

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.

Introducing Kevin Lyle, 2017 League Chair



Kevin Lyle (left) recognized Orman Johnson's service as Chair at the 2016 CBDL Conference.

Kevin Lyle was elected Chair of the Columbia Basin Development League Board of Trustees at the December Trustee meeting. His term started January 1. Lyle graduated from Ritzville High School in 1977. He graduated from Washington State University in 1981 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics. He returned to the family farm by Cunningham that same year and has been farming with his father and brother since.

He and his wife Debbie have 6 children and 6 grandchildren. Lyle has been a long time League member and has served as Vice Chair and as a member of the Executive Committee as well as previously serving as the League Chair from 2000-2003.

Back to Business after the Pomp and Circumstance Fades

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Government Relations Director

Newly elected legislators and returning incumbents have been sworn in along with a record number of new statewide elected officials. The Governor has presented his inaugural address and hundreds celebrated

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at the Inaugural Ball. The pomp and circumstance is done and the Legislature is getting down to business for their 2017 session. Conventional wisdom says this will be one of the most difficult sessions in quite some time as a divided Legislature confronts the long-standing issue of adequately funding K-12 education.

The session got underway in the usual manner with most of the first two weeks devoted to committees holding numerous work sessions to provide briefings for members on upcoming issues. Public hearings on newly introduced bills picked up as members finalized language on bills they wanted to have considered for enactment. And the deadline to vote bills out of committee this year just passed.

The Columbia Basin Development League monitored daily introductions of bills that impact the Columbia Basin Project. One bill the League supports is an amendment to RCW 87.03, the irrigation district enabling act, which authorizes private investment in the development of hydro-power generation facilities on irrigation district facilities.

The League, at a recent Board meeting, had a briefing from Tim Culbertson, manager of Columbia Basin Hydropower (CBHP). CBHP is the power generation agency for the three Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts. Culbertson provided details on the Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project under development by CBHP. The project is moving forward under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission preliminary permit and when constructed has the potential to add up to 500 MW to the regional electric grid. CBHP currently has 7 operating generation facilities on CBP facilities

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From the Chair

Kevin Lyle

2017 is in full swing as January has come and gone and February is nearly passed. The state Legislature is getting down to business and at the federal level, Congress is slowly trying to find a rhythm. The League is maintaining our seat at the table and making our voice heard both in Olympia and DC. This month, CBDL representatives traveled to Olympia for legislative appointments and later this spring, a delegation will head to DC, taking your issues to federal policymakers. Read on to

learn how the League is monitoring new bills that may have an impact on the Columbia Basin Project and also provided input for the nomination hearing of Rep. Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior.

Locally, learn more about the new Development Coordinator for East Columbia Basin Irrigation District and dive into the complex world of safety through the eyes of Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District Safety Manager, Mike Miland.

Back to Business after the Pomp and Circumstance Fades

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with power revenues going to the 3 districts to help defray operational costs.

The Capital Budget development process began in the House and Senate with introduction of the Governor's proposed Capital Budget as a starting point. On the upside, the Governor included \$33.8 million for Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River projects which includes \$15 million for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. The downside is that the Governor proposed funding this and several other water related appropriations with carbon tax funds that have not been enacted.

The Capital Budget process will be ongoing for the entire Legislative session due to the linkage with the Operating Budget. A lot of work and negotiation lie ahead for legislators before they reach the final product, stay tuned.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CBDL Board Meeting

Wednesday March 15, 2017

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATEC Building, Big Bend

Community College

Moses Lake, WA

League Provides Input and Questions for Zinke Hearing



Congressman Ryan Zinke.

In January, the League provided input and questions to Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell's office in advance of Representative Zinke's nomination hearing. Congressman Ryan Zinke (R) of Montana was nominated by President Trump to serve as the United States Secretary of the Interior.

During the nomination hearing, a plethora of issues were discussed across the Department of the Interior (DOI)'s jurisdiction, including state water rights, the Columbia River Treaty, drought in the Western states, water storage and infrastructure, funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, better cooperation between federal agencies and state and local stakeholders, national monument designations, the maintenance backlog at the National Park Service, keeping federal lands public, and climate change.

