

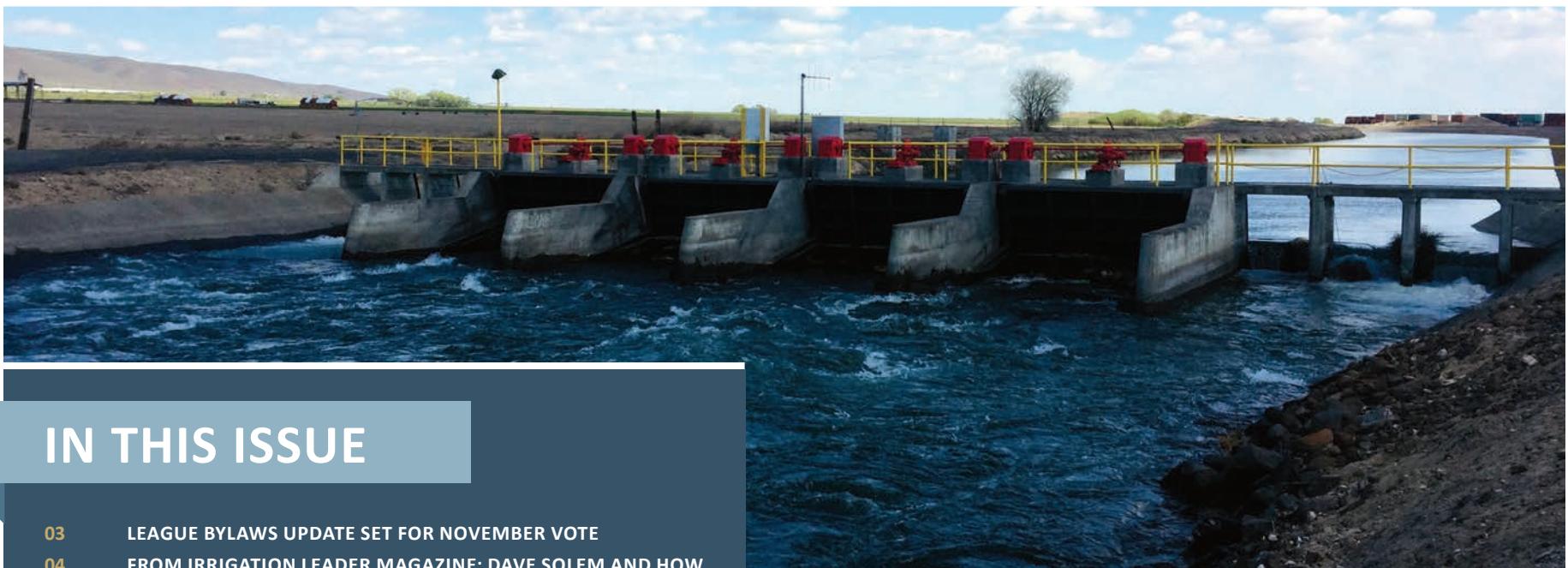
VOICE OF THE PROJECT

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West Canal. Photo courtesy of Craig Gyselinck.

WATERSMART GRANT HOPING TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR QCBID

The federal WaterSMART grants that served the plans and projects of the Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District may once again have a big impact on the QCBID's plans for 2021.

According to Craig Gyselinck, environmental assistant manager for QCBID, in 2019, a Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grant was awarded in the amount of \$300,000, to help pay for more than a third of the costs associated with lining 6,810 of the W61F canal near Royal City.

The Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District's main irrigation system has one main, 90-mile-long canal called the West Canal, and W61F is one of the laterals off the main canal, located 61 miles downstream from the beginning of the West Canal.

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"WE LOOK FORWARD TO APPLYING FOR THIS GRANT EACH YEAR. WATERSMART GRANTS ALLOW US TO IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF OUR CANALS WHILE CONSERVING WATER AND POWER. IT'S A WIN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO A WIN FOR OUR LANDOWNERS." —CRAIG GYSELINCK, QCBID

The work helped conserve 729 acre-feet of water and 544,704 kWh of power annually, Gyselinck said.

