

GRANITE REEDER WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

P.O. Box 456

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Newsletter 10-2

July 2010

INTRODUCTION

This Newsletter is part of a continuing series of communications from the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District ("District") intended to inform property owners about the progress of its District Sewer Project and to inform you of decisions to be made. Our last newsletter was issued in May, 2010.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Saturday, August 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at Priest Lake School, the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District will hold its annual property owner meeting which will also be a special meeting of the Board of Directors and a public hearing to establish the first years' operating budget, adopt sewer rates, and consider enacting ordinances, resolutions and policies necessary to operate the sewer system. In addition, there will be a presentation on the procedures which will be required to hook-up to the sewer system, as well as plenty of time for questions and answers.

STATUS OF PHASE 1 SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Construction of the Phase 1 sewer collection system north of Grandview Resort is 95% complete. The District's Contractor for this phase, Sackett Contracting, Inc., is now finishing the restoration of private property affected by the sewer construction. The main element remaining for the Phase 1 Sewer Project is installing the electrical controls for the three major pumping stations.

NOTICE:

Granite Reeder Water & Sewer District Public Hearing

Saturday, August 7, 2010
9:00 a.m. Priest Lake School

- Sewer Project Update
- Hearing on 1st Year Operating Budget and Sewer Rates
- Review and Adopt Sewer Use Ordinances
- Discuss Procedures for Sewer Hook-Ups
- Question and Answer Session

STATUS OF THE TREATMENT FACILITIES

The District's sewage treatment lagoons are complete and have been tested for water-tightness according to Idaho DEQ standards. The treatment facilities still have a few minor items to complete, and the final start-up and acceptance by the Sewer District is expected within several weeks.

START-UP OF SEWER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

The District anticipates that the sewage treatment facilities and the Phase 1 Sewer Collection System (north of Grandview Resort) will be tested, accepted, and ready for operation in September, 2010.

IMPORTANT

No one may encroach, modify or connect to the Sewer District's facilities without the necessary permit and inspection of the District. There has already been illegal and improper construction and damage done to the District's facilities by property owners and contractors.

The Sewer District will assess serious financial penalties for violations of the integrity of the District's sewer system.

PERMITS REQUIRED FOR ACTIVE SEWER HOOKUPS

Once the Phase 1 sewer system and all downstream facilities are operational, the Sewer District will formally notify property owners that they may begin the physical connection to the new public sewer system. Please note carefully, the following steps which the District will require when it comes time to hook-up to the sewer system:

1. A permit will be required to be obtained from the Sewer District, and a District representative must inspect the private connection with the District's public sewer system. A substantial financial penalty will be levied against persons who encroach upon or hook-up to District sewer facilities without the necessary permits or inspections.
2. Only a licensed plumber, licensed Public Works Contractor, or licensed complex sewer system installer will be permitted to perform the final live connection to the Sewer District's pump basin or gravity sewer stub. The quality of these connections is extremely important to the integrity of the Sewer District's facilities.
3. A permit is required also from the Idaho Plumbing Bureau; the State must inspect the private sewer connection between the property owner's building and the public sewer system. State law does allow property owners to install the sewer lateral from their own residence up to, but not connecting to, the District's sewer facilities.
4. The State of Idaho requires that all septic tanks which are abandoned be disconnected, pumped and filled in or removed. The District's inspector will help assure that existing septic tanks are properly abandoned, in order to protect Priest Lake, and will keep Idaho DEQ apprised of the compliance of each property with this State Rule.
5. The Sewer District will allow two (2) years from the date of initial system operation, for property owners to physically connect all sewage-producing buildings to the new sewer system. If any sewage-producing buildings still have not been connected to the sewer system after the expiration of the initial two year period, the District intends to enforce its ordinance requiring 100% of all sewage-producing facilities to be connected to the sewer system.
6. Note that only sanitary sewage may be connected to the District's public sewer facilities. Absolutely no non-sanitary sewage waste or water, such as roof drains, basement or stormwater drains, garage/driveway drains, french/curtain or foundation drains, hazardous or explosive liquids, may be connected to or disposed in the public sewer system. This policy is extremely important to the long term capacity and safety of the sewer system.
7. The Sewer District must begin charging the monthly sewer service fees to all property owners with sewage-producing buildings or trailers, **immediately** after the sewer system begins operation. The sewer billing to all property owners with improvements on their property within the Phase 1 sewer service area (North of Grandview Resort) will begin at that time. This monthly sewer service fee must be paid by all property owners with sewage-producing facilities, whether or not they are physically connected to the sewer system. This policy is necessary since the District will begin to incur operating expenses immediately after start-up of the sewer system.
8. The monthly sewer and maintenance fee proposed will be \$40.00 per month per equivalent residence (ER) billed on a quarterly basis.
9. The monthly operating and maintenance fee must be paid by all sewer users year-round, whether their homes/trailers are occupied or not. This policy is necessary in order to be equitable to all property owners, and in order for the District to be assured that its annual income will meet its annual operating budget.

