

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



**Brrrr!** In case you snowbirds missed it, this January we experienced the lowest low in the past 20 years. Sandpoint recorded a -19 on January 13<sup>th</sup>, but it was at least two degrees colder at my house. Just for the record, the coldest overnight in Sandpoint was recorded on December 30, 1968, at negative 37. The cold weather had a negligible effect on District operations except we noticed an above average increase in January inflows. Could it be that people were continuously running a little water through their faucets to ward off frozen pipes? Seems possible.

**Welcome, Julie Houske.** The Board has appointed Julie Houske to replace retiring board member Jack Lensing. Julie and her husband, Chip, have owned the Bottle Bay Marina since 2001. As far as I know, Julie is the first woman to serve on the sewer board in its 52-year history, and it's about time wouldn't you say? (If some old timers remember otherwise, please let me know.)

**Reaching the District for Service.** There's been some confusion and difficulty in calling the District for service and billing questions. The Board has taken two steps to remedy the situation: first, our District phone number is now the service line for our licensed operator, Water Systems Management (WSM). WSM monitors the line 24-7. So, if you need service or have billing questions, **please call (208) 265-4270 or email [info@bbsewer.org](mailto:info@bbsewer.org)**. The appropriate District representative will get back to you promptly. Second, in case you don't have the WSM phone number handy when you need it, we've enclosed a sticker to be placed on your pump control unit. There's another sticker to be placed on the inside of your switch panel to remind everyone to leave the septic pump circuit breaker on at all times.



### **It's your job to stick the stickers!**



Board director, Steve Shearer, and Bottle Bay cabin owner, Mindy Cameron, demonstrate sticker sticking technique.

**Website Improvements.** Julie Houske has agreed to take over website supervision from Steve Shearer, who along with our recording secretary, RuthAnn Zigler, did a marvelous job of getting the new website up and running. Julie's task is to continue improving the site. Our two principal goals are providing easy access to useful information and transparency in the District's business affairs. To that end, we plan to provide downloadable Sewer and Encroachment Permit Applications, plus an ACH submission form to allow the District to be paid directly from your checking account. If you have thoughts on how we can improve the website, please email us at [info@bbsewer.org](mailto:info@bbsewer.org).

**Constructing on your Property?** A reminder that if you are constructing a new home or doing substantial remodeling with additional bedrooms, living quarters or an RV pad with a sewer connection, you will need a Sewer Permit from the District. Rules and applications can be found on the District website, [bottlebaydistrict.org](http://bottlebaydistrict.org). Our compliance officer, Rob Behrens, stands ready to provide guidance on the permit process. Ping him at [info@bbewer.org](mailto:info@bbewer.org).

Given the modest snow pack this year, the Corps of Engineers expects to achieve full pool on Lake Pend Oreille by June 15<sup>th</sup>. So, see you on the water!

**Bill Berg, District President**

[billb@bbsewer.org](mailto:billb@bbsewer.org)

[info@bbsewer.org](mailto:info@bbsewer.org)

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