



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WATER GROUP ELECTS KIESZ TO BOARD

Michele Kiesz of Ritzville was elected as a new Trustee on the Columbia Basin Development League Board effective January. Kiesz is Vice President of Keisz Farms and President of Patty Kagele Farms. She farms dryland ground in the Ritzville area and manages irrigated ground in Grant County within the Odessa Ground Water Replacement study area. Kiesz will serve a three year term.

The Columbia Basin Development League supports the Columbia Basin Project and future development, protecting its water rights and educating the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the Project.

Board members re-elected to three year terms include:

J.J. Danz, Mesa

J.J. is part owner of Danz Farms and has farmed since he returned from military service in 1969. He is on the board of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Andy Erickson, Moses Lake

Andy graduated from Washington State University and has been with J.R. Simplot Company for 9 years. For the last 5 years, he has been managing the process water treatment/land application for the Moses Lake and Othello potato processing facilities.

Bernard Erickson, Ritzville

Bernard is a life-long, self-employed farmer. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business and is a Director with the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. Bernard is a past CBDL Board Chair.

Joe Gross, Marlin

Joe is the Treasurer of the Marlin Hutterian Brethren and has many years of farming experience. He is part of the National Potato Council and the Washington State Hay Growers Association.

Roger Hartwig, Ritzville

Roger farms in Adams County with his brother. Before becoming a potato producer, he farmed in sugar beets. Roger and his brother farm both in the irrigation district and with deep well irrigation.

Rick Miller, Pasco

Rick is a Franklin County Commissioner and has farmed for over 40 years in Pasco.

Chet Pedersen, Quincy

Chet graduated from WSU in Agronomy and has a business that generates and interprets data. Chet has worked helping farmers for 48 years.

John Preston, Warden

John has been a farmer for over 50 years plus has worked for over 30 years as Area Director North-Central Area for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and Grant County Conservation District Supervisor and current Chairman.



Richard Stevens, Soap Lake

Richard is a Grant County Commissioner and has a BA from Eastern Washington University. He has served on the Advisory Committee of the Western Farmers Alliance and has been involved with the Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District for over 30 years.

William Wagoner, Quincy

William has worked in the food processing industry for 25 years. He has a BS in Food Science.

Outgoing Trustees Heath Gimmestad of Moses Lake and Steve Connors of Warden were acknowledged for their work and thanked for their years of service.

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Since 1964, the Columbia Basin Development League has supported the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.

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