COLUMBIA DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 5

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.

ECBID Board Continues Work Toward First OWGRP Pipeline System

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations

At their June 1 meeting, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Board of Directors heard reports from Management and Development Office Coordinator, Levi Johnson, on the continued work to pull together all necessary parts to begin construction of the initial pump station/pipeline system for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP).

A number of the landowners slated to receive water from the system were present and asked questions about the details of the water service contract recently signed with ECBID. One source of confusion relates to the priority of irrigation district assessments relative to other landowner obligations. Deep well irrigators are unfamiliar with what state irrigation district law provides when district assessments are in default since they haven't previously paid district assessments. Washington statutes provide that irrigation district assessments have a status similar to property taxes and have first priority. This is the case for thousands of landowners farming over a million acres served by nearly 100 irrigation districts in Washington. In the rare case of an assessment default, lenders typically pay the assessments that are in arears to maintain their priority position.

The Board had an extended discussion of system cost estimates provided by the ECBID Development Office. Landowners have returned contracts for 8,257 acres of the just over 11,000 acres in the initial system

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design. The Board reviewed estimates for building systems serving either acreage amount. Also discussed was Big Bend Rural Electric Cooperative pump station power availability and how the pump station would be configured based on system acreage. The most likely approach would be that the pump station would have four fixed-speed motors and two variable-speed drive motors that would be sized to meet the acreage of the system.

Johnson provided an update on discussions with ECBID's financial advisor on the progress being made to prepare ECBID to issue tax exempt municipal revenue bonds for construction of the initial distribution system. Work is underway on the ECBID financial statement with a State Auditor's office review set to begin shortly. Bond counsel is at work preparing the legal opinion which is a necessary part of a bond issuance.

While the primary focus is moving the initial distribution system forward, the Board also learned that meetings had been set with landowners on the other six distribution system for late June and early July. The meetings will provide updates on EL 47.5 system development and gain additional landowner input for the development process.

The Board took all of this information under advisement with the intent of moving forward in the near term.





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Summer has arrived in Central Washington, bringing the heat, an early harvest, and continued CBDL efforts towards community outreach. This newsletter includes an update from the League's Government Relations Director Mike Schwisow on the first OGWRP pipeline system as well as updates on the League's ongoing county meetings to secure public investment in OGWRP. Learn about the current work of the Pacific Northwest Waterway Association, the economies of Grant and Adam's Counties, and federal water legislation news.

Planning is well underway for the 2016 CBDL Conference on Thursday, November 3! Save the date and stay tuned for more information.

From the Chair Orman Johnson

League Works to Secure Public Investment in OGWRP

The League's spring outreach continued with four additional meetings since mid-May. On May 31, League Assistant Director Sara Cornell, Government Relations Director Mike Schwisow, as well as League Trustees Dale Pomeroy, Alice Parker, Michele Kiesz, and Jake Wollman, Jr. met with Grant County Commissioners. On June 1, Schwisow met with Franklin County Commissioners. On June 6, League Executive Director Vicky Scharlau along with Schwisow and League Trustees Kiesz, Parker, Schibel and Pomeroy met with Lincoln County Commissioners. On the same day, Scharlau, Schwisow as well as Trustees Kiesz, Schibel and Clark Kagele met with Todd Mielke, CEO of Greater Spokane Inc.(GSI), the Spokane region's Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development organization.

Throughout each meeting, lasting up to an hour, the League provided attendees with a current informational packet on the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) and the League's role in the effort. The Trustees shared their support of each county and GSI's role in continued OGWRP progress. Schwisow presented an overview of where OGWRP currently stands by reviewing the construction cost estimate developed through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Department of Ecology's (DOE) Odessa Subarea Special Study. Despite the high estimated cost, the decision to proceed with OGWRP was the result of a positive benefit/cost ratio. Schwisow took the opportunity to highlight how ECBID has efficiently used DOE grant funding to complete OGWRP construction projects, to date, far under the initial Reclamation/DOE cost estimate. He shared the upcoming slate of work that will complete the East Low Canal portion of OGWRP which provided the opportunity to discuss the importance of public investment. He reviewed the landowner share of the overall cost and discussed how landowners are being asked to pay more than their fair share, justifying the need for additional public investment.

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Help us save on printing and mailing costs by opting to receive an email version of this newsletter. Visit **www.cbdl.org** to sign up, or send us an email: **info@cbdl.org**.

CBDL Membership Online

The League's website offers the choice to pay membership online. New members can also sign up at the site. Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

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

2016 CBDL Conference to Explore Infrastructure

The League is working to develop informative and engaging sessions for 2016 CBDL the Conference to be held Thursday, November 3 at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. The Conference theme will be Infrastructure, Operations, & Maintenance: What it Takes to Keep the Largest Reclamation Project Going. The purpose of CBDL is to support the Columbia Basin Project and its future develop-



CBDL Government Relations Director Mike Schwisow speaks at last year's Conference.

ment. It is easy to focus on the development of new systems within the Project but it is essential to remember the importance of maintaining the ability to operate delivery systems already in place at a reasonable cost to landowners.

