increased influence due to his recent appointment to the Appropriations Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CBDL Board Meeting
 Wednesday, April 12
 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 ATEC Building, Big Bend
 Community College
 Moses Lake, WA

CBDL Board Meeting
 Wednesday, May 17
 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 Simplot
 Moses Lake, WA

League Leadership Takes a Unified Voice to Olympia

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Representative Steve Tharinger (D)

Capital Budget Committee Chair, 24th District, Port Angeles

Representative Strom Peterson (D)

Capital Budget Committee Vice Chair, 21st District, Edmonds

Representative Richard DeBolt (R)

Capital Budget Ranking Minority Member, 20th District, Centralia

Representative Norma Smith (R)

Assistant Ranking Minority Member, 10th District, Clinton

Representative Mary Dye (R)

Capital Budget Committee Member, 9th District, Pomeroy

Representative Tom Dent (R)

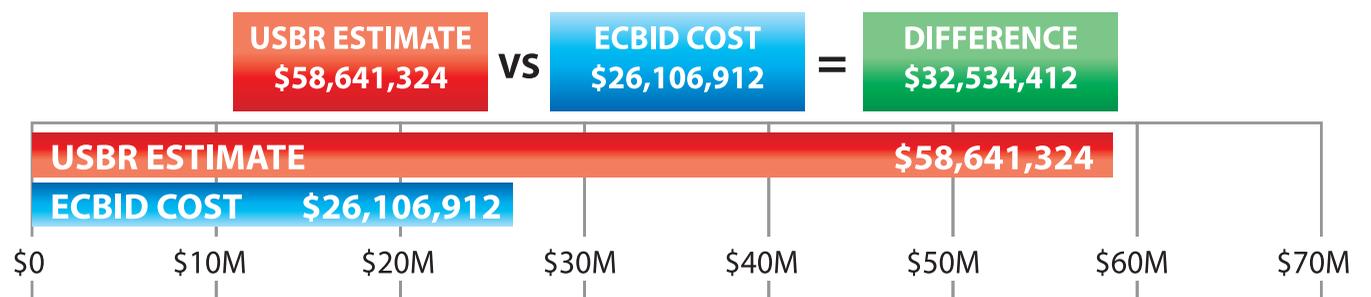
13th District, Moses Lake

Representative Joe Schmick (R)

9th District, Colfax

During each meeting, the group maximized their time by providing consistent messaging and a unified voice. They shared an overview of OGWRP implementation using \$28 million in Capital Budget grant funding provided by Office of the Columbia River. They walked each representative through a hand out highlighting how much has already been accomplished and how East Columbia Basin Irrigation District saved millions over the initial estimated cost of the East Low Canal project by managing construction contracts in-house and bringing on staff to do canal excavation.

TOTAL ACTUAL PROJECT COST (2012-16) BY ECBID vs RECLAMATION ESTIMATES



League Leadership Takes a Unified Voice to Olympia

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The group also discussed landowner participation in project financing and gave a rundown on the sale of tax exempt municipal revenue bonds last October which will finance construction of the EL 47.5 distribution system. They drove home the point that without additional public investment the annual per acre cost won't be lowered to a level that will allow broad participation as the initial system is one of the least expensive to build.

The group expressed support for Governor Inslee's \$15 million budget request for the OGWRP included in the Capital Budget proposal sent to the Legislature in December. If enacted that level of funding would go a long way toward completing the East Low Canal portion of the OGWRP.

While meeting with legislators the group also endorsed legislation requested by the Washington State Water Resources Association. HB 1578/SB 5261 would authorize private investment in hydropower generation projects on irrigation facilities. This would provide more flexibility in finding financing and spread the risk for the Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project currently under development by Columbia Basin Hydropower.

In addition to sharing important updates and information, the group asked questions and listened to the legislators as they each provided an assessment of the Capital Budget outlook. A consistent theme in every Representative and Senator's office, even across party lines, was that the Capital Budget has an extremely bad capacity problem. This will cause many worthy projects to fall off the table before the final budget is adopted. An unexpectedly large number of local school construction bond levies passed which require a Capital Budget match that soaks up funding available for both new and continuing projects. Legislators shared ideas on how to address this problem including bonding of specific revenue streams and one-time use of a portion of the Budget Stabilization Act: the rainy day fund. No consensus has been reached on how to proceed. The League will continue to ask questions and participate in the discussion for how to overcome this challenge.

