



The Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame was formed in Year 2000 to recognize and honor distinguished individuals that have made significant contributions to the agricultural community in the Greater Franklin County region and its immediate surrounding areas; although nominees from neighboring counties of Franklin County within a 150-mile radius are often also considered for this prestigious award.

The Pasco Chamber Board has proudly created a Selection Committee comprised of quality individuals representative of our agriculture industry and has chartered them with the honorable task of reviewing all nomination submittals. Induction candidates are selected based on their outstanding performance in the agriculture industry and their bountiful support of the local and rural communities. Candidates are recognized by their peers for not only their dedication, generosity, and selflessness, but also their demonstrated achievements, noteworthy expertise, and creative innovations that often provide a legacy of impactful results and lasting benefit to the overall enhancement of the local agricultural industry and community at large. Farmers, growers, ranchers, and owners/employees of agribusiness firms are all eligible for nomination as either individuals and/or families.

The Ag Hall of Fame inductions will be presented at a special gala January 18, 2018 at the Pasco Red Lion. **Deadline for Application is October 30, 2017.**

Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame Intent to Nominate

Nominee's Name Mike Poulson

Mailing Address Connell, Washington 99326

Nominee's Phone 509-539-8755 Fax _____ E-Mail Walf@bossig.com

Date of Birth 1944 Birthplace Ontario California

Date of Death (if deceased) _____

Nominator's Name Cathy McMorris Rodgers - Point of Contact Andrew Neill

Phone 202-225-2006 Fax _____ E-Mail Andrew.Neill@mail.house.gov

Family Contact Shan Kelly

Phone 509-475-0983 Fax _____ E-Mail ShanKelly5877@gmail.com

Mike Poulson



Nominated by Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Relation: Advised me on Agriculture policy for over a decade.

Submitted: 11/1/17

Organizations: Vice President of Washington State Farm Bureau, Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, Washington Policy Center, Advisor to Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers over a decade. Issues he has helped champion: Washington State priorities in the Farm Bill, A to Project in Colville, Columbia Basin Water Issues, renewing the Columbia River Treaty, Protecting the Snake River Dams, Wheat Research, Washington State University Ag. Research.

Biography:

Mike Poulson was born in 1944 at Ontario CA. His family farmed in the Corona CA area where they raised walnuts, hay and beans.

As the population grew, small farms were being squeezed out by high property taxes, (*some things never change!*) and Mike's father looked to relocate. Another farmer the family knew had participated in the lottery for land in the Columbia Basin of WA State which was just starting to be transformed by irrigation water. Mike's dad went through the very detailed process to be eligible to buy a unit of land in the Connell area. In the winter of 1958, the Dean & Phyllis Poulson packed up their four children, and eventually, they arrived in the Connell area where Dean and his two boys started the laborious process of turning their share of "Block 18" into a crop of beans.

Mike said it was a very interesting time because everyone was new to the area and neighbors were drawn together into big "block families" that held annual picnics, and the women formed Homemakers Clubs.

Mike graduated from Connell HS in 1962 and promptly enlisted in the Army National Guard because he just assumed everybody pulled a stint in the military. He completed basic training at Ford Ord in California then went to Fort Lewis to be trained in LVTP-5's - amphibious track vehicles. He eventually ended up being the Chief of the Firing Battery and later 1st Sergeant. Some of Mike's most memorable times and longest friendships (and most entertaining stories) came out of his years in The Guard, and there was no group of guys he'd rather have covering his back.

In 1965, Mike bought some Connell farmland of his own in a nearby unit and started building his own home. Eventually, he added outbuildings and corrals, ran a large herd of cattle, and started planting trees which turned into a lifelong project. Mike left active Guard duty in 1968 and was on inactive reserve for two more years. Mike also farmed full-time even when he was going to high school.

Starting with serving as ASB president in both junior high and high school, Mike admits he was always "mouthy" and wasn't afraid to speak out for what he thought was right which is something he has never stopped doing. While he was actively farming, he was elected VP of the WA State Farm Bureau in the mid-80's.

Mike's first serious steps outside the farm were in the early 1990s when he began doing consulting work on public policy and environmental issues - communicating complex, and often controversial, environmental issues to the public. That meant a lot of trips to Olympia where he ended up working CMR when she was a State Rep.

A few months after CMR was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Mike leased out his farmland and joined her staff.

As a farmer, consultant and as a congressional staff person working with constituents, Mike has been up against environmental issues and regulatory burden that continue to grow....and the public attitude that quite often isn't based on facts. One of the best things Mike can offer is a huge network of resources on different sides of the issues and can bring people and groups together to listen and, hopefully, find common ground. It's all about relationships.

Although he isn't afraid to pick up the phone, Mike prefers face to face meetings with people no matter where. He also likes to stand in the back of the room and "just listen" to get a feel for who's there and what they're saying. He thinks nothing of being in Walla Walla early in the morning and being in Republic for an evening meeting with stops in Davenport, Spokane or Colville along the way. His pick-up has over 500,000 miles on it and he's on his way to putting 200,000 miles on his "new car."

