

# VOICE OF THE PROJECT

*Supporting the Columbia Basin Project since 1964.*



## OUR MISSION

Serving as the voice of the Columbia Basin Project – advocating for completion and sustainable maintenance.



*Photo courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation. Image by Bob Wick. The John Day River watershed supports one of the largest remaining populations of wild Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.*

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## DARVIN FALES AND COLUMBIA BASIN HYDROPOWER

Columbia Basin Hydropower provides administration, operations, and maintenance for hydroelectric facilities owned by the three Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts (East, South, and Quincy). The power they produce benefits the local economy and the farmers of the Columbia Basin.

Darvin Fales has been involved with the Columbia Basin Project for 34-and-a-half years. He started as an engineer at South District, then became manager at Quincy, and he is the manager at Columbia Basin Hydropower. When he first arrived, last year, CB Hydropower focused on operations and maintenance. Existing plants were part of the main focus as well and this made for a hectic winter maintenance schedule. Some of the most expensive modernizations

*Continued on page 2*

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“Darvin Fales and Columbia Basin Hydropower” continued from page 1



Photo courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation. Construction of Grand Coulee Dam began in 1933 and was completed in 1942. Grand Coulee Dam is the largest hydropower producer in the United States with a total generating capacity of 6,809 megawatts. It is also part of the Columbia Basin Project, irrigating more than 600,000 acres, and is the cornerstone for water control on the Columbia River in the United States.

occurred during the past winter at three of the five plants. Development of new sites are also Darvin’s responsibility. These include small plants and one large plant: Banks Lake Storage Project.

#### Q. How does the work of Columbia Basin Hydropower benefit CBP irrigation districts and landowners?

A. The revenue generated by Columbia Basin Hydropower benefits landowners by supplementing irrigation district revenue and keeping costs down for landowners.

#### Q. What are the priorities of the new manager at CBH, both in the short- and long-terms?

A. One thing Darvin believes is really important and needs to be emphasized as priority No. 1 is, always get the water to the farm. In his view, CBH must operate its generation plants as efficiently as it can, without interrupting the supply or flow of water to the farm.

Another priority of whose success Darvin is proud in light of COVID-19, involves enacting measures to keep employees safe. This includes working from home and allowing only one person out per shift or in a vehicle. The CBH has tried to keep up with sanitary and safety regulations. This region needs electricity so it’s important that CBH personnel stay at work and keep the generators running.

Other short-term goals include small hydro plant development that is cost-effective and low maintenance. Long-term: There are lots of moving parts that people aren’t always aware of. Besides the day-to-day work, operations, and power generations, they are looking at renegotiating the power purchase contracts.

These are 40-year contracts that start from the date of commercial production of electricity. Smith Plant started in 1982 and it expires in 2022, for example. Currently they have great contracts, and they hope to continue good relationships with their partners including. Seattle, Tacoma, and Grant PUD.

#### Q. What is the North Dam Project?

A. Dry Falls Dam, a big earthen dam sits at the south end of Banks Lake. At the north end of the lake, sits a small dam called North Dam. The concept for this project started around 2010, and a license was put in with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Over time, the North Dam Project was renamed The Banks Lake Pump Storage Project. The concept includes a couple of large tunnels bored from Banks Lake down to Lake Roosevelt, just upstream of the Keyes Plant at Grand Coulee Dam. Water gets pumped into Banks Lake during off-peak energy demand times such as after 10 p.m. The pumps get turned on until morning and the electricity demand comes back. Then, stored “energy” sits in Banks Lake until it is needed and the water is run back downhill to Lake Roosevelt, generating between 300-1000 MW of power and energy during the peak times when demand is high.

#### Q. What is the status of the Banks Lake Pump Storage Project?

A. Columbia Basin Hydropower has been actively pursuing this project for about seven to eight years. They are working on a lease from the Bureau of Reclamation and one license from FERC from the Bureau of Reclamation and licenses from FERC to allow for construction.

The preliminary lease is on track to be issued in January of 2021. An engineering firm has been hired and has done the technical work. This firm is working on the preliminary designs of penstocks, generators, transmission lines, and civil structures. It’s a \$1.4 billion pump storage project and Columbia Basin Hydropower is six years out from completion if all goes well.

Funding for the project will determine its outcome. The other part of the project involves securing power purchasers for the power generated.



