

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Best New Years Wishes to You and Yours from your Sewer Board: Rob Behrens, Vice President and Compliance Officer; Jon Davis, Treasurer; Steve Shearer, Secretary; Julie Houske, Director, and, of course, me, Bill Berg, District President.

Infrastructure Upgrades. We've finished one of our most productive years for capital rehabilitation of our collection system. The "collection system" constitutes all the tanks, pumps, and pipes that transport the wastewater from your home to our treatment facility located above Bottle Bay Road. Our biggest concern is the connections between the pipes that carry wastewater from the septic tank (the "laterals") to our main, pressurized sewer line.



These 50-year-old connectors were made of galvanized metal and they're breaking down. Our goal is to stay ahead of costly and disruptive infrastructure failures. A leak is bad; a complete collapse could disrupt service along a major portion of the main line for days. It would also result in a reportable event to the Idaho DEQ and the attendant costly state inspections and reports. So this year we replaced nine connectors. It's a messy job! We first have to locate the connection, isolate the main

line by closing certain valves, and then the contractor can dig down and install the new connector. This spring, when the weather warms, the District will patch the asphalt. We also replaced nine pump control units. This replacement project will continue in 2025. A big thanks to our Licensed Operator, Brent Binnall, for managing the project and keeping costs down!

Good Neighbors. Every time I drive to my cabin on East Bottle Bay Road, I'm reminded of what



can be accomplished when neighbors pitch-in for the betterment of all. Folks on the east side of the bay have ponied up **\$89,500 over the last few years** to prevent the complete collapse of a huge culvert under this section of East Bottle Bay Road. In the process, a ruddy dirt road got asphalted and sealed. All it took was some organizing by volunteers Steve Shearer and Will Valentine, and the generosity of practically all those who have property on the east side. Your sewer district operates in much the same way – a little more coercive, yes – but volunteer leadership and everybody's

willingness to cover the maintenance and infrastructure costs provides uninterrupted service and a cleaner, healthier lake for all.

Fiscal Year 2024 Report. We finished the fiscal year ending November 30th 8% under budget due to increased interest earnings and less cost than projected for our capital improvement program. Here's the summary:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	327,564	316,000	11,564
Expenses			
Administration	34,354	38,050	(3,696)
Collection System	47,385	46,100	1,285
Treatment	102,500	106,500	(4,000)
Capital	166,066	179,000	(12,934)
Total Expenses	350,305	369,650	(19,345)
Net Income	(22,741)	(53,650)	30,909

Basic Fee Increase. You'll notice that our Basic Fee, the fee everyone pays regardless of whether the homeowner is connected, is going up a little starting with the January-March billing. It was \$24 per month. It will now be \$29 per month. The increase is due to the cost for our capital improvement program.

Let's Save Some Money! We don't really have many ways to cut costs. But one obvious way to save money is on our accounting/billing expenses. Mailing paper invoices and processing paper checks is growing more costly each year. We're considering an "opt out" procedure where, starting in March, you'll receive your quarterly invoice by email unless you "opt out." And we're encouraging everyone to give us ACH authorization to withdraw the payment from your checking account. Or, you can pay by credit card. **Please let me know how you feel about this approach.**

Email me!

Board Election. Board Director Julie Houske's term is up in July, 2025. She's going to run for a full 6-year term, but anyone else can run for the office. The election is in the spring. To serve, you must live in the sewer district, or have property in the district and vote in Idaho.

Bill Berg, District President

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