

### **COLUMBIA BASIN ADVOCACY GROUP ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS**

The Columbia Basin Development League held its 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting Nov. 5, electing 10 members to its board of trustees, including two new people.

The League, leading voice and champion of the Columbia Basin Project, held a virtual annual meeting for the first time in its history. During the meeting, the League welcomed new trustees Terry Thompson of Othello and Russ Kehl of Quincy to its board.

Thompson grows potatoes, hay, wheat, corn and beans, serves as an Adams County Commissioner and as a member of the City of Othello's Civil Service Commission. Kehl owns Farmer Bean and Seed LLC, Washington Trucking, and serves as a member of the corporate board of CHS, Inc.

"It's an honor to serve in this group," Kehl said of the League's board. "I hope to contribute in a positive way."

The League also welcomed eight returning members. All 10 begin their new term in January of 2021.

The eight returning members are Chip Dobson (Rosebud Vineyards, Mattawa), Mark Booker (Othello/Wenatchee), Milt Miller (Port of Moses Lake, Moses Lake), Mike LaPlant, (MCL Farms, Ephrata) Ben Leavitt, (Blue Sun Farms, Warden), John Moody, (Ephrata), Vicki Gordon (Port of Pasco, Pasco) and Kevin Lyle (Windy Prairie, Inc., Othello).

At the meeting, the League honored retiring board members Jake Wollman, Jr. and Roger Hartwig, as well as Stephen McFadden, who is moving to Pasco.

The League thanked Mark Stedman, whose two-year term as board chairman ends next month. The members of two subcommittees, the Voices Task Force and the Bylaws Work Group, also received thanks.

The League represents the interests of stakeholders in the Columbia Basin, and advocates at the city, county, state and federal levels for continued development and support of the Columbia Basin Project, largest reclamation project in the United States.

The Columbia Basin Project provides irrigation water to more than 671,000 acres of land across eastern and central Washington. From parks to power and from irrigation to recreation, the Columbia Basin Project remains a vital source of strength to the regional and state economy as well as a key component of its high quality of life thanks to efficient, well-maintained, affordable infrastructure and sustainable environmental stewardship.

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