During the 2017 legislative session, the last two bills to be enacted are the Capital Budget and the bond authorization bill necessary to fund the Capital Budget. These bills are usually part of a package including the biennial operating budget. Legislators have been working for several sessions to find the final solution to the K-12 McCleary decision funding issue. The challenges of finding a solution will likely carry the legislature into Special Session well past the April 23rd end of the regular session.

CBDL MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew for 2017! Let's make history together.

Sign up at www.cbdl.org.

Advocacy: Slow, Incremental and Over Time

Vicky Scharlau, CBDL Executive Director

Who has time to take several days to drive to the state Capitol or fly to Washington DC to share your perspective on issues that impact the Columbia Basin Project? Aren't there other groups that do that?

Well yes, there are. And most of them are advocating against your position, or worse, your perspective or your position never gets heard at all. Without your voice only one side of an issue is heard.

Advocacy. And even though the term Government Affairs might be an even muddier title, it is perhaps a more descriptive term for engaging with the State Legislature, Congress, a state agency like the Department of Ecology or a federal agency like the Bureau of Reclamation or Department of Interior. Whether advocacy or government affairs, our goal is to promote our issues and help create and then maintain an environment beneficial to the League and the issues surrounding the Columbia Basin Project.

The League has become quite intentional about government affairs. We have a lobbyist in Olympia, Mike Schwisow, and in Washington DC, Ian Lyle and Kris Polly with Water Strategies LLC. We have many formal and informal partnerships with other groups that allow a unified voice at the state and federal level.

The League has also created a deliberate process to engage and influence decision makers, stakeholders, and other relevant audiences to support or implement actions that contribute to the well-being of the Columbia Basin Project. Change or action is slow, incremental and over time. The change we seek could be governance, regulatory (institutional functions of Ecology or the Bureau), practice, attitude, behavior or power. All take time. All require planning and intentionality.

Advocacy and issue work is challenging and frustrating as it includes a great deal of "process." As a group, the League has to agree on much before getting into the "fun" of politics. While it may seem intuitive to begin with the issues, the first step is agreeing on definitions and then creating a standardized process to allow consistent and systematic engagement for our Board of Trustees and other stakeholders who care about the Project and its future. This certainly includes the three Irrigation Districts within the Project: South, Quincy and East.

With a process established, we annually and sometimes quarterly identify and prioritize issues. But even at this point the work is just beginning. The League must identify the role to take on a given issue and determine resources to support the role:

- Do we own or drive the issue?
- Are we trying to influence the issue?
- Are we just participating in the process with many other groups?
- Are we merely disseminating information out to stakeholders so they are aware?
- Or, do we just remain neutral and have no opinion?

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Advocacy: Slow, Incremental and Over Time

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Decisions are often intuitive but with complex issues that affect people differently, the process requires deliberate and intentional thought and analysis or we risk disenfranchising a sector of our supportive stakeholders.

Creating a check list to determine when we should weigh in on an issue proves useful:

- Does it have a financial impact on or to the Columbia Basin Project?
- Is it an impediment to the Columbia Basin Project's current or future completion?
- Does it impact the League's reputation?
- Does it solely impact the League or the Project? (If not us, who?)
- Will the voice of the League, on behalf of stakeholders, make a difference?
- Does the issue hurt or build the League's or the Project's credibility?

Our membership plays a crucial role in the League's advocacy work. Your membership dollars make the League's active engagement and influence in DC and Olympia possible.

Odessa: Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking to the Future

Funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) comes from Federal, State, and local sources. In the early phases of the program Federal funds supported necessary studies, environmental review, and construction of the Weber Coulee Siphon Complex which cost \$36 million. The League continues to seek additional Federal funds which dried up following the Congressional earmark ban. The State Legislature has provided \$28 million in grant funding since 2013 when the final plan was chosen and implementation began. The first local funding stream started last October when East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) sold \$16,800,000 in tax-exempt municipal revenue bonds to finance construction of the initial distribution system.

