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DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

OUR MISSION

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



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THE LEAGUE CONGRATULATES STAKEHOLDERS ON FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN OGWRP

The League commends the efforts of East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) and Grant County Conservation District, with the support of other public and private partners, in securing a new source of funding to supplement Office of Columbia River’s investments and to benefit the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP).

In response to ECBID’s PL-566 grant application, on March 3, 2022, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) approved and funded the OGWRP Watershed Planning Project. This project is one of 20 successful grant projects of its kind in the nation.

Continued on page 2

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THE OGWRP REPRESENTS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RESCUE AN AQUIFER FROM DECLINE BY FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE CBP WATER SUPPLY FOR EXISTING WITHDRAWALS. THIS WILL SECURE MORE WATER FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THAT MANY OF THOSE SAME COMMUNITIES RELY UPON FOR THEIR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

"This NRCS funding illustrates beautifully how we can partner to achieve sustainable water resource solutions for farmers, industries, communities, and the natural environment," said Melissa Downes, Washington State Department of Ecology financial and projects section manager for the Office of Columbia River.

Sponsored by ECBID, the OGWRP Watershed Planning Project brings \$775,000 in federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding through NRCS to develop a watershed plan. This is a critical starting point for access to larger NCRS funding amounts for the design and construction of OGWRP features in the future. Additionally, this watershed protection plan may benefit the greater Odessa Subarea with water management elements including conservation, fish and wildlife habitat, and more.

The OGWRP Watershed Plan will build off of foundational environmental reviews already approved by Reclamation as part of the Odessa Subarea Special Study that led to OGWRP. Once the watershed plan is approved, the NRCS Small Watershed Program (PL-566) could provide funding for OGWRP pumping plants and lateral lines to deep well irrigators drawing from the declining Odessa aquifer. Work would be done over several years, but, because it is funded by a grant, it is not subject to repayment.

"The OGWRP represents a great opportunity to rescue an aquifer from decline by finding

an alternative CBP water supply for existing withdrawals. This will secure more water for our local communities and ensure sustainable agricultural production that many of those same communities rely upon for their economic prosperity. It is fantastic to see our State Conservationist, Roylene Comes At Night, support this endeavor and to have USDA and NRCS agree with its value by including it in the IIJA investments. The boost that the Watershed Planning Project will bring to achieving our rescue mission cannot be overstated" explained Craig Simpson, Secretary-Manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Next steps will include meetings between ECBID (the project's sponsor), Grant County Conservation District, and NCRS to develop the watershed planning process, confirm roles and responsibilities. Then, it is anticipated ECBID and Grant County Conservation District will initiate outreach to landowners and other partners to inform them of process and opportunities for participation. These meetings will be announced via the Odessa Watershed Program website and the League's information channels.

To date, investments in the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program - transferring deep well irrigators drawing from a declining aquifer to sustainable Columbia Basin Project surface water - includes \$127 million from the State of Washington, \$63.5 million from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and \$16.8 million in landowner-funded municipal bonds sold by the ECBID.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

On March 10, 2022, Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion omnibus appropriations bill to fund the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022, which began on October 1, 2021. Included was \$2 million for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) in Reclamation’s budget as a result of stakeholder advocacy led by the League. With the return of earmarks last year, The League leveraged annual appropriations requests combined with participation in the earmark process to secure the OGWRP funding. Although the outcome was significantly less than requested, and did not address a number of broader Columbia Basin Project needs, the advocacy effort, nevertheless, yielded results and engaged numerous stakeholders along the way. The League is appreciative of members of our Washington Congressional delegation who were also instrumental in securing the funding.

Release of the President’s budget for fiscal year 2023 has been delayed until late March/early April. However, congressional offices have begun to accept requests for the fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills. This timing coincides with a late March League trip to Washington DC where League representatives will communicate priority needs. Annually, the League makes appropriations requests for the Columbia Basin Project and the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP).

The House Agriculture Committee has begun hearings in preparation for the 2023 Farm Bill. USDA NRCS programs, including the PL 566 program from which the OGWRP Watershed Planning Project recently was awarded a grant, are funded through NRCS. The League will be advocating for funding for NRCS in the 2023 Farm Bill.