Rep. Zinke appeared to have at least some support from members on both sides of the aisle. He consistently reiterated his support for conservation as well as development in the manner of Theodore Roosevelt, for giving local communities more say in policies that will affect their daily lives, and the need to invest in water and energy infrastructure for the future of our economy. Rep. Zinke pledged to work with all members of the committee and to visit their states as Secretary of the Interior to hear and see their local challenges firsthand. Senators focused their questions on policy issues and on how Rep. Zinke would guide DOI on addressing those issues. Some Democratic members of the committee expressed strong concerns about Zinke's position on climate change and expressed a strong desire to keep public lands public. A timetable for a full Senate vote on Rep. Zinke's nomination was not given during the hearing.

Getting with the Safety Program at Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District

By Mike Miland, Reprinted with Permission from Irrigation Leader, January 2017, Vol.8 Issue 1

The Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (QCBID) delivers water to 250,380 acres in the Columbia River Basin. Managing that much water infrastructure over such a vast area poses numerous potential safety hazards. QCBID has made it a top priority to improve its safety programs and procedures.



The Programs

The district has had safety programs underway for some years. Many of our laterals and ditches are considered confined spaces under today's standards, so much of QCBID's emphasis is on confined-space entry. QCBID has conducted extensive trenching and excavation projects and has focused on standards regarding proper slope and depth.

When I came on board as safety manager, I updated our safety manual, which encompasses all our safety programs, including confined-space entry, trenching, excavation, and respiratory protection programs. I updated and revised them to comply with the Washington Administrative Code and Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. We are now in the process of going through the manual with each of our employees to ensure everyone is trained on all our programs.

QCBID also has a confined-space rescue team and a full equipped rescue trailer onsite. Our rescue team consists of members from each of our water master and tech services sections. Our team goes through an annual refresher training, which consists of a simulated rescue. We are

Getting with the Safety Program at Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District

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also in the process of getting more confined-space and rescue equipment, to ensure that there are sufficient rescue supplies across the district.

Training

Every district should have a baseline safety manual as well as a training program that covers how to properly enter a confined space, how to properly slope back a trench, and the importance of being aware of hazards. A proper safety analysis helps get to the bottom of why people get hurt on the job. If workers have more knowledge of the hazards they are working with, they can help reduce or eliminate those hazards and ensure a safer workplace for everyone.

QCBID conducts much of its training during the late fall and winter. As we work through the safety manual with everyone, we cover trenching and excavation, the emergency action plan, and hazard communication and GHS [Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals] programs. During the winter months, I also assist the supervisors from each section of the district with any safety-related questions or concerns. With so many changes in the regulations and revisions to our safety manual, there are a lot of questions. So we learn together and progress is made.

Hazard Assessment

Hazard assessment is a vital part of an effective safety program. Since I had never worked in the irrigation industry before, I was able to identify a lot of hazards in the district that had gone unseen. A fresh pair of eyes comes in handy for hazard recognition and identifying opportunities for improvement.

For example, I found that our walk decks and check structures generally did not have handrails on them. Workers were walking out over a ditch with nothing to keep them from falling into the water and risking significant injury. We are now in the process of installing handrails and getting them up to code to eliminate that hazard.

Emergency Plans

Emergency action plans are another important part of a comprehensive safety system. Responding to active shooters is a big topic right now, and it was missing from QCBID's program until recently. Phillip Ball, a safety and emergency management trainer, came to QCBID and gave a presentation on the subject. Prior to Mr. Ball's presentation, we did not have a plan for active shooters. Now, QCBID has begun implementing training and procedures for that situation, including increasing security with cameras and gate locking systems. Our emergency plans also address cases of evacuation, fire, inclement weather, or other situations.

QCBID has also developed protocols for the safety of ditch riders and others who are out on their own in remote areas of the district. Our



employees all have radios in their trucks in addition to work-issued cell phones. We are also testing out cell boosters in some of more remote areas. If our employees are involved in an emergency situation on their own, we now have protocol in place that includes calling 911 and their supervisor, identifying their location, and getting themselves to a safe place.