ECBID has accomplished much toward the completion of the OGWRP using \$28 million in Department of Ecology grant funding including:

- East Low Canal (ELC) Widening
- Lind Coulee Siphons 1&2
- Lind Coulee Siphon 1 and WW Radial Gates
- Warden Siphon
- Leisle Road Bridge
- Calloway Road Bridge

All of these projects have been completed at a cost of \$27,606,912, a significant cost savings from the original US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) estimate of \$58,641,324 for these projects. The Reclamation estimate did not include the bridge expansions that have already been completed. Much of the savings was achieved by ECBID doing the ELC widening excavation work with their staff and by managing the siphon construction contracts in-house. Both of these factors ultimately translate to lower landowner annual cost per acre.

While a lot has been accomplished, more public funding is needed to maintain this forward momentum and facilitate the work needed to achieve project completion.



Construction at the Warden Siphon from January 2017.

Current cost estimates indicate that about \$25 million in funding is needed to complete East Low Canal improvements including the Kansas Prairie Siphons 1 & 2 and Gates, the Warden Siphon Gate, the EL 71.5 Check Structure, and 9 county bridge projects. An estimated \$174 million is needed to complete the installation of pumping stations and lateral delivery systems.



Construction at the Warden Siphon from February 2017.

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Odessa: Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking to the Future *Continued from page 4*

The initial system, EL 47.5 is one of the least expensive to build and is financed through sale of ECBID bonds. It is anticipated that future bond sales will be made to contribute to the construction costs of other systems. But additional public funds will be necessary to bring down the overall cost to a level landowners can afford in annual per acre repayment costs. The landowner share of the \$198 million has to be economically feasible to garner participation.



Progress at the EL47.5 Pump Station site from March 2017.

During their trip to Olympia, the League delegation supported Governor Inslee's 2017-2019 Capital Budget proposal of \$33.8 million for Office of Columbia River which includes \$15 million for OGWRP. This level of funding would be a significant step toward completion of the East Low Canal portion of the project.

ECBID and CBDL continue to pursue federal funding support as well as various loan and grant opportunities as potential funding sources.

Despite Severe Weather Damage, SCBID Water Delivery Will Flow 3/29

On Friday, February 17, the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) was hit by severe weather that caused flooding and widespread damage to infrastructure designed to control water flows during irrigation seasons.

According to SCBID Manager Dave Solem, a snowmelt runoff event started that day and spread over the weekend. Most of the damage is on six or seven main structures. While the damage to essential structures has been identified, prioritized, and mostly repaired according to Solem, the work will be ongoing to find and repair remaining smaller scale damage. Solem said, "All irrigation districts must deal with these types of problems from time to time, we were just the unlucky one this time."

On February 22, the SCBID board held a special meeting and declared an emergency allowing SCBID to bypass lengthy formal bidding processes, and expedite repair work. The board also agreed to delay water delivery start dates.

The majority of damage impacting water delivery has been successfully repaired by SCBID crews who worked overtime to get the job done and to keep water delivery as close to the original date as possible.

The Wahluke Branch Canal, which has a 1500-cubic foot per second of capacity, was packed to the brim with mud for a half mile. SCBID staff cleared the 5 to 15 foot deep mud with three long-reach excavators running shifts for approximately 10 days. In the same canal, twenty 10x20 foot concrete panels had buckled and collapsed. The panels have been removed and by the time of printing, SCBID anticipates they will be replaced.



Wahluke Branch Canal.

North of Pasco, the Potholes PE66 chute is a 1500 ft. long u-shaped concrete structure that is 6 feet wide and 5 feet tall. The chute runs water from the tail-end of the Potholes Canal down to the Columbia River. Water cannot run through Potholes Canal unless this chute is operational. The weather caused an ice jam in the chute and water overflowed over the side, washing material out for over 600 feet and undermining the base of the chute. This issue has already been repaired by SCBID staff after they found the problem on Sunday morning, February 19. They began repairs the same day.



PE 66 Chute.

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Despite Severe Weather Damage, SCBID Water Delivery Will Flow 3/29 *Continued from page 5*

A large drop structure on the PE 38.9B5 Wasteway washed out completely. The damage has been stabilized and the Wasteway will be fixed once SCBID determines whether to repair or replace it. Solem stated that SCBID is working on solutions for the irrigator who will be affected.



PE 38.9B5 Wasteway chute.