Douglas Muscott

MEET DOUGLAS MUSCOTT, THE LEAGUE’S NEW BOARD MEMBER

Electected at the League’s 57th Annual Meeting in November 2021 for his first term beginning in January of 2022, the League welcomes Douglas Muscott to the Board of Trustees.

Muscott is based in Moses Lake and is Lad Irrigation’s Design Engineer with over 30 years of experience. He specializes in large pump system and electrical control design for agriculture with an emphasis on deep set and short set turbine pumps and control systems. He also works with variable frequency drive systems and soft start controls for pumps. VFD programming, startup and tuning are included in his area of expertise.



QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

In all human affairs there are efforts, and there are results, and the strength of the effort is the measure of the result.

- Writer, James Lane Allen





WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE 60-DAY SESSION RECAP

By: Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Director, Columbia Basin Development League

The Washington Legislature concluded its 60-day session on March 10. Much less time was available for committees to hear and act on bills in advance of cutoff deadlines due to the nature of short sessions. Fewer new bills were introduced during the second year of the biennial session as bills from the first (odd numbered) year were carried over for potential consideration.

The law, limited to ground water rights within the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea, protected those water rights from relinquishment when a reduction of use is involuntary and deemed a standby or reserve supply.

This is critical because, according to Ecology, “Washington’s water law includes the principle

THANKS TO DILIGENCE BY THE LEAGUE, AND STRONG SUPPORT FROM SENATORS WARNICK AND SCHOESLER, REPRESENTATIVES DENT, DYE, SCHMICK, AND YBARRA, AND INVOLVED PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS, SB 5860 WAS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR INSLEE ON MARCH 12, 2022

One of the short session activities was to write supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets. This is an opportunity for legislators to address emerging issues that have developed since the adoption of the budgets in 2021. No changes were made to last year’s appropriation for the Department of Ecology’s Office of Columbia River, which means the two-year funding for projects for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program remains the same.

The Office of Columbia River contacted the League at the end of last year about the sunset of RCW 90.44.520 on July 1, 2021. This section of state law was enacted in 2006 through a bill sponsored by Senator Mark Schoesler which contained a 15-year sunset provision.

that a water right is confirmed and maintained through beneficial use. People often use the expression ‘use it or lose it’ to describe this principle. Put simply, a water right may be wholly or partially lost through extended periods of voluntary non-use.” But, some landowners drawing irrigation water from the declining Odessa Aquifer have wells going dry, and they have involuntarily stopped using water from that well(s) because there is no water to use.

So, until the law expired last year, it allowed those landowners to stop using those rights without having the nonuse subject to the water code’s relinquishment provisions, and it allowed them to maintain valid rights that could be exchanged for Reclamation water supplies as the Odessa Ground Water



State Capitol

Replacement Program developed. When the law expired, the League reached out to Senators Warnick and Schoesler, who recognized the need to renew the expired protection and immediately drafted a bill for introduction.

Thanks to diligence by the League, and strong support from Senators Warnick and Schoesler, Representatives Dent, Dye, Schmick, and Ybarra, and involved partners and stakeholders, SB 5860 was signed by Governor Inslee on March 12, 2022.

NEW STUDY SHOWS GROUNDWATER LEVEL DECLINING IN THE ODESSA SUBAREAS

By: Matt Harris, Director of Governmental Affairs, Washington State Potato Commission

Between 2007 and 2013, the Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) conducted several studies to better understand the conditions of groundwater resources in the Odessa Subareas. The original CBGWMA studies estimated 55 percent of deep irrigation wells were unable to sustain high water use crops such as potatoes as of 2009. Further, GWMA projected the rate deep irrigation wells would lose capacity and begin to fail would escalate in 2010/2011, affecting most wells in the area by 2021, and causing a corresponding reduction in cultivation of groundwater-irrigated land.

THIS NEW STUDY UNDERSCORES THE NEED TO STAY LASER FOCUSED ON COMPLETING THE ODESSA GROUNDWATER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (OGWRP).

