

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Supervisor

Thanks, Guy!

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NEED A FISH SCREEN ON YOUR PUMP?

*All stream diversions for
irrigation water must, by
law, have NOAA approved
fish screens. If you still
need a screen and want
cost-share assistance, get
on the WWCCD project list
by July 5, 2013. Call Greg
at 509-522-6340, Ext. 109.*

JIM KENT ELECTED TO THREE-YEAR TERM AS WWCCD SUPERVISOR

After being appointed by the WWCCD Board of Supervisors to serve the remainder of Guy McCaw's term on the District Board, Jim Kent was recently elected to a 3-year term at the WWCCD's Annual Meeting held last January. His election was recently certified by the WA State Conservation Commission and confirmed at the WWCCD May board meeting.

Jim had filed to run for re-election but since he ran unopposed and collected 25 valid county elector signatures, he was automatically elected in accordance with conservation district election guidelines.

A fifth generation dry land wheat farmer in Walla Walla County, he started full-time farming in 1992. Jim graduated from DeSales Catholic High School in 1984. He later graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in Finance. Jim has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 15 years and has two sons, Benjamin (27) and Corey (26). His hobbies are golf, skiing, and hiking.



**JIM KENT
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

GUY McCAW— THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE WWCCD

Guy McCaw resigned his position as supervisor on the District Board after 14 years of service shortly before the end of 2012. During that period of time, Guy served in every officer position on the Board, participated in audits and employee reviews as needed, attended monthly board meetings and District annual meetings. Since he lives near Waitsburg, it is estimated that Guy drove approximately 4,500 to 5,000 miles serving as a supervisor (remember, supervisors serve without compensation). Thanks, Guy, for your service to the WWCCD! You did an outstanding job and we appreciate your dedication.

Save Water Save Energy—A Program to help Agricultural Communities Save Energy

The Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) is one of several groups that cooperate with each other to help save energy in agricultural communities. The concept of Save Water Save Energy comes from the idea that in irrigated agriculture, when a farmer opts to improve the efficiency of an irrigation system, there is generally savings in energy costs. While the WWCCD doesn't have a lot of expertise in energy efficiency technology at this time, we work with several partners that are experts in this field and we can help point producers in the right direction for help. And, if there is enough demand, the WWCCD will "tool up" to do as much as we can in the energy saving arena ourselves.



***NEW VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) PUMP
STATION INSTALLATION ON THE GARDENA FARMS IRRIGATION
DISTRICT #13 NORTH LATERAL***

The Save Water Save Energy Program has been an effort promoted and funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to assist Local Public Utilities deliver information on energy efficiency and incentives to local agricultural producers. Energy analysts can show a landowner how to reduce on-farm energy costs and help find funding or incentive payments to help fund energy improvement projects. The starting point is to obtain an energy audit.

In the short term, the WWCCD has obtained some funding to conduct outreach to encourage on-farm energy conservation. We want to make producers aware of cost-saving energy improvements that can be implemented—and in some cases, we may be able to point the way to some incentive programs. For example, our co-located partners the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has some energy initiative funding in its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

There are opportunities for energy cost savings out there. Farmers associated with some of our large piping projects have reported reduced pumping costs due to increased head pressure produced in the new delivery lines. Upgraded pumping stations featuring variable frequency drive pumps have also resulted in huge energy and cost savings.

This is a fledgling program for the WWCCD but we are ready to learn with you. Give us a call at 509-522-6340 if you have energy conservation questions. *By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator*

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR MEETING?

As part of the WWCCD Outreach & Education effort, we are available to speak regarding who the Walla Walla County Conservation District is and what we do!

BURN PROGRAM - FRANK'S HOT SPOT!

*Be sure you have reported your burned acres to WA-DOE. Use either the furnished "Blue Card" or the Website address furnished in your transmittal letter. ALSO: If you have unburned acres and want a REFUND, please fill out the YELLOW sheet furnished with your permit and turn it into Frank at the WWCCD office **before the end of June.***

REMEMBER: Frank is in on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday as needed from 8:00 to 12:00 & 1:00 to 4:00 OR CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT at 509-522-6340.

Watch for New WWCCD Project Signs

In an effort to become more visible to the public, the WWCCD is building on an effort started by the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Walla Walla Field Office in the mid-1980's—and that is the placement of signs at project sites to describe the project, the benefits, and the project partners. The District started placing some signage with some of the early stream restoration and CREP projects about 10-years ago, but in recent months, the signage program has been taken to a new level.

If you are interested in seeing some of the WWCCD projects, stop by the office and pick up a copy of **"Conservation Projects—Walla Walla County—Self-Guided Tour"**. By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator



ABOVE IS THE NEW PROJECT SIGN NEAR THE RECENTLY COMPLETED BERGEVIN-WILLIAMS/OLD LOWDEN CONSOLIDATED DIVERSION

The First Three CREP Wetlands Developed In Walla Walla County



BOB SHANKS' NEW CREP WETLAND AS OF FEBRUARY 2013

In the spring 2011, the WWCCD started planning for the first three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) wetlands to be developed in Walla Walla County. These would also be the first CREP wetlands in Washington State so our staff was not only setting a precedent, but also looking at a steep learning curve on how to correctly install a wetland on Walla Walla County soils.

The first step was to have the NRCS Wetlands Team in Spokane come down to each site and determine eligibility by looking at each soil profile down to three feet of depth. These folks were looking for hydric soils with
(Continued on Page 4)

evidence of "reduction and oxidation" present. The reddish/orange iron oxide that forms around organic and inorganic material after long submergence under water is the prime indicator for wetness. The presence of hydric soil was confirmed on all three proposed sites.

After determining eligibility, the WWCCD staff began designing the wetland development plan for each site. All three wetland projects were planted with native wetland plants last winter and this spring by a contractor working for the landowners. One of these wetlands is southeast of Lowden, one is north of Walla Walla and the third is east of Walla Walla. There is now a grand total of 24.7 acres in newly developed wetlands under this new CREP wetland program for Walla Walla County that were not here a year ago.

Keep in mind that 80% of North American wetlands have been drained and lost over the last 100 years. These marshes and wetlands are vital to shallow aquifer recharge, wildlife habitat and water filtration for better water quality. It is also important to realize that none of this would have happened without the great stewardship of the three private landowners that voluntarily placed their lands in the Farm Service Agency's CREP wetland program.

So, if you have a wet area in a field that will not raise a crop due to wetness or a place where you are always getting stuck, come on in and explore the possibility of placing your wet area in this great program. If you want to know more about the CREP Wetland program contact the Walla Walla County Conservation District at 509-522-6340. *By: Mike Denny, WWCCD CREP Coordinator*



Walla Walla County Conservation District

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modeled WWCCD web-
site at www.wwccd.net**

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