Another critical area of damage occurred on the EB Extension canal just south of Eltopia that carries water to block 17 east of Highway 395. Over the mile and a half-length of the extension, 250 concrete panels had collapsed or buckled intermittently. Solem reported that SCBID prepared a contract and selected a contractor who has already begun the repair work to remove and replace the panels to ensure water delivery. The project should take about three weeks with a target completion date of March 24.

Solem said current estimates value the damage at around \$600,000 to \$800,000. SCBID has emergency reserve funds to pay for the repairs initially and then will look to their insurance company as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to cover costs.

Due to the committed efforts of the SCBID staff and crews to prioritize and complete repair work, water delivery will only be delayed a week. Initially, water delivery was slated to start March 22 and now will begin March 29.

Reclamation Affirms Strong Partnership with ECBID in Public Letter

On February 17, the US Bureau of Reclamation Columbia-Cascades area office (Reclamation) Area Manager, Dawn Wiedmeier, sent a letter to Craig Simpson, Manager for the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) regarding construction of the EL 47.5 pumping plant. EL 47.7 is the first of seven pumping plants to be constructed as part of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project (OGWRP).

In the letter, Wiedmeier acknowledged that this project is non-traditional for Reclamation due to the time limitations required to meet water delivery deadlines. She expressed gratitude on behalf of Reclamation to ECBID for their responsiveness, clear communication, and partnership. Wiedmeier stated, "I believe we now have a good communications process in place going forward." She went on to state, "Assuming the district continues to follow Reclamation's requirements, I do not anticipate any concerns with Reclamation accepting title to this pumping plant."

When the League reached out to Wiedmeier for further comment, she reiterated the close partnership and joint commitment between the two organizations to "produce a quality end result, together."

Wiedmeier said, "Both ECBID and Washington State are huge partners in this project with Reclamation. We have a close working relationship with both entities. Our staffs in Ephrata, Yakima, Boise, and Denver have been working closely with Craig Simpson and his staff." She affirmed that the partners look forward to construction on 47.5 being wrapped up in time for spring 2018 water deliveries.

Winter Construction Highlights from QCBID - In Pictures



QCBID crews buries a geomembrane liner on W20 canal in the Winchester section.



QCBID hired contractor, Halme, places a concrete liner at W61 canal in the Royal section.

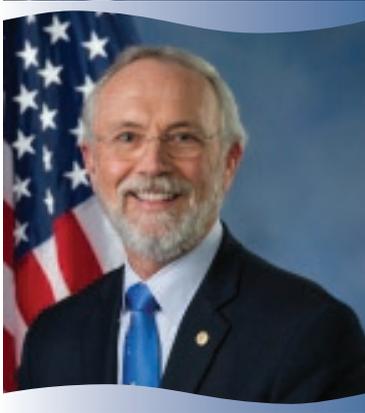
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Your task is not to foresee the future, but to enable it."

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery, writer and aviator

Newhouse Appointed to Appropriations Committee

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC



Dan Newhouse.

Earlier this year Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA-4) was appointed to the powerful House Committee on Appropriations.

The House Committee on Appropriations is charged with a key role in fulfilling Congress' Constitutional duties. Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution states, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in

Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." Article 1, Section 7 states, "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By serving on this committee, Congressman Newhouse is well positioned to influence the spending priorities of our nation.

Congressman Newhouse will sit on the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee giving him a voice in decision making at the national level that will have direct impact on the future of the Columbia Basin Project's infrastructure reinvestment and completion. His position will increase his ability to weigh in on a bill that allocates over \$30 billion annually, including around \$5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation.

When announcing his selection to serve on the Appropriations Committee Congressman Newhouse stated, "Too often, the federal government forgets that it's hard-working Americans who pay the bills. Joining the powerful House Appropriations Committee will help me protect our tax dollars from being spent wastefully and will help ensure important Central Washington priorities such as Hanford cleanup, the Yakima Training Center, agriculture, water storage, and wildfire prevention, are supported."

Congressman Newhouse joins fellow Washington Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA-3) on the House Committee on Appropriations. Washington State is also well represented on the Senate Appropriations Committee where Senator Patty Murray serves on the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

Through intentional communications and regular trips to Washington DC for face-to-face meetings, the League will focus on keeping Congressman Newhouse, Congresswoman Herrera Beutler, and Senator Murray informed on Columbia Basin Project progress and ongoing priorities.

