

### **NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Volume 6, Issue 10

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.

# Remembering the CBP's History will Contribute to a Successful Future

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations

Each year, the CBDL Conference provides an ideal opportunity to gather individuals with an interest in the future of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). Attendees hear updates on what is happening on the Project, a massive, complex infrastructure with many moving parts. Throughout this year's Conference, we were reminded how fortunate we are to have skilled irrigation district management and staff and experienced Board members dedicated to keeping things running so landowners don't have to give a lot of thought to how the water gets to the head gate.

The Conference also provides the opportunity to catch up on current projects such as the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP). Since implementation of the OGWRP began in 2013, steady progress has been made to develop the capacity to replace deep well irrigation from the depleting Odessa aquifer. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done to reach the goal of

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2016 CBDL Conference Attendees hear from Dr. Jennifer Adam, WSU.

bringing CBP water supply to 87,700 acres. A top priority is to obtain additional public investment to bring the cost down so more landowners have the ability to participate in the program.

This year, my presentation focused on next steps for OGWRP and specifically federal funding and financing. There is an urgent need to continue the legacy of CBP leadership who left no rock unturned in finding opportunities for funding and development. Let's continue that legacy, joining together to identify and take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself in these changing times.

OGWRP originated through a 2004 Memo of Understanding (MOU) between Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the US



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From the Chair
Orman Johnson

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2016 CBDL Conference earlier this month! From attendees, speakers, and sponsors to our incredible Board volunteers and everyone who donated raffle items and purchased raffle tickets, everyone contributed to an afternoon and evening of fun, community, celebration, important information sharing. The return of the CBDL raffle this year was a resounding success with nearly \$1000 of tickets sold and winners going home with a wide range of prizes from homemade bread to a Seahawks helmet. Aside from the fun, the central focus of the day was the continued development of the Columbia Basin Project with an emphasis on infrastructure reinvestment. Read on for an overview of Conference highlights, speakers, and award winners.

Help us build on this momentum by renewing your 2017 membership or becoming a League member for the first time! Join us as we make history together. Sign up at www.cbdl.org.

# Remembering the CBP's History will Contribute to a Successful Future

Continued from page 1

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the three CBP Irrigation Districts. The partners agreed to work together on projects of mutual interest. Their collaboration was a major factor in the State of Washington agreeing, in the fall of 2005, to be the cost share partner with Reclamation in the Odessa Subarea Special Study (OSSS). The OSSS was the formal process of developing a solution for the aguifer problem.

During the 2006 legislative session, the legislature enacted the landmark Columbia River Water Management Act which led to the creation of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR). The Act was backed up with a \$200M bond authorization to provide needed funding. The League and other stakeholders took advantage of the opportunity to encourage the legislature to specifically identify solutions to the Odessa aquifer issue as a high priority for OCR.

The MOU had a water package called the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Releases Program. Work on implementing that water sharing program put us in position to be shovel ready when the American Reconstruction and Recovery Act (stimulus program) was passed in 2009 to help the US economy recover from the recession. The end result was that two major projects necessary to OGWRP were built using over \$40M in Federal funding before the OSSS was completed. This is just another example of being prepared to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities.

The challenge going forward is to consistently and creatively pursue opportunities that arise. In the current and extremely competitive State and Federal political environment, it is very challenging to obtain project funding. We must turn over every rock, and then think outside the box to turn over rocks not previously considered.

We have a great team working on this project with strong leadership coming from our local Senators Schoesler and Warnick and Representatives Dent, Dye and Schmick. I've watched them lobby our Congressional delegation and appreciate their commitment to see OGWRP through to completion.

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Go to **www.cbdl.org** for more information.

### **Experts Call for Infrastructure Reinvestment**

The largest Reclamation project in the nation, still expanding after 70 years, must meet the needs of those who live, work, farm, and recreate in the Columbia Basin. Reinvesting in Reclamation's infrastructure was a common theme at the League's Conference in Moses Lake last week.

Jennifer Adam, a PhD at WSU and Water Research Center Assistant Director for the State of Washington led a lineup of water and irrigation experts and leaders by forecasting Columbia River Basin supply and demand. She pinpointed climate change and economic drivers as key factors.

Lorri Lee, US Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Director shared the immense scale of resources needed to keep water delivery going by replacing aging infrastructure and bring water to remaining (undeveloped) acres. She estimated that over the next 8-10 years, the Columbia Basin Project is going to need up to \$1 billion in investment, a significant portion being at Grand Coulee Dam. Lee emphasized that the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program would not be where it is today without the collaborative efforts of public and private partners. She specifically applauded the three irrigation district managers whose daily focus is to champion landowner needs.