Check out our website for regular conference updates, www.cbdl.org.



State Climatologist Nick Bond, Office of Washington State Climatologist speaks at the 2015 CBDL Conference.

COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 4, 2016 Columbia River Policy Advisory Group Meeting 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Hal Holmes Center, Ellensburg

CBDL: No Board Meetings in July or August

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 CBDL Board Meeting 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Simplot, Moses Lake

PNWA Columbia Snake River System Update

In early June, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association's (PNWA), Government Relations Director, Heather Stebbings, released a letter highlighting their recent advocacy trip to Washington, DC and providing updates on the federal legislation and the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (BiOp).

During their time in DC, the PNWA represented the needs of Columbia Snake River System stakeholders in meetings with Corps Headquarters and Members of the Northwest Congressional delegation. Their primary talking points included Columbia and Snake River issues and projects.

The letter discussed the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) House and Senate bills. WRDA authorizes projects and policies related to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The 2016 WRDA would provide full Harbor Maintenance Fund (HMTF) revenues to the Corps for operations and maintenance of deep draft and coastal navigation projects in FY 2027. Stebbings went on to discuss recent movement on the FY 2017 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill to fund the Corps through September 2017. The Senate bill has passed and the House bill is currently stalled on the House floor with controversial amendments blocking action.

The PNWA has recently been disappointed by a ruling on BiOp. In the

2016 CBDL Conference to Explore Infrastructure

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letter Stebbings stated, "The ruling discounted collaboration between federal agencies, states, and tribes and made light of the significant fish runs we've seen in recent years." The judge did not acknowledge the state of the art fish facilities and is requiring agencies to include Snake River dam breaching analysis in an updated BiOp, due March 1, 2018. The Department of Justice recently filed a response to the court noting that this analysis would take five years.

In addition to these issues, the PNWA is focused on individual project advocacy, extended lock closure, and the Columbia River Treaty. *www.pnwa.net*

Wave of Activity on Water Legislation Heading into Summer

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC

Water issues saw a significant activity on both sides of Capitol Hill the last few weeks.

The House of Representatives took up and passed H.R. 897, the Zika Vector Control Act, formerly known as the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. This legislation is aimed at addressing dual permitting requirements for pesticide applications. Throughout most of the U.S., pesticide applications were historically regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In 2009, the 6th Circuit issued a ruling that pesticide users are also required to obtain a NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act. Many in the water and agricultural communities see this additional layer of regulation as costly and unnecessary.

H.R.897 aims to fix this problem by providing a two-year exemption from these duplicative permitting requirements. In addition to aiding agricultural producers by providing regulatory relief, the bill would also aid mosquito control districts at a time when there is growing concern about mosquito borne illnesses.

In late May, the House of Representatives also took up drought legislation on the floor in several formats. It considered text from H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act. H.R. 2898 passed the House of Representatives last July but the bill has not seen any activity in the Senate. In an attempt to spur movement of H.R.2898, members of the House added it as an amendment to S.2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act.

The House of Representatives was able to pass a version of S.2012 with language from H.R.2898 included. The Senate has already passed a version of S.2012, but it did not include text from H.R. 2898. Because the House and Senate passed different versions of S.2012 the bill will enter a "conference" process where members from the House and Senate try to reconcile differences between the two bills. The White House has indicat-

ed it would veto H.R.2898 if it were passed as a stand-alone bill. This could make the inclusion of text from H.R. 2898 in S.2012 a sticking point in the conference process.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water and Power, took up the issue of western drought. On May 17, the Subcommittee held a hearing to consider five bills. The hearing was primarily focused on S.2533, the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act and S.2902 Western Water Supply and Planning Enhancement Act of 2016. Both of these bills are aimed at providing drought relief and water supply enhancement for western states. The bills take different approaches to addressing drought. S.2533 would authorize a number of new programs and additional funding for a variety of infrastructure projects. S.2902 is geared toward providing solutions to water supply challenges through reducing regulatory hurdles to constructing infrastructure projects. Holding a hearing on these two bills is a good step. However, there are a number of remaining challenges that will need to be overcome before either of these bills is able to move forward.

It is good to see Congress working to move water supply legislation forward. However, getting any of these bills signed into law will be challenging. This is especially true when looking at the waning number of legislative days that remain in the 114th Congress.

Ag Forestry Leadership Program Graduates ECBID's Nate Andreini

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation celebrated Leadership Class 37's completion of the AgForestry Leadership Program and welcomed them into the AgForestry Alumni Network. The



ECBID's Nate Andreini.

graduates included Nathan Andreini, the Assistant Manager for Technical Services/District Engineer for the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. Andreini is responsible for ECBID's engineering activities as well as Columbia Basin Project communications.

The AgForestry Leadership program is dedicated to advancing the natural resource industries through enhanced understanding, education, and empowerment of future leaders.

Economic Update from Adams and Grant Counties

Don Meseck, Regional Labor Economist, Labor Market and Performance Analysis, Washington State Employment Security Department

"How's the local economy?" is one of the most common questions I hear. The short answer is: the further back one goes, the more accurate one can be (with documenting and analyzing what transpired in a specific agricultural and nonfarm labor market). The focus of this article will be Adams County and Grant County economies.

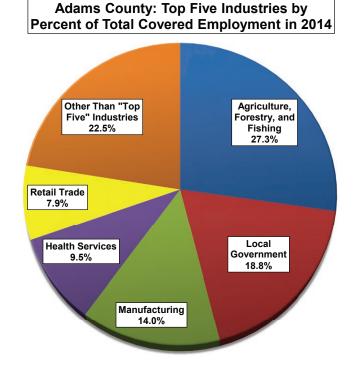
If you go back to 2014 there is a considerable amount of agricultural and nonfarm employment and wage data available. One can "dig into the details." However, if we want to analyze economic performance in calendar year 2015, a complete set of detailed employment and wage data is still not available - but there is enough to provide a good picture of how that county's economy performed. Hence I answer the question in two parts. First, the structures of the Adams County and the Grant County economies were examined for calendar year 2014 using detailed average annual Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data. Second, the performances of these economies were examined for 2015 using more current (but less detailed) Current Employment Statistics (CES) data to estimate job changes in major nonfarm industries:

1. Examining the economic structures of the Adams County and Grant County economies involved ranking sectors (or industries) by the number of jobs provided by that sector (or industry). To assist, economists use the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) which categorizes businesses/organizations into 19 private industry sectors and three government sectors (federal, state, and local government) based on the activities in which that business or organization is engaged. The most current covered employment and wage figures, by 2-digit NAICS sector (obtained from the Employment Security Department's QCEW data) are for 2014. Advantages of using QCEW data for local economic analysis are that they provide detailed county-level employment and wage information for many sectors and subsectors and they also tally agricultural jobs and wages. The disadvantage: it takes a while to obtain these QCEW data. Specifically, employment and wage data for 2015 will not be available until approximately July 2016.

2. Annual average nonfarm employment trends for 2015 were obtained from CES estimates which provide current, monthly non-farm employment (but not wage) figures for major industries in Adams and Grant counties. However, CES does not track agricultural employment at the county, state, or national levels.

Structure of the Adams County Economy:

Adams County: Top Five Industries by Employment in 2014				
Industry	Number of Jobs			
Agriculture,				
Forestry, and				
Fishing	2,111			
Local Government	1,452			
Manufacturing	1,086			
Retail Trade	738			
Health Services	615			
Other Than "Top				
Five" Industries	1,738			
Total Covered				
Employment	7,740			



Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data showed that Adams County's labor market averaged 7,740 jobs in 2014. Out of 22 major industries/sectors these "Top 5" industries/sectors of agriculture, local government, manufacturing, private health services, and retail trade accounted for over three-quarters of total covered employment. Total payroll was \$277.1 million. The average annual wage of \$35,796 was 65.1 percent of the statewide average of \$55,003.

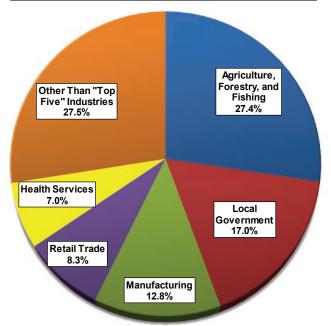
Economic Update from Adams and Grant Counties Nonfarm Employment Changes in Adams County in 2015

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Structure of the Grant County Economy:

Grant County: Top Five Industries by Employment in 2014				
Industry	Number of Jobs			
Agriculture,				
Forestry, and				
Fishing	10,658			
Local Government	6,613			
Manufacturing	4,988			
Retail Trade	3,209			
Accommodation				
and Food Services	2,714			
Other Than "Top				
Five" Industries	10,704			
Total Covered				
Employment	38,886			

Grant County: Top Five Industries by Percent of Total Covered Employment in 2014

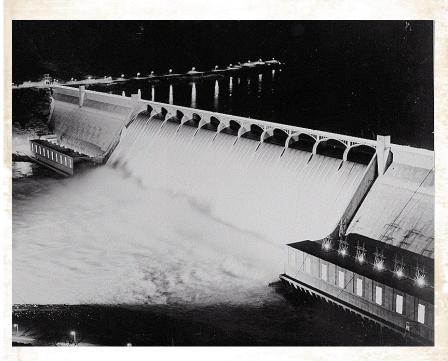


Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data showed that Grant County's labor market averaged 38,886 jobs in 2014. Hence, Grant County provided roughly five times more jobs than neighboring Adams County. Out of 22 major industries/sectors the "Top 5" industries/sectors of agriculture, local government, manufacturing, retail trade, and private health services accounted for over nearly three-quarters of total covered employment. Total payroll in Grant County was \$1.39 billion in 2014. The average annual wage in 2014 of \$35,859 was 65.2 percent of the statewide average of \$55,003.

Adams County: Nonfarm Job Growth in Major Industries From 2014-2015						
Industry	Annual Avg. Employment in	Annual Avg. Employment in	Job Change	Percent Change		
Total nonfarm ¹	2014 5,750	2015 5,740	(10)	-0.2%		
Total private	4,150	4,110	(40)	-1.0%		
Goods producing	1,180	1,170	(10)	-0.8%		
Mining, logging and construction	90	100	10	11.1%		
Manufacturing	1,090	1,080	(10)	-0.9%		
Service providing	4,580	4,570	(10)	-0.2%		
Trade, transportation and utilities	1,510	1,500	(10)	-0.7%		
Wholesale trade	440	430	(10)	-2.3%		
Retail trade	620	620	0	0.0%		
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	450	450	0	0.0%		
Education and health services	740	710	(30)	-4.1%		
Leisure and hospitality	390	380	(10)	-2.6%		
Government	1,600	1,640	40	2.5%		
Workers in labor/management disputes	0	0	0			
¹ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households and agriculture. Columns may not add due to rounding.						

The 5,740 jobs provided across Adams County in 2015 was a 10-job and 0.2-percent downturn below the 5,750 jobs tallied in 2014. Private education and health services netted 30 fewer jobs last year, a 4.1 percent decline. Government was the major growth sector, rising by 2.5 percent and 40 jobs between 2014 and 2015. Adams County's virtually stagnant total nonfarm growth pace stood in contrast to Washington's 2.8 percent growth rate during 2015, as Washington's nonfarm market rose from 3,059,600 jobs in 2014 to 3,145,100 jobs, an 85,500-job increase. Continued on Page 7

LOOKING BACK



Grand Coulee Dam at Night, 1961 US Bureau of Reclamation Photo Archives | www.usbr.gov.history/archive.html

Economic Update from Adams and Grant Counties

Continued from page 6

Nonfarm Employment Changes in Grant County in 2015

Grant County: Nonfarm Job Growth in Major Industries From 2014-2015							
	Annual Avg.			Democrat			
Industry	Employment in	Employment in	Job Change	Percent			
-	2014	2015	-	Change			
Total Nonfarm ¹	28,650	28,950	300	1.0%			
Total Private	20,380	20,760	380	1.9%			
Goods Producing	6,220	6,280	60	1.0%			
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,230	1,200	(30)	-2.4%			
Manufacturing	4,990	5.090	100	2.0%			
Durable Goods	2,240	2,340	100	4.5%			
Nondurable Goods	2,740	2,740	0	0.0%			
Service Providing	22,430	22,660	230	1.0%			
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,750	5,970	220	3.8%			
Wholesale Trade	1,580	1,660	80	5.1%			
Retail Trade	3,210	3,290	80	2.5%			
Transportation, Warehousing,							
and Utilities	970	1,020	50	5.2%			
Information and Financial Activities	1,060	1,080	20	1.9%			
Professional and Business Services	1,560	1,740	180	11.5%			
Education and Health Services	2,820	2,730	(90)	-3.2%			
Leisure and Hospitality	2,400	2,380	(20)	-0.8%			
Government	8,270	8,190	(80)	-1.0%			
Federal Government	740	760	20	2.7%			
State and Local Government	7,530	7,430	(100)	-1.3%			
State and Local Government							
Education	3,470	3,390	(80)	-2.3%			
Workers in Labor/Management							
Disputes ¹ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, r	0	0	0				

The 28,950 jobs provided across Grant County in 2015 was a modest 300-job and 1.0-percent upturn from the 28,650 jobs tallied in 2014. Private education and health services netted 90 fewer jobs last year, a 3.2 percent decline. State and local government education employment also declined, by 2.3 percent and 80 jobs. Conversely, professional and business services were a major growth sector, jumping by 11.5 percent and 180 jobs in 2015. Durable goods manufacturers provided 100 new jobs last year, rising from 2,240 in 2014 to 2,340 in 2015

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." - Michael Altshuler

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