One decade later, the Washington State Potato Commission and Washington State Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River collaborated and commissioned GSI Water Solutions, Inc., a groundwater,

environmental, and water resources consulting firm, to evaluate the condition of basalt-hosted groundwater resources for irrigated agriculture and municipalities in the Odessa Subarea.

"This new study underscores the need to stay laser focused on completing the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP). OCR is working closely with landowners, conservation districts, irrigation districts and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to achieve this important goal. We are extremely grateful for the continued support and leadership from our legislature to get the job done," said Tom Tebb Director of the Office of Columbia River. "Still, we must redouble our efforts to prevent a collapsing aquifer and the resulting severe hardship and economic fallout to our rural communities within the greater Columbia Basin. The effects of which would ripple through Washington State's economy and ultimately our nation."

While some variability was noted, outcomes of the new study show that the overall rate of water level decline in the aquifer in the last 10 years are as predicted by the original GWMA studies. Family farms in the region had to increase water efficiency to minimize water capacity losses and mitigate the effects of poor water quality, mostly by converting to lower water-use or dryland crops. This caused a reduction in acreage planted with higher water use crops up to 30 percent, consistent with estimates of the overall reduction in acreage planted in potatoes within the last 10 years observed in a recent WSU study (Nadreau and Fortenbery, 2017).

This new study helps quantify the current state of the Odessa Aquifer, which echoes

the continued need for aid to rescue a water dependent region. In 2019, the Washington Department of Commerce conducted a survey and the outcome estimates roughly 40 percent of public water systems in the greater Mid-Columbia Basin region either have experienced effects from declining groundwater levels or are concerned about their ability to meet demands in the next 10 to 15 years. Municipalities that do not currently have sufficient undeveloped capacity on their water rights to accommodate increased demand may experience limits on future growth because they are unable to obtain a new water right authorization.

Farms and cities are running out of options for addressing future water capacity losses that will occur as groundwater levels continue to decline. Water quality in deep aquifers often is marginal for irrigation of high value crops and requires application of increasing amounts of soil amendments. Stakeholders are fighting to keep fresh, clean water available for future generations. Therefore, continued efforts to advocate for the completion of OGWRP is highly critical as the program itself is in fact a "rescue mission". State and Federal funds are desperately needed to rescue the Odessa Aquifer that occupies approximately 2,000 square miles in portions of Grant, Lincoln, Adams and Franklin counties, and impacts the State of Washington and the 60,000 plus residents that call the Odessa Subarea and surrounding region home.

ECBID BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERING CHANGES TO NORMALIZED COST PROGRAM

By: Jennifer Korfiatis, Communications, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

During the December 8, 2021 Board meeting, the Board of Directors of East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) considered a motion to “apply grant money to extend systems to use the most amount of acres economically that can be served by public systems to take deep wells offline”. The Director who made the motion explained: “grant money received for delivery systems would be used to build pipelines out further instead of lowering the overall cost to all landowners.”

ECBID Manager Simpson noted that the goal of this public system is to make it affordable to all landowners whether they are close or far from the canal. This motion, if passed, would present a partial or complete deviation from the District’s current normalized cost program.

ECBID staff is currently awaiting input from Reclamation and OCR regarding their evaluation of compliance with funding and implementation requirements. Additionally,

ECBID STAFF IS CURRENTLY AWAITING INPUT FROM RECLAMATION AND OCR REGARDING THEIR EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

The motion was seconded. After further discussion, ECBID President Anderson requested to table the motion in order to gather more information and landowner input. Following responses from Ecology’s Office of Columbia River (OCR) and Reclamation, the Board will hold a meeting with landowners to review the information and receive feedback prior to voting on the motion.

District staff is working to compare potential funding/rate differences that would result from a complete or partial deviation from the normalized cost program for ECBID Board consideration prior to a full vote. Stand-alone individually grant-funded systems are contrary to current OGWRP normalized intent.

MEET ECBID’S NEW BOARD MEMBER



Dennis Swinger, Jr.