Conference Attendees hear from Clint Wertz, USBR Ephrata Field Office, Darvin Fales, Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Nate Andreini, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, and Dave Solem, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Staff from East, South, and Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts plus Clint Wertz of Reclamation's Ephrata Field Office shed light on the complex, multi-faceted systems to keep the Project functioning. The operations and maintenance of Project infrastructure from power plants and pump stations to canals and gates require hundreds of staff with a wide array of expertise from accountants and engineers to ditch riders and mechanics, working collectively to bring water to the Basin. The District representatives highlighted the importance of investing in aging infrastructure. Darvin Fales referred to infrastructure as "America's Backbone." As infrastructure in the CBP ages, investing in repairs and maintenance allows water to be delivered at full capacity, eliminating waste and maintaining efficiency. Wertz shared a staffing update from the Ephrata Field Office as well as their two year strategic plan now underway to improve customer service, build capacity, provide training, and integrate project management tools into their work.

lan Lyle, the League's Washington D.C. lobbyist discussed the role of politics and the options for federal financing of infrastructure. Lyle highlighted traditional, new, and proposed funding sources. Appropriations are a traditional funding source that is becoming increasingly uncommon. A new funding source is the Water Infrastructure Financ-



*Ian Lyle, Water Strategies addresses the audience.* 

ing Innovation Act (WIFIA) providing Federal loans for up to 49% of a projects cost for projects that have a minimum total cost of \$20 million. Lyle shared that a proposed funding source is the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (RIFIA) which is currently included in legislation introduced by Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and is similar to WIFIA but primarily serves Reclamation projects. The Water Infrastructure Loan Act (WILA) is another proposed funding source. Lyle shared that draft WILA would direct resources toward water infrastructure.



Tom Tebb, Ecology's Office of the Columbia River addresses the audience.

Tom Tebb, Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR) Director reviewed their work of the past 10 years highlighting success of the Odessa which is a top priority. Tebb discussed the challenges of finding and keeping funding with limitations of construction timelines, all while racing against a declining Odessa

Aquifer. He also reviewed the status on all OCR projects including the Weber Siphon Complex, Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases, Potholes Supplemental Feed Route, in addition to the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project.



Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations, Senator Judy Warnick, and Nate Andreini, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, present on CBP funding options.

Senator Judy Warnick was joined by Mike Schwisow, League Government Relations Director and Nate Andreini, of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, to discuss construction, state funding and bonds, as well

# **Experts Call for Infrastructure Reinvestment**

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Nate Andreini, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, presents a slide highlighting construction efforts.

as federal funding and financing of the Odessa program. Warnick discussed the correlation between the State's revenue and debt and bond capacity. Schwisow provided an update on federal funding and financing. Andreini provided an update on funding for OGWRP, emphasizing how much has already been accomplished, ahead

of schedule and under budget, thanks to the District's dedication to cost efficiency.

Gary Chandler, Vice President of the Association of Washington Business, wrapped up the event by emphasizing the collaborative effort necessary to complete the Columbia Basin Project. He shared a little about the history of the Columbia Basin Project, reminding everyone of the time, effort, labor, and commitment required over the



Gary Chandler, Association of Washington Business, gives Keynote.

years to bring water to a desert. He also discussed potential state budget pressures for 2017, possible state revenue increases, and ideas for infrastructure funding.

# **League Welcomes Dobson and O'Brien to Board**

The Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) Board serves as the chief elected/appointed body of the League. The board represents the community interest, meaning YOUR interest, in the organization and holds ownership of the League on behalf of stakeholders. The board guards the League's assets, sets policy, and advises staff. The mission of CBDL is to support the Columbia Basin Project and future development, protecting its water rights and educating the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the Project.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

CBDL Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Simplot, Moses Lake

At the 2016 CBDL Annual Meeting, earlier this month, Chip Dobson of Mattawa and Shawn O'Brien of Moses Lake were elected as new Trustees effective January 1, 2017.



Chip Dobson, CBDL Trustee.

Chip Dobson took over his family's farm, Rosebud Vineyards, with his wife Kathy in 2014. The property is 500+ acres of mostly wine grapes with some apples and row crops. Dobson volunteers for the local fire department and the Wahluke Enrichment Organization. Dobson is stepping into Ron Fode's seat on the Board and his term will expire in 2017.

**Shawn O'Brien** has worked for the City of Moses Lake Engineering Division for over 24 years. He is a member of the Moses Lake Rotary Club and is the past President of Moses Lake AAU Basketball. He and his wife, Laura Lea, have three children. O'Brien is stepping into an open Board seat and his term will expire in 2019.