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
CHAIR

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

November 1, 2017

COUNTIES:
ASOTIN
COLUMBIA
FERRY
GARFIELD
LINCOLN
PEND OREILLE
SPOKANE
STEVENS
WALLA WALLA
WHITMAN

Dear Committee:

I am writing to urge your strong consideration of Mike Poulson for the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Hall of Fame. I believe Mike Poulson has made significant contributions to our Eastern Washington agricultural community with decades of work aligning government policies to support agricultural needs. A farmer himself, he truly understands the impact of decisions made in Olympia and Washington, D.C.

Mike's many significant accomplishments include:

- Developing solutions for Columbia Basin water shortages.
- Speaking out against the harmful impacts of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation.
- Combatting the recent falling numbers of our wheat and coordinating an effort to find long terms-solutions with the Washington Grain Commission and Washington State University.
- Coordinating and bringing to fruition the A to Z project on the Colville National Forest, perhaps the best model for restoring the health of our forests.

I could list countless other achievements, and these are only a snap shot of Mike's contribution to agriculture in Washington State.

I have known Mike Poulson since I was first elected to the Washington State House in 1994. As I worked on Eastern Washington issues, in both agriculture and in the wider needs of rural communities, I quickly learned that Mike was trusted, respected, and admired for his deep knowledge of government policies and agriculture issues. When I was elected to the United States Congress, I knew I needed Mike on my team.

After a little convincing, Mike joined and quickly got to work. In the years since, he's logged hundreds of thousands of miles, traveling from one community to another, meeting with farmers, loggers, local government officials and federal resource managers to coordinate, engage, nudge and sometimes push us towards policies that support agriculture and forestry.

Mike has the unique ability to bring together stakeholders with differing viewpoints to find a common solution. He was my eyes and ears in fields and forests for a dozen years and he always conveyed the most vivid picture of the impacts federal proposals would have. It changed laws and helped all of Eastern Washington.

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www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov
www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov/facebook

As you consider the new class for the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Hall of Fame, I cannot think of anyone more deserving than Mike Poulson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being the most prominent.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

October 30, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I wish to commend Mike Poulson for his devotion to Washington State's agricultural industry and his tireless support for phased expansion of the Columbia Basin Project. Whether it's his work with the Washington Agricultural Legal Foundation, the Farm Bureau, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and the Washington Cattlemen's Association, or in his capacity as Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy Director for Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, Mike continually demonstrates great leadership in supporting and promoting Washington agriculture.

Mike has the ability to sort through rhetoric around complex issues to get to the core facts and quickly get to the right side of an issue. He works best behind the scenes, networking with the critical players. It has been my experience that whenever an agricultural issue or problem arises, Mike is on it.

I can personally attest to assistance and support that Mike provided to me in advancing the continued, phased expansion of the Columbia Basin Project through development and implementation of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project. When fully implemented, that project will result in providing water to about 90,000 acres of land within the project that are currently dependent on unreliable ground water sources. Mike understands the importance of the Columbia Basin Project and has been a crucial advocate for its success. As a long-time farmer and rancher, he appreciates the need for reliable water supplies for Central and Eastern Washington.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Mike. He is deserving of recognition for his tremendous contribution to agriculture.

Sincerely,

Derek I. Sandison
Director

SCHWISOW & ASSOCIATES
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES

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October 29, 2017

RE: Support for inclusion of Mike Poulson in the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of inclusion of Mike Poulson in the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Hall of Fame. I have had the opportunity to work directly with Mike in his role as District Agricultural Representative for Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers for a number of years.

I first become acquainted with Mike while serving as Deputy Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture where I had the opportunity to meet industry leaders from across the State. Mike was active in the Washington Farm Bureau providing input and policy advice on issues taken up by the agency. I could always count on him for clear and concise information on which to base policy decisions.

Mike and I maintained this working relationship as he assumed his current role with the Congresswoman office and I transitioned to working as Director of Government Relations for irrigation districts and other agriculture related organizations.

Mike has the ability to quickly comprehend complex issues and is able to discern various potential outcomes. In this manner he is a valuable asset for the Congresswoman and her constituents. He provides suggestions on how to approach issues in a manner that will improve the potential for successful outcomes at the Congressional level. I always know that the Congresswoman and her staff are getting an accurate readout of the issue facing my client.

Effective networking is a skill that Mike has perfected. A Congressional District representative has to know the lay of the land and have a network in place to get the best information in the shortest amount of time. He seems to be everywhere, conversant on current issues and up to speed on progress of underway projects. Mike has been a long-time advocate of the Federal Columbia Basin Project. He recognizes that the Project is the engine that drives the economy of Central Washington. He has provided advice and support to the Columbia Basin Development League and the Projects three irrigation Districts on the most effective ways to achieve Project goals.

The Columbia Basin Development League has directly benefited from his insightful advice in its effort to advance the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. His understanding of the big picture has saved time and energy by focusing the effort on actions that get the job done.



Mike Schwisow

Director of Government Relations
Washington State Water Resources Association
Columbia Basin Development League