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is pleased to announce that Dennis Swinger, Jr. has joined the Board of Directors, serving Division 3. This area includes all of the District located in Lincoln County and that part of the District located in Adams County north of Providence Road.

In addition, Don Osborne, Reid Baker, and Duaine Anderson were all re-elected to the Board. The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors responsible for guiding District operations and policies.

If you would like to review a written evaluation of the tabled motion, please contact the District office at (509) 488-9671.

ALEX MCGREGOR: AN ADVOCATE FOR IRRIGATED AG INFORMED BY 140 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY

Alex McGregor's family has been involved in agriculture in the inland Northwest for 140 years. That means that the McGregors have seen central Washington transformed from a dusty wasteland to one of the nation's most productive farmlands. Meanwhile, they founded the McGregor Land and Livestock Company and the McGregor Company, which provides agronomic supplies and experience to 2,000 farm families in the Northwest. Mr. McGregor has also worked intensively with the Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) and other stakeholders to support the full development of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) through the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project (OGWRP) and to promote Washington's irrigated agriculture and the many livelihoods it supports.

Irrigation Leader: How do you help advocate for Washington agriculture?

Alex McGregor: It's been 37 years since I first testified before Congress about dams, trade, farm families, and people with a passion for what they do. I've always believed that all of us who serve agriculture have a duty to get involved, to speak out, and to make a difference for the people we're honored to serve. It has been a privilege to have been able to work together with so many fine friends across the Columbia basin and beyond with whatever projects come our way. I currently spend much of my time helping show that we can have healthy rivers and a healthy economy without actions like breaching the lower Snake River dams and potentially others after that. We have a lot of clout and get things done when we all pitch in and pull together.

Irrigation Leader: What is your relationship with CBDL today?

Alex McGregor: Our relationship is strong. I've worked with CBDL for a long time. We're delighted to have been not only financial contributors, but more importantly, contributors of our time and energy. Alice Parker, who served as CBDL's director for many years, came to the area with her husband Ike when water first flowed and started farming the new land. Dust was everywhere. She remembered that the only places in their trailer where dust didn't accumulate overnight were the white spots on the pillows where they lay their heads. As Alice will often put it, "We've got to start speaking out really loud. We must work together as growers, agricultural businesses, agencies, communities, and political leaders through collaboration whenever possible, in addressing the complex environmental and economic concerns. Teamwork with applicable and practical experience and advice from farm families brings dramatic results."

Vicky Scharlau, who currently serves as executive director, shares that same sense: "Wells are going dry; we've got to push harder and be louder. Water for thousands is at risk. We're losing what we assumed to be safe and sustainable: our water." I am determined that we not let that happen. My cousin and former long-time ranch manager, Bill McGregor, once told me that pioneer farmers brought three traits that helped them persevere when they came west—unquenchable optimism; a wry, self-deprecating sense of humor that helped them through the tough times; and a tenacity verging on stubbornness. These traits, he went on to say, were useful then, are useful

Alex McGregor, a long-time supporter of the Columbia Basin Project, shared the history and importance of CBP and OGWRP in a recent interview for Irrigation Leader Magazine. Below is an excerpt from that interview. The full version can be found in Irrigation Leader Magazine, Washington State edition, volume 13, issue 1.



Alex McGregor

now, and will be useful in the future. Those values plus a strong sense of teamwork and shared purpose have helped the agricultural community win the day, whatever challenges lie ahead. CBDL is a powerful voice for its members, and it's been a pleasure to reach out and help carry its message and other shared concerns to state legislators, members of Congress, farm families, and urban audiences year after year.

Irrigation Leader: Please tell us about OGWRP.

Alex McGregor: In 1935, Congress authorized the provision of Columbia River water to more than a million acres of desert in eastern Washington. Thirty years and more went by without that river water reaching many thousands of authorized acres. To help farmers get by, pending the arrival of the hoped-for water, wells were authorized to tap into ancient Ice Age floodwaters across the eastern flank of the still-water-hungry land.