The district also allows its employees to carry a .22 long rifle in their trucks for varmint control. This tool could make the difference between an employee being hurt and making it out of a bad situation.

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Getting with the Safety Program at Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District

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Integration into District Operations and Culture

It is important for district managers and supervisors to lead by example when it comes to safety by supporting safety programs. If management buys into the programs, engages employees on all levels, makes changes as things evolve, and adopts new equipment and techniques as needed, it goes a long way.

Safety needs to be taken seriously and should rank equally with production in terms of a district's priorities. That is easier said than done and is a difficult task to accomplish, but if we are not progressing in safety, then we are not changing or improving the culture. Changing the standards and the mindset, holding people accountable, and training employees mitigates the need to micromanage them. Training allows managers to trust their people and the decisions they make, enabling those employees to progress and evolve to become our future leaders.

Mike Miland is the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District's industrial hygiene and safety manager. You can reach him at mmilnad@qcbid.org.



COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE



2017 IRRIGATION SEASON BEGINS

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) will begin filling the East Low Canal for the 2017 irrigation season on Tuesday, March 21st, 2017. Deliveries from the East Low Canal will begin on March 28th. Deliveries to ECBID's Block 49, from the Potholes East Canal, will begin to be available March 15th.

The Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District (QCBID) will begin filling the West Canal on Monday, March 20, 2017 and the Crab Creek Lateral on Monday, March 13, 2017. Telephone recorders will be available on Friday, March 24th in all water-master offices for water ordering.

At the time of printing, the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District had not released their water delivery start date for 2017 due to recent flooding.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The most rewarding things you do in life are often

the ones that look like they cannot be done."

—Arnold Palmer, Golfer

President Trump and Congress Press Pause on Pending Regulations

By Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC



On January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became the 45th President of the United States of America. One of the first actions the Trump administration took was issuing a memo directing all federal agencies to freeze activity on regulations that have not been finalized. The memo, which was sent from Reince Priebus (President Trump's Chief of Staff), will not affect regulations that have already been finalized like the contentious "Waters of the United States" or WOTUS rule. But it will give the Trump administration time to review pending regulations that were developed prior to his election.

The memo gave several specific directions to agency heads on how to manage pending regulations. If a regulation had not been published in the federal register the White House stated that it should be withdrawn. For regulations that have been published in the federal register but not finalized the memo directed a delay in further action for sixty days, with the potential that the pending regulation could be reopened for additional review.

Congress has also been focused on reducing regulations in the first weeks of the 115th Congress. On January 3rd, the first day of the 115th Congress, Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) introduced H.R. 5 the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017. This legislation would direct federal agencies to choose the lowest-cost rulemaking alternative that meets necessary statutory objectives. It would also require agencies to consider direct, indirect and cumulative effects of regulations on businesses. In addition, the Regulatory Accountability Act would require that any proposed rules be accompanied by a "plain language" summary that explains the rule and what it is aimed at accomplishing. The House of Representatives passed the Regulatory Accountability Act 238-183 on January 11, 2017 it has been referred to the Senate where it awaits further action.

By taking action to trim regulations on their first days in office both the President and members of congress are making it clear that they are serious about reducing regulatory burdens over the next few years.

ECBID Welcomes Jed Crowther



Jed Crowther
ECBID Development Coordinator

Jed Crowther is the new Development Coordinator for the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID). His primary role is to advance the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. He served as City Administrator for the City of Connell, and as Property, Development, and Project Manager for the Port of Sunnyside. Crowther has 11 years of public sector experience. He recently led the Connell Rail Interchange project which built regional collaboration and achieved over \$10 million in funding.

Prior to public service, Crowther operated an irrigated farm in the Columbia Basin Project near Mesa. Soon after starting work for ECBID, he was able to attend the 2016 CDBL Conference. Crowther enjoys advocating for agriculture as he values the connection between farms and food and rural communities. He is fascinated with irrigation construction work underway and appreciates the pattern of teamwork to create success. He will work with farmers, legislators, state and federal agencies, and the irrigation district staff to achieve solutions.

Scenes From Around the Columbia Basin Project



Warden Siphon Site Preparation in East Columbia Basin Irrigation District November 15, 2016.

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