

### Ross Point Water District – Director (2 seats)

	Thomas Brook	Michael Burgess	Jerry Wallace
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	<p>Michael Burgess.</p> <p>I'm running for a four year term on the Ross Point Water District Board. I have lived in our district 31 years. I want to insure that this expansion to a five member board keeps the stability of its "just right" business model, striking the right mix of being frugal and providing for future needs. Water is precious if you can't afford all you need.</p> <p>The Ross Point Water District is beginning to navigate the governing statutes for public entity's. My experience in mentoring the Kootenai Classical Academy board in these should be helpful. In addition I now have the experience in how boards hire, exercise accountability and oversight. I was the lead in getting Kootenai Classical Academy through the "Planning and Zoning" and Annexation processes. I have interacted with the City of Post Falls, The Fire Marshall, the Ross point Water District, developers and contractors.</p> <p>As three of my time commitments melted away at candidate filing time I felt I should step up.</p>	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>2.</b> How could the water district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<p>On the outside, the district has always looked to be well run. As a privately maintained nonprofit there wasn't visibility to internal operations. I have had nothing but good impressions when interacting with the staff. Unless there is something egregiously wrong it is best to first see why an entity is best run the way it is. At the most recent Ross Point Water public board meeting I was ecstatic to see the balance sheet and a well cultivated reserve fund.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will be an improvement of relief for the public to see that all was and is very well.</li> <li>2. The present stability and future health of the district will be enhanced by implementing and achieving proficiency in public entity law. I have an arrangement for this board (TBD) for a class in Public Open Meeting law to be conducted by the office of the State Attorney General. Other new public entity officials will also be invited.</li> <li>3. To have the present wizened board members mentor the art of sustaining their methods.</li> </ol>	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>3.</b> Do you believe that water districts have a role to play in area growth? Why do you believe this?	<b>No Response Received</b>	<p>Yes. Mr. Post's water fall was harnessed to power the first sawmill. The later dam enabled a massive open ditch irrigation system that was still operating somewhat in the 1960's. That enabled a healthy rural community. Some of the water flowed to as far as Opportunity WA where I grew up. The cantaloupe was famous. Today the housing development companies depend on having "will serve" documentation from a water provider to meet planning and zoning requirements for their annexation proposals.</p> <p>I foresee water districts in the future being a bit more of a preliminary arbiter between all the affected parties who have property rights and water rights. I can see the district asking "have you talked to your neighbors". The American system of government is dependent on a sufficient majority of the citizens living a Christian culture. At the level of communities, neighbors and property rights, each party needs to make their property development plan and water needs work for the neighbors.</p>	<b>No Response Received</b>