PHASE 2 SEWER PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN 2010

The Granite Reeder Board of Directors have received preliminary approval for additional loan and grant funding from the U.S. Dept of Agriculture-Rural Development agency. This additional funding will be earmarked for the completion of the "Phase 2" sewer system, from the Grandview Resort to located the south boundary of the District, which is south of Elkins Resort.

The District and its engineers have completed the design for the Phase 2 sewer system from Grandview south to the Elkins Resort area. We are still awaiting final approval from permitting and funding agencies.

The District hopes to be able to begin construction of the Phase 2 sewer system (south of Grandview Resort) in the Fall of 2010, and to be completed by Summer, 2011.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE PROPOSED FUNDING FOR THE PHASE 2 PROJECT IS NOT YET IN HAND, AND THEREFORE THE BOARD IS NOT YET 100% CERTAIN THAT PHASE 2 WILL PROCEED.

LID CONFIRMATION

The Local Improvement District (LID) will not be finalized nor will LID assessments be due until after completion of the Phase 2 sewer collection project, sometime in Summer of 2011.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

The installation of the Phase 1 portion of Granite Reeder Sewage System is nearing completion. The Board is very involved in consideration of all aspects of the system, and each meeting is detailed with the technical discussions required for the Board to make informed decisions. We recognize that this project is quite complicated, and the Board wants to help property owners understand these decisions and how it affects their property. The Board suggests that if you have any technical questions concerning any of the issues discussed in this newsletter, please contact the project engineers so they may properly address your concerns and be apprised of any technical questions you may have:

Welch Comer & Associates, Inc.
350 E. Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815
Attn: Sharie MacDonald
208-664-9382 Office 208-664-5946 Fax
Email: smacdonald@welchcomer.com

SUMMARY

Each of the Directors of the Granite-Reeder Water & Sewer District appreciate the cooperation and support of property owners with this sewer project. The District Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm at their office located at Copper Bay Construction, 799 Hagman Road. The public is always cordially invited to any of our Board meetings. Board meeting notices and agendas are posted on the door of the Nordman Fire Station and the District's office.

Sincerely,

Granite Reeder Water & Sewer District Board Members

Vince Aguirre, Chairman
Dave Current
Ken Hagman
Don Pratt

GRANITE REEDER SEWER SYSTEM HOMEOWNER HOOK-UP PROCEDURE

Granite Reeder Sewer Hook-Up Process*

Concurrent Steps for the Sewer Hook-Up Process

1. Select the Licensed Contractor Who Will Make the Hook-Up



2. Apply for Permit to Hook-Up from Granite Reeder District Office



3. Secure Hook-Up Permit from Granite Reeder District Office
(Mandatory Prior to Hook-Up)



4. Notify the District Inspector 48 Hours Prior to Hook-Up



5. Licensed Contractor Makes Hook-Up per District Specifications in Presence of District Inspector



6. After Approval by District's Inspector, Licensed Contractor May Backfill Hook-Up



7. Begin Active Sewer Service with Granite Reeder System



8. Pump Out All Abandoned Septic Tanks and Fill-In with Soil, with Verification by District's Inspector (Per Idaho State Law)

A. Secure Permit for Private Sewer Line Between House and Sewer District From State of Idaho—
Plumbing Inspector



B. If Connecting to a District- Owned Pump Basin and Control Panel, an Electrical Permit is Also Required From State of Idaho—
Electrical Inspector



C. All New Plumbing and Electrical Work on Private Property Must be Inspected and Approved by the State of Idaho, Prior to Connection to Any District-Owned Sewer Facilities.
NOTE: A Hook-Up Permit From the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District is Mandatory.

***NOTE:** Sewer hookups may be made with proper permits, by property owners in the Phase 1 area (North of Grandview Resort) after September 1, 2010. Property owners located in the Phase 2 area (South of Grandview Resort) must wait until that phase is complete in Summer, 2011.