



May, 2005

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# ***NORTH KOOTENAI WATER DISTRICT***

P.O. Box 2290 ~ 1841 W. Hayden Avenue ~ Hayden, Idaho 83835  
(208) 772-3619 ~ (208) 762-0355 Fax

## **Board of Directors:**

Linda Davis, President  
Jack Berger, Vice President  
Richard Fairhurst, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tom Crimmins, Director  
Maimie Moore, Director

## **District Staff:**

Phil Boyd, P.E., District Engineer  
Bob Covington, District Attorney  
Mike Galante, District Manager

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Public meetings are held at the District office at 12:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month; please feel free to attend.

## **Helping Those In Need**

The District recently began accepting voluntary contributions from rate-payers to help with payment of water bills for those customers temporarily unable to pay. An additional one-dollar on your monthly payment would go a long way in continuing this help. Thank you.

## **History**

North Kootenai Water District was formed, by a vote of the District electorate in 1991, as a public water district to acquire the assets of the private water company that then served the area. In 1998, the voters passed a bond issue to purchase the private water company and North Kootenai Water District began operations.

The "Debt Service Surcharge" shown on monthly bills repays the principal and interest on these twenty-year bonds. We have also been able to replace depreciated facilities, upgrade our equipment, hire a professional staff, and keep our bills and obligations current from water revenues without the need for imposing a tax rate.

Today we are serving the needs of about 3,500 customers in twelve separate water systems throughout north Kootenai County. North Kootenai Water District is the third largest water provider in North Idaho, behind the cities of Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.

## **Mission Statement**

*North Kootenai Water District is a well-organized, financially sound, and efficiently managed public utility district that has a solid reputation of providing safe, reliable, high quality domestic water to our customers at a reasonable and justifiable price. We endeavor to service the domestic water needs of northern Kootenai County in a manner that protects the interests of our constituents. We are a growing entity that structures its decisions upon consideration of the current economic situation, future economic and service implications, and the opportunity to improve, through water service, the quality of life for our current constituents and those petitioning for our assistance.*

## Comings and Goings

Bob Roe, after 20+ years of service to the water system, retired as Field Supervisor at the end of 2004, and Richard Fairhurst, with 45 years of management and engineering experience in the water industry, retired as District Manager in April 2005 and is now a member of the Board. The new

District Manager is Mike Galante. Mike has been a resident of Hayden Lake since 1977. Prior to accepting the Manager position at NKWD, Mike was the President of the Board of Directors of Honey-suckle Hills, as well as their Water Master. Mike brings with him experience in well drilling, pump

systems, and water quality. Brad White was promoted to the Field Supervisor position and two new employees, T.J. Patton and Pat Watson, were hired to fill out our field operations. Carol Vineyard, Debbie Wilson, and Curtiss Shoup round out the staff at North Kootenai Water District.

## Improvement Projects

Recently completed/proposed water system improvement projects include:



### ***Twin Lakes:***

- The installation of 3000 feet of pipeline in Twin lakes Road to improve service to the channel area.
- The construction of a 200,000-gallon reservoir to increase storage to 300,000 gallons. Proposed in 2005.
- The installation of a SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) system to better control and monitor the water system to improve reliability.



### ***Ohio Match:***

- The construction of a second production well to improve reliability. Proposed 2005.
- Installation of two new pumping stations to improve system performance.



### ***Hillside:***

- The replacement of the Packsaddle booster pumps. Proposed 2005.
- The installation of a SCADA control system.
- The design of a second production well to add reliability to the system. Proposed 2006.
- New booster pumps at the Hayden Booster Station.



### ***Rimrock:***

- The installation of a SCADA control system.
- The replacement of the water system in the Point Hayden area. Proposed 2006.
- New Lancaster Well #3 to replace the iron producing well #2.



### ***Grouse Meadows/Hayden Pines:***

- The installation of a SCADA control system.
- Booster pumping station improvements.



### ***System Wide:***

- Radio Read meters will gradually replace existing water meters to reduce meter reading costs and to improve billing reliability.
- Fire hydrant locks are being installed to protect water quality and to reduce water theft. The Fire District has been provided keys, or in an emergency, has been authorized to cut off the locking device.

## Honeysuckle Hills

Honeysuckle Hills Owners Association (HHOA) is considering combining its water system with North Kootenai Water District (NKWD). Currently, HHOA and NKWD share a well, water transmission line, and water reservoir. HHOA and NKWD both own and operate separate, but connected water distribution systems. The primary purpose for the combination of the water systems would be to reduce the cost to HHOA customers for financing the planned improvements to the HHOA water distribution by utilizing special authority granted to water districts such as NKWD. Additionally, HHOA customers would benefit from 24-hour staffed emergency response and a full-time operation and maintenance staff.

## Protecting the Water System From Contamination

What is the value of safe drinking water? Life is impossible without it. Water is essential to every living thing on earth. With increased population, urbanization, and pollution from industries and waste facilities, the public is becoming more aware of potential threats to their drinking water and the need for additional safeguards.

Locally we are very fortunate to have an abundant supply of clean, healthy drinking water just beneath our feet in the Rathdrum Aquifer. NKWD delivers this water directly from the aquifer.

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water is connected to a source of non-potable water. Several common examples are: swimming pools, irrigation sprinklers, boilers, wash basins, and service sinks. The main source of contamination in our area is from lake water or private wells that are used for yard irrigation.

During fire fighting, power outages, or a water main break, water could be drawn back into the public water system, possibly contaminating the system with potentially hazardous substances.

Federal and State law requires water suppliers to protect their water systems from contamination or pollution by cross-connections. To do this, NKWD is engaged in a program of locating and recording cross-connections within the water system and will shortly notify those customers of the need to install and maintain backflow prevention devices on their systems and provide NKWD with the results of an annual test.

It is very important that a strong cross connection program be maintained to protect the purity of the drinking water we all enjoy.

## Winter Bills

During the winter months, when water meters cannot be read because of snow or frozen lids, bills are based upon an estimated usage that is usually the October or November consumption. In the spring, March or April, when meter reading resumes, adjustments are made to the bills for either over- or under- estimating during the winter. If a bill during the winter was grossly under-estimated the spring adjustment bill might be considerably more than expected.

## Closing

The Board of Directors of North Kootenai Water District appreciates you as an owner, and, wants to thank you for being a valued customer.

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## Conservation

As you probably know by now, we are coming out of the driest winter on record in North Idaho. We need to do our part to conserve water to avoid having restrictions imposed on us. Over-watering is a very big problem.

There are many things you can do to save water. The most important is to simply water correctly. The best way is to put one inch of water on your lawn once or twice a week depending on the temperature. By watering properly your grass will send roots deeper, and be stronger. This in turn

means that the grass will need to be watered less often because it can get water from deeper in the soil. It will stay greener longer and need less fertilizer. Cutting the grass a bit longer also helps to send roots deeper and store more water. The shorter you cut the grass the less water it can store, and the more often you need to water to keep it green. It becomes a vicious cycle. ***Cut longer and water less!***

The easiest way to measure how long it takes to water one-inch is to place some large mouth, straight sided, containers around when you are watering. Time

how long it takes to collect one-inch of water in the containers; that will tell you how long you need to water each time. By watering one-inch at a time, rather than frequently watering lightly, the water goes deeper into the soil and encourages stronger, deeper roots, and healthier plants of all kinds. Watering too much, on the other hand, washes soil nutrients down beyond the reach of plant roots and wastes water. ***Water wisely and less often!***