Photo courtesy of Nicholls Kovich

## ADAMS COUNTY BRIDGE UPDATE

The Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program is transferring deep well irrigators from the depleting Odessa Aquifer to more reliable Columbia Basin Project surface water. The project includes expanding the width of canals to increase delivery capacity. When canal widths increase, the bridges that cross the canals need to be replaced or eliminated. 10 bridges have been identified for replacement by the engineering firm of Nicholls Kovich, eight of them in Adams County. The county has secured a construction estimate of about \$26 million.

Final cost estimates rose to about twice as much per bridge as the original projections. Next steps include securing funding, both through federal and state sources.



QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

NURTURE YOUR MIND WITH GREAT THOUGHTS, FOR YOU WILL NEVER GO ANY HIGHER THAN YOU THINK.

- Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minister from 1874-1880





# ODESSA GROUND WATER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM: SHOVEL READY

The Columbia Basin Project (CBP) is the water source for thousands of farmers. While waiting for continued development of the CBP, decades ago, the Department of Ecology issued farmers permits to use ground water to irrigate more than 100,000 acres. The Odessa aquifer plummeted and now threatens the supply for rural communities including Lind, Odessa, Connell, Othello, Warden, and Moses Lake.

Basin Project irrigation districts, a signed Memorandum of Understanding outlined water availability for municipal and industrial permits, in-stream flows, and drought relief. Its rapid decline made the Odessa aquifer critical, so the three agencies agreed to create a program that addressed the economic and environmental catastrophe the depleting aquifer would unleash.

LATERAL:	ACRES REPLACED:	2019 ESTIMATED COST:
EL 11.8	3,000	\$12,973,750
EL 22.1	19,000	\$70,203,188
EL 40.2	11,000	\$41,627,495
EL 54.0	8,000	\$28,104,321
EL 73.3	18,000	\$62,384,214
EL 79.2	10,000	\$31,384,844
EL 86.4	5,000	\$9,024,332
TOTAL:	74,000 (approx.)	\$255,500,000 (approx.)

In 2001 Washington Gov. Gary Locke launched the Columbia River Initiative to look for more water that would address needs of Eastern Washington. A study by the National Academy of Science found that additional water wasn’t available for diversion from the Columbia River during some parts of July and August. After 15 months of negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation and Columbia

The project limited itself to an acre-for-acre replacement of ground water supplies from the Odessa aquifer with water from the Columbia Basin Project, with no new irrigated land. The program, OGWRP, has two large construction elements: 1) expansion and improvement of the East Low Canal to add

delivery capacity, and, 2) construction of pump stations and pipelines on several lateral systems to deliver CBP water to farms now reliant on the aquifer. The East Low Canal widening is almost complete, with Washington state investing \$105 million including all studies and consultation. What remains is the construction of gravity-based and pump-based delivery systems to replace 70,000 acres with CBP irrigation water to farms. Conservation programs already cover more than 10,000 acres.

About \$255,500,000 would continue implementation of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program and change the irrigation source from failing wells on a depleting aquifer to ample CBP supplies. It would also allow production of high-value crops to continue on 97,000 acres; and would conserve remaining ground water for domestic, municipal and industrial uses in rural communities.

The U.S. economy is at a standstill and sliding quickly into recession, or worse. Congress and the Trump Administration have pumped trillions of dollars into the economy to help until the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

Infrastructure investment programs, as part of a stimulus package, are designed to immediately affect the economy by putting as many people to work in as short a period as possible. The most recent example was during the 2008 Great Recession. Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 2009. ARRA was a \$787 billion economic stimulus package funding investments in infrastructure, energy,

healthcare, education and science, and other sectors. ARRA looked for projects that were “shovel ready”: those fully permitted and with federal approval including complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Reclamation defines “shovel ready” as projects completing NEPA compliance, design, rights-of-way access and other factors in state and federal law. This included a detailed planning report based on the Principles, Requirements and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies (PR&G) along with an environmental impact statement as well as an Endangered Species Act Sec. 7 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries.

When ARRA was enacted, the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program had begun but had not gone far enough to take advantage of for the stimulus package.

In April 2013, the OGWRP completed the work necessary to qualify as “shovel ready.” As such, the program offers a phenomenal opportunity for infrastructure investment in an authorized project, to address a nationally-recognized economic, environmental and social crisis, while stimulating the state and federal economies by rescuing a vibrant rural economy now dependent on a declining aquifer. It should be included in any infrastructure stimulus program.