This picture of Hooper, Washington, taken circa 1912, depicts the Palouse Irrigation and Power Canal (foreground); the Hotel Glenmore, today the Hooper Hotel, built to provide lodging for irrigation crews (the white building farthest to the left); the McGregors' apple orchards (background, left); the home of Archie and Jennie McGregor, where Alex McGregor was raised (the two-toned house in the center); and warehouses for the McGregors' Glen Ian apples (background, right).

The river water never arrived, and the wells had to go deeper and deeper, sometimes 2,000 feet or more, sometimes reaching more saline groundwater. Fertile cropland started to go idle, and water for homes, wildlife, and underserved rural communities was threatened.

OGWRP is an aquifer rescue mission. It involves collaboration among partners that include Reclamation, the Washington State Department of Ecology, irrigation districts, and landowners. Much progress has been made through advocacy and outreach, coordinated through coalitions including CBDL, the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition, and others. Here's what's at stake: Just in potato production, the potential annual losses are \$100– \$140 million. The risk is \$1.6 billion in annual revenue, 3,600 jobs, and nearly 100,000 productive irrigated acres. The land, with 6–10 inches of rain, sometimes less, would be much less productive if the water were taken away.

Let's look at the progress. Work began in 2004 to find ways to share future water supplies for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses. Reclamation, Ecology, and the Columbia basin irrigation districts got together and signed a memorandum of understanding.

Then, Governor Christine Gregoire permitted the state to share costs, with the legislature pitching in as well. Ecology then created the Office of Columbia River. The first leader of the new office, Derek Sandison, who is our current state director of agriculture, reminded people that big projects don't happen overnight, but they do happen if enough people pull together to make them possible. Reclamation authorized an environmental impact study, and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District gave the green light to pursue a course of action. It was interesting to me that one of the annual speakers at the 2013 CBDL annual dinner, Grant Pfeiffer, was eastern Washington's lead for Ecology. "We are excited," he said, "about working together with agriculture and helping address water issues. What a process!" Along the way, it included a sovereign review team with representation from 4 Northwest states, 15 tribes, and 11 federal agencies; a consultation on the Endangered Species Act; and a search for new secondary water rights from Lake Roosevelt. What a process indeed!

It's time to call for action. At least \$300 million will be needed to complete this project over the years to come. Together, we can and will do it, replacing the wells with a small portion of the mighty waters of the Columbia, thereby allowing the continued production of high-

value crops on 97,000 acres while preserving the ancient deep waters.

Fundraising will allow CBDL to connect more citizens to the cause and to push for more state and federal support. CBDL has done well over the years, communicating a sense of urgency about what is at stake. One of its strengths is its strong focus on protecting and enhancing the CBP. Another strength has been its powerful and consistent message. I think about it in six pieces: First, replace the wells with renewable surface water; second, protect the water supply for our rural communities; third, protect the potential \$5 billion in economic activity in the region; fourth, ensure food security; fifth, protect the environment; sixth, protect wildlife refuges. As I see it, farms, food security, communities, economic vitality, and our environment are all at risk.

There are encouraging signs of progress. Among them are elements of the federal infrastructure package alertly fought for by Washington's United States Senator Maria Cantwell, who chairs the Senate Energy and Commerce Committee. Those include an \$8.3 billion western water infrastructure package and a provision for federal technical assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage and recovery, and water source substitution for agricultural production projects. Such programs will help with water storage in the Odessa and Yakima regions, the upgrade of a pumping station at Grand Coulee, U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty negotiations, and the improved coordination of water flows between the two nations. It's a big deal, and it will help irrigators here and around the nation.

It's been a privilege to work with CBDL and farmers across the irrigated Columbia basin and adjacent dry-land areas. The OGWRP effort affects so many people. The fact that we could take on a project like this and win the support of communities and people interested in the protection of wildlife, agriculture, and so many other enterprises makes me excited to see what else can be done. I'm an unquenchable optimist, and this step forward, though there are many more to follow, keeps that vein of optimism running strong.

Irrigation Leader: What is the best way to balance water use and environmental interests?