Shawn O'Brien, CBDL Trustee.

*Trustees re-elected to three year terms include:* 

#### **Orman Johnson, Connell**

Johnson is president of Johnson Agriprises, a diversified farming operation in Adams County. The farm has been in operation since 1906. Johnson also serves on the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Board and is the current CBDL Board Chair.

### Jeff Schibel, Odessa

Schibel is a 4th generation farmer and has been farming outside of Odessa for over 30 years. In addition to serving as a CBDL Trustee and Executive Committee Officer, he also serves on boards for the Washington State Oilseeds Commission and Lincoln County Conservation District.

### **Alice Parker, Royal City**

Parker is owner of P& P farms. She and her husband were one of the first families to break ground in Royal Slope. Parker has served on the Grant County Economic Development Council since 2013 and has been involved with CBDL for over 20 years. She served as CBDL secretary from 1992-2010.

### Matt Hawley, Pasco

Hawley works for Lamb Weston/ConAgra Foods' farming enterprises and has responsibilities surrounding different facets of Lamb Weston's corporate water right interests.

#### Clark Kagele, Odessa

Kagele is a lifetime resident of the Odessa with 40+ years of experience as a deep well irrigated farmer with dryland operations in Lincoln, Grant, and Adams Counties. He is a past CBDL Chair and a member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and Lions Club International.

### **League Welcomes Dobson and O'Brien to Board**

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### Reid Phillips, Ritzville

Philips is a lifetime resident of Adams County and is a former irrigated farmer who grew wheat, potatoes, beans, and a vineyard. He is currently a dry land wheat producer. He has been a CBDL member since 1981 and has served as Chair twice.

### **Dale Pomeroy, Warden**

Pomeroy has farmed in the Warden and Othello Communities since 1970. He is a Port of Warden Commissioner (Chairman) and is also on the Board for the Warden Development League and Grant County Economic Development Council (past President).

#### Eli Stahl, Ritzville

Stahl is treasurer of Stahl farms which produces wheat, beans, peas, and potatoes. He has also provided electrical engineering work for the farm.

#### **Mark Stedman, Lincoln County**

Stedman served students, parents, and teachers as a teacher and administrator for 39 years. He is completing his first term as Lincoln County Commissioner. Much of his time is spent working on water issues in the Odessa Subarea.

Outgoing Trustee and past CBDL Chair, Ron Fode of Moses Lake was acknowledged for his work and thanked for his years of service.

# **Lemargie Awarded Honorary Life Membership**



Richard Lemargie, Honorary Life Award Recipient.

Earlier this month, the League awarded Richard Lemargie of Ephrata the Honorary Life Membership for his tireless and dedicated support of the Columbia Basin Project and its continued development.

The award was presented by League Trustee Jeff Schibel during CBDL's 2016 Annual Meeting earlier this month.

Richard Lemargie was born on the Columbia Basin Project, growing up near Grand Coulee Dam. He attended Washington State University before completing his law degree at Gonzaga University School of Law and moving to Ephrata to begin his career. Lemargie focused on state and federal reclamation and irrigation law and hydropower spending a majority of his general practice representing Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts and the development of Columbia Basin Hydropower. He is an active honorary

member and participant on the Washington State Water Resources Association Legal Committee and received their Leadership Award in 1997. As a CBDL member for many years, Lemargie is a trusted advisor to many. He has personally supported numerous CBDL projects and events.

### **Connors Recognized as Trustee Emeritus**

At the 2016 CBDL Annual Meeting, Steve Connors of Warden was recognized as Trustee Emeritus for over 25 years of faithful membership and commitment. Steve Connors returned to the Columbia Basin Project after graduating from Washington State University to join



Washington State University to join Steve Connors, League Trustee Emeritus.

his family's farm. In 1972, he partnered with his brothers to start Skone & Connors Produce, still in operation today. Connors has served as a member and President of the National Potato Executive Board, served for a decade as Chair of the Washington State Potato Commission, and has been a long standing CBDL member and trustee. Recently, he has remained involved helping with fundraising efforts and personally supporting and contributing to CBDL's work.

# **Woods Family Receives Perseverance Award**

Rufus Woods accepted the Perseverance Award on behalf of his family at the CBDL Annual Meeting. The Perseverance Award is given to those who demonstrate a lifelong commitment of support for the Columbia

Basin Project.

The Woods family, owners of the Wenatchee World newspaper, has been a strong advocate for central Washington since 1907 through their dedication to humanitarian causes, the arts, and local issues. Their commitment to the Columbia



Rufus and Wilfred Woods, Perseverance Award Recipients.