# LEAGUE COORDINATES SPEAKERS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers will hold its annual national conference Sept. 24 and 25 in Moses Lake. ASFMRA leaders asked the League to assist with setting up a day-long workshop focused on the CBP Speakers will include Mike Schwisow, Director Government Affairs for the Columbia Basin Development League; Tom Tebb, Director of the Office of Columbia River, Washington State Department of Ecology; Craig Simpson, Secretary-Manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District; Marc Maynard, Ephrata Field Office Manager, Columbia Pacific Northwest - Interior Region 9, Bureau of Reclamation; and Jed Crowther, Development Coordinator, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, who will also provide a tour of work on the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program.

Details will be on ASFMRA’s website, [www.asfmra.org](http://www.asfmra.org).

# LEAGUE BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED TO CRPAG

The League’s Chairman and Lincoln County Commissioner, Mark Stedman, was appointed to the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group, which advises the Office of Columbia River (a part of the Washington State’s Department of Ecology) on policy issues regarding the development of new water supply for Eastern Washington. The group includes representatives from state, local, federal, and tribal governments, irrigators, businesses, and environmental groups.

# POTHOLES BANK STORAGE – GROUNDWATER PROGRAM

By Joslin Kier | Water and Lands Contract Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation



Photo of Potholes Reservoir by Joe Mabel, Wikipedia, license CC

Got water? We do. The Bureau of Reclamation still has water available in our Potholes Bank Storage Additional Artificially Stored Groundwater Program (PBS). If you are in the Mae Valley/South Frontage Road area, you may be eligible for a PBS groundwater service contract.

On Jan. 8, 1975, the Department of Ecology established the Quincy Basin Subarea, comprised of commingled public groundwater and artificially stored groundwater (ASGW).

In general, both types of groundwaters have been fully appropriated and no water remains available for withdrawal under the surface-and-groundwater codes of the State of Washington. Reclamation developed the Quincy Basin ASGW management program with the Department of Ecology to appropriate its groundwater. As of today, Quincy Basin ASGW is fully appropriated and has a long waiting list.

In December 1980, crews completed the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel, allowing the U.S. to supply First Phase Continuation water to the PBS area without impacting fish and wildlife populations or Project lands south of the Potholes Reservoir bank storage area. The term First Phase Continuation water describes the additional water supply available as the result of the construction of the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel and other facilities.

The Bureau of Reclamation has determined that users may withdraw up to 17,500 acre-feet or up to 5,000 acres of First Phase Continuation Water annually from artificially stored groundwater in PBS.

The Bureau of Reclamation issues water service contracts, effective for 20 years and subject to renewal for a similar period, for the use of First Phase Continuation Water in the PBS area. The contracts specify quantities (not to exceed 3.5 acre-feet per acre per year), rates, terms, and conditions according to Reclamation Law and Bureau Policy.

If you are located within the PBS Area and want to sign up, send a written request by email to [jkier@usbr.gov](mailto:jkier@usbr.gov) or by mail to Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Joslin Kier, 32 C Street NW, Ephrata, WA 98823. Please include the number of acres in question, what purpose the water will serve, the legal description and parcel number for your property, and your contact information.

**THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION STILL HAS WATER AVAILABLE IN OUR POTHOLES BANK STORAGE ADDITIONAL ARTIFICIALLY STORED GROUNDWATER PROGRAM (PBS). IF YOU ARE IN THE MAE VALLEY/SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD AREA, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PBS GROUNDWATER SERVICE CONTRACT.**

# WAITING FOR WATER: WATCH THIS 10-MINUTE FILM

In 2017, the League worked with a local film company, to produce “Waiting for Water”, a 10-minute documentary film about the Columbia Basin Project (Project).

“Waiting for Water” follows a family of farmers in the Columbia Basin region- a land of great potential, against a backdrop of challenges - to share the story of the Columbia Basin Project.

The history of the CBP begins with an arid desert and an opportunity to make history. Dedicated visionaries persevere over 80 years, transforming the once desolate land into a flourishing community. Family farms thrive. Vibrant bio-diverse wetland habitats are created and form part of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. A hallmark power and irrigation system is born. Ample recreational opportunities draw three million visitors to fish, hunt, camp, swim, and explore its land and waters each year. The once arid desert now generates over \$5 billion of cumulative economic activity every year. But the future of the Project is in jeopardy.

The Project is not fully developed, and it is aging. And, in the process of phased development, a declining aquifer presented yet another threat to the foundation upon which much of central-eastern Washington has been built.

If you live, work, or play in Washington, the Columbia Basin Project impacts you. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that we can continue to do so, that future generations can do so. Shared responsibility begins with increased awareness and understanding. The

Project is the foundation for our livelihood, our quality of life, a secure tomorrow.

Keep the story alive by sharing the documentary on social media, at your local service clubs, in the classrooms, and with your family and friends. By sharing this documentary, you are helping to inform, secure the future benefit of the Project for our region, state, and nation.

This film informs, engages, inspires, and is appropriate for viewers of all ages. To watch, visit [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org), click on Support, then click on Documentary Film and then click on Watch the Documentary. The direct link is <https://www.cbdl.org/support/film/watch-the-documentary>.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FILM SPONSORS!**





# THREE NEW TRUSTEES APPOINTED TO LEAGUE BOARD

In January, League members voted to elect Christina Wyatt and Kelly Cochrane to join the CBDL Board of Trustees. Then in April, JC Baldwin stepped down from her position, and the board appointed Alan Loeb sack.



**Christina Wyatt of Big Bend Electric Cooperative** has more than 14 years of utility experience including previous roles as manager of engineering and distribution engineer. Her duties include coordinating long term power supply issues with Bonneville Power Administration and other power providers, and monitoring proposed energy legislation according to its potential to impact the cooperative. Wyatt’s duties include coordinating the electrical and power supply needs of the East Columbia Basin District’s Odessa Ground Water Replacement

Program with the needs of other agencies. Prior to joining BBEC, she worked as a consultant to several Northwest utilities. She is a Northwest native and has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Gonzaga University.



**Kelly Cochrane of Kahlotus** is a fourth-generation dryland wheat farmer in northern Franklin County. A significant amount of his farm ground lies within the unfinished Columbia Basin Project. He farms with his wife Becky, brothers Brian, Casey, and his son Ben, part of a fifth generation. He has caught himself echoing the same “someday the water will come” proclamation that his grandfather espoused more than 50 years ago regarding completion of the CBP.

Besides farming, Cochrane works as an Optometric Physician with an office in Kahlotus. His community activities include volunteering to provide vision care via medical missions to various Third-World countries, serving as a Franklin County volunteer fireman, serving as Chairman of the Kahlotus School Board, and serving as an active member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.



**Alan Loeb sack of Waterville** is a Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority Commissioner since 2016 and Port of Douglas County Commissioner since 1986. He graduated from Waterville High School, and in 1976 he graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, and a minor in Economics. After graduating, he worked as a fisherman in the king crab industry and began farming full-time on his wheat farm in 1978

after being airlifted off his boat in the Bering Sea for an emergency appendectomy. The Loeb sack farm, northeast of Waterville, has remained in the family for four generations and produces wheat, canola, dry peas, and barley.

Alan and his wife, Marjorie, have five children and served as foster parents for 18 years while their children grew up. The Loeb sack family remains involved with the Badger Mountain Ski Area, Waterville Young Life Club, and Waterville High School.

Welcome, Christina, Kelly, and Alan!

# TRANSFERRING WATER RIGHTS

As part of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP)

The Odessa Subarea Special Study’s (OSSS) main intent is to maximize the replacement of groundwater supplies with Columbia Basin Project (CBP) surface water supplies.

With that in mind, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) recognized the need to have replacement lands as close to the East Low Canal as possible to keep development costs low. Allowing transfers of water rights from anywhere in the Odessa Subarea to lands in the OSSS boundary will allow the infill in areas cheaper than the existing location of water rights.

Due to construction and cost constraints, one needs to identify and transfer water rights during the design period. By allowing transfers now, ECBID will help reach the maximum number of acres receiving water using economical pump systems.

The transfer of water rights seeks to serve lands in the “Odessa Subarea Special Study Area” (which focused on lands closer to the East Low Canal, serviceable by the CBP, for the nearest irrigation replacement). The existing water rights within the entire “Odessa Groundwater Management Subarea” can now be utilized to benefit groundwater replacement lands of the OSSS Area and OGWRP.

By transferring water rights to lands in the OSSS closer to the East Low Canal, the OGWRP will:

1. Maintain consistency with previously established environmental review;
2. Preserve continuity and proper implementation of the OGWRP program;
3. Use valid water rights for replacement purposes to benefit the declining aquifer;
4. Add certainty for transfer of water rights to move and serve eligible project lands; and
5. Maximize economical groundwater replacement deliveries.

In summary, this issue requires an adjustment, so it may preserve the aquifer and optimize water delivery.

Land owners wishing to transfer their water rights should contact Kevin Brown with the Department of Ecology in the Spokane office. Call (509) 329-3422 or email [kevin.brown@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kevin.brown@ecy.wa.gov).





Shaping the Future of Our Region



myTRI 2030 Top 10 Report  
2019

## MYTRI 2030 AG COUNCIL UPDATE

By Gary Ballew, myTRI Agriculture Council Vice Chair

By the time the Ag Council held its first meeting of the year at the end of March, we were just starting to see the enormity of what lay ahead. As many of the members of the committee are in essential industries, and were in the midst of identifying completely new ways to keep food on the shelves of America's grocery stores, the group decided to pause our myTRI 2030 efforts and meet the COVID-19 challenge at hand.

As we now roll through the mid-year, the group looks to come together (socially distanced and virtual of course) to jumpstart our myTRI 2030 efforts. The challenge is much greater now, as we look to rebuild a growing, processing and logistics system stressed by the past two months. We believe that myTRI 2030 will provide the roadmap for recovery and resiliency, and that as we move forward, we will identify opportunities to increase prosperity across the Tri-Cities.

## LEAGUE'S EXECUTIVE APPOINTED TO MYTRI 2030 AG COUNCIL

Earlier this year, the myTRI 2030 Agricultural Council invited the League to become a member. MyTRI 2030 is a Tri-Cities, community-based, Regional Vision Project that seeks to provide a unified strategy and a shared vision for the future.

The Regional Affairs Committee (RAC) of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce provides staffing and leadership for the myTRI 2030 Regional Vision Project. Chris Rivard (Moss Adams, retired) serves as Regional Affairs Council liaison in the Agriculture Opportunity Area. Part of the responsibility of the liaison includes identifying and nominating potential members of the Agriculture Council. He identified Vicky Scharlau (as Executive Director of the League) as a "passionate

expert and leader", and nominated her for a position on the Agriculture Council.

During the last year, more than 5,000 Tri-Citians came together wanting to create a shared vision for the region. The process was exhaustive, comprehensive, inclusive and designed to ensure success. The group is intentionally populated with specific sectors including: producers, processors, ports, ag groups, economic development groups, rail, two- and four-year education institutions.

See more here: [www.myTRI2030.com](http://www.myTRI2030.com).

The insights gathered from the people, combined with comprehensive research, resulted in six unique opportunity areas that the region must pursue: Prosperity, Life,

Inclusion, Energy, Education, and Agriculture.

Late last summer, six all-day workshops took place, and people identified the top 10 high-level strategies and ideas for each area. These ideas will inform the decisions of future Opportunity Area Councils. These councils, comprised of passionate experts and leaders, will identify actions and teams that will bring myTRI 2030 to fruition. The agriculture summary appears on pages 4 and 5. Note that finishing the Columbia Basin Project appears as the idea for the strategy to "ensure a thriving future for growers". This is a key reason why myTRI 2030 invited the League to participate.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE 56TH CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2020

We are still planning for in-person attendance. Stay tuned to our website and social media pages for updates on agenda topics, speakers and guests.

Learn more at: [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org)



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Lindcrest Ranch/Preston Farms, LLC Lyll Farms Lyle Family Land, LLC Marvin and Neil Joint Venture McCrometer McKay Seed Company MCL Farms MGS AG, Inc. Middleton Family Farm Moody Family Moses Lake - Warden Air Service, Inc. Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District Nutrien Ag Solutions Owl Lake, LLC P&P Farms Para Ranch Lands, Inc. Parsons Behle & Latimer Patty Kagele Farms, Inc. Perkins & Zlatich CPAs PS Pete Beaumont Farms, LLC. Petrus Partners, Ltd. Phillips Family Farms, LLC Piper Ranch Pomeroy Farms Port of Mattawa Port of Moses Lake Port of Pasco Port of Quincy Port of Royal Slope Port of Warden/Grant County District #8 Prior Farms, LLC R & J Lyle, LLC RAFCO, Inc. Ralph Hirz Farm RH2 Engineering, Inc. RJ Circle Farms, Inc. Rosebud Vineyards, Inc. RP Stucky Properties, LLC Rubicon Water Sackmann Law Office SC Communications, Inc. Schibel Farms, Inc. Schneider Farms - Pasco, LLC Schroeder Law Offices PC Schutte Farms, Inc. Schwisow & Associates Seed-Rite, Inc. Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco Soiltest Farm Consultants, Inc. Sunset Farms, Inc. Tippett Company of Washington, LLC Tom Downs Farms
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<b>RECIPROCAL</b>
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