Alex McGregor: OGWRP shows what can happen when people from a wide variety of backgrounds work together to get things done. I'm devoting a lot of my time lately to writing, meeting, and giving speeches about the need to find common ground on salmon and the four lower Snake River dams. It's been a long-term battle, fought for more than a quarter century. There are no simple solutions, and the aggressively funded advocacy effort to breach (that is, destroy) the Snake River dams would return tens of thousands of acres of irrigated farmland to desert; deprive the Northwest of efficient, low-cost, renewable hydropower; and replace energy-efficient tugs and barges with trucks and trains, which emit more greenhouse gases and thereby worsen the ocean-temperature crisis faced by our iconic salmon.

The Columbia River ports—the largest in the nation for wheat, the second- and third-largest for corn and soy, respectively—are vital to our economy and the world. Barges bring fertilizer upriver, making timely deliveries to hundreds of thousands of acres of family farms. The infrastructure package that Senator Cantwell played an important role in shaping provides badly needed funding for salmon research, habitat, and hatcheries and for other improvements that can bring lasting benefits rather than harsh rhetoric and endless lawsuits.

I can say from experience that pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Farmers and those of us who serve them have set higher marks when we are equipped with optimism, tenacity, teamwork, and a great story to share about what we do and why. When we flex our collective muscles and speak loudly, as CBDL leaders Alice Parker and Vicky Scharlau advise, we hold our own, overcoming many a challenge along the way. We should accept nothing less.

Alex McGregor is the chairman of the McGregor Company. He can be reached at alex@mcgregor.com or (509) 397-4355.

COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT WELCOMED THE INDIANA AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

On Sunday and Monday, February 20 and 21, 2022, 28 students from Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program's Class 19 visited the Columbia Basin Project. After flying into the state on Sunday, they made their way to Grand Coulee Dam to learn about Pacific Northwest hydropower and the starting point of the Columbia Basin Project. On Monday, they spent the morning with Columbia Basin Project (CBP) partner stakeholders: League Assistant Director Sara Higgins, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Odessa Project Manager Jennifer Hickenbottom, ECBID Assistant Manager Nate Andreini, QCBID Secretary Manager Roger Sonnichsen, and Melissa Downes from Washington Department of Ecology.

The opportunity, created thanks in part to AgForestry, Washington's natural resources leadership program, was part of a multi-day

tour of the Pacific Northwest for AgForestry's mid-western counterpart. While in the Basin, the Indiana delegation explored the largest Reclamation project in the country helping students understand why and how the West irrigates, the value of irrigated agriculture, and the importance of partnerships in policy work.

The tour started at EL 47.5 OGWRP Pump Plant and ended at a Frenchman Hills viewpoint. In addition to CBP history and current issues, they also had an opportunity to learn about the role of ditch riders and the process of ordering water from a ditch rider, a practice that does not exist in Indiana.

In addition to tour presenters, thanks are extended to Washington AgForestry Class 40 and the Washington State Potato Commission who welcomed the group with locally grown snacks to fuel them as they traveled the state.



QUINCY-COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT IN THE SEARCH OF NEW EMPLOYEES

By: Roger Sonnichsen, Secretary-Manager, Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District

As the West Canal started to fill on March 16th, Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District began gearing up for the 2022 irrigation season. Given current job climate where the market is highly competitive, resulting in staffing changes along with employees reaching retirement, QCBID is searching for new employees to support their team.

QCBID is seeking to fill five ditch ride and canal maintenance positions. Until these

positions are filled, QCBID continues to rely on current qualified staff to perform the functions ensuring water deliveries are made to landowners. New staff benefits from their enhanced training program developed to assist with learning ditch riding skills.

Finding a mechanic to work on large diesel equipment continues to be a challenge as the search hits a 2-year mark. QCBID has a large fleet of dozers, excavators, Gradalls, and other equipment used to maintain the canal systems.

Those who are interested in working on these equipment's can contact QCBID and hear directly from the team.

Additionally, as there is a vacancy in QCBID's engineering department, an assistant engineer with skills in surveying and drafting to support current staff is needed.

QCBID continues to offer stable employment opportunities within Grant County. Visit www.qcbid.org for current openings and fill out an



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