THANKS TO OUR 2017 MEMBERS

Sustaining

JR Simplot Company
Warden Hutterian Brethren

Premier

Washington State Potato Commission

Leadership

Lamb Weston

Major

Big Bend Electric Cooperative
City of Othello
Connell 76 LLC
Grant County Commissioners Office

Underwriter

Adams County Board of Commissioners
Johnson Reaugh, LLC / Johnson Agriprises
McCain Foods
S & C Ranching Inc

Supporter

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
Marlin Hutterian Brethren
McGregor Company
Payne West Insurance
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Wells Fargo Insurance Services

Corporate

Ag Ventures NW
Ag World Support Systems
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
CHS Connell Grain
Friehe Farms
Inland Power & Light Company
KeyBank-Moses Lake
Lincoln County Commissioners
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Central Bean Co
Central Bonded Collectors
City of Connell
Cloudview
Columbia Agricultural Consultants Inc
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Columbia Basin Hydropower
Columbia Basin Machine Co., Inc.
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East Basin Ag LLC	Maiers Irrevocable Farming Trust	Rod Rottinghaus Farms	Reciprocal
EL & JH Ray Farms LLC	Mark Booker	Rosebud Vineyards, Inc.	Cashmere Chamber of Commerce
Erickson Orchards Inc	Marvin and Neil Joint Venture	Ross Lyle	Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce
Field to Table Food Processing	Mary Shinn	RP Stucky Properties LLC	Greater Othello Chamber of Commerce
Flying T LLC	Matthew Kagele	Ryan Kniep Farms	Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Fode Land Co LLC	McCrometer	SAC Enterprises Inc	Odessa Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Valves & Castings Inc	McKay Seed Company	SC Communications Inc	Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Giselle Wiederhielm Farm	MCL Farms	Schibel Farms Inc	Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce
Glen Bair Farms	Merle Gibbens	Schneider Farms - Pasco LLC	Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce
Grange Supply Company of Odessa	MGS AG Inc.	Schroeder Law Offices PC	
Grant County EDC	Mona Freriks	Schutte Farms Inc	
Grant County PUD	Moody Family	Schwisow & Associates	
Grigg Farms	Moses Lake Air Service Inc	Seed-Rite Inc	
H Lee Farms Inc	Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District	Shirley Yager	
HDR Engineering Inc	Moses Lake Steel Supply	SIDEB Inc	
Hendrix Farms LLC	Nancy Franz	Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco	
Henry Field	National Frozen Foods Corporation - Quincy	Soiltest Farm Consultants Inc	
Hilmes Construction Inc	Owl Lake LLC	South Columbia Basin Irrigation District	
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Isaak Brothers	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association	Sunset Farms Inc	
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J&S Myers Inc	Petrus Partners, Ltd.	Thomas Guderian	
Jack L Gilbert & Sons Inc	Phillips Family Farms, LLC	Tippett Company of Washington LLC	
James Brodie	Phillips Ranch Corp	Tom Downs Farms	
Janett & Associates LLC	Piper Ranch	Treat Farms	
Jeffers Danielson Sonn & Aylward	Pomeroy Farms	Triple C Land Company	
Johnston Property Management LLC	Port of Pasco	Underhill Farms Inc	
Jon & Sharon Fink	Port of Royal Slope	Vernon & Marilyn Phillips	
Jones Produce	Port of Warden/Grant County District #8	Voss Farms of Pasco LLC	
J-U-B Engineers Inc	Prior Farms LLC	Wacker Farm	
Kagele Family Farms LLC	Qualls Agricultural Laboratory	Wajer Farms Inc	
Kelly Shinn	R & J Lyle LLC	Walker Gravel LLC	
L&L Ag Production LLC	R & L St. Hilaire LLC	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	
Lad Irrigation Co	Radach Farms Inc	Washington Fruit & Produce	
LaVerne Truman	RAFCO Inc	Washington State Water Resources Association	
Leffel Otis & Warwick PS	Rex Harder	Washington Winegrowers	
Lenwood Farms Inc	Richard Erickson	Wes King Ranch	
Leroy & Shirley Welch	Richard LeMargie	Wilbur Security Company	
Lincoln County EDC	Richard Quirk	William Riley	