The total cost reached \$787,097. For the fiscal year 2021, the work on W61F will continue, and so will the need for federal grants like WaterSMART. The deadline to apply is in mid-September, and if approved, the grant will help pay for the lining of 6,500 additional feet of the canal, with the total cost reaching \$785,000.

Lining canals improves flow management and has many benefits including water conservation, more reliable water delivery, reduction in the use of aquatic weed chemicals and their spill to natural water bodies and other savings, Gyselinck added.

The QCBID's water conservation projects allow existing acreage to be served, while remaining water budget-neutral to the Columbia River, Gyselinck said. It is also available to stay in the river to support fish and wildlife efforts.

"The WaterSMART program has been very beneficial toward helping us reach our conservation goals and we look forward to applying for this grant each year," he said. "WaterSMART grants allow us to improve the reliability of our canals while conserving water and power. It's a win for the environment but also a win for our landowners."

In the five years since QCBID started applying for WaterSMART projects, the district has been awarded \$2.6 million in grants.

"That is a significant amount of funding from Reclamation to improve critical infrastructure and conserve our most vital resources, water and power," Gyselinck said. "We have done a lot of great work, but there is still much to be done."



West Canal. Photo courtesy of Craig Gyselinck.

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LEAGUE BYLAWS UPDATE SET FOR VOTE AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The League Bylaws were last updated over 15 years ago. In March, Chairman Mark Stedman appointed a Bylaws Working Group that included Matt Harris, Dale Pomeroy, Mark Booker, and Orman Johnson in addition to the chair. The Bylaws Working Group were tasked with doing a heavy review and edit of the bylaws noting that bylaws establish the League's management structure, procedures, and dispute resolution processes. Serving as an operating manual for the League, the Bylaws are separate from the Articles of Incorporation, which generally contain pertinent information, such as name, address, agent for service of process. Bylaws work in conjunction with the Articles of Incorporation to form the legal backbone of the business.

The Working Group met over several months and recommended updates to the Executive Committee for input and then to the full Board of Trustees for approval. The Working Group felt the last version of the Bylaws were not transparent, clunky and in need of repair and that the updated bylaws were a fair representation and not going outside the legal boundaries of the Articles.

The final draft version as approved by the Board of Trustees will be mailed to members in advance of the (virtual) Annual Meeting of Members on November 5, 2020. Members are encouraged to call or email the League office if they have questions.

“

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

MANY OF LIFE'S FAILURES ARE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT REALIZE HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO SUCCESS WHEN THEY GAVE UP.

- Thomas Edison

”

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PUMP STATION LIGHTNING STRIKE

Reprinted with permission from Irrigation Leader Magazine. You may find the original article at <http://irrigationleadermagazine.com/dave-solem-responding-to-a-pump-station-lightning-strike/>

On Saturday, May 30, a major pump station in South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) was struck by lightning, disintegrating a bus conductor and knocking out the facility. Within hours, SCBID Manager Dave Solem was on the scene with engineers, electricians, manufacturers, and other relevant personnel. Luckily, the damage to the station was not as bad as feared, and after 2 days of hard work, SCBID had the pump station up and running. In this interview, Mr. Solem gives Irrigation Leader the details of this event and explains how the district reacted.

Irrigation Leader: Please tell us about your background.

Dave Solem: I have been the manager of SCBID since 2010. Prior to that, I managed Klamath Irrigation District for 27 years.
Irrigation Leader: Please tell us about SCBID.
Dave Solem: SCBID is one of the three irrigation districts that make up the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). Our source of water is the Columbia River. SCBID serves about 230,000 of the about 700,000 irrigated acres in the CBP.

Irrigation Leader: What are the main crops grown in your district?

Dave Solem: Alfalfa; wheat; corn; potatoes; beans; grapes for wine and juice; apples, cherries, and other tree fruit; and many seed crops. There are as many as 90 different kinds of crops grown in the CBP.
Irrigation Leader: Tell us about the pump house that was recently struck by lightning.
Dave Solem: We have a pump station in the northern part of our district called the Radar Pump Station. It serves 8,400 acres of farmland in both SCBID and East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. Radar pumps to two

primary laterals at a maximum rate of 325 cubic feet per second (cfs). It has five pumps, totaling 8,100 horsepower. It's a big plant with a high lift that takes power off a 115 kilovolt (kV) Bonneville Power Administration line. A step-down transformer on site brings that power down to 4,160 volts. This medium-voltage pump station is our largest pumping station.

Irrigation Leader: What are the dimensions of the pipe that comes out of the pump plant, and how much water does it move?

Dave Solem: There are two discharges. A 66 inch discharge carries a maximum of 85 cfs up 118 feet. A 72 inch discharge carries a maximum of 240 cfs up 277 feet.

Irrigation Leader: When was this pump plant struck by lightning?

Dave Solem: On Saturday, May 30. We had talked about potential lightning on Friday. It was forecasted to come in late on Saturday afternoon. However, I was awakened by thunder on Saturday at about 5:00 a.m. I got up and looked out the window, and lightning was flashing everywhere in the Tri-Cities.

The sky was a weird color. I knew right then and there that it was going to be a bad day. I got up, got dressed, and waited for the phone call. It only took about an hour. I was kind of surprised that the Radar Pump Station had been hit. It is about 30 miles north of the Tri-Cities, so the storm covered a large area. It actually went even farther north than that, so it probably stretched across 40 miles in

total. In any case, I got a call telling me that the pump house had been struck by lightning and that the whole thing was down.

When I arrived, I saw a 5 foot-diameter hole in the building. About half of the 4 inch aluminum bus conductor between the transformer and the inside of the building was gone—it had melted and was splattered on the ground, 20 feet below. Around that time, our electrical supervisor and two of our electricians showed up. I had made a call to Clayton Anderson of RH2 Engineering, who lives in Wenatchee. We had worked with Clayton to rebuild all the electrical components at the station in 2013, and he was familiar with the equipment that had been installed. He headed over. The fire department was there when I arrived. They were monitoring the scene but hadn't really tried to do anything, which was probably a good idea. The fuses were out, no power was coming into the station anymore, and it was obvious that it was not going to be operational. Clayton got there around 11:00 a.m. One of the reasons we wanted him there was that he had all the information about the replacement parts we would need. However, we had learned during the rebuilding of the plant that some of the components took a long time to be manufactured—they weren't off-the-shelf equipment. Some required 6 months of lead time. We were extremely concerned about the extent of the damage, because without an operational pumping plant, there would be no water delivered to the land in that area. Time frames of up to a month were going through our heads, and we worried that even that might be optimistic.

At that point, we started evaluating the damage. Just after noon, a crew from Eaton, the switchgear and motor control provider, arrived from the Tri-Cities. They were able to test the station's large 12,000 kilovolt-ampere (kVa) transformer. We had just had it serviced and checked in fall 2019, so we had current readings and knew how it had been behaving before the lightning strike. The transformer may have suffered some slight damage, but on the whole, it was okay. We do have a spare transformer on site, but it weighs 82,000 pounds, so moving it would have required a crane and time. We were thankful it was unnecessary.

We knew we were in good shape from the 115 kV line to the transformer. However, the bus work between the low side of the transformer and the switch gear had basically vaporized. We went inside with the crew from Eaton and were able to test the switch gear where the power came in. We could see that the bus was burnt pretty far in, but when we checked the panels and switch gear, we found that those pieces of equipment had not been damaged. We had spent about a million dollars upgrading the switch gear, the motor control units, and all the wiring for the entire pumping plant. It was just the bus work in the middle that was gone. We like to think that the high-quality surge equipment we put in when we did the upgrades was responsible for this, but maybe it was pure luck. If the lightning had gotten into the switch gear and the motor controls, it would have been a whole different ball game, because those are the long-lead-time items.

We actually had some sections of conductor stored inside the pump station that were intended to be used as jumpers if we ever had to hook up the spare transformer. It just so happened that those six sections of conductor were the right length to tie into the bus on the transformer side, go through the wall, and attach back into the bus bar on the switch gear. We used two cables for each leg and got it hooked up. The lightning hit at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, and we

worked through Saturday and Sunday. We tested it Monday and got the pumps going. They haven't stopped yet. The farmers were out of water for a couple of days. Now we are in the process of evaluating what it will take to restore the pump station to its original condition.

Irrigation Leader: What will SCBID do to protect against a similar event in the future?

Dave Solem: The plant was designed with bays for four other units. However, because of the way the canals were built, the station was not fitted to the maximum capacity, and those four additional units weren't installed. The district has talked over the years about installing another unit to supplement the capacity of the pumping plant. The lightning strike made us think about installing a redundant unit that wouldn't be hooked up at all or would be disconnected from the power source. In the event of a repeat lightning strike or a similar event that got into the switch gear, there would be an available backup unit and we would be able to deliver at least some water.

Irrigation Leader: How big a unit would that be?

Dave Solem: We're looking at that right now. We're evaluating questions like how many acres we could serve at half capacity and so on. SCBID is looking at its data, and RH2 is evaluating the data as well. We'll look at the design and the cost of putting in another unit or two.

Irrigation Leader: What kind of time frame are you looking at? Are you looking to get this thing resolved over the winter months so that you're operational next season?

Dave Solem: We are preparing to do the repairs this off-season. We have to go through a request-for-quotation process to be able to make an agreement with RH2. The plan is to prepare a repair contract and bid it in the next few months.



Melted Metal after lightning strike. Photo courtesy of Irrigation Leader Magazine.

Irrigation Leader: What advice do you have regarding lightning strikes for other irrigation districts that rely on similarly sized pump plants?

Dave Solem: This pumping plant was built in the late 1960s, but our recent upgrades at least gave us a chance of making repairs. In 2013, we replaced the gear, which was obsolete. You don't want obsolete components in your plants, because if you have an event that causes major damage, you have to start from scratch. Keeping your equipment current and keeping a good inventory of whatever spare parts you can afford—fuses and that type of thing—is important. Even the conduit on site helped get the plant running sooner.

I can't say that lightning hitting this pump station was high on my list of possible accidents, but it can and did happen. In this case, the pump station lifts water 277 feet, and you can't easily push water that far with a temporary fix. There weren't many short-term options. This system serves orchards, grapes, and other high-value crops. Making an investment ahead of time in things like a spare pump, motor, or panel is something the district is going to consider.

Continued on page 6

LEAGUE CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED DUE TO COVID-19

Things are looking a little different everywhere this year and the League is no exception. The conference and annual meeting, usually held at the same time in the same place, will have separate dates this year. The annual meeting will continue as planned on Thursday, November 5, but the event will be virtual. The conference will be postponed to next spring.

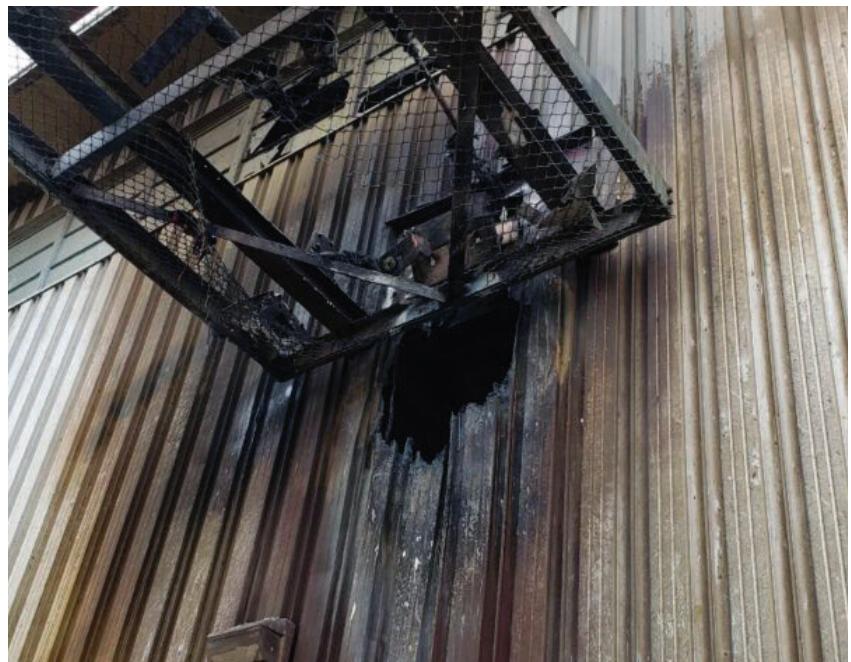
A virtual annual meeting will respect the state's current safety regulations for large-group gatherings in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual meeting will use Zoom as an online platform to host members, stakeholders, and speakers. For now, next spring's conference is planned to be held in-person.

Organizers want the annual meeting and conference to be productive, memorable occasions, and to that end, plans continue as if it were a normal year. The agenda for the annual meeting will include board elections, recognition of Project champions, a membership vote on an update to the League's Bylaws (see article), and a keynote speaker. Speakers are also still being recruited for the conference next spring. Stay tuned to the League's Facebook page and e-blasts for more news regarding agendas and registration.

During the Annual Meeting the league will be honoring new recipients of the Honorary Life Member and the Perseverance award. Honorary Life Membership goes to those who have demonstrated their support of the Columbia Basin Project and its future development with tireless and significant dedication to efforts that advance the Project, regardless of whether they are involved with the League.

The Perseverance Award goes to those who show the ability to carry on until you complete the task regardless of its difficulty. Recipients demonstrate the desire and capacity to fight on, regardless of the odds.

"How To Respond To A Lighting Strike At A Pump Station" continued from page 5



Side of SCBID radar pump station after lightning strike. Photo courtesy of Irrigation Leader Magazine.

Also, it was helpful that we had built relationships with some of our suppliers. One of the members of the volunteer fire department is a contractor who didn't work on this pumping plant but has worked with us on a different one. He heard about the lightning strike and brought out some conduit for us so that we wouldn't have to chase it down.

Irrigation Leader: Was this covered by insurance at all?

Dave Solem: We have insurance, but we don't know what the final damage tally is. The 4 inch bus is original and likely will be highly expensive to replace. The overhead crane beam took some heat, so we have to get an expert to look at it. The metal siding on this 1968 building is obsolete. We've looked all over the country for replacement manufacturers, and the siding replacement estimate is \$20,000. We have a pretty high deductible, so we will be paying a portion of the repairs. If this incident had caused a big crop failure, it would have been hugely expensive.

Irrigation Leader: Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

Dave Solem: Everybody who was involved—the district electricians and engineers, the watermaster, and assistant watermaster, Clayton Anderson, the guys from Eaton, the Franklin County Fire District No. 4—stepped up and pitched in to solve this problem. It was an amazing team effort—but it is one we don't want to repeat!

Dave Solem is the general manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District. He can be reached at dsolem@scbid.org or (509) 547 1735.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OTHER WASHINGTON

In June, H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act was introduced in the House. The measure is a large infrastructure bill, which provides a total of \$1.5 trillion authorizations for a wide variety of infrastructure provisions including roads, bridges, aviation, rail, and water. In total, the bill authorizes close to \$70 billion dollars for water infrastructure. The bill was voted on favorably by the House of Representatives and awaits further consideration by the Senate. The League is closely monitoring this bill.

In July, H.R. 7575, the Water Resources Development Act was introduced and subsequently voted on favorably by the House of Representatives. The bill focuses most of the resources on Army Corps projects and does not include a Reclamation Title for which the League previously advocated. A Reclamation Title would open up funding opportunities for projects like the Columbia Basin Project. However, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) passed its version of WRDA (S.3591 the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020) out of Committee in May, and the Senate is still expected to take up S.3591, and work to reconcile it with the H.R.7575 in an eventual conference. It is anticipated that if a Reclamation Title were to be included in WRDA 2020, it will be attached to the Senate version. In light of that, the League sent a letter to Senator Cantwell encouraging her to request and support a Reclamation Title in the Senate's version of WRDA given that she is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. This letter follows a June letter sent to both Senators Cantwell and Murray when the WRDA text was first introduced. Letters were also sent to ENR leadership encouraging the inclusion of a Reclamation Title.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

In July, the House Appropriations Committee released their proposed Energy and Water Development Funding Bill for fiscal year 2021 and voted on favorably by the House of Representatives also in July. This bill funds the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, and other related agencies.

In total, the measure provides \$49.6 billion for programs operated by the aforementioned agencies, which is a 3% increase from FY2020. In light of COVID-19, the House Committee on Appropriations chose to include \$17 billion in emergency funding for USACE to continue the nation's recovery effort. This funding is intended to accelerate work on USACE projects around the country, by putting Americans back to work and improving water infrastructure while reducing the current backlog. The following table contains the topline numbers for the Bureau of Reclamation and USACE.

The Senate has not released appropriations legislation for water and energy. Earlier in the year the League submitted appropriations requests for \$10 million for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program.

It is possible there will be a continuing resolution to keep funding levels as is for a short period of time.

	FY2020 ENACTED LEVEL	FY2021 PRESIDENT'S REQUEST	FY2021 HOUSE PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS
Bureau of Reclamation	\$1.68B	\$1.1B	\$1.66B
Water & Related Resources	\$1.5B	\$979M	\$502M
WaterSMART	\$55M	\$18.2M	\$300M
USACE	\$7.7B	\$6B	\$7.63B
Construction	\$2.681B	\$2.71B	\$2.6B
Innovative Funding Partnerships	*	\$250M	*
USACE COVID-19 Response	*	*	\$17B
Investigations	*	*	\$110B
Construction	*	*	\$10B
Operation and Maintenance	*	*	\$5B



USDA FUNDING OPTIONS FOR OGWRP EXPLORED

When the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announcement was released in September 2019 regarding funding opportunities for projects to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission and demonstrate the value and efficacy of natural resources conservation, ECBID connected with State NRCS staff to inquire about opportunities for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. They began coordination with the four conservation districts staff in Franklin, Lincoln, Adams, and Grant counties and explored potential partnership possibilities; including with the conservation districts, the Columbia Basin Development League, and the state department of agriculture. They also identified key differences in available NRCS programs and associated eligibility criteria; some geared toward public systems (such as District pump plant and main pipeline), as compared to private systems (for pipeline extensions), and of the separate program funding available to private landowners through

the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (but was not available to ECBID).

The District participated in NRCS informational webinars for public systems and learned that the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) cannot fund a project that would most likely be considered supplementing another Federal agency's appropriation.

According to the RCPP website, the program promotes coordination of natural resource conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns.

RCPP allows for cooperative investment with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

NRCS staff clarified that the replacement program's delivery system projects may fit their Small Watersheds program more effectively than the RCPP's program. So, ECBID worked with state conservation staff to evaluate options. The goal was to utilize the Odessa Subarea Special Study, National Environmental Policy Act review, the 2012 Environmental Impact Statement and 2013 Record of Decision to create a suitable Small Watershed Plan.

However, after lengthy review, State Conservation reported guidance received from their National Office informed that a new plan would be needed because NRCS was not a participating or cooperating agency to the Environmental Impact Statement.

ECBID continues to research potential public project opportunities with NRCS, however opportunities exist for private landowners at this time. In addition, says efforts are underway to create a steering funding committee.

ODESSA GROUND WATER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

LATERAL NEWS

Construction and design progress continue on the expansion of East Low Canal and at least eight lateral systems of Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP). Two radial gates are planned to be installed by East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) this fall thanks to materials supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation. And, agreements between landowners and ECBID are taking shape.

Highlights from the summer included the following:

- An EL 79.2 Design Agreement was signed by participants earlier this year. Landowners in 79.2 contributed over \$220,000 of their own funds by initially paying \$20 per acre to have their lands included in design. Evaluation of pump station locations is underway, and a review of pipeline alignments, electrical service scenarios, and costs for each pipe/intake/electrical scenario is expected, soon.
- Participating EL 22.1 landowners and eligible water rights have been reviewed to serve 16,511 acres, a location for this lateral's pump stations has been identified, and a pipeline route has been determined. The EL 22.1 Replacement MOU was approved by the ECBID Board.
- EL 86.4 landowners are ready to move forward with an MOU and the pattern for ECBID design. They are determining the specific parcels and acres to be served as well as water right eligibility.
- On EL 47.5, start-up procedures are occurring, now, to fill pipelines, test pump/turnout controls and make refinements as needed.
- Plans are in the works for ECBID and landowners on EL 40.2, EL 54, and EL 73.3 to meet.
- The Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) has accepted a \$595,000 grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL). The first focus of the grant is on electrical planning and design review tasks including a Grant County PUD Electrical Facilities Impact Study, which will help determine the specific components and costs needed to serve the northern lateral delivery systems of ECBID: East Low (EL) 11.8, EL 22.1, and EL 40.2. Results of the study are expected by early December.
- Determining the components and costs is necessary because developing that electrical infrastructure expansion will be crucial to operate the lateral delivery systems. The design review part of the grant refers to the review of a new design being developed by Hermiston, Ore.-based IRZ Engineering Consultants for the EL 22.1 water irrigation system. Making this new electrical infrastructure construction a reality will involve an additive amendment to the EAGL grant, this one for about \$8.9 million. This electrical infrastructure investment is a key part of helping the Odessa Ground Water Program be successful, since the electrical improvement need to happen at the same rate as the improvements to pumping stations and pipelines.
- This expansion is integrally associated with the OGWRP, since the OGWRP pumping stations and pipelines need the electrical infrastructure. New pump stations without electricity do not allow the lateral delivery systems to fully serve their purpose. All elements of the ECBID's project are connected to making the EL 22.1 operational. The ECBID contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation and landowners to deliver irrigation water to people in Adams, Lincoln, Franklin and Grant counties.

LEGISLATORS SPEAK ON IMPORTANCE OF COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

Three legislators from the Columbia Basin, State Rep. Tom Dent (R-Moses Lake), State Sen. Judy Warnick, and State Rep. Alex Ybarra (R-Quincy) minced no words when expressing the importance of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) to our corner of the world and beyond.

"Ya like to eat? Well, that's why we need irrigation," Dent said.

Besides that, irrigation is the main purpose for the Columbia Basin and its towns and cities, the lawmakers agreed. Even the tech-savvy companies that dot the landscape of western Grant County would not be there if lured by the cheap power rates and rich land made possible by the mighty Columbia River and its waters.

The following are excerpts of three brief interviews with these distinguished lawmakers as they discuss the importance of the Project and the phased approach to its completion, currently, prioritizing the completion of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. The interviews are listed in alphabetical order.

STATE REP. TOM DENT

"Some of those high-value vegetable crops like potatoes and green beans that we grow here, require consistent water. Irrigation is very important for some of the staples of our food supply. And potatoes are definitely one of those. I don't know anyone who doesn't like French fries or baked potatoes. It's important that we keep that crop."



"It's not like we have five years of food stocked up somewhere, because we don't. Irrigation plays a major part in what we do as we try to be consistent in the crops we raise. Here in the Columbia Basin we are not drought-proof, but we are as close to it as anywhere in the world. We have always had a pretty consistent water supply ever since this project started."

"That's why this [Odessa] Ground Water Replacement Program is so very important. You know the [Odessa] aquifer is declining quicker than we wish it would and we need to replace it because it's not going to recharge as rapidly as we need it to. By doing this, we are going to get the growers off that declining aquifer and in order to maintain our ability to grow food. There's

an economic benefit for people who depend on that for their livelihoods, such as farmers, farmworkers or people who work at a processing plant or the grocery store. So, it all rotates around what we do here, agriculture, our No. 1 thing."

"The farmers concerned with the declining Odessa aquifer, they want to replace that water: No. 1, The (replacement) water is better water, which probably means as much as 25 percent higher yield with that Columbia River water, as opposed to groundwater. So yeah, the people depending on this, they want that water."

STATE SEN. JUDY WARNICK

"The people in eastern Grant County and Lincoln County are really hopeful that we can finalize the Columbia Basin Project, because it's been a long time coming and we are making progress, but it's slow. When you have the federal government involved and any type of money involved, it does take a long time to accomplish. I'm cautiously optimistic that we will make progress one step at a time and one project at a time. We are going to get there sooner rather than later."

"The Odessa aquifer is a big concern. The groundwater is severely impacted by the temporary wells we were allowed to drill several years. The smaller communities like Lind and Ritzville, and even Moses Lake has seen some impact. The groundwater is depleting and we need to be able to finish the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program."

"THE ONLY REASON WE ARE HERE, THE ONLY REASON QUINCY IS HERE IS BECAUSE OF IRRIGATION. BACK BEFORE IRRIGATION THERE WERE MAYBE 100 PEOPLE HERE. IT WAS DESERT. MILLIONS OF JACKRABBITS LIVED THERE, WITH SAGEBRUSH AND RATTLESNAKES AND SOME PEOPLE--AND THAT WAS IT. NOW WE ARE A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY, WE ARE ALMOST THE BREADBASKET OF THE U.S. WITH ALL THE FOOD AND CROPS COMING OUT OF GRANT COUNTY AND THE OTHER COUNTIES SURROUNDING US."

—ALEX YBARRA, STATE REPRESENTATIVE



*State Representative
Alex Ybarra*



*State Senator
Judy Warnick*

"Irrigation has opened up recreation, fish-and-wildlife areas, fishing opportunities. We were just north of Moses Lake over the weekend, and we rode on horseback into Homestead Lake. Those lakes would not be there at all without irrigation. Saw the ducks and the geese and the fishing opportunities. None of that would be there without irrigation."

"I think the future is very bright. We have some of the best soils in the country and the best growing conditions in the country, if we can just get the water to the crops. So, I think it will be a good future for not only past generations and my generation but future generations."

STATE REP. ALEX YBARRA:

"The only reason we are here, the only reason Quincy is here is because of irrigation. Back before irrigation there were maybe 100 people here. It was desert. Millions of jackrabbits lived there, with sagebrush and rattlesnakes and some people--and that was it. Now we are a flourishing community, we are almost the breadbasket of the U.S. with all the food and crops coming out of Grant County and the other counties surrounding us."

"What we are trying to do is complete the Columbia Basin Project, which means we are going to try and irrigate all of Adams, Lincoln and Franklin counties all the way down to the Oregon border. A gigantic project. We have water locked up from the feds, we have

a certain amount of water that will feed that system whenever it gets completed, hopefully sooner rather than later."

"The Odessa aquifer is a big concern. Just in my hometown of Quincy we are running out of potable water because of all the new buildings coming into town, the new housing, the new businesses."

"Irrigation is the root of everything for us in Central Washington, and what it's brought us is all the data centers, for example. I mean, we got Microsoft, Yahoo, Sabey, Dell, all in town and all that was made possible because we were the perfect location for those data centers. And what made that perfect was because we had rich, cheap, farmland and cheap energy."

THANKS TO OUR 2020 MEMBERS!

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