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<b>4.</b> How do you believe water quality can be improved in the water district?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The water is naturally exceptional already. It only needs a preventative maintenance chlorination about one week in the fall. There may be older pipes made of materials that are no longer the materials of choice. At some point those reach an end of life and get replaced. The majority of the system is modern. There were ~7300 people in Post Falls in 1993, there are over 38,000 now. Protecting the water quality from the vicissitudes of more people living above the migration path of aquifer water is the bigger concern. The quality is mostly dependent on the quality coming from upstream in the aquifer, outside the boundaries of the district, but the district still needs to do its part within the district to prevent cross contamination incidents.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>5.</b> What role should water districts have in the design and authorization of new developments?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The Water District has to anticipate what size of infrastructure is appropriate for the location and beyond it, and should have the developer carry the imposition of cost on the system. While we all want the remainder of the open prairie to stay that way, there has to be a strategic way of having a few strategic serving mains to extend if the growth doesn't abate somehow, otherwise we have to dig pipes up, cut into pavement, and upgrade them at extra cost and inconvenience. To stem growth there need to be incentives that make cut and run development rare (Its not addressed in the Constitution, but IMHO developers should someday have to directly live with the consequences and live among the people their development imposes upon). This is beyond the legitimate power of a water district, but for now the district can be a slow walking arbiter between all involved to incentivize them to make it work for one another first.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>6.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe that government is best that is smallest and closest to the people it concerns. Those who live in a city should only self govern city matters for city residents. Rural communities should avoid any dependency on Cities, otherwise they should become part of a city. Ross Point Water district is one of four vendors of water to Post Falls. Competition by example is a good thing to incentivize best practices. Having one centralized city run water system, or being dependent on city water while living outside of it, should be dreaded.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>7.</b> Water districts play a significant role in the approval or denial of new developments. What do you believe the proper process should be to include the existing residents' (impact area) concerns?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I partly addressed this in questions #5 and #3 above. I have not heard of a water district saying we just don't want to provide water for a new development. I am interested if one can. I agree that if a district is unable to, it should be able to refuse. That could be a temporary situation refusal or it could be a "we don't have a path to be able to" refusal. As population increases I think a justification can be made for cost consequence disincentives to the developers if there are capacity & quality data to back it up. It is assumed all non irrigation water that is delivered to a metered location will make its way to a wastewater facility. The cost of wastewater treatment and the capacity for it should gradually become a limiting factor to providing water to more developments. The cost to developments should go up dramatically, to prohibitively, as capacity shrinks and process cost increases. Existing residents should not be imposed on to foot higher bills for additional capacity.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>8.</b> What recommendations do you have for improving delivery of water in the water district?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I am not aware of delivery problems except in late summer when the storage tanks are not completely full and don't have as much gravity pressure. That has not seemed to be as much of a problem anymore. We accept that limitation as a temporary imposition.	<b>No Response Received</b>

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<b>9.</b> What should be the role of the water district in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	<b>No Response Received</b>	As already touched on in #7 above, but on a grander scale, all entities should own their responsibility for the impact of their governing on neighboring governing authorities. At the same time all governing entities should be concerned about the needs of the other entities. I would like to know the quality at the source in every water district, especially upstream in the aquifer and how the quality has tracked historically. If a neighboring district develops an incoming quality problem we need to be aware for our district's sake.  The source water quality should be historically tracked against a baseline to monitor the impact of more homes and businesses filling up the open spaces. Again, the cost of new capacity, or of correcting diminishing water quality should be borne by new proposed developments ( for more see answer 11 below).	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>10.</b> Are there any connections either personal or working relationships that would pose a conflict of interest?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No. If being a past member of the board of Kootenai Classical Academy is considered a conflict of interest in some kind of issue with the school in the future, I will recuse myself from any vote on that matter.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>11.</b> With growing concern over protection of the aquifer, should additional considerations be added to the development review process? If so, what are your recommendations?	<b>No Response Received</b>	In the future we should get to a point, where those considering buying land with intent to develop, should long before the buying, be aware of a real risk of progressively increasing infrastructure costs that will be triggered by crossing signal data thresholds corresponding to quality and capacity. Such thresholds don't exist to my knowledge, but we should have the discussion. New (as opposed to replacement and maintenance) treatment capacity and delivery facility costs should not be imposed on existing residents. Eventually the water infrastructure impact cost could grow to become prohibitive. That would eventually make development self limiting... until the cost incentivizes developing a new technology that makes the impact affordable and manageable again. A possible negative tradeoff in this scenario though, is present landowners contemplating development as their land increases in value would be incentivized to get in line to develop sooner ... before the costs are prohibitive.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>12.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	(Re: see Answer #1). I retired after 24 years out of 41 as a machinist, in the Specialty Materials division, Honeywell Electronic Materials business unit of Honeywell International in the City of Spokane Valley. We had monthly training about hazardous material safety. I served as a director on the volunteer Kootenai Classical Academy board for five years. Two of those as a public entity. As chair of its construction committee I verified and signed off monthly on millions in construction pay applications. I held the office of president and the office of vice president in the Sunrise terrace II Homeowners Association near Kalispell Montana. Its existence was to manage the water system for 32 lots. As president I was responsible for timely water samples for insuring safe drinking, monitoring the indicator light system for outages, remedying issues, arranging servicing or repair, and collaborating with the secretary and treasurer to educate new lot owners about their water fees.	<b>No Response Received</b>