Basin Project played an integral role since its inception. Rufus Woods Sr. began the family's legacy through his vision for the incredible benefits of bringing irrigation to the Columbia River Basin. He took that message across the state and nation, advocating for the creation of Grand Coulee Dam and Columbia Basin Project development. His son Wilfred continued the legacy of advocacy, writing countless articles and columns about the

# **Woods Family Receives Perseverance Award**

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Rufus Woods accepts Perseverance Award from Jay Schibel, League Trustee and Orman Johnson, League Chair.

importance of irrigation, economic development and the wonder of seeing the Columbia Basin desert bloom with fruit and produce. The legacy continues to this day as the Wenatchee World, now run by Wilfred's son Rufus, published an article by Wilfred this summer highlighting the importance of saving irrigated lands and emphasizing that current victories such as the recent completion of Lind Coulee, can only continue through cooperative partnership.

# **2016 Election Recap and Outlook for Water Users**

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC

The ballots have been filled out, the polls have closed, the votes have been tallied and 2016 election is in the history books. However, the implications of the election are just taking hold. Donald Trump defied political pundits and pollsters and has been elected the 45th President of the United States by securing at least 279 electoral college votes as of November 10th, surpassing the 270 needed to win the presidency. Additionally, Republicans have held onto the majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Setting up Republican control of both the legislative and executive branch for the first time in a decade.

Debate is now turning from who will win the election to what President-Elect Trump's policy priorities will be and who will make up the cabinet. Insights to both questions were given during the campaign.

Since announcing his candidacy, President-Elect Trump weighed in on infrastructure including issues relating to water policy, noting that addressing water issues should be a priority. During the campaign he indicated that he would eliminate the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. He also linked increased investments to regulatory reforms. Mr. Trump also signaled that he would develop a long-term water infrastructure plan with city, state, and federal leaders to upgrade aging water systems. He stated that he would support tripling funding for state revolv-

ing loan fund (SRF) programs to help states and local governments upgrade drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. During the campaign he did not specifically mention the Bureau of Reclamation. However, he did tell farmers in California's Central Valley that he was going to "start opening up the water so you can have your farms survive."

A key decision for any new administration is who serves in the president's cabinet. The make-up of the Trump cabinet is largely based on speculation at this point. However, insights can be drawn from the make-up of his campaign advisors as well as media reports.

Names that have been mentioned for Secretary of the Interior include several current and former governors like Jan Brewer of Arizona, Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, Butch Otter of Idaho, and Sara Palin of Alaska. Others also include several individuals from the business community like: Robert Grady a former H.W. Bush White House official and venture capitalist, Harold Hamm an Oklahoma oilman, and Forrest Lucas the co-founder of Lucas Oil. Less traditional potential appointees include Donald Trump Jr. an active sportsmen and the son of President-Elect Trump.

President-Elect Trump could choose from a pool of over seventy agricultural advisors that assisted him during the campaign when filling the spot of Secretary of Agriculture. Several names from this list that have been mentioned as potential Secretary options include Sam Brownback the Governor of Kansas, Chuck Connor the CEO National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Dave Heineman the Governor of Nebraska, Ted McKinnely the Director Indiana Department of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue the former Governor of Georgia, and Don Villwock the President Indiana Farm Bureau.

President-Elect Trump is also positioned to make an impact on the political landscape that could last past his time in office. He will fill at least one Supreme Court slot, that of former Justice Antonin Scalia. However, he may be positioned to full multiple slots over the next four years. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83, Justice Anthony Kennedy is 80 and Justice Stephen G. Bryer is 78. The Trump campaign has released several lists naming a total of 21 individuals that could serve on the court under in his administration. Mr. Trump has indicated that this list will serve as "a guide" that he would consider when making a selection, indicating that the next Justice isn't guaranteed to come from this list. Names on the list include 20 current judges and one Senator, Mike Lee of Utah.

Coming days will shed additional light on the make-up of the Trump cabinet as well as the policy priorities of the 45th President of the United States of America.

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"There is no failure except in no longer trying."

-Elbert Hubbard, writer, publisher and artist

# **Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors**

Thank you to our sponsors for their support of the continued development of the Columbia Basin Project by helping make the CBDL Conference possible, bringing a wide array of experts and leaders together to share information, network, and connect!

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# **Snapshots from the 2016 Conference**





JJ Danz, League Trustee and South Columbia Basin Irrigation Distrcit Manager, Dave Solem.



Senator Mark Schoesler with Conference Attendee.



Conference Attendee visiting with Orman Johnson,

League Trustee and Chair.

League Trustees John Preston and Clark Kagele.

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Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce