

MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 4

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 Delegation Advocates in DC

Mike Schwisow, Director of Government Relations

Earlier this month, CBDL traveled to Washington DC with a team of Columbia Basin Project (CBP) stakeholders. The group brought a message of progress and a request for additional Federal financial support during their rounds in DC on May 3-4. The group represented the diverse interests of CBP stakeholders, each invested in seeing the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) become a reality. CBDL's Executive Director, Vicky Scharlau, and Director of Government Relations, Mike Schwisow, led the delegation. The roster included Tom Tebb, Director of Ecology's Office of Columbia River; Dale Pomeroy, Port of Warden Commissioner and CBDL Trustee; Matt Harris, Washington State Potato



CBDL DC Delegation from left to right: Randy and Michele Kiesz, Orman Johnson, Matt Harris, Dale Pomeroy, Mike Schwisow, Vicky Scharlau, and Tom Tebb.

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IN THIS ISSUE

CBDL Delegation Advocates in DC	1
From the Chair	2
Upcoming Events	3
ECBID Moves Ground Water Replacement Forward	4
League Stays Connected with CBP County Commissioners	4
Dent and Warnick Speak at June CBDL Board Meeting	4
CBP Irrigation District Managers Attend NWRA Conference in DC	5
CRPAG Reviews Future Funding Options	5
Congress Keys Up Water Legislation	6
Continued Seaport Infrastructure Investment Key to WA Exports	6
Looking Back	6
Save the Date for the 2016 CBDL Conference	6

Commission's Director of Government Relations; Michele and Randy Kiesz, deep-well irrigators; and Orman Johnson, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Director, deep-well irrigator, and CBDL Board Chairman. The League's Federal consultants, Kris Polly and Ian Lyle from Water Strategies, coordinated the week's schedule and assisted in meetings.

Throughout their meetings, the delegation focused on three primary talking points to update DC Congressional and agency contacts on OGWRP progress.

The team highlighted East Columbia Basin Irrigation District's (ECBID) timely and economical completion of the Lind Coulee Siphon Project (LCS) on the East Low Canal (ELC) and pointed out the efficient, economical use of Ecology's grant investment. Everyone was impressed that the LCS Project was completed for \$14 million despite the initial \$23 million estimated cost.

The delegation made the case for additional public investment to complete the remaining work on ELC. Water availability in all distribution systems will require three more siphons, nine total bridges, and a small amount of excavation. The "ask" was for an additional \$20 million to help fund these remaining needs. The delegation was careful to point out that





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STAFF

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From the Chair Orman Johnson

Just as soon as May arrived, it is already fading into June. 2016 is

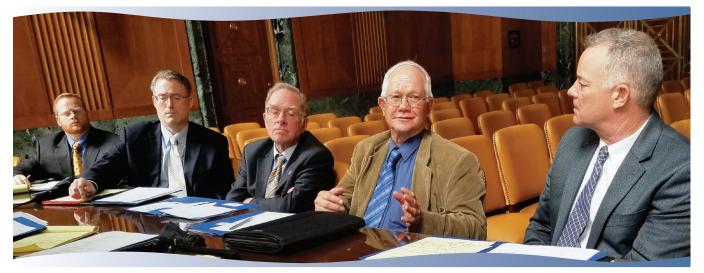
almost at the halfway mark and CBDL has been hard at work with outreach and advocacy efforts! Read on for a summary of our recent work in DC, meeting with policy makers and key contacts, bringing them the facts and emphasizing the importance of continued investment. On the local level, League staff and Board members are meeting with county commissioners throughout May and June to maintain connections and provide project updates. CBDL recognizes the need to get the facts into the hands of policy makers and influencers. The League is committed to our mission and dedicated to advocating on your behalf.

Looking to the next half of 2016, CBDL is preparing for our Annual Conference in November. Each year the Conference provides the opportunity to learn about current issues, network with stakeholders and policy makers, and join together to support the future development of the Columbia Basin Project. Mark your calendars for November 3 and stay tuned for more information.

CBDL Delegation Advocates in DC... Continued from page 1

will still carry the burden of over half of the project's construction cost. The Kieszes were effective in conveying the message that current cost estimates won't work for all landowners and public investment in ELC completion will increase landowners' ability to participate.

The last point was to encourage expedited action on the Master Water Service Contract between the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and ECBID to make the final of three water increments available for contracting with landowners. Progress on the initial system, EL 47.5, has brought this issue sharply into focus. Contracts for



CBDL team meeting in DC, from left to right: Ian Lyle, Water Strategies; Matt Harris, Washington State Potato Commission; Orman Johnson, ECBID Director, deep well irrigator, and CBDL Board Chairman; Dale Pomeroy, Port of Warden Commissioner and CBDL Trustee; Tom Tebb, Director of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River; and Staff for the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Appropriations..

over 8,000 acres have been signed and ECBID is finalizing designs, cost estimates, and plans for financing through a bond issue. Moving to the next system is contingent on getting the last water supply for the project under contract.

Each member of the group brought a unique first-hand perspective to the discussions. From previous visits, the team knew that personal experience counts in Washington DC. Dale Pomeroy relayed the problems poor

CBDL Delegation Advocates in DC... Continued from page 2

ground water has on keeping and attracting new industry to Warden and other CBP cities. Matt Harris discussed impacts to the multi-billion dollar potato industry. Tom Tebb demonstrated Washington State's commitment to finishing the effort and pointed out that the State had invested over \$75 million to date. Orman Johnson described the continued and deliberate work of the ECBID Board.

Legislative office visits included meetings with key personnel in the offices of Congressman Dan Newhouse of the 4th District; Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of the 5th District; and Senator Patty Murray. They also visited the Senate Energy Committee Subcommittee on Water and Power; the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans; and the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations.

Executive branch visits included Commissioner Estevan López, of



CBDL Trustee Dale Pomeroy meets with Andrew Neill of Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers's office.



Ecology's Office of the Columbia River Director Tom Tebb meets with Sam Ricketts, Director, Governor Jay Inslee's Office.

Reclamation; the Office of Management and Budget, Water and Power Branch; and Jeff Klein, Executive Director of the Department of Interior Natural Resources Investment Center. Commissioner López is familiar with the OGWRP effort and focused intently on the discussion with good follow up questions. Regional Director Lorri Lee participated via conference call even though the meeting started at 6:00 AM Pacific Time. Office of Management and Budget personnel made good suggestions regarding the ongoing Benefit/Cost ratio issue associated with the OGWRP whereby actual savings instead of necessarily inflated estimates are preferred to inform the formula. The suggestions should improve the chances for Federal funding.

The team had an engaging conversation with the Executive Director of the Natural Resource Investment Center, the newly established Interior program designed to connect natural resources infrastructure projects with the traditional investment community. A number of ideas were offered to CBDL for follow up.

Overall, the delegation received a positive response in their efforts to find the dollars to complete the ELC. The next step is to follow up on the ideas that surfaced and provide more information in response to questions received.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

CBDL Board Meeting

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

ATEC Building, Big Bend Community College

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Quality means doing it right when no one is looking." - Henry Ford

ECBID Moves Ground Water Replacement Forward

The Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program's (OGWRP) primary goal is to provide Columbia Basin Project water to over 87,000 acres currently irrigated by deep wells that draw from the declining Odessa Aquifer. Earlier this month, the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Board of Directors approved water service contracts on acreage that will be served by OGWRP's first of seven anticipated pipeline delivery systems, EL 47.5.

These contracts facilitate forward movement, by ECBID, on final EL 47.5 system design, financing, and construction.



East Low Canal.

The Board action brings 7,188 acres under contract with 1,070 additional acres expected to be added after final administrative details are completed. EL 47.5 will have a large pump station located on East Low Canal, ECBID's main water conveyance facility, and pipelines that will carry water to participating landowners. In exchange for secure Reclamation water supplies, landowners' ground water rights will be placed in standby status by the Department of Ecology. This will help stabilize the declining Odessa Aquifer, preserving it for municipal and domestic uses, while also maintaining the agricultural production base.

The EL 47.5 system was originally designed to serve 11,074 acres; eventually determining 10,551 acres of that land are eligible for water service contracts. Engineering staff is currently modifying design and cost estimates to serve the 8,258 acres owned by landowners who signed contracts. These modifications are precursors to EL 47.5 financing and construction. ECBID will use its State irrigation district law authority to issue municipal revenue bonds to finance the system construction.

Construction on EL 47.5 is anticipated to begin this year with the goal of irrigation water deliveries for the 2018 season.

League Stays Connected with CBP County Commissioners

Part of the League's long term strategic communications plan is to deliver timely, informative, fact-based, and solution oriented messages to CBDL members and Columbia Basin Project (CBP) stakeholders and influencers in government, business, and communities. Throughout May and June, the League is focusing outreach efforts through scheduled meetings with CBP counties including Adams, Grant, Franklin, and Lincoln.

On May 11, CBDL staff, including Executive Director Vicky Scharlau and Director of Government Relations Mike Schwisow, along with six Board members traveled to Othello for the first two county meetings with Adams County Commissioners and the Adams County Economic Development Director. CBDL Board members included Jake Wollman, Jr., Michele Kiesz, Bernie Erickson, Alice Parker, William Wagoner, and Dale Pomeroy. The Trustees traveled to Othello from their homes in Warden, Ritzville, Royal City, and Quincy to show their support of the county's role in continued OGWRP progress, specifically regarding bridge expansion. Schwisow provided a program update on current activities and fundraising efforts. The group also discussed how CBDL can continue partnering with Adams County to realize OGWRP completion.

Dent and Warnick Speak at June CBDL Board Meeting





Washington State Representative Tom Dent

Washington State Senator Judy Warnick

At the June 2016 CBDL Board of Trustees meeting, Washington State Representative Tom Dent and Washington State Senator Judy Warnick will be presenting on the "temperature" of Olympia after the 2016 legislative session and heading into the 2017 session. Both represent the 13th district including all of Lincoln and Kittitas counties and parts of Grant

Dent and Warnick Speak at June CBDL Board Meeting Continued from page 4

and Yakima counties. The meeting will be Wednesday, June 15 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM in the ATEC Building at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake.

Representative Dent has been a Columbia Basin resident for nearly 60 years and has a long record of public service. He founded Tom Dent Aviation in the late 70's offering aerial application and flight instruction for area agriculture. He also owns Flying T Ranch which raises grass-fed beef and bison as well as produces and sells hay. He serves on three committees including Agriculture and Natural Resources; Early Learning and Human Services; and Appropriations.

Senator Judy Warnick grew up near Deer Park. She owns and operates a small business in Moses Lake and a family farm. She served as a Washington State Representative from 2007-2014 and now serves as a Washington State Senator representing the 13th district. She serves on four Senate committees including Agriculture, Water, and Rural Development (Chair); Commerce and Labor; Natural Resources and Parks; and Ways and Means.

CBP Irrigation District Managers Attend NWRA Conference in DC

District Managers and Board members from the three irrigation districts within the Columbia Basin Project (CBP), Quincy, South, and East, recently attended the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Federal Water Issues Conference in Washington DC on April 10-13.

Each year the NWRA Conference provides irrigation districts with helpful, important issue information and enhanced opportunities to meet with respective members of Congress, key congressional staff, and Federal agency representatives. CBP district managers had the opportunity to provide updates on current activity and progress to key policy makers including Senator Patty Murray; Congressman Dan Newhouse; the House Subcommittee of Water, Power, and Oceans; the Senate Water and Power Subcommittee; and others.

Throughout the meetings the managers emphasized the importance of continued investment in both the current infrastructure that delivers water to nearly 700,000 acres and in the development of new delivery systems to bring water to more acreage. The focus is often on development of new systems but the managers emphasized the importance of maintaining the ability to operate delivery systems already in place at a reasonable cost to landowners.

As they met with DC staff, legislators, and officials, the managers discussed the work accomplished through the recent construction season; updates on the Master Water Service Contract; Reclamation Reform Act issues; funding opportunities for OGWRP and aging infrastructure including grants and low interest loans; non-ag discharges into Reclamation facilities, use of BPA energy incentives as a match for smart water grants, CBP district interest in the Columbia River Treaty, EPA funding of anti-ag propaganda; and more.

CRPAG Reviews Future Funding Options

In 2006, the Washington State legislature gave the Department of Ecology (Ecology) the task of seeking new water supplies for instream and out of stream uses. They authorized Ecology with \$200 million in bonding authority to that end. Ecology created the Office of the Columbia River (OCR) to use those funds to meet the task.

The Columbia River Advisory Group (CRPAG) helps OCR develop policy. CRPAG is made up of representatives from the Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, business and environmental groups, and water users. The Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) is a member of the CRPAG. CBDL's Director of Government Relations, Mike Schwisow attends CRPAG meetings to represent Columbia Basin Project stakeholder interests.

During the May 2016 meeting, OCR Director Tom Tebb highlighted all that OCR has accomplished over the last 10 years. OCR is working on water for towns, restoring stream flows, positioning the State for climate changes, and drought response/planning. The initial \$200 million is nearly spent with only \$7 million remaining. In planning for the future of the OCR, three proposals for continued funding are being considered:

- 1. Re-authorize bonding authority
- Pay as you go (seek appropriations for specific projects each session)
- 3. Include the program in a larger water bill

During the meeting, Wendy Christensen of the Bureau of Reclamation commented that others across the country are amazed at the success of the OCR program. OCR's work has attracted national attention due to the diversity of stakeholders who have been able to successfully partner together on these projects.

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** to sign up, or send us an email: **info@cbdl.org**.

Congress Keys Up Water Legislation

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water and Power held a legislative hearing on May 17 to discuss five bills associated with water management. Two of these bills, S.2533 and S.2902 contain Western-wide water provisions.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced S.2533, the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act on February 10, 2016. This legislation is largely aimed at addressing drought issues in California. However, it also contains a number of provisions that could impact water users throughout the West. It includes the authorization of \$600 million for surface water storage projects, \$150 million in grants for communities with less than 60,000 people that lack access to drinking water, and authorizes \$200 million for the Reclamation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (RIFIA). RIFIA is a low interest loan guarantee program modeled after a similar program utilized by the transportation sector. The bill also contains provisions specifically relating to drought issues in California.

Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced S.2902, the Western Water Supply and Planning Enhancement Act, on May 9. Senator Flake's legislation combines a number of elements including protections for State allocated water rights, streamlining requirements for Federal water project permitting, and the revaluation of flood control operations at Federal reservoirs to increase water supply opportunities. A number of the policy provisions found in S.2902 can also be found in H.R.2898, a water supply bill passed by the House of Representatives earlier this session.

The May 17 hearing followed up on a commitment made by Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Committee Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to address water supply legislation during this session of Congress. It is an important step in the process of moving water supply legislation forward. If implemented correctly, some of the authorizations contained in S.2533 and S.2902 could benefit producers in the Columbia Basin.

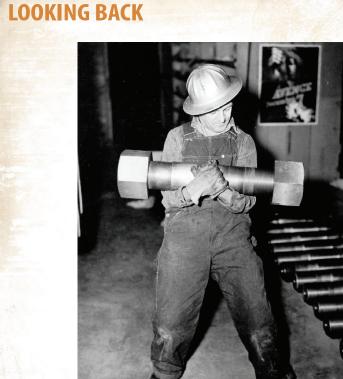
Continued Seaport Infrastructure Investment Key to WA Exports

CBDL welcomed Michael Reilly, the Director of Business Development and Intermodal Services at the Northwest Seaport Alliance, as the guest speaker for the April 2016 Board of Trustee meeting. The Northwest Seaport Alliance brings together the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma, two of the nation's premier ports that together serve as the 4th largest gateway for containerized cargo in North America.

Reilly discussed the newly formed alliance between the two ports and how it facilitates the merging of funds and resources towards expansion efforts. He highlighted the importance of investing in the infrastructure of the harbors, roads, and rails to increase capacity and efficiency in importing and exporting a greater quantity of goods. The ports top two export commodities are potatoes and apples, with a large percentage of those coming from within the Columbia Basin Project.

Michael Reilly of the Northwest Seaport Alliance at the April CBDL Board Meeting.





One-hundred, ninety pound nut and bolt, one of 16 used to join sections of the generator shaft of a 75,000 kW generator. – Grand Coulee Dam, 1942

US Bureau of Reclamation Photo Archives | www.usbr.gov/history/archive.html

Save the Date for the 2016 CBDL Conference

Mark your calendar for this year's CBDL Conference! The Conference will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016 in the ATEC Building at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Planning is underway and Board and staff are working to identify session topics and speakers. Stay tuned to the newsletter and **www.cbdl.org** for more information coming soon!

6

THANKS TO OUR 2016 MEMBERS

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7

THANKS TO OUR 2016 MEMBERS

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Perkins & Zlatich CPAs PS Pete Beaumont Farms LLC Phillips Family Farms, LLC Phillips Ranch Corp **Piper Ranch** Pomeroy Farms/Port of Warden Port of Mattawa Port of Pasco Port of Royal Slope Port of Warden/Grant County District #8 **Prior Farms LLC** Qualls Agricultural Laboratory Inc **Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District** R&J Lyle LLC **R&L St Hilaire LLC** Radach Farms Inc **RAFCO Inc RH2 Engineering Inc Richard Erickson Richard LeMargie Richard Quirk Richard Stevens RJ** Circle Farms Inc **Rod Rottinghaus Farms Rosebud Vineyards Inc RP Stucky Properties LLC** SAC Enterprises Inc Sand Ridge Farms Inc SC Communications Inc Schibel Farms Inc Schneider Farms - Pasco LLC Schroeder Law Offices PC Schutte Farms Inc Schwisow & Associates Seed-Rite Inc SIDEB Inc Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco Soiltest Farm Consultants Inc South Columbia Basin Irrigation District Spectrum Communications Inc Stokrose Farms Inc.

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